

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Volume 134 Number 13

## Newly-formed LVRT Committee Addresses Regional Issues

by Elizabeth Dow, Community Journalist

HARDWICK – The newly-formed Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee (LVRT Committee) held its first official meeting on Tuesday, March 21.

Tracy Martin, Hardwick's community development coordinator, whose job keeps her closely in touch with the state officials in charge of developing the trail, will serve as coordinator for the committee. Irene Nagle of East Hardwick, who works for the Northern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) which supports LVRT development in multiple ways, will serve as secretary. Other members include Helen Beattie and Brendan Buckley, of East Hardwick, **See LVRT, 3**



*courtesy photo*  
VTrans will be requested to clear and stabilize the old railroad siding area at Stevens Lane, here with a view of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail looking south. The former East Hardwick railroad depot is located on the right side of the photo near the road.



*courtesy photo*  
The LVRT Committee will ask VTrans to redesign and improve the parking area between the Hardwick Town House and the Depot.

## East Hardwick Fire District Active in the New Year

Cheryl Luther Michaels  
Community Journalist

EAST HARDWICK – The prudential committee (board) members of the East Hardwick Fire District (EHFD#1) are the caretakers of the water supply to East Hardwick Village. The board has had meetings and activities during the first quarter of 2023.

After the March meeting was canceled due to illness, the committee announced the next gathering will be held Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Room of the East Hardwick First Congregational Church. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on by-laws for the district. This document may be the first set of by-laws written for the organization since it was established in 1912. Doug Casavant, previous chair, said he has never seen written by-laws in the many years he was a committee member.

The April 11 Special Meeting will be followed by a regular meeting of the board. Rate payers who want copies of the proposed by-laws can request them from David O'Brien or find them on the district's newly-created online notice board at [ehfd.mystrikingly.com/](http://ehfd.mystrikingly.com/). A printed copy of the minutes will continue to be posted in the lobby of the East Hardwick Post Office and at D & L Market.

In January, the rate payers received an increase in their water bills from \$100 to \$200 per year. The previous rate increase was so long ago that no one seems to be able to come up with a date. According to board chair, David O'Brien, when reviewing last year's expenses in preparation for the 2023 budget, the board realized that current income is not covering current expenses. Last year there were no exceptional expenses due to major line breaks or equipment failure, yet the year's expenditures still exceeded the year's income.

**See DISTRICT, 2**



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Fourth year Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Forestry instructor Meghan Luther checks the grade of the syrup after boiling Friday. Six hundred gallons of mostly grades Golden and Amber have been made so far this season.

## Neighbors Meet to Consider Area Housing Needs

by Jenny Stoner and Hal Gray  
Community Journalists

EAST CRAFTSBURY – At the invitation of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, March 26, the first Community Housing Forum brought together neighbors to discuss the local lack of affordable housing and ways to address this need. Twenty-five people from Craftsbury, Greensboro and Albany, met for a gathering moderated by Neil Urie.

The need was clarified early with the comment that 17 new employees of the Cellars at Jasper Hill were unable to find affordable housing nearby. Forum participants articulated the many needs including for single-person housing as well as for single family and multi-family

**See HOUSING, 2**

## Library Named Finalist for National Medal

HARDWICK – The Institute of Museum and Library Services has announced that Jeudevine Memorial Library is among 30 finalists for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Jeudevine Memorial Library is the only institution in Vermont to be selected as a finalist for this award.

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities. For more than 25 years, the award has honored institutions that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities.

Jodi Lew-Smith, chair of the Jeudevine Board of Trustees, says, "Being a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service is a huge honor both for the library and the wider community. We are a small but close community that has battled to keep our library open and vibrant. The library has repaid this support with a steady supply of knowledge and engagement in community life. We are now on the brink of putting a long-awaited addition to our gem of a library, which will only expand what the library can offer back to the community. We are honored to be recognized for this work."

"So many museums, so many libraries have done such good work over the last two very difficult years. We are proud to present the 30 finalists for the IMLS National Medal," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "Their work is emblematic of the response of the library and museum worlds to simultaneously fulfilling their mission and serving their communities."

To celebrate this honor, IMLS is encouraging the Jeudevine's community members to share stories, memories, pictures, and videos on social media using the hashtags #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals, and engage with IMLS on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. For more

**See MEDAL, 3**

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**District**

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Discussion at the January 10 meeting focused on the upcoming inventory that is federally-mandated by the EPA under the new lead and copper rule. The rule requires all public water systems to have a complete inventory of service lines to identify the presence of lead. The meeting was attended by Patrick Smart and Jason Hayden, environmental engineers with MSK Engineering, a company that specializes in drinking water and water quality. This company will work with the fire district to create the inventory. Subsequent to an application by the trustees, the EHF#1 was chosen by the state for financial assistance to perform this task.

The district, according to the meeting minutes, expects this inventory effort to fit in with their upcoming projects to map the system, confirm rate payer information and perform other asset management tasks.

In January it was reported that a letter of interest for an Asset Management Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation had been submitted and in February, David O'Brien reported he had received the application. If awarded, this grant will help establish an asset management plan. This plan is required before additional assistance to update the system can be obtained from the state.

The January meeting was attended by three residents who expressed concerns about the temporary chlorination of the water. These included sickness and skin rashes as well as the smell and taste of the water. Board members explained the recent chlorination mandated by the state was a result of root intrusion into the springs. After presenting copies of the monthly chlorination levels, which registered far below the state

maximum, trustees assured the guests that they are committed to returning to chlorine-free water as soon as legally possible.

It was suggested that a temporary solution for the residents might be to use water filters. Patrick Smart from MSK Engineering stated that carbon filters work well. Board member Randy Thompson agreed to compile, and make available, a list of water filtration products.

John Mandeville, acting as board treasurer, reported the transition to a professional bookkeeper for billing and other accounting tasks was completed in January. Additionally, in 2023 there will no longer be a paid secretary present at meetings: the board secretary will take minutes.

The February water reports were provided by the operator and showed that the flow is remaining constant and the chlorine residuals are good. Bacterial samples are negative.

An additional water leak on Church Street was discovered in February. Vermont Rural Water has checked the leak and the location has been marked with a flag. Trustee Randy Thompson reported there has been no increase in the total flow since the previous leaks were repaired, raising the possibility that this leak is not new. In March a leak behind Cedar Street was reported. Plans are being made to repair that leak in the Spring or early Summer and to evaluate the Church Street line for possible replacement.

An additional activity of the prudential committee over the first quarter has been collecting email addresses so that water users can be notified of shutoffs, special meetings and other concerns. Forms were mailed out with the January water bills and Gary Michaels, acting as board secretary, said that over one third have been returned thus far.

**Housing**

**Continued From Page One**

homes. There are also long-term residents currently in older, inefficient homes facing heat loss, higher maintenance costs, and increased taxes. Challenges to proposed changes were also cited such as restrictive zoning and opposition among some residents to the construction of affordable housing. Vermont regulations may also challenge new construction, like septic requirements.

The forum suggested various approaches for meeting these needs including collecting more data on needs and advocating for

more-realistic zoning, applying for construction grants and other financing, identifying land for multi-family housing, and talking to our legislators and other outside groups. Such groups could include Rural Edge, Vermont Council on Rural Development, Efficiency Vermont, and a private affordable housing development in St. Johnsbury.

The forum finished with general agreement that it had been a stimulating meeting with lots of participation. The next forum, scheduled for Sunday, April 30, at 4 p.m., in the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, will clarify the group's mission and goals. Anyone interested is invited to attend.



**April 5 - April 11**

<b>Foam Brewers Now in Stock Pavement, Dead Wax, Halo Bender</b>		<b>Helly Hansen Rainwear In Stock Now</b>	
<b>Maxwell House Coffee \$7.49</b> <small>24.5-36.8 oz.</small>	<b>Yogi Tea \$3.99</b> <small>16 ct.</small>	<b>G.M. Cheerios 2/\$7</b> <small>12-15.4 oz.</small>	
<b>Classico Pasta Sauce 2/\$5</b> <small>24 oz.</small>	<b>Raos Pasta Sauce \$5.99</b> <small>24 oz.</small>	<b>Stove Top Stuffing 2/\$4</b> <small>6 oz.</small>	
<b>D.M. Canned Vegetables 4/\$5</b> <small>13.5-16 oz.</small>	<b>Kraft Salad Dressing 2/\$5</b> <small>16 oz.</small>	<b>Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$4.99</b> <small>15-30 oz.</small>	
<b>Vlasic Pickles 2/\$6</b> <small>16-32 oz.</small>	<b>King Arthur Flour \$4.99</b> <small>5 lb.</small>	<b>Domino Granulated Sugar 2/\$6</b> <small>4 lb.</small>	
<b>Nestles Morsels 2/\$5</b> <small>10-12 oz.</small>	<b>Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/\$5</b> <small>16 oz.</small>	<b>Betty Crocker Favorite Cake Mixes 4/\$5</b> <small>15.25 oz.</small>	
<b>Keebler Town House Crackers 2/\$5</b> <small>13.8 oz.</small>	<b>Stonyfield Smoothies 3/\$5</b> <small>10 oz.</small>	<b>Ben &amp; Jerry's Ice Cream \$4.29</b> <small>16 oz.</small>	
<b>Hood Ice Cream 2/\$7</b> <small>48 oz.</small>	<b>Wyman's Frozen Berries \$3.49</b> <small>12-15 oz.</small>	<b>Pictsweet Frozen Vegetables 2/\$4</b> <small>10-14 oz.</small>	

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

March 20, Assist – Public, Woodbury St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Highland Ave.

March 21, Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Slapp Hill; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Juvenile Problem, Highland Ave. Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15 W/Kate Brook Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Animal Problem, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16; Transport, High St.; Suspicious Event, Riverside Terrace; Medical, Maple St.

March 23: Suspicious Event, Pleasant St.; Sex Offense, Hazen Union

Dr.; Welfare Check, Lamoille Ave.

March 24: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN Verification, Vt. Rte. 16; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Alarm, Industrial Park Road; Medical, Vt. Rte. 15W.

March 25: Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15W; Traffic Hazard, Kate Brook Road; Accident – Property Damage Only, S. Main St.

March 26: Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Medical, S. Main St.

March 27: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Slapp Hill; Assist – Agency, Maple St.; Wanted Person, High St.

## Hardwick Police

### Domestic Assault, Arrest Warrant

On March 13, Officer Force of the Hardwick Police Department and Officer Lamb of the Morris-town Police Department responded to a report of a Domestic Assault at the residence of 2006 Vt. Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Suspect Russell Luce III, of Hardwick, was located on March 20. He was arrested, processed and released on a citation

to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on March 21, at 0830 hours.

On March 27, Kyle Neill, of Woodbury, turned himself into the Hardwick Police Department for an active in state arrest warrant. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to Northeast Correctional Complex on a \$50 cash bail.

## Vermont State Police

### Unresponsive Operator, Single-Vehicle Car Crash

On April 1 at 8:35 a.m., Troopers from the Berlin Barracks were notified of an unresponsive operator behind the wheel of a vehicle at the gas pump at Maplefields in Marshfield. Troopers arrived on scene and identified the operator as Devin Hallock, of Barre City. A records query revealed that Hallock's driver's license was criminally suspended in the state of Vermont and he was in violation of several court ordered conditions of release.

Hallock was taken into custody and subsequently issued a citation to appear in Washington County

Superior Court – Criminal Division and released.

On March 31, Vermont State Police responded to a report of a single vehicle car crash in front of the East Montpelier Fire Department on US Route 2 and Village Acres. Upon arrival Troopers identified the operator as Odin Opsahl, of Plainfield. Further investigation revealed Opsahl was under the influence of intoxicants while operating his motor vehicle and was subsequently taken into custody. He was transported to Montpelier PD for processing.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 20 people from March 26 through April 2. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes and

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

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

## LVRT

### Continued From Page One

who serve on the Town Trails Committee and are enthusiastic bikers; David Upson, Hardwick's town manager; Shari Cornish, chair of the newly-created Downtown Partnership and president of the Northeast Kingdom Arts Council (NEKArts), which manages the Hardwick Town House; Elizabeth Dow, president of the Hardwick Historical Society, which manages the Depot; Mallory Greaves, who chairs the Hardwick Recreation Committee, and Kristina Michelsen, an enthusiastic user of all kinds of trails.

A regional group, the Northeast Kingdom LVRT Council (NEK Council), has begun a series of initiatives to support NEK towns as they develop plans for responding to the impact of the LVRT and its projected 60,000 visitors per year. Earlier in the day, several committee members had attended a NEK-Council meeting which discussed the NVDA study of projected use and the interactive map under development for internal use by towns in the NEK. The committee nominated Upson to represent Hardwick on the NEK Council, although anyone interested may attend its meetings.

The committee addressed issues that had come out of the regional meeting, starting with signage. The state has begun to put up trail crossing signs. The committee will ask the state to install some directional signs pointing to Hardwick's trail heads: one by the old railroad siding area at Stevens Lane in East Hardwick, one at Creamery Lane and the Depot on the east end of Hardwick village, and one near the Yellow Barn on Route 15 on the west end of Hardwick village. The Hardwick Trails Committee has made arrangement for the Wood Technology Program at Hazen Union to create two new kiosks, one for the intersection of the LVRT and the Town Trails behind Hazen Union and one for the Town Trail head at the Hazen Union parking lot.

The Committee then took up the issue of parking. The Creamery Road/Depot trail head does not have enough space to accommodate snowmobile trailers. The committee discussed trail heads with parking for snowmobilers, including those which might provide overnight parking, but it has no answers. The trail head in East

Hardwick will require better parking in the right-of-way along Stevens Lane and improved drainage in that general area.

Trail maintenance became the next topic. While the Vermont Transportation Agency (VTrans) will perform needed maintenance on the trail itself, local committees may need to organize volunteers to do things like pick up trash along the LVRT. Town staff will empty trash cans at the trailheads and clean the bathroom at the Town House which will be made available for trail users.

The trailheads will need equipment. The committee wants to put a picnic table at the Depot and another at the trail head in East Hardwick. All three trailheads in Hardwick will need garbage and recycling containers. Martin is looking for grant funds to pay for park-grade equipment. The Central Vermont Solid Waste District may have some grant funds available for the trash equipment.

The committee talked about trail-users' need to refill water bottles and provide water for their dogs and horses. The Depot has an outside faucet the committee can connect a short hose to for filling bottles and drinking bowls. The East Hardwick Fire District may run a tap to the trailhead at Stevens Lane. More sophisticated equipment is expensive, and the committee will address this issue after it has provided picnic tables and trash receptacles.

Since VTrans controls the right-of-way along the track, it must approve all arrangements. The committee will pursue lease agreements for the proposed amenities at the trailheads, as well as for redesigning and improving the parking area between the Town House and the Depot, and clearing and stabilizing the old railroad siding area at Stevens Lane in East Hardwick.

The Hardwick Select Board created the committee as an independent sub-committee of the town Recreation Committee. The committee plans to meet regularly at 5 p.m., on the third Tuesday of the month. Most of the members in attendance had met several times over the past year as an informal group to anticipate the needs and impacts of the many people who will pass through the village as they explore the newly finished LVRT.

## Medal

### Continued From Page One

more information, please visit the IMLS website.

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning

institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony this summer.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the IMLS website.

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## Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Sugarhouse located on the Hazen campus in Hardwick.



Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Forestry student Jacob Tallman (left) of Elmore, checks the density of the syrup as Zach Langmaid (right), of East Hardwick, assists during boiling March 31.



Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Forestry students Jacob Davison (left) of Hardwick and Matthew Langdell (right) of Hardwick, fire the arch March 31.



Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Forestry students have boiled six times so far this season at their sugarhouse located on the Hazen Union campus in Hardwick. Their first boil was on March 20.



Green Mountain Technology & Career Center Forestry student Morgan Foster of Hardwick cans syrup Friday. Six hundred gallons of mostly grades Golden and Amber have been made so far this season.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa Fournier**

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Spanish Conversation Group Meets

EAST CRAFTSBURY – A Spanish conversation group will meet at the J.W. Simpson Memorial Library, facilitated by Maddox Wilson. This group will meet on the first and third Saturdays in

April and May and all levels are welcome. Coffee, tea and treats will be provided.

For more information, call (802) 586-9692 or visit [jwsimpson-memorial.org](http://jwsimpson-memorial.org)

## Nature Discussions April 6

PLAINFIELD – Four Winds Nature Institute Discussion: Nurturing a Child's Sense of Wonder will be held Thursday, April 6, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., online.

Join this free discussion series to explore topics and best practices in supporting nature-based

play and adventure while nurturing a sense of wonder, place, and well-being.

The library is located at 151 High Street, and for more information see [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), call (802) 454-8504 or email [info@cutlerlibrary.org](mailto:info@cutlerlibrary.org).

## Health Fair on April 8

ALBANY – On Saturday, April 8, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there will be a community health fair in the Albany Town Hall. The fair will include information about community resources, visits with local practitioners, a free raffle, cups of

tea and updates on vaccines. The Northeast Kingdom Medical Reserve Corps of the Vermont Department of Health will available with a pop-up vaccine clinic.

The event is free and all are welcome.

## Holy Week Schedule for United Church

HARDWICK – Holy Week services at the United Church of Hardwick include Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m., Service of Tenebrae with Communion; Good Friday, April 7, 9 a.m. to noon, church open for prayers, candle lighting and reflection on

the Seven Last Words; Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 9, 6:30 a.m., Main Street Cemetery; Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Easter Family Service at the church. The church is located on South Main Street. For more information, (802) 472-6800.

## CVSWMD Schedules Hazardous Waste Collections

MONTPELIER – The State of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has awarded funds to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) to assist the municipality in diverting hazardous wastes from landfills and waste streams.

The \$47,659.72 grant, issued by ANR's Department of Environmental Conservation, is intended to be used to ease the "projects for collection and management of hazardous waste, household hazardous waste (HHW), conditionally exempt generator waste (CEG), special waste, and landfill-banned wastes consistent with requirements of the State Materials Management Plan (MMP)."

CVSWMD will be using the grant to support its 2023 household hazardous waste collections by providing public outreach to local residents to raise awareness of the events and for the collection and disposal of hazardous waste. Disposing of hazardous waste properly is costly. The funds from the State of Vermont are important to

facilitate CVSWMD's efforts toward supporting healthy and resilient communities and a cleaner environment.

Household hazardous waste collections cost \$20 per carload for CVSWMD residents. Proof of residency in one of the CVSWMD member towns is required. Non-resident waste materials will not be accepted. Businesses, schools, and municipalities must call CVSWMD to register at least two weeks in advance.

All household hazardous waste collections are held on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and include: April 8 at Barre Town Garage, June 10 at Tunbridge Transfer Station, July 8 at Hardwick Town Garage, August 26 at Bradford Town Garage, and September 30 at Montpelier, Department of Labor.

CVSWMD member towns include: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, and Woodbury.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Kingdom Jiu Jitsu owner and coach Ricky Wetherell (center) of Morrisville and training partners Shane Baker (left) of Cabot and Tim Ricciardello (right) of Hardwick held a grand opening of Wetherell's new Brazilian Jiu Jitsu gym at 156 Daniels Road in Hardwick on March 26. Self-defense martial art classes will be offered to students 16 and older and are invited to join for instruction and sparring seven days a week. Wetherell is a 2011 graduate of Hazen Union.

## Drawing Fundamentals April 8

PLAINFIELD – Drawing fundamentals for all ages with Malcolm Van Couvering will be held Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to noon, at the Cutler Memorial Library. Learn the fundamentals of drawing in an open, playful, risk-free drawing space. This session will explore line technique and changing perspectives.

Drawing fundamentals is an intergenerational family-friendly program made possible through a grant from Vermont Afterschool.

The library is located at 151 High Street, and for more information see [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), call (802) 454-8504 or email [info@cutlerlibrary.org](mailto:info@cutlerlibrary.org).

## Seeking Items for Benefit Flea Market

WOLCOTT – Justice For Dogs is seeking items donated for their annual Spring flea market at the Morrisville VFW in April. Drop off day for donated items will be Friday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Justice For Dogs is seeking quality household items (clean and in working order) for the flea market, and good, clean clothing items. They will not accept car seats, TVs, computers, cribs, helmets, pressure cookers, knives, dehumidifiers,

books, shoes, fluorescent bulbs, things with filters, construction supplies, and huge furniture that can't easily be moved. Justice For Dogs reserves the right to decline any donations that are not suitable for the sale.

Sale day is Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Morrisville VFW is located at 28 VFW Street. For more information, see [justicefordogsvt.org](http://justicefordogsvt.org)

# OBITUARIES



Dick and Sandra Sicely

## SANDRA (SANDY) SICELY (FOSTER)

BARRE – Sandra (Sandy) Sicely (Foster) 81, of Cabot, passed away peacefully in Barre, on Monday March 27.

A native Vermonter, Sandy was born on March 17, 1942, to Herndon and Natalie (Bartlett) Foster. She attended school in Cabot, graduating as the salutatorian of her class in 1960. Sandy was an active member of the local community and proud member of the United Church of Cabot.

Sandy was one of the very first payroll clerks at Cabot Creamery and was an active member of the Eastern Star, a Masonic appendant body that focuses on members with spiritual values and believes in fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love. She earned the title of Worthy Matron in the Eastern Star, becoming the presiding officer of her chapter.

Sandy was known for her kind and caring nature that she showed throughout her life. After receiving a degree in psychology from Vermont Community College, Sandy became a teacher's aide at Cabot School, focusing on helping children with special needs.

On October 31, 1960, Sandy

married the love of her life, Richard (Dick) Sicely. They went on to have three sons, raising them in Cabot, where they built their home. Together, Sandy and Dick spent much of their time bowling, playing cards, and dancing at the Barre Moose Club. Sandy was proud of Dick's accomplishments in music and would look forward to tuning into his radio station every Saturday morning, waiting for her weekly song dedication.

Sandy was a loving and dedicated mother, always making it clear how proud she was of her three sons. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, reading books or playing board games.

Sandy is survived by her three sons; Michael Sicely of Cabot, Richard Sicely and his wife Michelle of St. Albans, Ronald Sicely and wife Tammy of Alton Bay, N.H., six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Richard (Dick) Roy Sicely, mother Natalie (Bartlett) Foster, father Herndon Foster, brother Arnold (Bart) Foster, and granddaughter Jessica Sicely.

## BENJAMIN R. MASTIN (BEN)

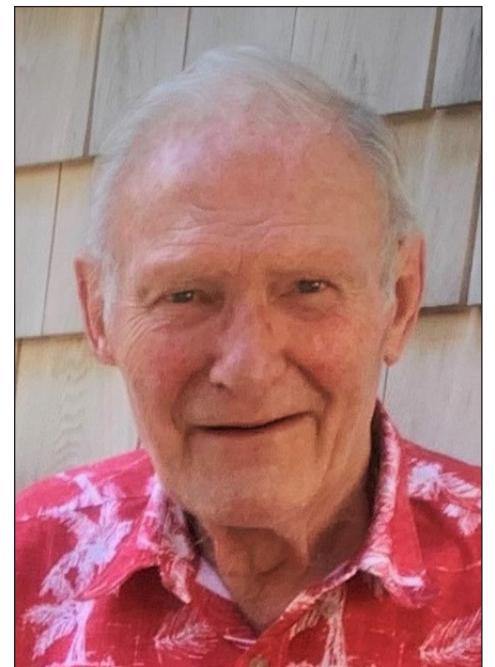
CRAFTSBURY – Benjamin R. Mastin (Ben) died peacefully at age 87, on Thursday, March 23, after years of progressive dementia and days after a fall that broke his hip.

He was born on February 2, 1936, in Midland Park, N.J. After Pompton Lakes High School Class of 1954 graduation he attended Vermont Academy, Mitchell College and Colgate University. Ben is an Army veteran whose dedication and ingenuity led him into a career in industrial plastic fabrication. He started at Plastichem with his half-brother, Bob, and later began Maston Products with Jim Dykstra. Eventually he launched Plastic Design Inc., where his consulting and custom fabrication designs were in high demand by companies such as Raytheon, IBM and Gulden's Mustard.

Ben and Marcy's dream of moving to Vermont was realized in 1984 when he sold his business and purchased Authentic Log Homes with long-time family friend, Andrew Moffatt. Retiring in 1987, Ben found continued fulfillment doing plumbing and heating for Harry Miller and others in and around the Craftsbury community. Ben returned his appreciation for the community through volunteerism: trustee for the United Church of Craftsbury in the 1990's and board member for the Craftsbury Community Care Center from 2002 to 2004.

Never idle, his work ethic continued around the homestead, felling and cutting six to eight cords of wood annually well into his 70s. Because many hands make light work, each Labor Day weekend family and friends joyously joined in splitting and stacking the wood. Gardening was another passion. Ben and Marcy grew potatoes, beets, peas, beans, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers and his favorite, corn (six varieties, with two 60-foot rows each). Neighbors and regulars at the bi-weekly bridge club would often share in the surplus of corn.

Love of card-playing was a



Benjamin R. Mastin (Ben)

lifelong standard in the Mastin household; clearing the dinner table made way for nightly games. Playing extended into community groups including several duplicate bridge clubs and the Gourmet Bridge Club in Newport.

Ben always dedicated time to vacation with his family. Annual ski trips and canoe/camping trips guaranteed memories of hilarity, adventure and togetherness. He and Marcy traveled to many far-away countries. China was one destination that took Ben's breath away, while Ireland satisfied his love of golf. Ben was a member of Orleans Country Club for many years.

Ben is survived by his wife and soul-mate of 59 years, Marcy, and his daughters Aileen and Terry, and four grandchildren, Dane, Ben, Gwen and Peter. He is also survived by his sister Mary, his brother Doug and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings Anne and Don, and his half-siblings Ted, Bob and Florence.

A Celebration of Ben's Life will be held in Craftsbury in July of 2023. If you are interested in attending the event, please reach out to his daughters via email at CelebrationOfBenMastinsLife@gmail.com for more information.

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# Events

## Thursday, April 6

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi and remote options via Zoom), United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St., Greensboro. Sponsored by Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Classes taught by Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx, (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

**GAME NIGHT**, at the Village Restaurant, Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. Lynn is offering a limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Sarah Tewksbury. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.

## Friday, April 7

**STORY TIME AND PLAYGROUP**, for kids birth to age 5, Fridays at 10:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Rm. 2, Marshfield. Information: 802-426-3581.

## Saturday, April 8

**MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE**, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. Information: (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com.

**ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP**, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Teens and adults welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: (802) 755-6107 or albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**, 3 - 5 p.m., Albany Town Hall. Learn about community resources, visit with local practitioners and more. Pop-up vaccine clinic. Free and all welcome.

## Tuesday, April 11

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays,

Hardwick Area Health Center, 4 Slapp Hill. 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Qi-gong & Tai Chi Forms (some experience recommended), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi). Sponsored by Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Classes taught by Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

## Wednesday, April 12

**DEATH CAFE**, an informal conversation about death, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library. Information: 802-755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

## Thursday, April 13

**PASS OVER**, a new play by Antoinette Nwandu, 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday, April 13 - 30. 2 p.m. on Sundays, Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier. Information: info@lostnationtheater.org.

## Exhibits

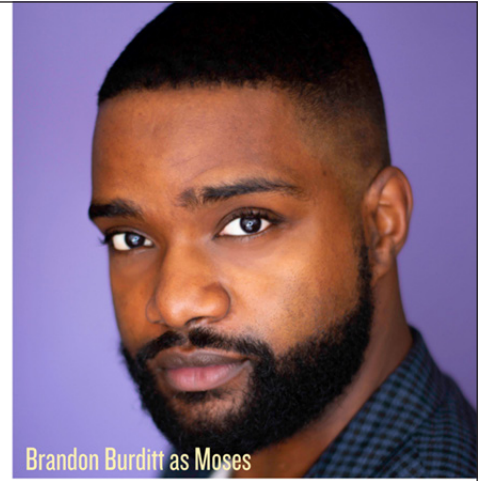
**CHUCK TROTSKY: VOCABULARY**, paintings at Parker Pie, 161 County Road, West Glover, through May 9. Information: park-erpier.com.

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT GALLERY** presents Liminal Arc, Paintings by Kate Burnim, April 6 - June 30. 111 State St., Montpelier. Gallery Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri. (closed during lunch hour). An opening reception during Montpelier Art Walk, April 7, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with artist remarks at 6 p.m. Information: (802) 279-5558.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ART EXHIBITION**, through May 27, Cutler Library, 151 High St., Plainfield. Information: cutlerlibrary.org, (802) 454-8504, info@cutlerlibrary.org.



DJJ as Knech



Brandon Burditt as Moses



Taneisha Duggan, director of Pass Over



Orlando Grant as Mister/Ossifer

courtesy photo

These actors will perform in the new play, "Pass Over," at Lost Nation Theater from April 13 through April 30.

# LNT Presents New Play, "Pass Over"

MONTPELIER – Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu's new play, "Pass Over" will be presented at the Lost Nation Theater on Thursday through Sunday, April 13 through April 30, at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays.

"Waiting for Godot" meets Spike Lee's "Do The Right Thing" in this theatrical experience, as two young Black men, talk and rap their way through an aimless day, hoping that today may be different. (Warning: liberal use of profanities

and the n-word as a key to the play's linguistical landscape. Gun shots and sounds of car backfires are also present.)

COVID safety protocols include a state-of-the-art Bio-Defense Air Purification "Synexis" System. The theater strongly encouraged audience members to wear masks, which performers appreciate, but masks are not required. The theater is located at City Hall, 39 Main Street. For more information, see lostnationtheater.org

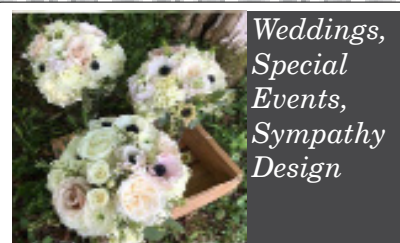


photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Hazen Union Drama Club performed "Voices" on March 29 and March 30 in the school's auditorium. The play was created by director Marc Considine and the drama club. Performing in a scene (from left): Emily Kimball, Grace Cloutier, Chloe Cloutier, Jonah Fliegelman and Abe Leveillee.

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*courtesy photo*

Bluegrass Night on April 8 will feature “Beg, Steal, or Borrow” at the ArtPort in St. Johnsbury.

## Catamount Bluegrass Hosts “Beg, Steal, or Borrow” at ArtPort

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts Bluegrass Night returns to the ArtPort, Saturday, April 8, at 7 p.m., with special guests “Beg, Steal, or Borrow.”

Hosted by father and daughter duo Bob and Sarah Amos, Catamount Bluegrass is among the most popular live performance series in the region, introducing upcoming and established bluegrass acts from Vermont and New Hampshire to audiences of all ages. The April 8 show will open with Bob and Sarah Amos and then feature longtime favorites “Beg, Steal, or Borrow.”

“Beg, Steal, or Borrow” formed in 2013 as a tribute band to 1970s bluegrass supergroup, “Old and In the Way,” led by icons Jerry Garcia

and David Grisman. Influenced by Appalachian, folk, and country music, “Beg, Steal, or Borrow” have rounded out their repertoire with original tunes.

“Beg, Steal, or Borrow” includes Jeremy Sicily on guitar and vocals, Geoff Goodhue on mandolin and vocals, Roland Clark on fiddle and vocals, Fran Forim on upright bass and vocals, and Luke Auriemmo on banjo and vocals. Having played in well over a dozen bands among them and various solo projects, the band boasts decades of seasoned experience.

For more information about Catamount Bluegrass Night with “Beg, Steal or Borrow” at Catamount ArtPort, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

Wolcott kindergartner Charlie Arnold slogs through the very deep snow March 16 during Wolcott School’s I-Kid-A-Rod Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports celebration.

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April 26 issue

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*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

Ursa Goldenrose (left) and Daniel Pougner (right) were part of the Hazen Union Drama Club ensemble during their performance of “Voices” held March 29 and 30 in the school’s auditorium.



# IN THE GARDEN

## Early Spring Chores



*courtesy photo*

*These trees will never thrive, and most will die from crowding.*

### by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Early spring is a good time to look at the trees and shrubs on your property when you are not distracted by flowers and leaves. Study your “woodies” now to see if they need some care, and if some plants need to be removed for the health or beauty of the remaining ones.

If you have a wooded area on your property, it probably needs some help from you, especially if you haven’t done any thinning or grooming of trees in recent years. Start by going outside and really look at the trees growing on your property with a critical eye.

In nature trees grow willy-nilly. Where a seed lands is largely determined by chance. It is unable to know if it is six inches or six feet from another tree. If it germinates and grows it might be a good place, or it might be smack-dab next to another tree or your house.

Ask yourself this question as you walk around your property at your trees: what is the future of this particular tree? How big does this type of tree grow to be? What will this one look like in 10 years? In 50? Is it too close to its neighboring trees or to the house? Is it shading your vegetable garden or favorite flower bed?

I’m a tree-hugger but I have no problem with cutting down trees when judicious removal is beneficial. Now is the time to plan on some careful thinning of trees to improve the health of your best trees and to improve the looks of your landscape.

Before you start tagging trees for culling, you need to learn to identify the trees on your property. A good guide is “A Guide to Nature

in Winter” by Donald Stokes, a wonderful book that will help you with that. Because there are no leaves on most trees out there now, the Stokes book is great: it identifies trees by their bark, shape and buds. It also teaches much about all the other living things out there in the woods from snow fleas to deer and everything in between.

Trees that I cull from my woods include poplars (*Populus* spp.), boxelder (*Acer negundo*) and alders (*Alnus* spp.). These are fast-growing trees that are short-lived and that produce lots of seedlings.

Trees that I revere are maples, oaks, beeches, birches and hophornbeams (*Carpinus caroliniana*). I would think long and hard about cutting down one of them. But if a fast-growing poplar were growing within six feet of one of my favorites, I would not hesitate to cut the popular down. Trees need plenty of space to do well.

Invasive shrubs make their way into most woods, too. Barberry, burning bush and honeysuckle are shrubs that can choke out native shrubs and many native wildflowers. I work on eliminating those every spring, but the honeysuckle are still ahead of me. Learn to identify them and tag them for removal.

There are a few buckthorn (*Rhamnus* spp.) moving into the neighborhood, and I am keeping a sharp eye to make sure none get established on my property. Buckthorn are foreign invaders that cannot be easily killed by cutting them down because they sprout up from their roots if you cut them down.



*courtesy photo*

*A weed wrench allows anyone to pull out invasive shrubs.*

To rid your property of buckthorn, you can pull young ones or girdle the older ones. Trees up to about 2.5 inches in diameter can be pulled with a tool designed for that purpose. It is often called a weed wrench, although the original Weed Wrench company has gone out of business. Another brand of weed wrench is called the “Pullerbear”. It is a steel tool with a gripping mouthpiece and a long handle that provides mechanical advantage. They come in several sizes and prices. I have not yet tried one of this brand, but they look like the old weed wrenches I have used.

If you cut down a mature buckthorn it will stimulate the roots to send up many suckers that will develop into new trees. To prevent this from happening, you need to girdle buckthorns twice about 12 inches apart. Cut through the bark severing the

green cambium layer all the way around the trunk, but don’t cut deeply. They will usually survive two years before dying. Girdling starves the roots of food from the leaves.

You can girdle them now but doing so right after they leaf out in the spring is better. Just tag them now, and plan their demise. Some buckthorn develop multiple stems in a cluster, making it tough to girdle them, but it is possible using a pointed pruning saw.

Hemlocks and pines often grow so densely that their lower limbs die out because the sun never reaches their leaves. Removing those lower branches opens up the landscape: another task you could do now. And think about removing any wild grapes that are climbing your trees: they can kill them.

So enjoy the spring weather and make some plans for real spring.



*courtesy photo*

*Buckthorn often grows with several stems in a tight grouping.*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Bring in the Bird Feeders – and Other Ways to Avoid Bear-Human Conflict

by Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

FRANCONIA, N.H. – It is a question I face each year as March winds into April: when to take down the bird feeder. Our avian feeding station is basic: a single run-of-the-mill hopper, which I fill with a local mix of seed that seems to keep the winter flocks of chickadees and nuthatches happy. Occasionally, a blue jay or two drops by. Sometimes a few crows or a couple of turkeys linger below the feeder, cleaning up whatever has fallen to the ground.

It's always tempting to leave the feeder up just a bit longer, especially during this time of year when migratory birds are making their way back north. If the seed is there, perhaps those birds, still in their winter plumage, will pause in their travels. But as those birds move north, the bears who have spent the colder season hunkered down in the local woods are also emerging. And they are hungry.

"Spring is one of the leanest times for food," said Andrew Timmins, Game Programs supervisor and acting Bear Project leader for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. "If the previous fall had a good beechnut or acorn crop, the bears feed on leftover hard mast once the snow has melted. But we had essentially none of that last fall, so the bears will be waiting for green vegetation to emerge."

In the meantime – before the grasses green up and the new leaves form on poplar and white ash – bears will be searching for other food sources. And when humans provide those food sources, even inadvertently, that leads to trouble. That trouble usually ends badly for the bear. You've likely heard the saying, "A fed bear is a

dead bear," and there's a sad truth in that: bears that become habituated to sourcing their food from the human environment generally end up being killed, either by collisions with cars as the bears try to access human neighborhoods, by property owners who choose to shoot a bear rather than remove or protect the attractant, or by Fish & Game officials left with little choice.

"Once a bear starts breaking into houses or vehicles, it's a pretty solid line in the sand. We can't allow that behavior," said Timmins. "But there's a lot we can do to prevent that."

He names three main factors driving bear-human conflicts: unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and unprotected chickens. Humans can, Timmins noted, address or correct each of these. Garbage should be secured in a garage or outbuilding or the basement if that's the only option. Dumpsters should have locking metal tops to keep bears out. To control odors, add an old towel doused with ammonia to garbage receptacles. Pet food should also be secured, and barbecue grills cleaned regularly.

The best way to protect chickens is to keep them inside an electrified fence set at 4,000 to 5,000 volts. (And, for the record, bears aren't the only wildlife that will readily dine on unprotected poultry; bobcats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, weasels and others also get into chicken enclosures.) Fish & Game offers short term loans of electric fencing to homeowners – both to demonstrate its effectiveness and to allow people time to purchase their own fencing.

Among the simplest means of avoiding bear-human conflict is simply bringing in the bird feeders. For good. Until next winter.

"Feeding birds during the



Bear and Bird Feeder

day and taking the feeder in at night never works," said Timmins. "Bears will just figure out when it's available and will start coming during the day. It's also impossible to clean up all the spilled seed underneath that feeder; there will be enough remnants on the ground to attract a bear."

Timmins encourages people to pack up their feeders by March 15 in the southern part of the state

and April 1 farther north. I resisted the urge to buy one more package of bird seed and took my feeder down last week. While I'll miss watching the birds gather to eat right outside my window, I know they'll find wild food to sustain them – just, I hope, as the bears will this spring.

[Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is the associate editor for Northern Woodlands. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

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# IN THE GARDEN

## To-do List for Spring Gardening

by Deborah J. Benoit,  
Extension Master Gardener,  
University of Vermont

NORTH ADAMS, Mass.-- Spring may be upon us, but winter is reluctant to let go. In the meantime, we're all eagerly awaiting the time when we can head back to our gardens and get them into shape for the coming growing season.

If you didn't do so during garden downtime in January and February, now is the time to order seeds, plants, shrubs and trees online or make a to-get list for shopping at your local nursery. While you're at it, sketch out plans for new beds or additions to existing garden plots.

Temptation is all too real when browsing garden catalogs. The old adage that begins with "a place for everything" can help keep random purchases and dreaming too big under control.

Before the ground is workable, take some time to clean out and organize your garden shed or greenhouse. Make an inventory of garden supplies, in particular, tools. If you didn't do so in the fall when you stored them for the winter, clean tools and perform any needed maintenance.

Do you need to replace hoses, or are you planning on putting in new beds? Make a note of anything that needs to be replaced and put those and any new items on your shopping list.

Now is also a good time to consider what additional gardening supplies you may need. Are you planning on growing crops that require support such as tomatoes? A wide variety of tomato cages and trellises are available. If you decide now,

you can put supports in place at the time you plant to avoid disturbing the roots later on.

Once you have access to your garden, prune trees and shrubs as needed, but leave those that bloom in spring alone. If you prune spring-blooming shrubs such as lilacs and azaleas now, you'll be cutting off this year's flowers. Wait to prune those shrubs until after they bloom.

Even though you'll be tempted to clean up the garden when the snow clears, wait until after daytime temperatures reach 50 degrees Fahrenheit for about a week before removing leaves and flower stalks that weren't dealt with last fall. That will give beneficial insects that have been overwintering in the garden time to emerge.

If you don't already have a compost pile, now is the time to start one. It's the perfect way to recycle food scraps and yard waste with many options available for container size and type of composting. For more on composting, see [go.uvm.edu/composting](http://go.uvm.edu/composting).

While you're cleaning up the garden, watch for signs of perennial weeds and newly emerged annual weeds popping up in beds and along pathways. Remove them now while they're young. They'll only hold on tighter the longer you wait. A few minutes weeding now is far easier than spending an afternoon fighting established weeds once warm and sunny spring weather has settled in.

Spring also is a good time to divide or transplant perennials. Take note of which plants need dividing and where you'd like to put them. Prepare any new beds.

Build, repair or replace trellises and other plant supports.



*courtesy photo*

Before the start of the growing season, gardeners should take an inventory of tools and other garden supplies, to determine what needs to be cleaned, maintained or replaced.

Consider using tree and shrub prunings from the garden to build your own.

If you're planning on starting seeds indoors, check to see if you have all the supplies you'll need. Seed packets should include information on when to start those seeds. For more on starting seeds indoors, see

[go.uvm.edu/seedstarting](http://go.uvm.edu/seedstarting).

Before you know it, the garden will be awake, and it will be time to venture outside and get down to work.

[Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Massachusetts, who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.]

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



**“ATTENTION SHOPPERS! THE GARDEN CENTER IS ON LOCKDOWN DUE TO A CUSTOMER WITH CABIN FEVER AND ARMED WITH DIRT!”**



*courtesy photo*

Starting a backyard compost pile helps keep food scraps and yard waste out of the landfill while providing nutrient-rich matter for the garden.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## It's Up to You to Contribute

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Almost every day I treat myself to the blog of Heather Cox Richardson. I consider it sort of a stroking of my biases, which by this time of my life hardly need affirmation. But I learn stuff, too. In one of this week's daily pieces Ms. Cox describes the remarkable career of Frances Perkins, who served as FDR's Secretary of Labor during his extraordinary long tenure as President. Look her up on Wikipedia.

She was a horrified witness to the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire, which killed 146 garment workers trapped by locked doors to exits. Thus, in response to FDR's offer of the position as Secretary – she was the first woman cabinet member ever – Perkins presented a list of the priorities she wished to pursue (Can you imagine having to lobby for a 54-hour work week for women?). Social Security, inaugurated the same year as I, was one result; every time that payment shows up in my bank account, I silently thank Frances. The Fair Labor Standards Act (1938, over the objections of employers) was another of her creations.

You can look all this stuff up. What has stuck with me is something she said once about her lifelong efforts to help those unable to speak for or help themselves: "There is always a large horizon.... There is much to be done. It is up to you to contribute some small part to a program of human betterment for all time."

It's a message that all of us have heard since the days of our early education. Our singing sessions at Sunday School in the '30s invariably included "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," and as we approached the age of adulthood at, say, eight, we learned "Let the lower lights be burning; send a gleam across the wave. Some poor fainting, struggling, seaman, you may rescue, you may save." (Can you believe that Johnny Cash recorded that one?)

Still later, the Boy Scout oath adjured us to "help other people at all times." Some of us did, and many of us didn't; life intervened, and there were just so many other activities and priorities competing for our time. The job of caring for our fellow creatures often became somebody else's responsibility,

All of this came into sharper focus during the worst of

the recent pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of us could no longer go to work in our usual situations. Luckily, the internet had arrived and matured enough to enable those legions to work from home, which for many has now become the norm.

But then a new term came into common usage: essential workers. They're the people without whom our systems can't function, and suddenly we were aware of them. Firefighters and police, of course. And medical professionals. But what about the field workers who harvest our lettuce, milk our cows, and dig our potatoes? Some of the lowest-paid workers in the nation became crucial to our way of life.

While the hospital operating theaters continued to perform necessary surgery, their professional personnel were famously imperiled. But likewise were the folks who handled the laundry and the waste, who in many cases worked for just above minimum wage. Without them, the hospitals couldn't have functioned.

The list goes on – mechanics, plumbers, garbage men. You can put off a dental procedure (usually), but you can't live with a stopped-up toilet. Remember the old story about the eminent surgeon whose loo was hors de combat with a house full of company on a weekend? He'd gotten a plumber to give up his Sunday off, but then, looking at the bill, complained that, even as an eminent surgeon, he didn't make that much money.

"I know," said the plumber. "I didn't either when I was a surgeon."

That's off the subject. The people I really want to celebrate are the volunteers who give their time and talent, often even for years, to make sure the hungry are fed and the homeless housed. Jimmy Carter is the most famous example at the moment, but there are at least hundreds of thousands of them. They not only provide services that otherwise would not be available, but their caring impulses are the glue that binds human society together. Politicians talk and enact laws intended (sometimes) to benefit the needy; preachers often remind us of our duty; but it's the little, anonymous, essential people who make the salads and the soup, who make sure everyone gets a helping of love with the sandwich, and clean the kitchen afterward who are the heroes.

There is much to be done. It is up to [each of us] to contribute some small part.

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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## MEETING MEMO

### Wednesday, April 5

• **Wolcott Select Board**, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, April 6

• **Hardwick Select Board**, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

### Monday, April 10

• **Calais Select Board**, second Monday of month, 7 p.m.

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

• **Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors' Regular Meeting**, 6 p.m., Barnet School Room #126 and remote access is also available.

### Tuesday, April 11

• **Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting**, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: Bill at 802-249-6004 or energy.coordinator@hardwickvt.org.

### •Twinfield Union

**School**, Regular Board Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m., Twinfield Union School Library and remote access also available.

### Wednesday, April 12

• **Greensboro Select Board**, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.

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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. [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov). waldentc@pivot.net  
Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)  
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## Mud Season in Vermont

by Elizabeth McCarthy

Here country roads become  
soft traps of earth and water,  
deep rutted rolling paths,  
gateways we must pass.

Is it penance for pride?  
Driving through purgatory,  
where time slogs along with us in mud,  
this wet dark thing called Spring.

For arrogance? As if we, ourselves  
made these rolling hills of sugar maples,  
tapped for their life blood  
that later turn to ruby and gold.

As if it is only us who know the beauty  
of clear pearl droplets along strings of silk  
spun by spiders in the morning dew,  
adorning pastures and flowering meadows.

Where brown eyed cows graze as they model  
in the summer sun for roaming photographers  
who capture the iconic image of rural life  
in this land that only we call home.

Now, we are fallen, bogged down  
to the rims, held in our place as we hear  
the chorus of spring peepers and angels  
on tractors heading our way.

[Elizabeth McCarthy is a resident of Walden, and wrote this poem in celebration of National Poetry Month.]

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Support Your Local Florist

Often at the end of obituaries, it says “in remembrance” donate to a certain nonprofit. Often, that nonprofit is the Nature Conservancy. One location is in Montpelier.

The Nature Conservancy is a 501CE organization and pay zilch in taxes and are required to let the public know what they are doing with this tax-free money. After obtaining the tax returns from the Nature Conservancy, salaries are listed from \$788,524 to \$165,505. The average for the 50 employees is roughly \$265,400. One listing is \$250,976, and she averaged one hour per week. Bloated bureaucracy!

The tax returns also says they have \$64,565,923 in cash, non-interest-bearing savings and temporary cash investments of \$35,166,312, Government contributions of \$108,446,526. (Information obtained from the Nature Conservancy.) Are they tax dollars?

Most of these people most likely live in a 25-story penthouse in New York City, never been in the woods.

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**Charley Burbank  
Calais**

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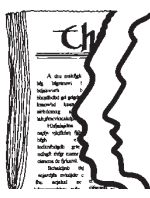
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Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union is seeking to contract with a partner organization to facilitate all aspects of its afterschool and summer enrichment programming for elementary and middle school-aged students. Organizations specializing in youth education and development are encouraged to respond to the following Request for Proposals with proposals due April 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm. More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/OSSU-RFP> or you can scan this code




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# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Christin Martin (left) and Summer Haverick (right) are starting their third season as coaches of the Twinfield-Cabot softball team.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Coach Summer Haverick (center) answers a question as Twinfield students August Howe (left), Sophi Mancini (right back), and Aleacya Moshinskie (right front) put away mats after practice Friday. Their first home game on the Burt Hodgdon Field is scheduled for April 11 against Thetford at 4:30 p.m.

## Big Numbers for Twinfield-Cabot Softball this Spring

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – As softball and baseball programs struggle to survive all around the state, the Twinfield-Cabot softball team will start the spring with a surprising uptick in numbers and get an additional boost from a few Danville players joining the roster.

Co-head coaches Christin Martin and Summer Haverick embark on their third season in trying to rebuild and re-energize a Lady Trojan softball program they both played for and loved. They've struggled with participation numbers in their first two seasons, survived their first year in the vaunted Mountain League in 2022, and may be seeing a light at the end of the tunnel this spring with 23 strong coming out for early practices. Meadow Baptiste and Chloe North are representing Cabot and Austin Roos, Ella Marshall, Phoebe Crocker, and Kendall Hale are making the trip over from Danville after they were unable to field a team for the first time in program history. The Lady Bears' storied program had made it to eight consecutive Division IV Final Fours and won six state championships under head coach Paul Remick. For the first time in a very long time, Martin

and Haverick will be able to field a junior varsity team this spring at Twinfield-Cabot, a crucial development in sustaining a successful program.

"We're really excited for the turnout so far this season and all of our girls from Twinfield, Cabot, and Danville have had great attitudes so far. Having a JV team is going to be great in helping and developing our less experienced players and get them some playing time while they learn the ropes," said Martin.

Senior Madison Duke returns for her senior season after taking her lumps in the circle last year for a young team navigating through a schedule filled with Division III and IV powerhouses. That experience should prove to be invaluable this season for a returning core with another year of varsity experience under their belt. Aleacya Moshinskie, Hannah Haverick, and Kendall Hale have also shown signs of leadership to the coaches in early practices.

"Our older and more experienced players have been diligently working with the younger girls and that has been great to see. It's a great group of girls and the varsity team is feeling really sharp early on. We can't wait to put the girls into live game situations and

see how their hard work is paying off. We're looking forward to continuing to develop this program and are really excited for the season," said Martin.

The Lady Trojans will look to improve on a one-win season in 2022 that ended with a first-round loss to Craftsbury Academy in the

first round of the Division IV playoffs. They are tentatively scheduled to scrimmage Woodsville, N.H., this week and weather permitting, will open their season at home against Thetford Academy next Tuesday. Randolph is scheduled to come to Marshfield next Thursday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Danville school student Phoebe Crocker works on her sliding skills, using a sliding mat, during softball practice March 31 at Twinfield. This year five Danville students will be joining the Twinfield-Cabot team. Hannah Haverick (in back), of Twinfield, watches.

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# SPORTS

## Chargers Track and Field Poised for More Success

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – First year head coach Jess Barber will return a talented core of student athletes for the Craftsbury Academy (CA) track and field team this spring that is coming off of the school's first boys' division IV state championship in 2022.

Barber replaces Abby Schaibel, who stepped down over the winter after leading the boys to a state title and a fourth-place finish for the girls at the state meet in Manchester last June. Barber is from Catskill, N.Y., and ran track in high school. She graduated from SUNY Potsdam State University with a B.A. in Outdoor Education/Adventure Sports and Administrative Management. She is currently the K-12 physical education teacher at CA and is excited to take over a Charger track and field program with so many impressive student athletes.

"The comradery in track and field is so much different than other sports and I was drawn to it at an early age. You can tell in practice already that this team has that and they constantly support one another to get better. I'm so honored to be a part of this program at CA and grateful to have Mike LeVangie's help and experience. I don't have a lot of these kids in my classes, so I'm just starting to get to know them and his knowledge of this program and the kids is invaluable," said Barber.

First year athletic director Connor Bean has confidence in Barber to keep steering

the decorated Charger program in the right direction.

"I think Jess is a great addition to the staff. She already has connections with the students and parents, which is beneficial for the coaching-student athlete relationship. Being based in the school, it's great and easier for her to communicate with said student-athletes. She provides a wealth of knowledge and combined with the excellent coaching of Mike, I believe she can help continue the success of the program," said Bean.

Noah McKibben has graduated and will be a loss for the boys' team after five individual titles in the regular season, culminated by a state title in the 300m hurdles. The Chargers return a wealth of talent however, including several individual state title winners and state record holders. Cormac Leahy, Mathew Califano, Alex Califano, Charlie Kehler, and Charlie Krebs teamed up in two different iterations, kicking off the 2022 season by shattering the ten-year-old Division IV state record in the 4X800m relay by five seconds, only to obliterate their own record a week later by seven seconds. Also returning are seniors Linden Stelma-Leonard and Alan Moody, who teamed up with the Califano brothers to capture the state title in the same relay event. Leahy also added a 3000m state title in Manchester and will be joined by returning senior field captain Dalton Gravel. The boys' team capped off an amazing day at Knapp Field in Manchester by edging Green

Mountain by six points for their first ever team state championship.

Captain Ida Eames has graduated and will be sorely missed for the girls' squad, but the team is in good hands with returning super sophomore Anika Leahy and her two individual state titles in her maiden season at the varsity level. Leahy put a bow on a sensational freshman campaign with a state title in the 800m and teamed up with returning senior Rachel Bjerke, junior Sadie Skorstad, and Eames to claim the 4X400m relay in Manchester. Seniors Ella Gillespie and Verna Stoddard also return and their talented team will be rounded out by some up and coming underclassmen who excelled at the middle school level.

"These teams are closely knit and who we expected to come back and compete are here this spring and then some. Practices have been great so far and they've known each other for so long that they know how to push and motivate each other. I use them as a resource for what works and one of the only things I've implemented is to get the track and field players to run together. It has been an adjustment I think, but this group is dedicated to putting in the work. They have big goals and they are going to go for it and I'm excited to see what they accomplish throughout the season," said Barber.

The weather has already canceled the Charger's season opener at Lyndon Institute on Wednesday and they are now scheduled to travel to St. Johnsbury Academy next Tuesday to open the season.

## Craftsbury Academy Helped Prepare Silva for Next Challenge

by Ken Brown

MORRISVILLE – After three years of successfully guiding Craftsbury Academy's (CA) athletic programs, a still very young Gabriela Silva is continuing her success in her first year as athletic director at Peoples Academy (PA).

Silva took over at CA as an inexperienced 24-year-old fresh out of Guilford College in North Carolina. She left three years later having navigated the small-school-crushing ACT 46, while continuing to develop the Charger athletic programs, and steering them through a global pandemic. She gives all the credit to the support and guidance she received from the coaches, administrators, and community of Craftsbury and took that experience to PA last fall. She replaced Matthew Ehrenreich and has overseen the transition of many of PA's athletic program to Division II, along with an agreed cooperative with Stowe and an ongoing cooperative with Hazen Union in softball. The former Stowe high school star athlete is in rare air as a young female athletic



Gabriela Silva

director in the state of Vermont and relished the opportunity to watch another historic women's feat at PA. Varsity boys' soccer head coach Angie Faraci led the Wolves to the 2020 Division III state title, becoming the first female head coach in Vermont history to lead a varsity boys' program to a state championship. She did again this past

fall in Silva's first year at PA, edging Woodstock 3-2 to claim their second title in three years.

"It has been an amazing transition. I learn something new every day and that is my biggest goal. I am not able to learn if I am not challenged. The opportunity to tackle a challenge like Peoples Academy was really exciting, but it was a sad day for me as well to leave behind the great kids, coaches, and people in the Craftsbury community. They were so supportive of me over those

three years and I can't thank them enough. I got to spend time and observe training and games with coach Faraci this past fall and I was blown away with her hard work and determination to get those boys where everyone in the state dreams to be. She is truly an amazing example of a high school coach that creates opportunity for student athletes growth and success. Co-curriculars have faced some of the biggest challenges in the past three years and we could not be more proud to stand by our coaches and students in all their accomplishments," said Silva.

Silva had the opportunity to step out of her office and attend the Vermont State Athletic Directors Association (VSADA) conference in Burlington for a couple of days and spend time with other athletic directors and members of the Vermont Principals Association (VPA).

"We are constantly reminded of how we are all one team and grateful that everything we do is for the students. Most importantly, creating opportunities for every single student athlete that attends Peoples Academy and the schools neighboring so they can excel in the athletics and activities they love. We are proud to be PA Wolves and grateful we get to team up with Hazen Wildcats and Stowe Raiders!" added Silva.



# SPORTS

## Howard's Wildcats Hungry to Get Back to Centennial

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union baseball team reached the Division III state title game last spring in head coach Spencer Howard's third season at the helm and are poised to make another deep playoff run in 2023 with two of the top players in the division returning for their senior campaigns.

It has been a progressive rebuild for Howard and the varsity baseball program at Hazen Union the last three years, culminating with a 15-win season, the school's first ever No. 1 overall seed in the playoffs, and their first trip to Centennial Field in 15 years in 2022. The Wildcats ran into a Peoples Academy buzzsaw named Ben Alekson in the title game last June, but those Wolves and their star pitcher have moved onto Division II and after 28 wins and consecutive trips to the Final Four, Howard's squad enters the spring as one of the favorites to raise the hardware at the end of the season for the first time in 41 years.

"The weather has made it a much different start to the season. Last year we were already prepping the field, but we've only been able to get out of the gym and into the parking lot once or twice the last three weeks. We have a talented and experienced core returning, but we lost some key pieces to graduation in Aasha Gould, Tyson Davison, Jas Zendik, and Wyatt Flanders. Those guys were pivotal to the run we had down the stretch last season. We are a

*"This whole group works hard and with their determination to build off of last year's success... the sky's the limit,"*

different team this year and it will take time for new players to step up and develop into new roles. It is a great group of kids and they know our goal is to get better with every practice and every game, stick to the process, and build off of the foundation that we've created here the last three years," said Howard.

The Wildcats enter their second season in the gauntlet called the Capital League that includes two state champions in Spaulding and Peoples Academy, state runner-up Lyndon Institute, and semi-finalist Thetford Academy. Howard will counter that firepower with some of his own in senior stars Tyler Rivard and Lyle Rooney. Rivard was a Capital League First Team selection after leading the Wildcats and most of the League in several offensive categories. He batted .434, drove in 18 runs, swiped 31 bases, and led Hazen in hits. He also earned three wins on the mound and saved a pair of games. He will bat second in the lineup for Howard and will be the main focus of every opposing team's defensive game plan.

Rooney was once again the ace and workhorse for Howard's pitching staff and was a Second Team selection in the crowded Capital. He struck out 74 batters in 53 innings, posted a 2.10 earned run average, and threw the second

no-hitter of his career. Fellow senior Jadon Baker also returns to patrol center field and terrorize opposing teams on the base paths with his elite speed. James Montgomery will manage the pitching staff behind the plate once again in his final season for the Wildcats and Howard hopes he can pick right up where he left off offensively in the second half of last season.

Andrew Menard leads a junior class returning that includes Dan des Groseilliers and Jake Davison that will play vital starting roles in lengthening the lineup for the Wildcats offensively. Menard was also a key to Hazen Union's pitching rotation in 2022 and will look to take the next step this spring after winning a Babe Ruth state championship with Rooney over the summer for the Green Mountain Wild. Sophomore Brendan Moodie comes over from Peoples Academy and Howard likes the speed he adds to an already athletic roster, as well as depth to the pitching staff.

"Tyler's already in good form after playing a lot of summer ball with the Vermont Strikers traveling team. We're just continuing to work on him making solid contact and driving the ball hard. We are already seeing big improvements in his pitching and mechanics as well. Lyle also played a lot of ball over the summer and he came in with

more strength being a year older and we're just fine tuning his command for the season. These two are really good ball players and they'll lead us, but we have some great talent around them and we'll keep working and developing so teams can't just focus on them. Jadon and James provide great toughness and leadership that is so important for this team and Andrew is so versatile for us in the infield and has near perfect pitching mechanics. This whole group works hard and with their determination to build off of last year's success...the sky's the limit," said Howard.

Joey Rivard and Opie Upson round out the coaching staff for Howard again this season and their knowledge of the game and understanding of the kids are invaluable according to Howard.

"They add a lot of continuity to this program and they just have unbelievable baseball minds. They are great sounding boards for me and the kids and we've been on the same wavelength from day one in trying to rebuild this program at Hazen. They give a lot of their time and I'm so grateful to have them so involved. We are all excited to get outside and get the season started. We have a lot of athletes on this team, so our goal is to figure out how to get as many guys on base as we can and continue to be aggressive," said Howard.

The Wildcats are scheduled to open the season at Danville next Thursday and will host Montpelier next Saturday in their home opener at Hudson Fields.

## KEN BROWN'S HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

### Hazen Track and Field

HARDWICK- Head coach Kathy Fortmann had her largest track and field team at Hazen Union in her fifth year in 2022 and will need to fill some holes left from four graduating seniors.

Jessica Royer, Lila Meyer, Bruce Fortmann, and Colton Courtemanche led a developing Wildcat track and field program last spring as seniors. Cassandra Royer led the girls' team with a breakout sophomore campaign and Ella Consadine and Lily Castle will provide much-needed senior leadership. Sophomore Lisa Velten was a key contributor as an exchange student. Jasper Reagan competed in a full schedule as just a freshman for the boys' side and Gabe Aubuchon had a solid sophomore year. Fortmann also has a

talented class of middle schoolers coming up from the team that competed for Hazen last season.

Hazen Union was scheduled to kick off the high school track and field season this week at Lyndon Institute, but will now travel to St. Johnsbury Academy next Tuesday due to the weather.

### Strong Claims Top Hockey Honor

BURLINGTON – Senior Jackson Strong capped off a decorated high school hockey career at Rice Memorial last week by claiming Vermont Mr. Hockey honors by the Burlington Free Press.

Strong is the son of Hazen Union alum Jeff Strong and grandson of former varsity boys' baseball and girls' soccer head coach Jack

Strong, who last led the Wildcat baseball program to the division III state championship in 1982. Strong skated the Green Knights to the No. 1 overall seed in Division I and to the state championship game against Essex at Gutter-son Field House this past winter. Division I coaches also named Strong Player of the Year last month. The senior led all defensemen with five goals and five assists on the season. He also led Rice in ice time and was one of the top players in plus-minus.

"It has been an absolute pleasure coaching Jack over the last four years. That kid is a leader and a warrior. He has a tremendous attitude, work ethic, and he will be sorely missed. His parents should be very proud of this boy, he will go on to do great things, said head coach Jerry Tarrant.

# SPORTS

## Spring Sports Calendar

*[Note: Hazen Union girls play with Peoples Academy, Morrisville and Twinfield-Cabot boys play with Danville High School.]*

**Schedule is subject to change due to weather.**

### Saturday, April 8

11 a.m., Danville Baseball scrimmage at Woodsville, N.H.

### Tuesday, April 11

4 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at St. Johnsbury.

4 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at St. Johnsbury.

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball vs. Lamoille, at Peoples Academy.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Thetford, at Twinfield.

### Thursday, April 13

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball at Hazen Union.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Randolph, at Twinfield.

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Danville.

### Saturday, April 15

11 a.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Lake Region.

11 a.m., Danville Baseball vs. West Rutland, at Danville.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Montpelier, at Hazen Union.

### Monday, April 17

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball at Blue Mountain.

### Tuesday, April 18

4 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at St. Johnsbury.

4 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at St. Johnsbury.

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball vs. Williamstown, at Danville.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball vs. Lake Region, at Craftsbury.

### Thursday, April 20

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Vergennes Union.

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball at Northfield.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball vs. Thetford, at Craftsbury.

### Saturday, April 22

11 a.m., Danville Baseball at Blue Mountain.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Williamstown, at Hazen Union.

### Tuesday, April 25

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball vs. Lake Region, at Danville.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Williamstown, at Twinfield.

4:30 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Peoples Academy.

### Thursday, April 27

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Thetford Academy.

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball at Richford.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Thetford, at Twinfield.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball at Northfield.

### Saturday, April 29

11 a.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Richford.

11 a.m., Danville Baseball vs. BFA Fairfax, at Danville.

11 a.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball at Blue Mountain.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Northfield, at Hazen Union.

### Monday, May 1

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball at BFA Fairfax.

### Tuesday, May 2

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at BFA Fairfax.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball at Richford.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball vs. Blue Mountain, at Craftsbury.

4:30 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Montpelier.

### Wednesday, May 3

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at U-32.

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at U-32.

### Thursday, May 4

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball vs. Danville, at Peoples Academy.

4:30 p.m., Danville Baseball at Peoples Academy.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball at Craftsbury Academy.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball vs. Twinfield, at Craftsbury.

4:30 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Lake Region, at Hazen Union.

### Saturday, May 6

11 a.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Craftsbury Academy.

11 a.m., Danville Baseball v. Richford, at Danville.

11 a.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Richford, at Danville.

11 a.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball vs. Peoples Academy, at Craftsbury.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Lamoille.

1 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at SB Twilight Meet.

### Tuesday, May 9

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at North Country.

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball vs. Williamstown, at Peoples Academy.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Northfield, at Twinfield.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball at winooski.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. North Country, at Hazen Union.

### Wednesday, May 10

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at Spaulding.

4:30 p.m., Danville Junior Varsity Baseball at Craftsbury Academy.

### Thursday, May 11

4:30 p.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball at Northfield.

4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls' Softball vs. Blue Mountain, at Twinfield.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball at Richford.

4:30 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Spaulding.

### Saturday, May 13

11 a.m., Peoples Academy Girls' Softball vs. BFA Fairfax, at Peoples Academy.

11 a.m., Danville Baseball vs. Northfield, at Danville.

11a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at U32.

1 a.m., Craftsbury Academy Girls' Softball at Williamstown.

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