

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Volume 132 Number 51

## In Hardwick, Life Beyond Year Two of COVID

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Doug McClure

**HARDWICK** – The year began with hope: Vermont was earning high marks for its success in dealing with the virus COVID-19 and led the nation by several public health measures. Chief

Medical Advisor to the President Dr. Anthony Fauci joined Governor Phil Scott in a press conference and described Vermont's COVID response as "a model."

The Alpha variant proved a worrying harbinger in the spring as cases soared. And then came Delta. The far more contagious variant hit Vermont hard. Hardwick felt relatively safe at the beginning of 2021, with just 33 cases at the start of January. As

of December 16, that number had increased almost tenfold, to 298. Twenty-one people have reportedly lost their lives to COVID in Caledonia County, almost all of those in 2021.

But in January, things almost felt normal in Hardwick. Hope for wide availability of vaccines buoyed people's spirits and calmed nerves. The Yellow Barn received an expected grant of \$1 million from the Northern Borders Re-

gional Commission. An austerity budget for Hazen Union received major pushback from parents concerned that their kids were being shortchanged. The school had proposed cuts to the arts program's staffing, which especially angered students and parents. In the end, the school kept its arts staffing. The Orleans Southwest Union (OSUED) board approved its own budget. The select board began

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## Weather 2021: Catching Up with Old Man Winter and Other Windy Tales

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Tyler Molleur

**HARDWICK** – After the holidays in 2020 wrapped up with a dramatic absence of snow, winter picked up again with the ringing in of the new year, as several moderate-scale snowstorms worked to bring snowfall accumulations back to near normal by the conclusion of the season.

Reports from the National Weather Service's climatologic data reported that between October 2020 to May 2021, most of Vermont ended with snowfall ranging from 75 to 125 percent of normal, rather than in a dramatic deficit that the bare late December ground

**See WEATHER, 5**



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
This fire hydrant on the corner of Spring and Elm Street was wearing an eight-inch snow cap after a recent snow storm.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Hazen varsity coach Aaron Hill (center) talks to his team during a recent home game time out. Seated (from left): Carter Hill, Gabe Michaud, Xavier Hill, Tyler Rivard, Lincoln Michaud, Jadon Baker. Standing (from left): Ryan Morrison, Fenton Meyer, Ryker Willett, Aasha Gould (in back) Khamden Luangrath, team manager Zeke Wohlberg, assistant coach Travis Hill and J.V. coach Mike Baker.

## Resiliency, Hope, Breakthroughs, Countless Thank Yous in 2021

### YEAR IN REVIEW

by Ken Brown

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM** – High school winter sports endured a COVID-shortened season in 2021, making scheduling almost impossible from week to week, ending programs' seasons prematurely, and robbing many student athletes of what might have been. The spring and fall seasons served as a coming out party for several local programs as they finally broke through after years of struggling. 2021 will mostly go down as a year of gratitude and many thank yous for the resiliency and

extraordinary efforts made by student-athletes, parents, coaches, officials, and athletic directors from around the state to give these high school sports seasons a chance of even happening.

COVID didn't rob head coach  
**See SPORTS, 6**

### Reminder to Gazette Readers

The Hardwick Gazette does not publish during the first week of January. Our first edition of the new year will be available on January 12, 2022. The staff and correspondents of The Gazette wish everyone all the best for the holiday season and a very Happy New Year.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
The home of Sue and Stuart Young on Marshall Street in Hardwick is brightly decorated for the holidays, as are many houses in the Hardwick area.

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tackling the pressing problem of resurrecting the pedestrian bridge with a survey of residents asking how its closure had affected them. Residents stood outside the Gohl Block rallying for empathy and social justice.

In February, Hardwick found out that Town Meeting would see some new faces running for its select board. Two members, then-vice-chair Elizabeth Dow and Lucian Avery, decided not to seek re-election. Gary Bellavance ran on the platform of “a little more common sense and someone that’s not afraid to speak their piece,” with concerns over tax increases he felt were not explained enough and what he said were too many instances of the board going into executive session. Michael Deering ran on a platform of being a “proponent of local control” and described himself as a fiscal conservative who maintained ties with socially progressive movements. Larry Hamel ran as a write-in candidate with questions about the town owning real estate, amongst other issues..

The NEK Collaborative held its third annual NEK Day over Zoom on January 29 to celebrate the successes and advance the region’s priorities. Among those priorities were broadband, equity, racial justice, and education. Hazen Union, which had been operating in a hybrid approach combining remote and some in-person learning, refined its own collaborative effort with the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) to chip away at broadband disparity’s impact on its students with funding from the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC). The school first focused on situations where financial assistance would get students connected. At the same time, the school acknowledged that remote learning had been less than successful at meeting some students’ needs or ensuring accountability, noting what then-principal David Perrigo described as “kids who have literally fallen through the cracks in terms of their just being around.”

In February, the promise of vaccines started to become reality. Northern Counties Health Care (NCHC) partnered with St. Johnsbury’s Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) and started offering vaccines at the Hardwick Fire Station. Over the ensuing months, those clinics

would continue and scale up. The first clinic opened up on February 16 for those 70 and older.

Communities banding together had been a theme since COVID first arrived in 2020, and in January with the Hardwick Area Food Pantry joined forces with food pantries in Craftsbury and Albany, as well as the CAE and WonderArts, to reach people in need better. Dubbed “Nourish Hardwick,” the program aimed to combine multiple resources into one easier-to-access front end that also included Grow Your Own Workshops and promoting the community garden at Atkins Field.

On February 8, residents learned that Tops would be merged with Price Chopper/Market 32. The stores would retain their own identities and branding. Also in early February, a potentially promising option for broadband began beta testing in the area. Known as Starlink and run by SpaceX, the low-earth-orbit satellite service offered the possibility of true broadband speeds for areas too remote or disconnected to receive high-quality internet service.

Town Meeting saw little drama, though for the first time it was entirely Australian ballot voting due to COVID concerns. Both Bellavance and Deering were elected, and the board re-organized much the same as before, though with Dow’s stepping down, Ceilidh Galloway Kane assumed the role of vice chair.

In mid-March, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) sat down virtually with Hazen Union high-schoolers, including former Hazen student Lucas Whitaker, to discuss mental health and the impact of the pandemic on kids. Sanders said he wanted to hear directly from the students about what they had been forced to cope with during “the worst year for our country in a long time.” Kids described extreme stress, mental health issues, issues with broadband, and isolation.

Hardwick got a shock to its budget planning when Greensboro decided to cancel its police contract with the Hardwick Police Department at the end of the fiscal year. The nearly quarter-a-million-dollar revenue that the contract provided would prove a challenge that HPD wrestled with for the rest of the year. Greensboro had been joined up with HPD since it began in 1979. Hardwick learned of the signing of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11, which would bring an unknown but significant influx of funds to offset the impacts of COVID on Hardwick’s economy. The price tag for replacing the pedestrian bridge

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**December 29 - January 4**

<b>Meat Dept.</b> Strip Steaks - \$7.99 lb. Boneless Chicken Breast - \$2.99 lb. D&W Olive Loaf - \$5.99 lb.		<b>20% Off Sweaters for Men and Women</b>	
<b>LaCroix 12 pk. Sparkling Water</b> \$4.99 144 oz.	<b>Post Honey Bunches of Oats</b> 2/\$5 13-14.5 oz.	G.M. Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Cinn. Toast Crunch Cereal 2/\$6 10.5-12 oz.	
<b>Newman's Salsa</b> 2/\$5 16 oz.	<b>Food Club Tomatoes</b> 4/\$3 14.5 oz.	<b>Progresso Traditional Soups</b> 2/\$4 18.5-19 oz.	
<b>Cheez-It Family Size</b> \$4.69 21 oz.	<b>Nabisco Family Size Oreos</b> 2/\$6 17-20 oz.	<b>Nabisco Snack Crackers</b> 2/\$4 7-10 oz.	
<b>Tide Laundry Detergent</b> \$11.99 42 ct. pods 92 oz. liq.	<b>Dawn Dish Detergent</b> \$2.99 16.2-19.4 oz.	<b>Bounty Essential 6 Big Roll Paper Towels</b> \$5.29 224 s.f.	
<b>Charmin Essential 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue</b> \$5.29 229-294 s.f.	<b>Cabot Butter</b> \$2.99 16 oz.	<b>Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese</b> 2/\$5 6-8 oz.	
<b>Almond Breeze Milk Alternative</b> 2/\$6 64 oz.	<b>Hood Sour Cream</b> 2/\$3 16 oz.	<b>Breyers Ice Cream</b> \$3.99 48 oz.	
<b>California Peelz Clementines</b> \$4.99 3 lb.	<b>Calavo Mexican Avocados</b> 99¢ ea.	<b>Imported Peruvian Blueberries</b> 2/\$5 pt.	

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it, then you  
probably don't  
need it."



# Hardwick

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

also got clearer at an anticipated half-million dollars.

Town Manager Shaun Fielder told the select board on March 18 that he would not be renewing his employment contract, which ended May 31, for “personal reasons.” He said at the time that he felt he had accomplished a lot in his just-over two years as Town Manager, including town infrastructure improvements, but a good chunk of his last year had been “keeping various town services functioning for the good of community members” during COVID.

At the end of March, the Jeudevine Library released its bid documents.

On March 18, Hazen Union students marked one year since the school closed in 2020 due to COVID, not to return for six months. Eleven days later, in a sign of things to come, eight COVID cases sent Hazen, Hardwick Elementary, and Craftsbury into varying degrees of remote learning, and Sterling reported its first case of the semester. COVID cases ended the girls’ basketball season abruptly before playoffs could finish.



Other COVID impacts became clearer as the available residential real estate inventory was leased at ever-increasing prices. But the story was beginning to be about alarming increases in the number of COVID cases in town. In the single week from March 24 to March 31, Hardwick went from 71 cases — already more than double what it was in January — to 94, a 32% increase.

In April, the select board got two unexpected shocks. Member Gary Bellavance took his own life, a week after member Michael Deering was arrested by HPD for DUI after being found passed out in the Tops parking lot. The



board memorialized Bellavance as a “longtime and active community member” and sent its condolences to his family. With his death, the long-running lumber yard at the base of Buffalo Mountain went silent. A month later, the board reinstated Dow to her role as a board member.



The board also revisited the topic of getting a Downtown Designation from the state in April. If successful, the program would upgrade its current Village Designation and provide additional state assistance, tax credits, and priority consideration for state grants. The board resumed study of pedestrian safety from the previous year, and discussed the viability of an EV charging station in Hardwick.

The Jeudevine Library received an unwelcome surprise when it opened the bids for its expansion project in May. Due to supply chain issues and increases in construction costs, the bids all came in around 50% over what was expected. The board hired the lowest bidder, Breadloaf Construction of Middlebury, who set about trying to reduce the project’s budget by delaying as much as possible without compromising the quality of the building. For its part, the library doubled down on fundraising. The trustees asked the select board to sign off on a \$200,000 agreement to fill the immediate shortfall, and the board agreed.



In May, the OSSU received news that it will have received as much as \$5 million in federal COVID funding by 2024. Superintendent Adam Rosenberg and the principals said they saw new opportunities for

“this idea of giving students ownership over their learning.”

Some hopeful news in the battle against COVID came in May, when federal regulators approved vaccines for those aged twelve and up. The school response was swift: Hazen had its first vaccine clinics for 12-15-year-olds on May 27.

In even more encouraging news, the school began laying out a plan for an outdoor, in-person graduation that would be far more normal than the 2020 graduation. A part of that would be the Hazen Bell that late student Finn Rooney set out to bring to the school. People at the school and in the community championed the effort. Greensboro Town Clerk Kim Greaves discovered the old Greensboro High School bell in storage and the Greensboro Select Board voted unanimously to donate it to Hazen. The bell was transported from the lawn of the Greensboro Town Offices to Hazen in an emotional ceremony on a rainy Sunday at the end of June, with people turning out from all over the area to celebrate Rooney’s life. Bread and Puppet played music during the ceremony. Village Restaurant owner Lynn DeLaricheliere served up Finn’s favorite sandwiches and root beer at the end of the ceremony at Hazen.



East Hardwick’s disused “Little Library” had been a subject of interest for the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) and many residents had given their opinions in 2020 on what to do with the structure. The EHNO conducted a second survey in May and, based on the responses, began pondering moving the structure to a better location. Its current site would be nearly impossible to make ADA-compliant



and there was no septic system, nor a way to add one. Parking was another problem.

Yet another sign of the community’s strong fabric was evident in June, with the Caja Madera “taco truck” partnered with the CAE to offer free meals to kids under 18. The community also watched as the Hazen Wildcats baseball team made it to the semi-finals for the first time in fourteen years. Unfortunately, the Wildcats fell to Thetford by a single run.



Hazen’s graduation was on June 12. This graduating class was Hazen’s fiftieth. The bell was deployed and many commented that while the ceremony was outdoors for safety reasons, it was an improvement over the typical indoor graduations. Then-principal Perigo implored students to think of COVID differently. He said “I have become increasingly uncomfortable with this popular narrative that somehow the last 15 months have been a disaster for our civilization. For those of us who have been lucky enough to survive this, we have grown in ways that we can’t even begin to realize. Surely, we have become more resilient.”

The Hardwick Trails Committee received a \$10,000 grant from the Northern Forest Center. The committee would use those funds as part of a larger project to

See HARDWICK, 4

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**Hardwick**

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**YEAR  
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improve existing trails.

Vermont celebrated 80% vaccination in mid-June. The state moved to end COVID restrictions, a move that would prove premature and potentially disastrous later in the year.

The St. John de Crevecoeur Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapter worked on cleaning up old stones at Center Cemetery on Shephard Farm Lane on Saturday, June 12. The DAR worked on that cemetery as part of a larger project cleaning up Revolutionary War graves. Hardwick had sixteen known Revolutionary War soldiers, and ten were interred at Center Cemetery.

Resident Mike Lance began a project to update the official name of Buffalo Mountain. Somehow, while the mountain is universally known in Hardwick, its name used by businesses, and its image on the town logo, the mountain was never formally named by the state or federal government.

The village gained a new store full of cool, adult beverages with Birdsong Beer and Wine opening in late June. In other business news, the Kwik Stop changed ownership on July 1 and was renamed Hardwick Convenience and Deli.



Hazen Principal Perrigo retired and Associate Principal Jason Di Giulio officially became principal. Di Giulio said his goal was “ensuring that [students] learning experiences have a path through high school to beyond, rather than treating high school like it’s the great culminating cherry on top of an educational sundae.”

The town hosted a community forum to get opinions from residents about the role and appearance of the pedestrian bridge. The outdoor forum drew over forty residents and gave the town further direction for its replacement plans.

The Jeudevine went before the select board to ask for another \$249,388. The board balked at the request, and the library acknowledged that it had no option but to postpone construction until 2022 and re-bid the project. The select board also began a months-long

discussion about the future of HPD without the Greensboro contract, wondering if the department should seek a similar arrangement with a neighboring town. Chief Cochran also told the board the department would soon be unable to keep twenty-four-hour coverage with two officers deployed and one leaving. In a move that would later see backlash, the board attempted to make water and sewer rates fairer by reducing the usage threshold before overages to 8,000 from 10,000.



By the end of July, the Vermont Department of Health said the worrying Delta variant had arrived in Caledonia County. Vermont’s daily case count crept over the century mark for the first time since April and early May. With many older residents vaccinated, most of the cases being reported were in teenagers, with a first-dose or more vaccination rate in Caledonia County of 62.9% for 16-17-year-olds and 55% for 12-15-year-olds. The OSSU began preparing for school re-opening, but received little guidance from the state apart from a half-page memo of recommendations. The 2020 guidance was forty-two pages long. Hazen Union Principal Jason Di Giulio said, “As always, Hazen depends on our close partnership with our communities to help our youth. We want the school to be as open as it can be, for as long as it can be. Only our communities can help us do that.”

The select board secured some initial grants for the pedestrian bridge. In other developments, the town continued working on the process of applying for a Downtown Designation. AWARE announced it had taken over the upcoming Hardwick Craft Fair from the Chamber of Commerce. Even as the town moved forward on projects aimed at making downtown better, people began seeing a good reason to stay home. Delta spread quickly and shuttered two shows at the Highland Center. Nonetheless, Hazen re-opened. The select board did not make a decision on the subject of mandating vaccines for its employees.

Hazen’s opening came and went, but controversy started right away. Some parents misconstrued principal Di Giulio’s comments about freedom of speech and his own military service, with a trend surfacing that many of those parents also were displeased that Di Giulio identified as LGBTQ.

The Buffalo Mountain Co-op went public in September about its plans for purchasing the Hardwick Village Market. Despite some members’ displeasure with the plans for selling normal food and some residents’ concern that the co-op would make the store unaffordable for many residents, a members’ vote approved the plan and the co-op began the process.

At its September 16 meeting, the board formally hired a new town manager, David Upson. Jon Jewett had been serving as interim town manager since Shaun Fielder’s departure.

Hazen teacher Anja Pfeffer received a prestigious award. She became the school’s first teacher to be awarded a Rowland Fellowship. The award citation noted Pfeffer’s innovative “Dare to be Me” program, which sought to reach students in ways different from standard classroom instruction.

AWARE’s craft fair proved a success. Around 350 turned out and, despite less time to prepare than usual, the event went smoothly. There had not been a 2020 event due to COVID. Another event returning was the annual Pumpkin Walk, though this year’s was scaled back drastically, and its participants limited to Hardwick Elementary students and their parents. At Hazen, the entire middle school did a “Long Walk to Water” fundraiser to raise money for clean water in the South Sudan.



Buffalo Mountain was officially recognized by the Vermont Department of Libraries’ Geographic Naming Committee. Lance stated that the federal recognition might come as soon as December.

In October, resident Jessica Gasper was on the receiving end



of anti-Semitic slurs and her door was defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti. The Equity Committee, in conjunction with Community Allies, crafted a statement specific to anti-Semitism which was read into the record at the December 16 select board meeting.

Hardwick’s select board began the process of making changes to the town charter. Some of the changes involved removing obsolescent language and job titles that were no longer extant, but the proposal to change the town clerk and assistant town clerk to select board-appointed positions raised the ire of some residents, spearheaded by Orise Ainsworth. An early December vote would see the controversial changes narrowly defeated and the changes to the charter’s text pass.

The number of COVID cases exploded. Hardwick’s schools took hits weekly from COVID, with multiple students in quarantine most weeks. Both students and staff were enduring a stressful slog of a year due to COVID and its mental health impacts. Vaccination rates did not keep pace with earlier results. For the youngest age group the state reported on, 18-29, just thirteen percent were fully vaccinated in Caledonia County. No age group except those over 65 had a fully vaccinated rate over fifty percent. The select board declined to pass a town mask mandate, citing the difficulty of enforcing it.

At the likely last meeting of the year, the Hazen school board received an update on the Community Bell. Just as Finn Rooney intended, the project has drawn in the entire Hazen Union community, and more. Residents have donated time to restore it, P&R Lumber donated wood, and Sherwin Williams donated paint. The plan is to have the bell ready and a temporary structure in time for 2022’s graduation, then move it atop the gym.

In December, the Gazette announced it would be closing its South Main Street offices. It subsequently announced a community journalism initiative, encouraging residents to submit articles and photos.

**Weather**

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**YEAR  
IN REVIEW**

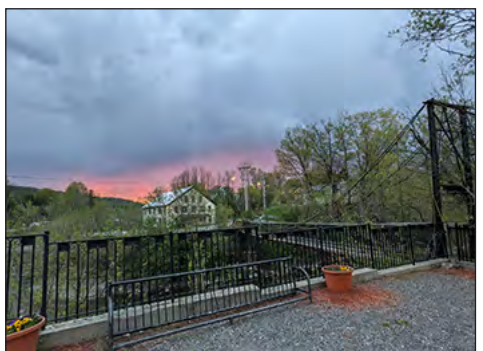
to suggest. The bulk of that snow was made up in January and February, with two notable snowstorms during that period.



The first storm arrived in the region on January 16 and remained through January 17. A deepening low along the coast of southern New England decided to take a track into Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, forcing large amounts of moisture into northern Vermont, but nosing warmer air closer, as well. Thus, the snow that fell was heavy and wet, slickening the roads and leading to significant power outages. Louis Porter, general manager of the Washington Electric Co-op, said that 4,340 customers lost power during the storm because of 142 separate outage events. WEC's coverage area includes parts of most towns served by the Hardwick Gazette.

Porter said the geography the system covers created a hindrance in cases like this snowstorm.

"We have perhaps the most rural and challenging territory in the Northeast, with relatively few members for each of our 1,300 miles of power lines," said Porter.



The yield for that storm ranged from a foot in Woodbury, down to seven inches in East Calais. Greensboro reported 7.1 inches of snow, while Cabot reported 9.7 inches.

A more classical nor'easter arrived for February 2, with lighter snow and a track slightly south of New England. This brought snow with a drier consistency, but the snowfall amounts

did not impressively exceed those of the mid-January event, with a widespread three to nine inches of snow reported. Much of the remainder of the season brought intermittent light snow, amounting to two or three inches of snow at a time. Most of the heavier precipitation consistently remained south of north-central Vermont and this pattern continued well into the rest of the year.

While the southern part of the state saw six to eight inches of excess rain during the summer and autumn months, the northern half of Vermont was in a deficit by a similar amount. One of the forces



behind this included Tropical Storm Henri, which stalled out over southern New York and New England, bringing upwards of four inches of rain to our southernmost counties in mid-August. Northern Vermont has remained in abnormally dry to mild drought conditions for almost the entire year, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Some towns in north-central Vermont were impacted by two severe weather events. On May 26, the villages of Plainfield and Cabot were struck by a broken line of thunderstorms traveling west-to-east across Vermont ahead of a sharp cold front which later dropped temperatures by 30 degrees. Damage reports from the



early evening hours included trees and powerlines down on School Street and Route 2 in Plainfield and branches down on Danville Hill Road in Cabot. Porter reported 2,599 customers out of power during this storm in the WEC coverage area. The longest outage took 25-1/2 hours to remedy.

Subsequently, the severe weather season concluded late with the passage of an occluding front on the late evening of October 16. A tree was reported down on Kate Brook Road in Hardwick. Mike Sullivan, general manager of the Hardwick Electric Department, reported that during this and other storms during 2021, their grid was spared from any major outages impacting many customers.

"HED was very fortunate over the last twelve months," said Sullivan in an email response. "We honestly haven't had any major system events in 2021, which would have had a significant number of customers out of service for extended timeframes."

A remarkable windstorm blew through a wide swath of the north-east on the night of December 11, leaving numerous customers in the



dark and destroying trees in the process. Wind gusts of 35 and 36 mph were reported in Greensboro and Cabot, respectively. Mount Mansfield reported a wind gust of 103 mph. WEC's coverage area reported 678 customers without power.

Snowfall amounts from the first of October through December 21 have been on track for a better early start to the season than last year, with most local observing stations reporting between 15 and 35 inches of snow, depending on elevation. Conditions seem to be on track for Christmas 2021 to be white. As for the rest of the season? Equal chances exist for precipitation to above, below, or near normal, while temperatures are expected to be warmer than normal. Whether this means the snow will be wetter, or mix with rain remains a mystery until 2022 unfolds.

Happy New Year!



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BUFFALO MOUNTAIN CO-OP  
WISH EVERYONE A**  
*Happy, Safe and Healthy  
New Year*

**Closing at 5pm, December 31, Closed January 1, Closing at 5pm January 2**

Sports

Continued From Page One

YEAR IN REVIEW

Aaron Hill and his Hazen Union boys' basketball team a chance at a third straight Division III Final

Four appearance last season. An improbable, falling-out-of-bounds buzzer-beater by Enosburg's Devyn Gleason that did. The abbreviated season had already denied senior sharpshooter Isiah Baker from becoming Hazen's all-time leading scorer and Gleason's miraculous heave also ended a possible storybook ending for one of the

best outside shooters in Vermont high school history. Baker finished his career as the second all-time leading scorer in school history behind Tim Shedd and was also a three-time Vermont Dream Team selection.

Head coach Chris Hudson returned his Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team back to the Division IV Final Four, but an injury to leading scorer Gavin Fowler ultimately derailed their title chances. An abbreviated schedule also robbed Fowler of having his name up in the rafters as a 1,000-point career scorer; a late-season leg injury forced the two-time VT Dream Dozen selection to watch from the sidelines during the postseason.

Craftsbury Academy athletic director Gabriela Silva, with help from a few local student-athletes, recruited enough girls for the Lady Chargers to field a varsity girls' basketball team for the first time

since their Division IV Final Four appearance since 2017. There is a rekindled interest in Craftsbury athletics at the Common and Silva is putting in overtime to resurrect their varsity programs.

In just his second season as skipper, Spencer Howard's Hazen Union baseball team had the town of Hardwick dreaming of their first Division III state championship in decades. Howard's Wildcats won 12 games this past spring, including their first home playoff win and first trip to the Division III Final Four since 2007. Sophomore hurler Lyle Rooney had an outstanding rookie season at the varsity level for Hazen, winning eight games that included a no-hitter against Danville in early May, earning him Co-Player of the Year honors in the Mountain League. Tyler Rivard was a wrecking ball in the middle of the Wildcat lineup and lone senior Ethan Shopland capped off

See SPORTS, 7

Board Considers ARPA Requests

WALDEN - The Walden Select Board considered a request from the ARPA committee at their meeting on December 20. The committee would like to use ARPA funds to supplement substitute teacher pay at the school, as well as to pay for fingerprinting and training. The board voted to grant this request up to \$8,030 per year.

Robyn Cook-Hubner, chair of the ARPA committee, reported that the fire department's request for new SCBA units and blood borne pathogen resistant parkas did not qualify for funding through ARPA funds under the PPE category.

She noted that she has written letters to Senators Leahy and Sanders, as well as Congressman Welch, regarding this, noting that the criteria for ARPA funds seems narrow and explaining the fire department's needs.

The select board granted a cost-of-living raise of 5.9% to employees as of January 1, 2022.

Present at the meeting were select board members Brenda Huntoon, Bob Hatch and Randolph Wilson in person and, by Zoom, Robyn Cook Hubner. The next meeting will be January 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the firehouse and via Zoom.

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# Exhibition of Learning held December 20 and 21



Everett Raynor (left), Ethan Trombly (center) and Kenzie Ladieu (right) built teepees.



Olive Landry (left), Cate Underwood (center) and Paisley North (right) made baskets.



Owen Miller (left) and Tristan Dill (center) created wigwams and Lukas Ladieu (right) a long house.

**Photos by  
Vanessa Fournier**

*Cabot 3rd and 4th grades held an Exhibition of Learning at the Willey Building on December 20 and 21 so the community could attend and see projects that the students made during their seven-week study of Abenaki and Plains Native Americans. Teachers Alison Morrow and Rebecca Nally taught their 26 students about the Native Americans relationship with the environment.*

## Sports

Continued From Page Six

### YEAR IN REVIEW

his career with a stellar season as both players earned First Team selections.

Craftsbury Academy's (CA) Camille Bolduc put a bow on an incredible track and field career this past spring, winning three more individual state titles for the Chargers. Bolduc finished her career with five state titles and led CA to a school best third place overall finish in the Division IV girls' state championships. Head coach Jeff Tucker also watched his CA boys' team capture their best overall finish in the Division IV state championships behind a pair of star sophomores in Cormac Leahy and Charlie Krebs. Krebs won the 1500m state title by four tenths of a second and Leahy blitzed the 3000m field by almost eight seconds as the dynamic duo claimed their first of what could be many state titles for the Chargers.

Hazen Union graduate Macy

Molleur found the back of the net one more time over the summer for Team Vermont as she helped lead them to a 3-2 victory over New Hampshire in the 46th annual Lions Twin State Soccer Cup at Hanover High School. Molleur scored 16 goals for the Lady Cats in her senior campaign, finishing with 40 in her career.

Twinfield-Cabot's girls' and boys' soccer teams were the story this past fall as both programs announced their arrival back on the scene as Division IV contenders. Head coach Peter Stratman led his Trojans to their first Final Four appearance in 21 years after an impressive eleven-win season in the newly revamped Mountain League. Stratman's squad had their second consecutive season with playoff success after going through an eleven-year drought before he took over the reigns three years ago. Sophomore Meles Gouge had a breakout season, leading the Trojans in scoring with 20 goals, earning him First Team Mountain League and VT All-State honors. After ten years of struggling to field teams and win matches, head coach Seth Willmott saw his five-year rebuild come to

fruition this past fall as his Lady Trojans earned their first playoff victory since 2011. Willmott's squad won an impressive nine games in the Mountain League and nearly pulled the upset over fourth-seeded Mount St. Joseph academy in the Division IV quarterfinals. Eva Hebert, Annie Dunlop, Holly Dunlop, and Ayden Corbette led Twinfield-Cabot to a Mountain League-high four First Team selections. Annie Dunlop led the Lady Trojans in scoring with 11 goals and was runner-up for Player of the Year honors. Hebert was Willmott's senior captain and capped off a stellar career with 10 goals, including two game-winners on the season.

Senior Craftsbury Academy goalkeeper Jas Zendik joined Gouge as a Vermont All-State selection for his stellar play in net. It was a rebuilding year for the Chargers, but Zendik's extraordinary talent between the pipes did not go overlooked as he posted a pair of shutouts and kept CA in several matches with countless acrobatic saves.

It was a year of transition for the Hazen Union boys' soccer team as they moved to the vaunted

Capital Division and hired the first female coach to lead a boys' varsity program in school history. Head coach Allison Paradee had a lot of challenges in front of her and her squad this past season, but led the Wildcats to an impressive seven-win season, including a first round win over Leland & Gray in the Division III playoffs. Senior midfielder Reed Kehler led the Wildcats down the stretch with four goals, including a hat-trick in their playoff win. His stellar season was rewarded with a First Team Capital Division selection, along with being named to the Vermont All-State team.

As a sense of normalcy returns much slower than we all hoped for, local athletes doing extraordinary things in high school arenas remain a constant. The level of play and accomplishments we've witnessed throughout this pandemic cannot be applauded enough. The players, parents, coaches, officials, athletic directors, and everyone helping behind the scenes deserve a season-long standing ovation from all of us as fans return to gymnasiums this winter. Have a safe and Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

# Craftsbury Focuses on Town Business, Settles with HED on Billing Issue

## YEAR IN REVIEW

**CRAFTSBURY** – After a COVID outbreak in mid-December infected 15 residents and 14 staff, the Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) went nine days without a new positive test in the facility, according to board member Penelope Doherty. The Craftsbury School Board met with Equity Counselor Hilary Maynard at a January board meeting to participate in an equity training session. At an early January meeting, the Craftsbury School Board approved a \$4,059,065.98 budget for FY2022 to operate the Craftsbury School District. The proposed budget raises the homestead tax rate to 1.7653, representing approximately a 4-cent increase over FY2021. Also in January, the Craftsbury School District and Hardwick Electric Department (HED) had been at odds over a \$143,927.83 billing disagreement since October, 2010. The issue went before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). An evidentiary hearing was held by the PUC on January 21 via GoToMeeting, with hearing officer Michael Tousley, staff attorney. The next step was awaiting his findings in a proposal for decision and conclusions of law with final recommendations. No recommendations on settling the issue had been made to date.

Julie Higgins' third-grade class set out on one of its more ambitious outdoor learning experiences in January: building a "quinzhee hut" on the school's woodlot.

In February, it was announced



that Craftsbury's municipal budget was up by \$10,799, but taxpayers were asked to raise \$105,909.22 less than the previous year. The 2021 budget approved by the select board totaled \$804,331 for operating the town's offices and road department. Also, with no new positive cases since early January, the Craftsbury Community Care Center was deemed to have weathered December's COVID-19



outbreak. Residents were doing well, and some restrictions were eased. The seven-article warning from the Craftsbury School District was discussed at an informational meeting held in February via Zoom. About 20 attendees were present. Town Moderator Jeanine Young, select board chair Bruce Urie, and Town Clerk Yvette Brown, all anticipated a larger-than-usual voter

turnout with this year's ballot voting. Brown reported that, as of Monday night, 316 absentee ballots had been requested with a return of 183 before the polls opened on Tuesday morning. She anticipated 375 to 400 voters; the town has about 900 registered voters.

Craftsbury residents voted yes on all 44 articles on the warning at Town Meeting 2021 on March 2. Three hundred and sixty-three voters participated by Australian ballot – double the usual number at previous in-person town meetings. A draft, multi-year vision plan was presented to the Craftsbury school directors by Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia at a March meeting. The plan presented as the "Small School, Big Opportunities" vision for the next five years. Also in March, Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia was awarded the National Association of Elementary School Principals' "National Distinguished Vermont Principal of the Year" for 2021-2022. She was selected by the executive council of the Vermont Principals Association. The Equity Coalition moved one step closer to obtaining funding after the last meeting of the select board. The board approved a \$1,300 budget for the group, pending definition of the open meeting law component.

In April, the board of trustees of the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library selected Kristin Urie to lead the institution as it begins its next century of service to the community. The select board dispatched a multi-faceted



agenda, ranging from emergency management, highway state aid, and open meeting law to approving weight and liquor licenses and Common permits. The board met in-person and via Zoom. Following an executive session at its April meeting, the Craftsbury School Board voted unanimously to pay Hardwick Electric Department (HED) \$141,865.80 to settle a dispute of HED's underbilling for electricity used between 2010 and 2019. The dispute had moved from the Department of Public Service to the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

At a select board meeting in May, the board addressed the Open Meeting Law to giving its support to the Craftsbury Community Care Center's (CCCC) grant application.

[Editor's Note: The Gazette's coverage of Craftsbury was limited in 2021 due to the retirement of our correspondent. Please consider joining the Gazette's citizen journalist initiative in 2022 to get our coverage of Craftsbury back to where it should be. Contact the Gazette if you need help or have any questions. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!]

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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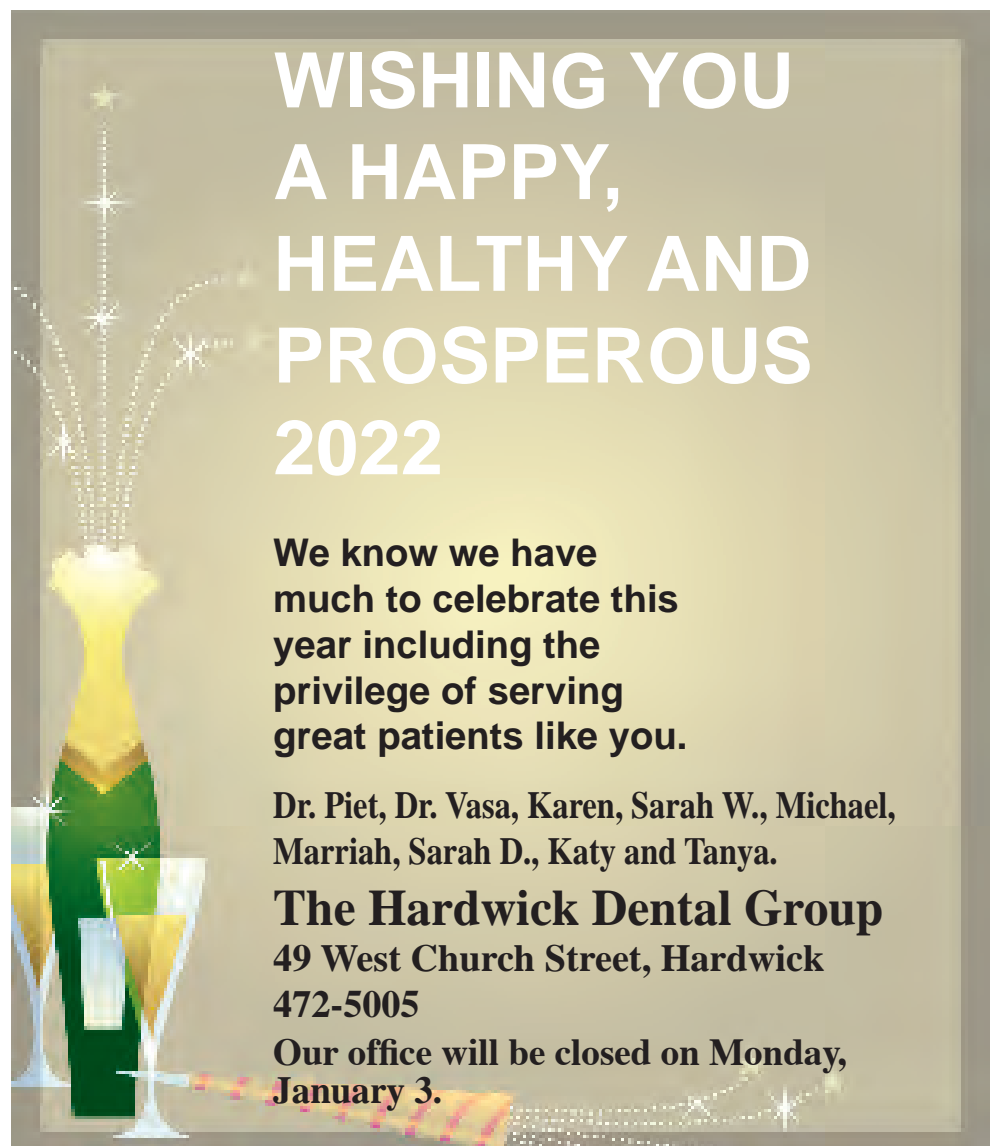
WISHING YOU  
A HAPPY,  
HEALTHY AND  
PROSPEROUS  
2022

We know we have  
much to celebrate this  
year including the  
privilege of serving  
great patients like you.

Dr. Piet, Dr. Vasa, Karen, Sarah W., Michael,  
Marriah, Sarah D., Katy and Tanya.

**The Hardwick Dental Group**  
49 West Church Street, Hardwick  
472-5005

Our office will be closed on Monday,  
January 3.



# OBITUARIES

## JAMES A. "JIM" BROCHU

UPTON, Mass. – James A. "Jim" Brochu, 61, a lifelong Upton resident, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 18. He is the beloved husband of Lisa M. (Stone) Brochu.

Born in Worcester, he was a son of the late Camil and Theresa (Fontaine) Brochu. He was raised and educated in Upton.

Jim has been employed as the director of facilities for Blackstone Valley Tech High School for fifteen years. His knowledge and love for facilities management led him to a career where he started at Hahnemann Hospital, Harvard Business School and ended with his employment at Valley Tech. BVT was special to him as a 1978 graduate in the electrical program and his career as the director of facilities. He loved his BVT family and all the kids he had seen come through the years.

He proudly served on the Upton Board of Selectmen for six years, and most recently chaired the community center project. In addition, he previously served on the Upton Fire and EMS Department as a firefighter-EMT and was a past president and member of the EMS Association, as well as many other Upton organizations.

Jim enjoyed people. His time with family and friends were his greatest joys in life. His time with his children was treasured. He looked forward to Thursday nights at the Wanokura restaurant with Lindsey and Danny and the group of friends he made.

He loved to spend time at the barn with Lindsey and his Sunday flea market excursions with Danny were the norm, and his annual weekend trip to Maine with his high school friends, lovingly known as the "six-pack," where old times were relived, music played, and bonds deepened.

Also, family camping trips to Maine where he mostly enjoyed pattering around his campsite, playing games and making campfire breakfasts. He was known to always have the neatest and most groomed site amongst the group of fellow campers. At home in Upton, Jim was known to spontaneously gather his friends together for a night out where stories were commonly and repeatedly shared with his famous one-liners, his well-recognized laugh and his famous end of the night request for a "final, final".

At an early age, he and his dad collected old bottles, which over the years progressed into a



James A. "Jim" Brochu

love for antiques and collectables. You could find Jim on any weekend driving through the Blackstone Valley searching for that special item, or as he would call it "one score".

Jim was instrumental in bringing back the Brochu family reunions and the start of the Brochu golf tournament reuniting his Vermont family, lovingly known as the mountain men, and the Upton flatlanders. Everyone was together creating memorable moments to never be forgotten.

Besides his wife, he leaves his cherished children, Lindsey Brochu of Uxbridge, and Daniel Brochu of Upton; his brother, Robert Brochu and his wife Sandy, of Whitinsville, his nieces and nephews, Ryan Brochu, BJ Stone, Michelle Stone, Jennifer Stone, Michael Cofer, and Matthew Cofer; his mother-in-law, Susanne Stone of Northborough; and many cousins.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 29, in St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 151 Mendon St. Upton. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery, Upton.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 8 PM on Tuesday, December 28, in the Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home, 45 Main St. Upton.

Facial coverings are required while inside the funeral home and church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to the Upton Fire & EMS Association Ambulance Fund, P.O. Box 1012, Upton, MA 01568; Upton Men's Club, P.O. Box 93, Upton, MA 01568; or to the Upton Bloomer Girls, P.O. Box 121, Upton, MA 01568.

The Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home is honored to be assisting the Brochu family with arrangements ([UptonFunerals.com](http://UptonFunerals.com)).

## MATTHEW C. BASHAW

WALDEN – Matthew Carlton Bashaw, 41, of Walden, passed away unexpectedly at his residence on December 20.

A complete obituary will

appear in a later edition.

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

# BIRTHS

## Novaleigh Holland Howard

A daughter, Novaleigh Holland Howard, was born to Joshua Howard Sr. and Brianna Wood, of Hardwick, on November 18 at Copley Hospital.

## Kingsley AnnMarie Mohr

A daughter, Kingsley AnnMarie Mohr, was born to Jessica King-Mohr and Darryl Mohr, of Wolcott, on December 3 at Copley Hospital.

# EDUCATION

## Fielder Selected as a Peer Mentor

BURLINGTON – Sam Fielder of the East Calais class of 2022 is serving as a University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences peer mentor for

the 2021-22 academic year. Known as "LINKS," mentors provide first-year students with friendship, guidance and a connection to the UVM community.

### OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com  
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## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

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Dian R. Holcomb  
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# Greensboro Deals with COVID, but Town Life Goes On

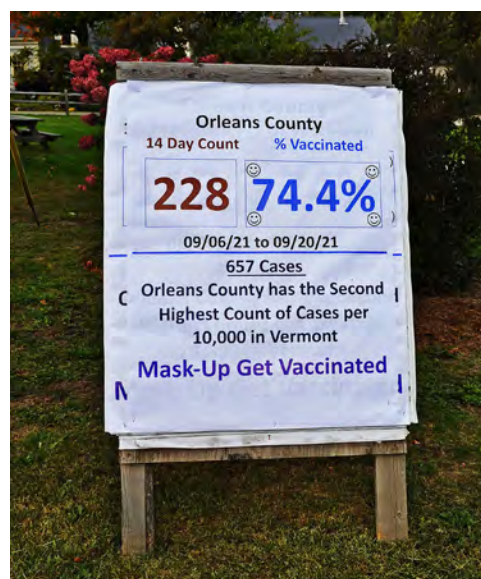
## YEAR IN REVIEW

**GREENSBORO** – The first January story followed up a late December event: a team from CVS Pharmacy provided the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to residents at the Greensboro Nursing Home (GNH) on December 30. The second dose was scheduled for Wednesday, January 20. Administrator Brian Labelle said that “no serious reactions of any kind have occurred as a result of the vaccinations. One hundred percent of our residents received the first round of the vaccine.”

The Greensboro Association’s Community Relief Fund has awarded seven pandemic-related emergency grants totaling \$8,750 for the first quarter of 2021, according to the Greensboro Association Relief Fund Committee. Recipients of the grants were the Craftsbury Community Care Center, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, Four Seasons of Early Learning, Greensboro Nursing Home, Craftsbury Saplings, Greensboro Free Library and Wonder Arts.



In February, three petitions and the policing contract with the Hardwick Police Department were central discussions at the town’s informational meeting via Zoom. A second informational meeting was also held. The informational meetings were scheduled prior to the town meeting on March 2, which was held by Australian ballot. The meetings were scheduled to give voters the opportunity to ask ques-



tions, seek clarifications and air views.

Reconfiguring how budget information is relayed to voters without creating confusion has presented a challenge for select boards as towns opted to put in-person town meetings on hold in lieu of voting by Australian ballot. The process led to lengthy ballots with masses of numbers, which were confusing for some voters who may have been used to traditional budget presentations. The Greensboro town budget, draft warning, and notes about the draft Australian ballot were posted on the town’s website. The budget of \$1,954,845 was a decrease from last year of \$66,116, a drop of 3.3%.



In March, the Greensboro Nursing Home did not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19, and no presumptive cases of COVID-19, within a 72-hour period. At the nursing home, 91% of residents received the full course of the Pfizer vaccination for COVID-19 and 90% of the staff were also fully vaccinated.

Voters approved all but two articles at the annual town meeting on March 2. Town Clerk Kim Greaves reported 268 people cast votes by Australian ballot - approximately 100 more than the number of voters that typically participate in town meeting. Polls closed at 7 p.m. and an electronic tabulating machine enabled votes to be counted by 9 p.m.

The Town of Greensboro won a grant in 2020 to study the feasibility of installing a wastewater treatment system. The engineering firm Hoyle and Tanner was selected to conduct the study. Work on the first phase of the work began in early December and an interim report was submitted

to the town in March. The first phase of work involved evaluating three town districts to determine which area was most suitable for a wastewater treatment system. The districts studied were the village (adjacent to Caspian Lake), Caspian Lake (residents located near the lakes shore), and The Bend village.



After deliberating an hour in executive session last week, the select board voted to sign a one-year contract with the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department for police services. The contract began July 1, 2021 and will cost the town \$190,000. The contract with the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department for policing services replaces a service that has been provided by the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) for over 15 years. Contracts negotiated with the HPD were for a three-year term, and the old contract expired on June 30, 2021, at midnight.



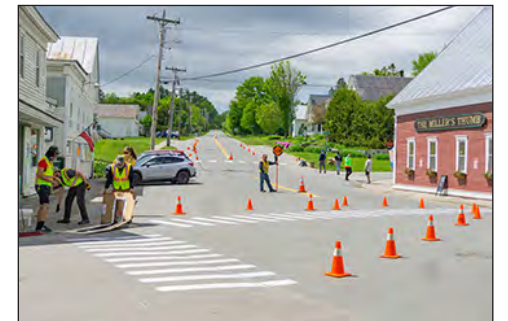
In April, Jared Nunery, the Orleans County forester, met up with Greensboro property owner John Stone III. What started as a routine forest management plan inspection soon turned into a sensational finding: the largest Eastern White Pine in the state of Vermont, just steps from Stone’s back door. Nunery was excited by this find, in part because of the size, but also due to the tree’s story. “One of the terms that we call them



as foresters is legacy trees. They [can be] biological legacies of past land use, sometimes [indicating] a disturbance.”

In May, Sarah Hunt, 43, a local bartender, found Green Up Day to be great for teaching her kids to care for the environment.

“I live here, and I walk around here all the time,” Hunt said. “To walk around and see trash is really gross. And I want to teach my kids that throwing things on the ground is not okay.”



The Development Review Board (DRB) granted the Highland Center of the Arts (HCA) a temporary reprieve from Condition #5 of its Conditional Use Permit. Condition #5, which prohibited outdoor sound amplification at the arts center, was a restriction imposed in 2014 when HCA’s permit was granted.

Also in May, Mackenna Lapierre, Greensboro Free Library’s (GFL) assistant librarian, filled a bright green box with purple, green, and red canvas bags, each holding a book from another library in Vermont.

A courier from Priority Express picked up the GFL books and delivered another green box full of incoming inter-library loans. While GFL has offered inter-library loans for a long time, the library gained its own stop on the state’s courier system last year.

In June, in a soggy Sunday ceremony, the former Greensboro High School bell was moved from its spot near the Greensboro Town Hall to Hazen Union school. The event was a celebration of both the school and Hazen Union student Finn Rooney, who passed in January 2020. Finn was the driving force behind Hazen Union getting its own bell.

Greensboro was awarded a grant from the Agency of Community and Commercial Development to prepare a master plan. The Bend Master Plan seeks to develop an economic revitalization roadmap for Greensboro Bend, centered around future improvements to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Linear park designs, improved streetscapes, recreational resources, and economic development opportunities for the Greensboro Bend village were to be developed through open, public planning processes.

On June 16, Greensboro brothers Philip and Clive Gray

**See GREENSBORO, 11**

## Greensboro

Continued From Page Ten

# YEAR IN REVIEW

signed an agreement giving the Greensboro Land Trust (GLT) a conservation easement on 79 acres atop Baker Hill. Signing for GLT was its vice-chair, John Cannon.

On July 21, over 50 people joined the Greensboro Historical Society (GHS) to dedicate the sign commemorating the starting point of Hinman Settler Road in Greensboro and Timothy Hinman, the man who built it. The road, carved through the wilderness in 1792 and 1793, runs north, linking the town and the Bayley-Hazen Road with areas of northern Vermont, and it opened them up for settlement.

The Greensboro Historical Society and the Greensboro Free Library presented summer history walks in Greensboro Bend and Greensboro Villages. The self-guided history explorer walks, inspired by COVID restrictions, were popular last year and were updated and expanded for the summer.

Greensboro ice cream shop Cassie's Corner re-opened after closing a year and a half ago. The shop is on Beach Road, right before Caspian Lake Beach and is named after Caspian Lake's ice-cream-loving lake creature. The store's former owner, Jerry Brown, passed away in 2019, and the manager retired. Brown's granddaughters Alex and Beatrice Lintner brought the shop back to life.

In August, the COVID situation in Vermont was deteriorating. Meanwhile, the FDA has fully approved the Pfizer vaccine for those 16 and up, with approval for ages 12 and up pending. Children under 12 did not have the option to get vaccinated yet.

The Greensboro Planning Commission published the text for two proposed municipal bylaw amendments. Of the two proposed amendments, the one drawing the most attention sought to make the area between Lake Eligo and Town Highway 23 a "Resource District." This designation would mean that the area is no longer classified as a "Rural Lands" zone, where development is limited to 10-acre minimum pieces, and plots are instead limited to a 25-acre minimum.

Emma Rowell of the Caspian

Critters 4-H Club of Greensboro was asked to create a mural for the 2021 Fair in the swine/poultry barn at the Champlain Valley Exposition. Before the fair opened, she sketched a design on the wall of the building and asked her fellow club members to join her in painting it. Each day at the fair an award was given to one person or group that goes "above and beyond" in their participation, and at the close of the fair on September 12, the fair director presented the "Star of the Day" award to the Caspian Critters club, with Rowell as the leader, on stage in front of an audience. The club won another award at the Orleans County Fair for going above and beyond to help others while at the fair.

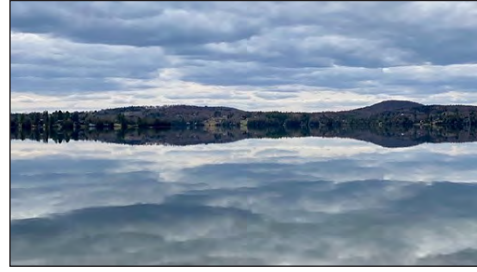
The club members focus on cows and chickens, but they also tend to many other animals at home, including sheep, pigs, birds, horses and rabbits. They have traveled this year with their cows and chickens to local county fairs in Caledonia, Lamoille, and most recently the Orleans County Fair, where they also have their crafts on display in the floral hall. They also attended the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass., (the Big E), where they gave demonstrations on how to make mozzarella cheese and butter.

On Thursday, October 14, representatives of various conservation organizations throughout the Lamoille River basin met to discuss the Lamoille River watershed's tactical basin plan. The plan, updated every five years, looks at the goings-on of a specific watershed from multiple perspectives, from aquatic life to phosphorous levels, as well as proposed solutions to present or future issues.

In November, the Vermont Supreme Court weighed in on a proposed change to a long-standing structure on Caspian Lake that has worked its way through the Development Review Board (DRB) and the Environmental Division of the Vermont judiciary. In 2018, property owners Marian Wright and Greg Boester went before the DRB asking to add a third level to their shoreline property. The DRB approved the reconstruction of the property, but rejected the third-floor addition because it increased the building's height. The board's rationale was, in part, that the structure should be considered a "boat house" and not an "accessory building," which limited the building's height under Greensboro's zoning rules.

The Supreme Court did not allow the height of the building to be increased.

A dispute at the Hardwick Convenience and Deli (formerly the Kwik-Stop) forty-eight-year-old Darryl Johnson of Greensboro intervened in a dispute between a store clerk and twenty-seven-year-old Robert



Chaplin of East Hardwick. Chaplin later drove to Johnson's property, where a confrontation culminated in the fatal shooting, according to the Orleans County



Sheriff's Department (OCS) and Vermont State Police (VSP).

In December, the Town of Greensboro and the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) built an ice skating rink on the HCA's grounds.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cabot High School band and chorus members (from left) Ila Steinert, Camryn Hoffman, Alec Moran, Silas Robbins, Jacob Tidd (in back) and Wyatt Searles performed four 30-minute mini concerts for the students and staff December 21.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Peter D. Watson Agency  
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# Cabot Twelfth Night Celebration Extends the Holiday Season

CABOT – On Saturday, Jan. 8, from noon to 9 p.m., Cabot Arts has organized a Twelfth Night Celebration in the village.

The festival features an array of performing arts and activities for all ages. Eight acts will provide entertainment ranging from storytelling, theater, puppets and comedy to classical music, a brass band, and English Morris dancing. Outdoors on the Cabot Village Common there will be ice skating, wagon rides, snow painting, hot cocoa station, and a sunset paper lantern parade led by Burlington’s street band, The Brass Balagan.

Festival Highlights include: Simon Brooks (storytelling), Sandglass Theater (puppets and comedy), Cabot Community Theater (Mummers Play), ASL Interpreter (American Sign Language interpreter during the afternoon program), Paper Lantern Contest (with prizes), Tara Goreau (mural painting), Scrag Mountain Duo (classical program), The Brass Balagan (brass street band), sunset lantern parade; community dinner (take out by donation), Dave Keller Band (blues and soul), The Midnight

Capers (Morris team), Wassail Community Sing (outdoors at The Den Garden), Sandy Ducharme (floorcloth raffle). Admission is free for all events.

Venues include the Willey Building Auditorium, Cabot Village Common, Cabot United Church, and The Den Garden (outdoors).

Proof of vaccination (or PCR test) and a valid ID, plus masking at all times, will be required for indoor events. For more information, contact Dana Robinson at (802) 793-3016 or director@cabotarts.org.



*courtesy photo*  
Burlington’s Brass Balagan street band will lead the sunset paper lantern parade as part of the Cabot Village Twelfth Night Celebration.



*courtesy photo*  
Storyteller Simon Brooks will entertain on January 8 at the Cabot Village Twelfth Night Celebration.



*photo by Dana Robinson*  
The Cabot Community Theater’s Mummers Play is one of the events scheduled for the Cabot Village Twelfth Night Celebration on January 8.

## THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

### Monday, January 3

**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, January 4

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

# Cabot Village

## 12th Night celebration

### Saturday, January 8th, 2022

**The Brass Balagan Street Brass Band • Sandglass Theater Puppets and Comedy**  
**Simon Brooks Master Storyteller • Scrag Mountain Duo Classical**  
**Dave Keller Trio Blues and Soul • Tara Goreau Mural Painting Project**  
**Cabot Community Theater Mummers Play • Midnight Capers Morris Dance**  
**Wassail Community Sing • Paper Lantern Contest • Activities on the Village Common**  
**Sunset Lantern Parade • Community Dinner • Wagon Rides**  
**Raffle for Sandy Ducharme Floorcloth • ASL Interpreter**

## All 12th Night Events are FREE!

For all Festival info, visit [www.CabotArts.org](http://www.CabotArts.org)

MASKING IS REQUIRED FOR INDOOR PERFORMANCES • CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IN EFFECT

# IN THE GARDEN

## Winter Mulching and Composting Will Have Happy Consequences

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Although we had a little snow on the ground for much of November and December, snow has been scarce as we move towards the New Year. If this continues, does this have any consequences for our gardens? Yes, it can.

If we have bare ground and a very cold winter, roots will see colder temperatures than they might prefer. Like that pink fluffy fiberglass in the walls of our homes, snow is a great insulator. Snow holds tiny pockets of air, holding in warmth from the soil and preventing icy north winds



*courtesy photo*

A simple A-frame protected this boxwood from the snowplow on our road last winter.

from stealing warmth from the soil.

Lacking snow, what can one do? Fall leaves are great. If you have a leaf pile somewhere, think about moving some to spread around your most tender plants, especially things planted this year. Perennials and woody plants are most vulnerable to the cold their first winter.

I have a tree peony that I planted this year, quite a pricey plant. Unlike the common perennial peony, the stems of the plant are woody and do not die back to the ground each winter. And the blossoms are much more dramatic: up to a foot across.

I have done two things for it: I mulched around the base with chopped leaves, and I wrapped some burlap around it to protect the stem itself and the flower buds that are already in place for next summer. This will help to keep January's cold winds from affecting it. We have done the same for tender heirloom roses, with good success. Shrub jackets made of

synthetic, breathable material are also available, instead of making your own from burlap.

I worry about voles chewing through the burlap, nesting inside, and then eating the tender bark of my young tree peony. I had some "Bobex"-brand deer repellent and decided to spray the burlap. It is made with rotten eggs and other nasty stuff and might deter voles.

My wife, Cindy, and I recently used burlap to prevent hungry deer from eating the leaves and branches of a pair of large yews. First, I drove four one-inch diameter hardwood stakes into the ground around each six-foot tall shrub. I stood on a step ladder and used a three-pound, short-handled sledge hammer to drive the stakes in about a foot. Then we draped the burlap over the top of the stakes and stapled the burlap to hold it in place on windy days. We used a heavy-duty carpenter's stapler as a desk stapler would not work. We have done this before, and the deer cannot get to one of their favorite winter meals. The wrapping we did was open to the top as deer can't reach that high, but smaller plants should be completely wrapped.

Another hazard for plants is heavy snow and ice that fall off roofs, or is pushed up by snowplows. Last winter, I made three A-frame plywood protectors for small shrubs to shelter them. Each used four stakes and two pieces of



*courtesy photo*

Wire can be used as a replacement for a hinge on the top of an A-frame

plywood. At the top of each stake, I drilled a hole and slid through both a piece of wire that connected the two stakes. This is a cheapskate's way of avoiding the cost of hinges. And it works just fine! If the ground is not frozen, push the stakes into the soil, but if it is frozen, it should stand up fine anyway.

Later, after the holidays, recycle your evergreen tree in the garden. After I take off decorations, I use my pruners to cut off all the branches. This helps me find every last little ornament, and then I have a nice stack of evergreen branches to use around or over tender plants.



*courtesy photo*

This tree peony had 10-inch-wide blossoms.

The branches are good windbreaks for small shrubs and hold snow through winter thaws as they sit over tender perennials. If you use a fake tree, watch for discarded trees waiting curbside, and snag one (or more) for use in the garden.

Composting in winter is a chore that some gardeners don't bother doing. But you should, as it is a waste to put your moldy broccoli in the landfill. For many gardeners, the compost pile is a considerable distance from the house, requiring warm coats, gloves – and perhaps snowshoes. But there is an easy solution.

Invest in an extra garbage can, a large one that will hold 30 gallons or more. Place it inconspicuously but conveniently near the house. Ideally, you have a kitchen door behind the house, and can bring food scraps to it without bundling up for the cold.

Your winter compost will

freeze and will not break down during the cold months. So, chop any big things to smaller pieces to allow it to pack down well. Then, come spring, you will have to shovel the material into a wheelbarrow and bring it down to your regular compost pile after it has thawed.

Of course, commercial compost bins are available to buy instead of the Mr. Thrifty 30-gallon plastic can. But since compost does not break down outside in winter, a plastic bin may not hold all the material you produce. If you fill the first one garbage can, an extra can is a smaller investment than a bin made just for compost. And those rotating bins? I've rarely met anyone who keeps turning them every week anyhow.

So, get creative and protect your plants however you can. And if you have a great idea, write me so I can share it with others. My best to you all for the holidays!



*courtesy photo*

This tree peony is well protected from the cold with leaves and burlap.

# Walden Board Deals with Road Work and ARPA Funds

## YEAR IN REVIEW

WALDEN – Ballots were mailed to all voters in February and the town meeting informational meeting date was set. The road report involved discussion of shop tools and needs and a certificate of highway mileage for the past year.

Caro Thompson reported to the select board on steady progress on NEK Community Broadband and there would be in-person voting on Town Meeting Day at the town office, with a limit of two people at a time. Masks would be required.

The Walden Select Board reorganize in March with Randolph Wilson elected chair and Brenda Huntoon elected as clerk, and appointments were made to town positions. Victoria Foster was elected to both the four-year and two-year library trustee position by write-in votes at town meeting and the board appointed Whitney Richardson to the board for one year until the next election.



In April, the select board accepted bids for paving Cabot Road and congratulated Bob Bell for 32 years of working for the town. Ballots were mailed to all voters for the school vote, and polling times were set. Later in April, the board appointed Caro Thompson as the CUD representative and Sara Lyons as alternate CUD representative.

In May, the town purchased a 20-ton trailer for \$4,000 and the board accepted a roadside mowing bid that was received from Walt Neborsky, for \$5,950. It was announced that, beginning in July, there would be a 1.3 percent cost of living raise across the board for the town employees, as well as some other raises for town employees.

Employee salary ranges were reviewed in June and compared to the VLCT wage compensation report. Based on that, the following was adjusted from select board meeting in May: the clerk-treasurer would receive \$1/hour raise beginning July 1; the road foreman would receive \$1/hour raise instead of the .50/hour previously decided at the last meeting, also to take effect July 1. Also, a warning sign of a sharp, 90-degree curve was to be put on Summerhill Road and the road crew was on schedule for the Better Road project.

Later in June, the Better Roads project on Coles Pond road was completed, and ditching and replacing culverts on Cabot, Stannard Mountain and Noyestar Road was done or in progress. Curb cut recommendations were in progress. A paving grant for Cabot Road and a

grant application for 2022 Grants-in-Aid were signed by the select board.

In July, the board voted to accept the American Rescue Plan Act funds and Lina Smith was appointed as the authorized representative to apply for the funds. Possible projects and timing were discussed and the pop-up vaccination clinic on June 25 had a turnout with 11 people. The second shot would be July 16.

After further discussion of employee pay, it was decided that the town clerk-treasurer would receive a \$1.27 per hour increase to be in line with the foreman pay. The assistant town clerk-treasurer, who is part-time, would receive 15 hours paid vacation per year.

At the end of July, the board set the



municipal tax rate at 0.6154 and the COVID vaccine clinic held at the firehouse resulted in nine people receiving the second shot and two receiving first shots.

The board, at an August meeting, discussed a bid for stripping and replacing the roof of fire station, and it was announced that the Cabot Road had been paved and roadside mowing was done. The International truck was back in service, with the bucket loader to be delivered. The road crew was hauling sand and starting grading.

At the end of August, the board voted to take up to \$8,000 of the ARPA funds to continue the process of digitizing land records. The new loader had arrived, but the old trailer still hadn't sold. The road crew was done with winter sand stockpiling. The board was investigating the purchase of two security cameras for the town garage.

At the end of September, it was announced that the town had borrowed a shoulder chute from Cabot Town to put gravel on the shoulder on Cabot Road, and the road crew would rent an excavator for a week to replace three culverts and a short section of ditching. The Walden Fire Department held an open house on September 18 and Fire Chief Jason Larrabee presented Butch



Greaves with a lifetime achievement award for over 50 years of service to the department.

In October, the board approved the National Opioid Settlement, with Town Clerk Lina Smith as contact. The town clerk investigated employee health insurance and reported back to the board. She also sought out more quotes from IT services for cyber security for town offices. At the end of October, the board voted and approved switching from BCBS health insurance to MVP, with savings of approximately \$3,400 a year, and an ARPA advisory committee was formed to be made up of 13 members.

At a November meeting, town meeting was discussed, and the board directed the town clerk to order enough supplies to do a town-wide mailing again. The board reviewed Appendix 1 from the U.S. Department of Treasury, which lists the Expenditure Categories for the ARPA.

At a December meeting, the select board discussed a fire and rescue request for ARPA funds for N95 masks, SCBA units with accessories, blood-borne pathogen resistant parkas, for a total of \$68,374.63 and

Trooper Hemond from the Caledonia Country Sheriff's department gave an overview of the services provided to the town. The sheriff's contract for a cost of \$7,500 was signed. The first draft of the FY 23 budget was formulated and discussed.



Guest artist glassblower Jacob Barron works on a tropical wave bowl during a demonstration held at the 37th Annual Vermont Glass Workshop Open Studio and seconds sale held December 11 in Hardwick. Barron's dog, Lucky, sleeps as he works. Barron has been an apprentice for Harry and Wendy Besett for 32 years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



"I'LL TOSS YOU FOR THE NEXT CUSTOMER!"



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Cabot middle school band members Satori Rossi (left) and Summer Hoffman (right), along with other musicians, entertained students and staff on December 21. Performances included different music ensembles from grades 5-12. Four different 30-minute concerts were held so classes could attend in small groups.

## MEETING MEMO

### Monday, January 3

•Walden Select Board, every other Monday.

### Tuesday, January 11

**HARDWICK ENERGY COMMITTEE**, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: 802-249-6004, Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.

### 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

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Front row (left to right) Charlie Morrissey, Willem Lange and Kiki, Dawn Gustafson, Jim Flint, Vanessa Fournier. Back row (left to right) Tyler Molleur, Erica Baker, Ray Small, Sandy Atkins, Kim Small, Doug McClure.

## The Hardwick Gazette

## Bring Home the Holidays

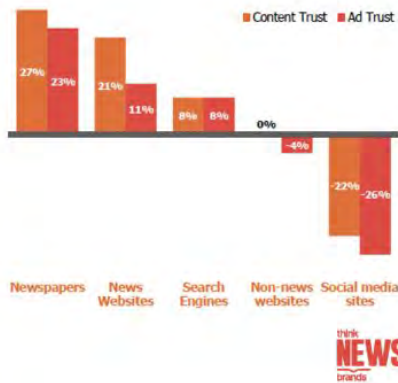
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20 Gable Place, Barre, VT 05641

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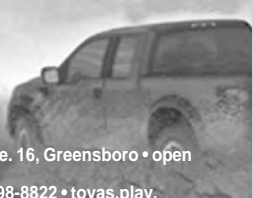
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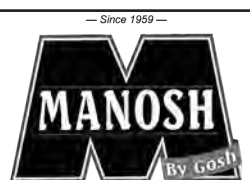
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# SPORTS

## Seventh Annual Hardwick Gazette Runners' Roundup Awards

by Jim Flint

**HARDWICK** -- In this final issue of the year, the Hardwick Gazette salutes local athletes of diverse ages who tirelessly pound out miles on area roads and trails. Despite race cancellations and modifications due to the pandemic, perseverance and resilience kept the thrill of individual and team competition alive. Here are the 2021 Runners Roundup honorees, from A to Z:

### Adamant Aces

Dot Helling and Chris Andresen teamed up to run the Vermont City Marathon two-person relay on October 24. The Adamant duo finished the half marathon side-by-side in 2:10:43. Their combined marathon time was 4:21:26. Helling ran the Green Mountain Marathon on October 17, finishing in 4:21:49. She placed 35th of 73 women overall and first in the F70-79 age group. Helling was the F70-74 gold medalist at the Vermont Senior Games 10k road race on June 12 in Montpelier. She earned a silver medal for her age group at the VSGA 5k road race on September 4 in Northfield.

### Boston Strong

Olympian Ida Sargent, formerly of Craftsbury, was the sole local athlete to compete in the 125th Boston Marathon on October 11. Sargent, 33, finished the iconic 26.2-mile course from Hopkinton to Boylston Street in 3:02:26. Sargent averaged 6:58 per mile for the marathon. She placed 1,756th overall and 194th among women finishers.

### Confident Collegian

Franklin Pierce University senior Riley Fenoff, from Danville, earned NCAA All-East Region honors in cross country. Fenoff finished 18th in the Division II East Regional on November 6. He helped the Raven harriers to place fifth among 21 teams at the regional competition held in Rochester, New York. A psychology major, Fenoff carries a 4.0 GPA. He was honored by the Northeast Ten Conference with an Elite 24 Award as the male cross-country runner with the highest GPA.



photo by Jim Flint

Cormac Leahy led the Craftsbury Academy boys' cross-country team to their second Vermont Division III state title. Leahy placed first in the D-III championship race on October 30.

### D-III State Champions

The Craftsbury Academy boys' cross-country team won the Division III Vermont State Championship on October 30, for the second year in a row. Cormac Leahy and Charlie Krebs finished first and second for the Chargers. Matt Califano, Charlie Kehler, Leo Circosta, Alex Califano, and Alan Moody placed third through eighth. The Chargers became the first Vermont D-III school to qualify a team for the New England Championships, where they placed 18th of 29 teams. The Charger boys went on to the Nike Cross Northeast Regional Championship at Wappingers Falls, New York. Competing on November 27, they placed 15th of 23 teams. The Craftsbury boys wrapped up their season at the AAU National Championships on December 4. Competing as the NEK Elite, the local harriers placed fifth of 11 teams competing in the boys' age 15-18 division.



photo by Jim Flint

Craftsbury Academy fielded its first five-person girls' cross-country team in 2021. The Chargers placed third in Division III at the state championship meet in Thetford.

### Energy and Enthusiasm

The Hazen Union High School varsity girls placed fourth at the Vermont D-III Cross Country Championships at Thetford. Cassandra Royer led the Wildcats with a 13th-place finish. Senior Jessica Royer claimed 23rd place. Exchange student Lisa Velten, Ella Considine, Edie McKenzie, Marta Mas Garvigo, and Eleonara Andrenelli rounded out the strong season finale for the spirited Hazen Union girls.

### Fab Five

Craftsbury Academy fielded a full team in girls' cross country for the first time in school history. The Charger squad of Anika Leahy, Ruth Krebs, Ava Purdy, Rachel Bjerke, and Daisy Roianov placed third in the Division III State Championship Race at Thetford. Leahy was the top finisher for Craftsbury at the state meet. She placed ninth of 90 runners and was the second-fastest D-III ninth-grade girl.

### Grit and Determination

Amy Felice of East Calais was the top finisher for the U-32 High School girls at the Vermont State meet. She placed sixth in the D-II championship race at Thetford and qualified for the New England Cross Country Championships. A mile into the New England race, Felice lost her right running shoe in the mud. Unfazed by adversity, the sophomore harrier ran two miles with one shoe. She finished the soggy 5k course in 22:28 to place 144th of 259 varsity girls.

### Hard to Beat

Mack Gardner-Morse of Calais won the M60-69 age group at the Fallen Leaves Races held in Montpelier on November 6, 13, and 20. Gardner-Morse was consistent on the 5k course, recording times of 21:05, 21:00, and 21:17. On September 4, Gardner-Morse competed at the Vermont Senior Games Association 5k state championship road race. His time of 20:58 earned a silver medal in the M60-64 age group.



photo by Jim Flint

Mack Gardner-Morse of Calais won the M60-64 silver medal at the Vermont Senior Games 5k road race on September 4.



photo by Jim Flint

Donna Smyers of Adamant was the silver medalist for the F60-64 age group at the VSGA 5k road race in Northfield.

### Ironwoman

Donna Smyers of Adamant won the F60-64 silver medal at the VSGA 5k state championship running road race. At the VSGA state cycling championships, she was a double gold medal winner. Competing on September 12 at Castleton University, she was the fastest woman finisher in the VSGA 5k cycling time trial. Smyers averaged 21 miles per hour, finishing in 8:58. She was also the fastest woman in the VSGA cycling road race. Smyers' average speed

**See AWARDS, next page**

# SPORTS

## Awards

Continued from previous page  
over the 20-mile route was 18.7 miles per hour. Her top downhill speed was a mind-bending 41.2 miles per hour.

## Jumping Into It

In September, Susan Dunklee took over leadership of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Running Program from Heidi Caldwell, who guided the program for three years. Dunklee, from Craftsbury, ran all the roads in Craftsbury and Albany during 2020. This year, she ran all the roads in Wolcott and Eden, then started on Glover. Dunklee directed the September 19 return of the Genny Tenny Race from Craftsbury to Albany. She balanced biathlon training for the 2022 Winter Olympics with planning for summer running camps and community running programs.

## King of the Trails

Adrian Owens edged out Robert Linck, 896 to 842 points, to win the men's title in the 13-week Tuesday Night Trail Race series. Owens and Linck competed in eleven 5k races, with their top ten races counting in the scoring. Stig Linck placed third in the series with 711 points. He competed in nine races. Ethan Dreissigacker was fourth for the men, with 661 points in seven races. Ollie Burruss scored a perfect 600 points in six races to place fifth overall. The top five runners are all from Craftsbury.

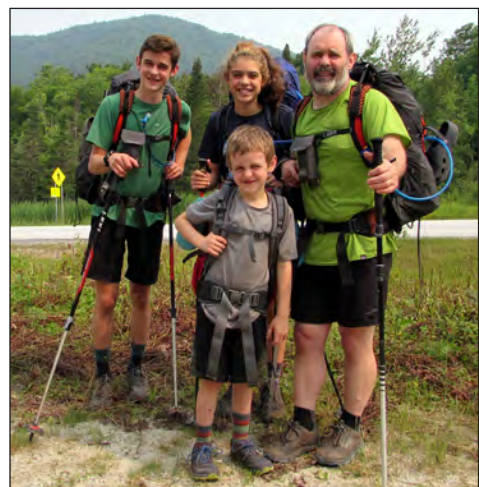


photo by Jim Flint  
Charlie, Ruth, Joe, and Matt Krebs completed a 27-day backpacking trek of the Long Trail on August 11. They paused for a photo at the Route 4 crossing in Mendon.

## Longest Trek

The Krebs family of Craftsbury worked together as a team to complete an epic 27-day backpacking trek on the

Long Trail. Charlie, Ruth, and Joe Krebs started with their dad, Matt Krebs, at the Massachusetts border on July 16. Supported by mom Alyssa Krebs, the four adventurers reached the Canadian border on August 11. Eight-year-old Joe, who celebrated his birthday on the trail, backpacked all but one 20-mile section of the 273-mile footpath through the wilderness.

## Mighty Middle Schoolers

Amelia Circosta, a home-schooler who competes for Craftsbury Academy, won five middle school cross country races. Circosta capped off the fall season with a victory at the Vermont Middle School Girls Cross Country Championship race on October 23. Running for Hazen Union, Thomas Kehler notched victories in three cross country races for the Wildcat middle schoolers.

## New England Champions

The U-32 High School boys cross-country team capped off an undefeated season at the New England High School Cross Country Championship, held on November 13 in Thetford. The D-II Vermont State Champions placed first of 29 teams. Sargent Burns of Calais played a key role in the New England victory. He finished 97th of 263 runners in the championship race.

## Over the Top

Craftsbury's Kaitlyn Miller earned runner-up honors in the women's division at the Trapp Mountain Trail Marathon on October 16. Miller was unfazed by the steep scrambling course up and down Round Top Mountain, elevation 2,360 feet. She completed two 13.1-mile loops of the course in 4:06:40 and placed seventh overall.

## Peak Performers

Adam Martin and Caitlin Patterson of Craftsbury won the men's and women's divisions at the Race to the Top of Mount Mansfield on August 29. The Green Racing Project competitors ascended the 4.3-mile toll road in 34:12 and 41:14, respectively. Patterson, 31, placed among the top five women for the sixth time since 2011. Martin, 26, won the men's division by more than two minutes.

## Queen of the Trails

Cydney Terrone of Craftsbury won her first Tuesday Night Trails 5k series title with 774 points. Terrone competed in all 13 trail races, along with Paula Davidson of Craftsbury and Caroline Lawlor of West Glover. Lawlor was the series runner-up for the women with 728 points. Jessica Bolduc of Craftsbury placed third with 720 points. She competed in 11 races. Anna Schulz of Craftsbury scored 702 points in eight races to place fourth. Aemilia Terrone of Craftsbury finished fifth with 653 points earned in ten races.



photo by Jim Flint  
Ava Purdy (above) and Tobias Benson (below) are the 2021 Rookie of the Year honorees. Purdy ran cross country for Craftsbury Academy, while Benson competed for Hazen Union.



## Rookies of the Year

Sophomores Ava Purdy and Tobias Benson participated in cross country for the first time in 2021. Purdy competed in seven

races for the Craftsbury Academy Chargers. She took three and a half minutes off her 5k time during the season. Purdy ran her best race at the Vermont Meet of Champions on November 6. She finished 24th in 20:55. Benson competed in nine races for the Hazen Union Wildcats. He took nearly ten minutes off his 5k time during the season. On October 9 at the Peoples Academy Invitational, Benson finished in 20:58, attaining his goal of breaking 30 minutes.



photo by Jim Flint  
Tim Hogeboom and Elizabeth McCarthy won eleven Vermont Senior Games medals between them in road racing and track and field. The Walden couple competed in more than 20 races during 2021.

## Senior Standouts

Elizabeth McCarthy and Tim Hogeboom competed in more than 20 running races during 2021. The Walden couple brought home seven medals between them at the Vermont Senior Games Association state track meet. McCarthy was the gold medalist for the F65-69 age group in the VSGA 5k and 10k road races. Competing in the M70-74 age group, Hogeboom won a gold medal in the VSGA 10k road race and a silver medal in the VSGA 5k road race.

## Trail Titan

Mark Howard of Marshfield ran and walked 80 miles of the 100-mile Midstate Massive Trail during an ultramarathon race on October 9-10. Most of the challenging route through New Hampshire and Massachusetts was on rugged single-track trails. Howard completed his trek in 22 hours and 40 minutes.

See AWARDS, next page

# SPORTS

## High School Hoop Roundup



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Ella Gillespie of Craftsbury (#23) charges toward the basket defended by Blue Mountain's Kolby Nelson (right) during play in the World War II Memorial Gymnasium on December 20. Blue Mountain cruised by Craftsbury 57-15.

### Lady Cats Capture First Win by Ken Brown

RICHFORD – After knocking on the door the last two games, head coach Tim Whitney and his Hazen Union Lady Cats held off Richford for their first win of the season earlier in the week.

Kaitlyn Davison poured in a season-high 16 points to lead Hazen over Richford on the road on Monday, 36-30. Sierra Derby and freshman Kyrielle Deuso combined to score 11 points in the first quarter to put the Lady Falcons on top early, 12-8. Hazen fought back to take a three-point advantage into the break and built the lead to six after three quarters behind 10 points on the night from Alexis Christensen. It was the third straight game the Lady Cats were tied or held the lead after three quarters and Hazen's defense hung tough down the stretch for their first win. Derby finished the night with 13 points and Davison held the high-scoring Deuso to just seven as they fell to 2-2 on the season.

"They came out hot from the floor in the first quarter, but the girls did a nice job of fighting their way back. Kaitlyn was doing a nice job of driving to the basket against their defense and when they switched to zone, Alexis knocked down some big shots from the outside. Deuso is a

good young player on both ends, but Kaitlyn did a nice job of shutting her down as well as getting her into foul trouble, which really turned the momentum for us latee," said Whitney.

On Thursday, Hazen Union traveled to Vergennes, which is coached by Cabot legend Billy Waller, and will host BFA-Fairfax next Tuesday.

### Blue Mountain Muscles Lady Chargers

CRAFTSBURY—The Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' basketball team went cold the last three quarters in falling to Blue Mountain earlier in the week at home.

Freshman Kyra Nelson scored 14 points to lead the Lady Bucks to a decisive 56-15 road win over CA on Monday. Ella Gillespie led the Lady Chargers with eight and Maggie Royer added four in the loss.

"We started out strong, but just hit a mental block the rest of the game. This week in practice we go back to basics and try to refine some things and get long droughts like that out of our head. The girls are staying very positive and believe they will get better each and every game," said head coach Mariah LeVangie.

Craftsbury hosted Enosburg next Tuesday and will welcome Northfield to town on Thursday.

### Awards

Continued from previous page

### Ultra Marathoners

April Rogers Farnham of Plainfield completed two ultra-marathons. On September 10-12, she ran 121.6 miles in 48 hours at the Notch View Ultra, in Windsor, Mass. On October 9, Farnham ran just under 38 miles at the 12-hour Devil's Den Ultra, in Bradford, Vermont. She placed third in both races. Sterling College graduate Lance Parker ran 102 miles to win the 30-hour Devil's Den Ultra on October 9-10. Parker climbed 29,800 vertical feet during the race. On September 12, Parker placed tenth of 169 finishers in the Mad Marathon. His time for the hilly 26.2-mile race was 3:24:24. On September 26, he placed ninth in the Vermont 50 Miler. His finish time was 8:39:15.

### Vermont Olympian

Elle Purrier St. Pierre won the women's 1500m finals at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials on June 21, in Eugene, Oregon. Her time was 3:58:03. The 2013 Richford High School graduate went on to compete for the U.S. Olympic Team at the Tokyo Olympics. On August 4, Purrier St. Pierre competed in the first of two semi-final heats. She qualified for the Olympic 1500m finals, finishing in 4:01:00. Two days later, she crossed the finish line in 4:01.75 to place tenth of 13 runners.

### Wind Beneath Their Wings

Mike LeVangie (Craftsbury Academy) and Netdahe Stoddard (Hazen Union) went above and beyond as cross-country coaches. LeVangie motivated the Charger boys and girls to respective first-place and third-place team finishes at the Vermont D-III state championship meet.

Stoddard guided the Wildcat harriers through an 11-meet varsity schedule and a half dozen middle school meets. The Wildcat girls placed fourth, behind Craftsbury, in D-III. Several of Craftsbury's top runners got their start as middle schoolers running for Hazen Union under Stoddard's wing.



photo by Jim Flint

Mike LeVangie has built a strong cross-country program at Craftsbury Academy in just three years as head coach. Several of the top Charger athletes got their start on the Hazen Union middle school team coached by Netdahe Stoddard.

### X-country Exceller

Evan Thornton-Sherman of St. Johnsbury Academy led the Hilltoppers to their first D-I State Cross Country Championship since 1958. In winning the D-I race, Thornton-Sherman had the fastest time across three divisions of competitors. Two weeks later, the senior standout returned to the iconic Woods Trail course for the New England Championship Race. He cruised to a sixth-place finish.

### Young Zingers

Scarlett and Ruthie Podolin were the top point scorers in the 3k division of the Tuesday Night Trail Series. The Stannard sisters competed in seven races. The girls are following in the footsteps of their mom, Emma Podolin. Emma was the first female finisher in the Genny Tenny Race on September 19. She conquered the ten-mile course from Craftsbury to Albany in 1:16:04.

Congratulations to all the dedicated athletes who train and race on the streets, roads, and trails of our area. The 2022 running season kicks off with the Central Vermont Runners New Year's Eve 5k, at 2 p.m. on December 31, in downtown Montpelier. For details, visit [cvrunners.org](http://cvrunners.org).

# SPORTS

## Hazen Union Track and Field Returns to Competition

by Ken Brown

SOUTH BURLINGTON – The Hazen Union track and field team competed in their first indoor meet as a varsity program at UVM's Gutterson Field House last week under head coach Emily Willems.

The last time the Hazen Union track and field program competed indoors at a meet was over a decade ago as a club team. Willems, the former indoor track and field coach at Oxbow Union, now teaches at Hazen Union, and has assembled six Wildcat student-athletes to compete in a challenging five-meet schedule against all divisions within the state.

Hazen Union's first meet of the season was on Saturday at UVM and Willems' girls team held their own with an overall twelfth place finish out of twenty-four schools, consisting of several Division I track and field powerhouse programs. Lisa Velten, Jessica Royer, Cassandra Royer, and Ella Considine posted an impressive fourth-place finish for Hazen Union in the 4X800m relay, with Essex taking home first place honors.

Cassandra Royer also ran a personal best time in the 1500m event, good enough for a sixth-place finish behind Loghan Hughes of BFA-St. Albans, who bested the field. Jessica Royer posted a respectable twelfth-place finish for the Wildcats in the same event. Cassandra Royer also placed seventh in the 1000m event, with Sierra Fisher of South Burlington placing first.

Lisa Velten beat out over the half the field for Hazen Union in the 55m dash, with Ruth Brueckner of Missisquoi Valley Union claiming first place honors. Ella Considine (24th) and Marta Mas Garrigo (27th) had respectable finishes among forty competitors in the 300m event, with Sarah Hall of Essex besting the field.

Freshman Ben Witham is the lone member of the boys' team for Willems and he competed in the 300m, 1000m, and 1500m events



courtesy photo

Members of the Hazen Union varsity indoor track and field team recently competed against all high school divisions of the state at a meet at the University of Vermont. Members of the team are (left to right) Ben Witham, Ella Considine, Jessica Royer, Cassandra Royer, Marta Mas Garrigo. Missing is Lisa Velten.

throughout the afternoon. Athletes earn points for their team by placing in the top six within one division in hopes of qualifying for states at UVM on February 6.

"We are competing against larger schools like St. Johnsbury Academy and Essex and the kids did really well in what was their first time ever competing in an indoor track meet," said Willems.

The Wildcats will be competing over the holiday break in meets held at UVM on December 27 and 30.

## Richford Handles Lady Trojans at Home

by Ken Brown

RICHFORD – Richford's varsity experience was on display last week as they handled the Twinfield-Cabot girls' basketball team at home for their second straight win.

Kyrielle Deuso fueled the Falcon offense from her point guard position with a game-high 20 points, leading them to a decisive 49-27 home win over Twinfield-Cabot. Deuso helped the Falcons break open a close, four-point contest in the second quarter with a 19-8 run and the Lady Trojan offense couldn't respond in the second half.

"We struggled to get an offensive flow all game and just didn't execute very well," said head coach Jason Cushing. "They used their size advantage well and killed us with eighteen offensive rebounds. We're struggling with the little fundamental things right now and boxing out is one of them," added Cushing.

Madison Johnson dominated the inside for Richford with 10 boards and Olivia Hatch chipped in with six points in the fourth quarter to shut the door on any comeback bid. The Lady Trojans

never heated up from the field, mustering only ten second-half points. Jorga Washburn and Hayley North led Twinfield-Cabot with 6 points apiece in the loss as they fell to 0-2 on the season. Richford improved to 2-1 on the season with the win.

"We're a very young team without a lot of size, so we have to keep working and developing solid fundamentals to counter that. We're still trying to balance having a junior varsity team with smaller numbers and that can be a disadvantage, so we're going to monitor it and see what makes the most sense for our program throughout the season. The girls' heads are still high, with great attitudes, and they are going to put in the work to get better and come together as a team. Our first two games were against two really good, experienced teams and it will take some time to get our footing. We'll put in some work over the break and continue to improve our fundamentals so we can execute better offensively and defensively," said Cushing.

The Lady Trojans will have a week off before traveling to Blue Mountain on December 30 and are scheduled to host Craftsbury Academy on January 5.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### 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.

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

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

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