

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Volume 134 Number 48

## Hill Takes on Double Duty as Wildcat A.D.

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The legendary varsity boys' basketball program that Aaron Hill has built and sustained at Hazen Union is a blueprint that many coaches try to follow around the state of Vermont, but he will dip his toes into unknown waters this winter as acting interim Wildcat athletic director.

Hill becomes the fourth A.D. at Hazen Union in less than two years in what has been a tumultuous and emotional time for the athletic program and its student body. Long time A.D. and community supporter John Sperry stepped away in the summer of 2022 after

overseeing and growing the athletic programs at Hazen for over 16 years.

Sperry helped mentor his young successor, an energetic Blue Mountain native who was finishing up his degree at Husson University in Jared Cushing. Cushing was an immediate hit, but the unthinkable happened late in his first fall sports season on the job, when we all heard the news that he had taken his own life.

Sperry was there again for the athletic department and the student body to help heal during a very difficult period for everyone. Oluwadare (Olu) Sowunmi was hired during the Thanksgiving

holiday in 2022 to become Hazen's third A.D. in less than a year. Olu was energetic, but raw and Sperry and Hill both helped mentor the young Castleton University graduate. He ingratiated himself with the students and the community and it was a shock to the program once again, when he announced he was taking over A.D. duties at Colchester after just one year on the job at Hazen.

Hill is a logical choice for Hazen given his experience with the program, but he'll be taking on multiple duties during the busiest time for both the athletic and his own basketball program. Hazen

See HILL, 4



Aaron Hill



courtesy photo

The crew at Blackbird Organics at the end of the 2023 season included (left to right) Ellen Nolan, Elise Magnant, Terra, Kagen Dewey, Zoe Winchell and Becta Walden.

## Owners of Blackbird Organics Purchase Farm in Marshfield

MARSHFIELD — After five years of farming on leased land, Elise Magnant and Kagen Dewey became first-time farm owners when they bought 78 acres of open and wooded land on Maple Hill Road in Marshfield, the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) announced today. Dewey and Magnant run Blackbird Organics and produce organic-certified vegetables. They bought the land from Dorigen Keeney who worked closely with them to establish vegetable production on the farmland, and to support their land purchase.

The new farm is just two miles from the land that Dewey and Magnant lease, and will continue to operate. "Thanks to VLT, we were lucky to find a property that worked for our business," said Magnant, "without having to pivot to new markets or a new community – which was really great."

Dewey and Magnant established Blackbird Organics in 2018. They had been looking for a farm of their own when VLT connected

See FARM, 4

## Board Addresses Animal Control Challenge

by Gazette Staff

WOLCOTT – At its November 15 regular meeting, the Wolcott Select Board voted to upgrade the sound system used for recording meetings, approved reimbursing the animal control officer for boarding dogs in his care, and voted to sign a contract for printing the town's annual report.

Dolan Patrick, community resident, requested that the select board consider upgrading the audio system used for recording meetings in the board room. His proposal included the purchase of an additional microphone for approximately \$350, a ceiling mount for the microphone for approximately \$50, and a video card that generally costs between \$50 and \$150. After discussion, the board voted to purchase

See ANIMAL, 4



courtesy photo

Jack Sumberg, Jerry Ralya, Craig Taylor, and Rob DeWess apply foam tape.

## Area Towns Build Window Inserts to Keep People Warm

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – The last part of October found the Energy Committees of Glover, Greensboro, and Craftsbury, and the Albany Planning Commission organizing over 100 volunteers to help build 577 window inserts for 90 area households, the Greensboro Historical Society, East Craftsbury Simpson Library, and the Craftsbury Town Clerk's Office. The construction workshops take place annually at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and the Glover Town Hall.

Window inserts are constructed of an attractive pine frame wrapped on both sides with a clear, heat-shrink plastic film and, when inserted on the inside of the window, create two air spaces for extra window insulation. The inserts are finished with a compressible foam gasket on the outer edge of the frame which holds them in place and provides an air seal, blocking cold drafts. The window inserts replace plastic shrink-wrap window insulation, and can be re-used over several years. These simple, inexpensive features provide greater comfort and

See INSERTS, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Gracie Patten, 7, of Hardwick tells Santa (Ed Larson) what she would like for Christmas following the lighting of the Hardwick Rescue Squad Memorial Tree, December 3.



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*courtesy photo*  
 Working on a window insert are (left to right) Tracy Washer, Kris Coville and Cappy Santamore.



*courtesy photo*  
 Chris Jacobs Heat-shrinks wrinkles in a window insert.



**December 6 - December 12**

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<b>Mott's Applesauce</b> 2/\$5 24 oz.	<b>Kitchen Basics Stocks</b> 2/\$5 32 oz.	<b>Snow's Minced or Chopped Clams</b> 2/\$4 6.5 oz.	
<b>Newman's Salad Dressing</b> \$3.99 16 oz.	<b>Krusteaz Muffin or Crumb Cake Mix</b> \$2.99 17.1-21 oz.	<b>Smucker's Toppings</b> \$2.29 11.75-12.25 oz.	
<b>Blue Diamond Nut Thins</b> \$2.79 4.25 oz.	<b>Kellogg's Toasted Crackers</b> \$3.79 8 oz.	<b>Bounty 6=12 Paper Towels</b> \$11.99 243 s.f.	
<b>Scott 1 Roll Bathroom Tissue</b> 99¢ 104.8 s.f.	<b>Velveeta Cheese Loaf</b> \$5.99 16 oz.	<b>Green Mt. Greek Yogurt</b> 5/\$5 5.3 oz.	
<b>Blue Bonnet Margarine</b> \$1.79 16 oz.	<b>Food Club Garlic Toast or Bread Sticks</b> \$2.29 10.5-11.25 oz.	<b>Pepperidge Farm Frozen Cakes or Turnovers</b> \$3.99 12.5-19.6 oz.	

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

**Inserts**

Continued From Page One

reduce heat loss, saving on average eight gallons of fuel oil per three-ft. by four-ft. window.

The programs are through WindowDressers, a Maine nonprofit that started in 2010 and has since built over 50,000 window inserts. The area towns have been active in the program for the last 5 years.

Along with addressing economic solutions to weatherization, another part of the mission of WindowDressers and the local programs is to address energy equity. Income-challenged households can get up to 10 window inserts for free. This year over 260 of the 577 window inserts were provided at no cost through grants from Vermont Electric Coop, Vermont Community Foundation, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Energize Vermont and Craftsbury and Greensboro community members' donations. WindowDressers also keeps the price of its inserts low through its non-profit model of cooperative insert-building. This means that customers contribute

to the building of their inserts.

Rebates are also available from Efficiency Vermont: when buying three inserts there is a \$100 rebate.

The programs are now looking for households who wish to improve their home heating efficiency and comfort for next winter with these simple, affordable window inserts. Once signed up, trained volunteers schedule a time to measure windows for the custom-built inserts. Then, community volunteers gather to build the inserts at the community workshop nearby next October.

To contact a local window insert coordinator in Greensboro, windowdressers.org/, Glover, Jack Sumberg, windowdressers.org/, Albany, Hannah Dreissigacker, hdreissigacker@gmail.com and Craftsbury, Kevin Gregoire, 77keving@gmail.com.

The Craftsbury Energy Committee will be at the Craftsbury Holiday Farmers Market, Saturday, Dec., 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Craftsbury Academy Gym to show an insert model and answer questions.



# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

November 26: Threats/Harassment, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Dutton Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Welfare Check, Pine Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Carey Road; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14 S.

November 27: Burglary, S. Main St.; Burglary, Cedar St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Center Road; Assist – Motorist, Hopkins Hill Road; Parking Problem, Spring St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, S. Main St./Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Citizen Dispute, Cherry St.

November 28: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Medical, Industrial Park Road; Theft, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Accident – Property Damage Only, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Noise Disturbance, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Spring St.

November 29: Alarm, Simpson Lane; Fraud, Vt. Rte. 16; Wanted Person, Mackville Road; Fingerprints, High St.; Information, High St.; DLS, Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; VIN Verification, High

St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Wanted Person, Bridgman Hill Road; Parking Problem, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, Woodbury St.

November 30: Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Directed Patrol, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

December 1: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Welfare Check, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Dutton Road.

December 2: Fingerprints, High St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Assist – Public, Maple St.; Citizen Dispute, Mackville Road; Fingerprints, High St.

December 3: Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15.

## Vermont State Police Shooting in East Calais

On December 2, at 6:43 p.m., Troopers responded to U.S. Rte. 2 in Marshfield for a single vehicle crash. The operator, Caleb Kennison, showed signs of impairment. Kennison was taken into custody for suspicion of DUI and released on a citation to appear at a later date and time.

On December 4, at approximately 11:44 p.m., the Vermont State Police received reports of a male shot in the town of East Calais. The victim was transported to the University of Vermont Medical Center. He is currently being treated and

unresponsive. The injuries are not believed to be life threatening at this time.

This is an ongoing investigation. Based on initial investigation, it was determined this is an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public. If anyone has information regarding this shooting, please call the Vermont State Police in Berlin or report it to the anonymous tip line.

Due to the ongoing nature of this investigation, additional information, including the victim's identity, is not currently available.

## Hardwick Police Failure to Appear

On November 14, Vermont Superior Court, Washington Unit, issued an arrest warrant for Serina Flood, of Hardwick, for failure to appear. On November 29, at approximately 11:25 a.m., Serina Flood was located at a residence on Mackville Road in Hardwick by Hardwick Police. Flood was released on a citation to appear in

Vermont Superior Court, Washington Unit, on November 30, at 12:30 p.m.

On November 29, at 5:42 p.m., Officer Force located Forest Foster, of Hardwick, at his residence. Foster had two outstanding arrest warrants. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to Northeast Correctional Complex on \$1,100 bail.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 11 people from November 26 through December 3. 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.

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photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Oluwadare Sowunmi stepped away from Hazen Union athletics, November 17, to become Colchester's new athletic director.

## Hill

Continued From Page One

Union Principal Jason Di Giulio stated the following on the school website regarding Hill,

“We are confident that under his guidance, our athletic programs and extracurricular activities will thrive and grow, as basketball has under Coach Hill’s leadership.”

Hill has coached varsity basketball at Hazen Union for over 25 years, capturing an unprecedented six Division III state championships. At some point this coming season, Hill will enter rarified air in the Vermont high school coaching community with his 400th career coaching victory. He has also taught physical education and health at Hazen Union for over 23 years, but he will relinquish those duties this winter.

“I am so excited to be able to be the A.D. at Hazen Union. I have been a part of the Hazen community my entire life and will work my hardest to help give our student athletes and coaches the best experience possible. After so many years of teaching at Hazen I felt like it would be fun to take on another challenge and make a change. We have had three A.D.’s in a little over a year so I felt like I might be able to provide a little more stability to our athletic programs. I love Hazen and especially love Hazen sports so it just made sense to me. It’s great to be a Hazen Wildcat!” said Hill.

## Animal

Continued From Page One

the equipment, spending up to \$500 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

In another comment from the community, Ryan Bjerke said that a portion of the newly created temporary turnaround on Flat Iron Road appears to be on his property. Bjerke requested a no-parking sign be posted at the turnaround. It was noted that no-through-traffic signs will need to be posted along the sides of Flat Iron Road before plowing begins.

The board then discussed aspects of the draft town budget for next year.

The project manager report noted that a lot of work is still being conducted with regard to FEMA and VLCT insurance claims addressing flood damage. Repair work is ongoing at the town garage and the fire station, and road work along a portion of Elmore Pond Road has been completed. Several culverts need to be replaced. Due to size requirements, special orders have been placed.

The report also noted that Bradley Horstman has been working on upgrading the town’s website.

Next, the board voted to approve two right-of-way excavation permits and voted to pay the town’s animal control officer (ACO) a \$10 per dog per day boarding fee. Area dog kennels have stopped taking dogs that come into the ACO’s care because, they said, the compensation paid by towns was too low. As a result, Wolcott’s ACO has been boarding dogs at his home at his expense.

The town received a proposed contract from REPRO for the printing

of the town’s annual report. The contract offered a choice of a one- or two-year term. The town has previously entered into a two-year contract. With a two-year contract, assuming 650 copies of the report each with 86 pages, the yearly printing cost would be \$2,589. After discussion, the board voted to sign a two-year contract.

## Farm

Continued From Page One

to Dorigen Keeney, who was looking to sell the Marshfield land that was originally conserved in 2007. Formerly a working farm, the open land on the property had been used for hay by an area farmer for many decades.

Before closing on the sale, Magnant and Dewey began working the land in Marshfield, plowing fields and putting up a greenhouse for 2023 production. In the 2023 season, they grew a third of their product on the new land and piloted a CSA (community supported agriculture) program with pick-up at the Maple Hill farm. Next season, they plan to expand production and continue to sell to the Hunger Mountain and Plainfield Food Co-ops, and directly at the Montpelier Farmers’ Market. They also plan to grow their CSA program.

“In this competitive real estate market, it’s incredibly challenging for farmers to buy land,” said VLT’s Farmland Access Director, Maggie Donin. “In partnership with landowners like Dorigen, VLT is here to help farmers navigate this landscape and access land more affordably.”

To make the purchase more

The board then voted to keep the coverage level on uninsured and underinsured motorists at \$250,000 per occurrence through a policy offered by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The board also approved a motion to accept an addendum to the highway department’s union contract.

affordable for Dewey and Magnant, Keeney strengthened the conservation easement that protects the farmland. The easement now ensures that the farmland will always remain available, and more affordable, to working farmers. She then sold the land to Dewey and Magnant this fall.

“Without the land trust and especially the [added protection to keep farmland available for farmers], financially speaking, land like this is not accessible to young farmers,” said Dewey. “That’s very much a reality. And because the land trust is going to be around forever, it guarantees that when it comes our turn to retire, we’re going to do the same thing – and this land will be financially accessible to the next generation of farmers after us.”

Dewey and Magnant also credit Becky Madden of UVM Extension and Nikki Lennart, who is a Farm Business Specialist at the Intervale, with providing valuable support as they establish operations on Maple Hill and plan for the future.

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# Greensboro Community Ladies Luncheon, Dec. 2, Fellowship Hall

photos by Hal Gray



*Patty Launer serves punch at the Ladies Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 2.*



*Shelly Jungwirth is seated at the table she decorated in Advent colors.*



*Marsha Gadoury welcomes community luncheon diners at the name tag table.*



*Valdine Hall and Betsy Donlon stand by their table with over 20 candles.*



*Mary Metcalf, of the kitchen crew with Paula Harmon, in her church apron, organized the December 2 GUCC Community Ladies Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.*



*Bobbie Nisbet stands beside the table she decorated.*



*Jan Travers and Ila Hunt show the table they decorated.*



*Cilla Bonney-Smith stands behind the table she decorated.*



*The scene of individually decorated tables and their hostesses awaiting the 75 diners attending the GUCC Community Ladies Christmas Luncheon, December 2, in Fellowship Hall.*



*Christine Pierpont and Janney Johnston prepare salad to accompany the quiche and brownies for the Christmas luncheon.*



# 40th Annual Hardwick Area Rescue Squad Memorial Tree Lighting, Sunday, Dec. 3

June Abel  
 Betty Ainsworth  
 Bryan Ainsworth  
 Frank Ainsworth  
 Larry Ainsworth  
 Leslie Ainsworth  
 Mary Ainsworth  
 Sybil Ainsworth  
 David Ainsworth  
 Chuck Ambler  
 Fosco & Helen Ambrosini  
 Polly Anair  
 Jane Anderson  
 Paul Andrews  
 Marion Atkins  
 Aunt Ann  
 Jeanette Badger  
 Hazel Bailey-Emory-Scott  
 Ralph Barnes  
 Bud Batchelder  
 Vera Batchelder  
 Gov. & Mrs. L.J. Bell  
 Miss Adine Bell  
 Miss Jennie Bell  
 Alphonse & Jennie Bellavance  
 Arthur Bellavance  
 Bert & Joyce Bellavance  
 Dennis Bellavance  
 Dorcas Bellavance  
 Judean (Judi) Bellavance  
 Ronald Arthur Bellavance  
 Ronnie Bellavance  
 Waldo & Eva Bemis  
 Annabell Bird  
 Eddie & Janet Bird  
 Inez & Bill Bird  
 Bertha Blair-Johnson  
 Bobby  
 Richard Bolio Jr.  
 Chris Bos  
 Margaret Bos  
 Oscar Bos  
 Lysle & Natalie Boulrisse  
 Brandy  
 Ginger Brimblecomb  
 David Brochu Sr.  
 Lorenzo (Larry) Brochu  
 Richard Brochu  
 Samantha Brochu  
 Baby Boy Brock  
 Baby Girl Brock  
 Frank & Elaine Brock  
 Frank & Iris Brock  
 Lucy Brock  
 "Shot" Brown  
 Arthur Brown  
 Barbara Brown  
 Clint & Joan Brown  
 Elizabeth J. Brown  
 Ken (Bill) Brown Jr.  
 June Brown  
 Michael Burnham  
 Dr. & Mrs. A. Buscemi  
 Peter P. Buscemi Esq.  
 Canaan  
 Frank Casavant  
 Robert (Butch) Casavant  
 Robert (Pa) & Wanda Casavant  
 Loretta Chaples  
 Robert Chaplin (35)  
 Dale Charron  
 Alton Chase  
 Ken Chase  
 Mary Chase  
 Harvey Colburn  
 Shirley Colburn  
 Arthur Corrow  
 Irene Corrow  
 Craig  
 Judy Cummings  
 Tony Cummings  
 Dick Cummins  
 Gerry Cummins  
 Donald Darling  
 Marguerite Darling  
 Deceased Students of Walden Heights School  
 Maurice & Dorothy DeLarichelier

Antoinette Demers (5)  
 Ginette Demers  
 Laureat Demers (5)  
 Judy Deming  
 Louis Deschamps Jr.  
 Louis Deschamps Sr.  
 Frank (Ken) Deschamps  
 Olive Deschamps  
 Scott Douglas  
 Mac & Kate Drennan  
 Jerry Dudley  
 Gordon Durkee Sr.  
 Betty Durkee  
 Keith Eldred  
 Kenneth Emory  
 Ellen Fabiani  
 Bob Fadden  
 Ronald & Greta Fadden  
 Marjorie Farr  
 Wayne Farr  
 Joe Fecteau  
 Kenneth Fecteau  
 Davila Ferland  
 Delina Ferland  
 Charlie Fontaine  
 Esther Fontaine  
 Gilles Fontaine (2)  
 Adrien Fournier  
 Clermont & Phil Fournier (2)  
 Emile J. & Marguerite Fournier (2)  
 Arsene Fradette  
 Gabby  
 Dave Gaillard  
 Arthur Gauthier  
 Evelyn Gauthier  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Goodenough  
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 Gwen Griggs  
 Walter Griggs  
 Mary Gusha  
 Crystal Hall  
 Frances & J.R. Hall  
 Fr. John Hamilton  
 Dennis & Cyndi Harbour  
 Al Hark  
 Carl Harvey  
 Elbridge Harvey  
 Lou Harvey  
 Norma Jean Harvey  
 Stuart Harvey  
 Claude Hayman  
 Blake Hill  
 Dan & Diane Hill  
 Elaine Hill  
 Wilfred Hill (5)  
 William S. & Doris Hill (2)  
 Bill & Peg Holdman  
 Myrna Holdman  
 Steve Holdman  
 Frances Houston  
 Paul Houston  
 Ronald Houston  
 Brent E. Hudson  
 John & Betty Hyde  
 Alan Ingraham  
 Roger Johns  
 Bertha Blair Johnson  
 Henry Jordan  
 Chris Kane  
 Judith Kane  
 Tom Kane  
 Connie Bird Kapusta  
 Bud & Angela Kast  
 Patti Keher  
 Esther & Louis Kesselman  
 LaCasse Family  
 Blanche Lamour  
 Donald & Phyllis Lane  
 Phyllis & Donald Lane  
 Elsie Lanphear  
 Margaret & Raymond Lavendy  
 Tahchee Lavendy



photo by Vanessa Fournier

About 75 people gathered for the dedication and lighting of the Hardwick Rescue Squad Memorial Tree Sunday evening. A dedication was given by Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters and Tyler Molleur of the Hardwick Rescue Squad led the crowd in singing holiday carols.

Bob & Mignonne LeBlanc  
 Emmanuel LeBlanc  
 Laury LeBlanc  
 Paul LeBlanc  
 Pauline LeBlanc  
 Anselme & Violette LeCours (2)  
 Denis LeCours  
 Gail LeCours  
 Madeleine LeCours  
 Patrick LeCours (3)  
 Richard LeCours (2)  
 Roger & Patricia LeCours (2)  
 Alice Lemay  
 Charlie Lemay  
 George Lemay  
 Harriet Lemay  
 Leo Lemay  
 Ovila Lemay  
 Lisa  
 Louise  
 Jack & Linda MacGregor  
 Babs Gaillard McNear  
 Dave Merrill  
 Joyce Merrill  
 Alexander Messier  
 Yvonne Messier  
 Hugo & Liza Meyer  
 Alice Michaud  
 Baum Michaud  
 Darrell Michaud  
 Eleanor Michaud  
 Anthony (Tony) Molleur  
 Dana Molleur  
 Joanne Molleur  
 Montgomery Family  
 Marion & Nestor Morin  
 Blanche Neveu  
 Frank E. Neveu  
 Frank W. Neveu  
 Margaret Nudd LaFlamme  
 Louise Nudd Loney  
 George & Florence Nudd  
 Adrienne Olney  
 Mihaela Padure  
 David Parchment  
 Bob & Anne Parke  
 Earl Parkhurst  
 Peter Peltz (2)  
 Edward Phelps  
 Michael Pierce  
 Gary Poff  
 Cathy Potvin  
 Peg Powers  
 Walt Powers  
 Cliff Rathburn  
 Peter J. Reeks  
 Gerard, Ann Marie & Helen Renaud  
 Helen & Phil Renaud  
 Phil & Helen Renaud  
 Henry & Delores Richardson

Maurice & Gailene Richardson  
 Linda Ring  
 Bill & Nora Robb  
 Col. William Robb  
 Austin & Gladys Robertson  
 Lewis Rodriguez  
 Thelma Rodriguez  
 Alma & Charles Rowley  
 Michael Rublee  
 Paul Searles  
 Fred & Marion Shattuck  
 Wendell Shepard  
 Wendy Silk  
 Estella Slayton  
 Glen Slayton  
 Mildred Slayton  
 Robert Slayton  
 Roger Slayton  
 Sharon Slayton  
 Spencer A. Slayton (4)  
 Stuart Slayton  
 Joyce St. John  
 Stanley St. John  
 Mr. & Mrs Archie Strong  
 Dougal Stuart  
 Virginia Stuart  
 Anne Sullivan  
 John Ahern Sullivan  
 June Cooke Sullivan  
 Jeannette & Emeric Tanguay (2)  
 Wendy Rae Tanner  
 Those We Have Lost to Violence  
 Stuart Todd  
 Taffy Todd  
 Penny & Shirley Tousant  
 Michael Trombley  
 Kenneth Tucker  
 Lily Tucker  
 Unborn Babies (2)  
 Sara Urban  
 Victims of Violence  
 Barbara Wells  
 Wayland Wells  
 Sharon Wetzel  
 Barbara Robb Whalen  
 Ben Williams  
 Joy Williams  
 Ruth Williams  
 Wilfred Williams  
 Bessie Young  
 Casey Young  
 Clair Young  
 Frank Young  
 Fred Young  
 Henry A. Young  
 Henry L. Young  
 Priscilla Young  
 Smokey Young  
 Allen & Phyllis Zecchinelli  
 Luigi & Laura Zecchinelli



# Events

## Thursday, December 7

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Thursdays, United Church of Christ, Greensboro, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Beginning Yang 24 Tai Chi; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi and remote options via Zoom). 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.

## Friday, December 8

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, second Friday of the month, 7:30 - 10 p.m., Cabot Town Hall (Willey Building), 3084 Main St. Calling by Don Stratton. Music by local musicians All dances taught, no partner needed. Families and beginners welcome. Come at 7:15 p.m. for some pointers. Sliding scale admission. Information: karen@praxis-works.org.

## Tuesday, December 12

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick. 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Qigong & Tai Chi Forms (some experience recommended), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no ex-

perience 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, December 13

**DEATH CAFE**, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. An informal conversation about death, facilitated by Kelsey Crelin. Refreshments provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

## Thursday, December 14

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Thursdays, United Church of Christ, Greensboro, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Beginning Yang 24 Tai Chi; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi and remote options via Zoom). 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.

## Exhibits

**DONNA UNDERWOOD OWENS:** The Vermont Animal Whisperer. Photographs of animals in their natural habitats, through December 13. The Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

# “It’s a Wonderful Life” Live Radio Play Dec. 14, Dec. 17

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” is being performed twice this December in the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC), on December 14 and December 17.

The play was inspired by the American classic 1946 film starring James Stewart, as George Bailey, who is saved from suicide by a considerate angel who shows Bailey how important he’s been in the lives of loved ones.

The setting involves a group of assorted small-town characters who give the play variety and appeal. Perhaps a little old fashioned, the play is also inspirational and heartwarming and shows that it is really a family, friends and honest work that make the wonderful life.

The initial movie script went through numerous re-writes, and the movie rights were eventually sold to Frank Capra who quickly recruited James Stewart as George

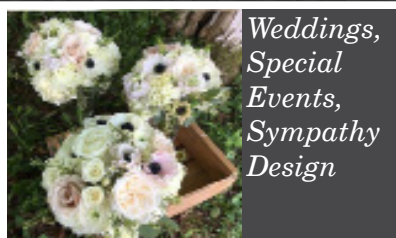
Bailey. Donna Reed became his wife, Mary. Frank Capra, Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed all called the original movie their favorite one. Despite becoming an American classic, the movie was not an immediate hit. Although it has become an iconic Christmas movie, the film was actually shot during a heat wave in the summer of 1946 so that sweat can be seen on some of the original actors.

Joe Landry, writer of the radio play, adapted “It’s a Wonderful Life” as if it were a live radio broadcast. The presentation in Greensboro is a condensed version of Landry’s original and runs a little over an hour. The play is being performed Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

A freewill donation made at the door will benefit the GUCC Community Assistance Fund which is used to help families in the greater Greensboro community with groceries, utility bills, rent, insurance, car repairs, and other emergency expenses.

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# Lost Nation Theater Presents Budbill's "Two for Christmas"

MONTPELIER – Lost Nation Theater, central Vermont's resident professional theater, will present David Budbill's "Two for Christmas," a staged reading, on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.

"Two for Christmas" is two shows in one. Travel back in time to 1479 England and end up in Budbill's mythical Judevine with Antoine, Doug, Arnie, and Tommy.

Act One features "The Second Shepherds Play," Budbill's faithful translation of a 15th century miracle play. Miracle plays were known for mixing humor and music with reverence. Told in verse, it's the story of a poor thief in 1479 England who steals a lamb from three shepherds on

Christmas Eve, and brings it home to his cantankerous wife. About to be confronted, the thief's wife jumps into bed with the lamb and pretends the lamb's her newborn baby. Returning to their flock, the shepherds are visited by an angel.

Act Two is "The Pulp Cutters' Nativity," the same story, but 500 years later in Budbill's famed Judevine. The shepherds are now loggers, a chainsaw replaces the lamb, and the angel is a waitress at the local diner. The two one-act plays (using the same cast members) resonate together, illuminating themes of humanity, justice, and how the hilarious can suddenly become holy.

Two For Christmas was



courtesy photo

Lost Nation Theater's "Two For Christmas" by David Budbill will be presented December 13 and 14, and include the woodcutters from the 2012 production.

originally written and performed in 1996. Lost Nation toured a revival in 2012. This special staged reading presentation features many of the same actors including two actors from the original 1996 production!

Returning to the show are Ben Ash (Antoine), Andrew Butterfield (Tommy), Robert Nuner (Arnie) and Mark S. Roberts (Doug). Joining them are Abby Paige (Gil), Katie Gilmartin (Waitress/Angel). Fiddler Susan Reid is the musical director. LNT's founding artistic director Kim Bent takes over the role of director.

The show is live in person and live-streamed (on December 13), and via digital

recording (through December 31.) Masks are preferred and strongly recommended for in person attendance, but not required. The Flood made LNT/City Hall's elevator inoperable, requiring climbing stairs to attend in person. The play will be available digitally to make the show accessible to those unable to physically join us. We appreciate your understanding during this emergency situation. Tickets are available on-line; by phone (Tuesday through Friday, 11a.m. to 3 p.m.) or in person at the door as available. [lostnationtheater.org](http://lostnationtheater.org), phone (802) 229-0492,

email [info@lostnationtheater.org](mailto:info@lostnationtheater.org)



photo by Hal Gray

Three visitors in the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library in East Craftsbury on November 30, came to knit, do needlepoint, pursue other hobbies, and drink tea together.

## NOTICE

### Warning of Caledonia County Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §133 (a), (b), and (c) the Assistant Judges of Caledonia County hereby call a meeting of the voters of Caledonia County for the purposes of presenting the preliminary proposed budget of Caledonia County for the ensuing fiscal year, beginning 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025, and invite discussion thereon. Said annual meeting shall be held at noon on Wednesday, 27 December 2023 at the Caledonia County Courthouse, 1126 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Appended to this notice is a copy of the Proposed Caledonia County Budget for 1 July 2024 through 30 June 2025.

Fiscal Year 24-25 (2024—2025)

Personnel-----\$144,000  
 Operations-----\$6,850  
 Professional Services-\$10,000  
 Probate Court-----\$1,000  
 Reserve Fund-----\$3,500  
 Justice Center-----\$3,000

Total Caledonia County Courthouse----\$168,450

Sheriff's Department-----\$238,200

Total Caledonia County-----\$406,650

The undersigned Assistant Judges do hereby attest that the foregoing uniform proposed budget as presented is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Dated in chambers at the Caledonia County Courthouse, St. Johnsbury, Vermont, this the ninth day of December 2023.

John S. Hall  
Assistant Judge

Merle L. Haskins  
Assistant Judge

Past Budgets:

FY24--\$350,340 FY23--\$348,800 FY22--\$346,800 FY21--\$357,266  
 FY20--\$355,492 FY19--\$367,686 FY18--\$353,587 FY17--\$360,784

## Invitation To Bid

The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) is accepting Construction Proposals for Tenant Improvements (TI) inside their newly constructed, 12,500 s.f. office, storage and food distribution warehouse. Work includes cooler/freezer rooms, light gage framing and gypsum, finishes, doors, equipment, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection and refrigeration trades. This TI is a stand-alone contract, but part of the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator, a public/private development including 5,000 s.f. of retail and 25,000 s.f. commercial/industrial space.

Dates: Bid Documents Available: December 6, 2023  
 Pre-Bid Site Meeting: December 15, 2023 – 10 a.m.  
 (encouraged—not mandatory) 281 Vermont Route 15,  
 Hardwick, VT  
 Bids Due: January 12, 2024 – 4 p.m.  
 Start of Construction: July 2024  
 Completed Construction: December 2024

Bid proposals received after the indicated date and time will not be considered. Bid Proposals will be opened via Zoom to submitting bidders, stakeholders, and the interested public before 5 p.m. on the receiving date.

The construction contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and qualified bidder. The owner does retain the right to reject any, and all bids, or to waive informalities and irregularities in the owner's best interest.

Bid documents include Invitation to Bid, Bid Instructions, Bid Form, Construction Documents (drawings, project manual, sample contracts), and Amendments.

Bid Documents are available as follows:

Electronically: Email request: [james@coeandcoearchitecture.com](mailto:james@coeandcoearchitecture.com)  
 Purchase: Email request: [james@coeandcoearchitecture.com](mailto:james@coeandcoearchitecture.com)  
 indicate preferred reprographics company

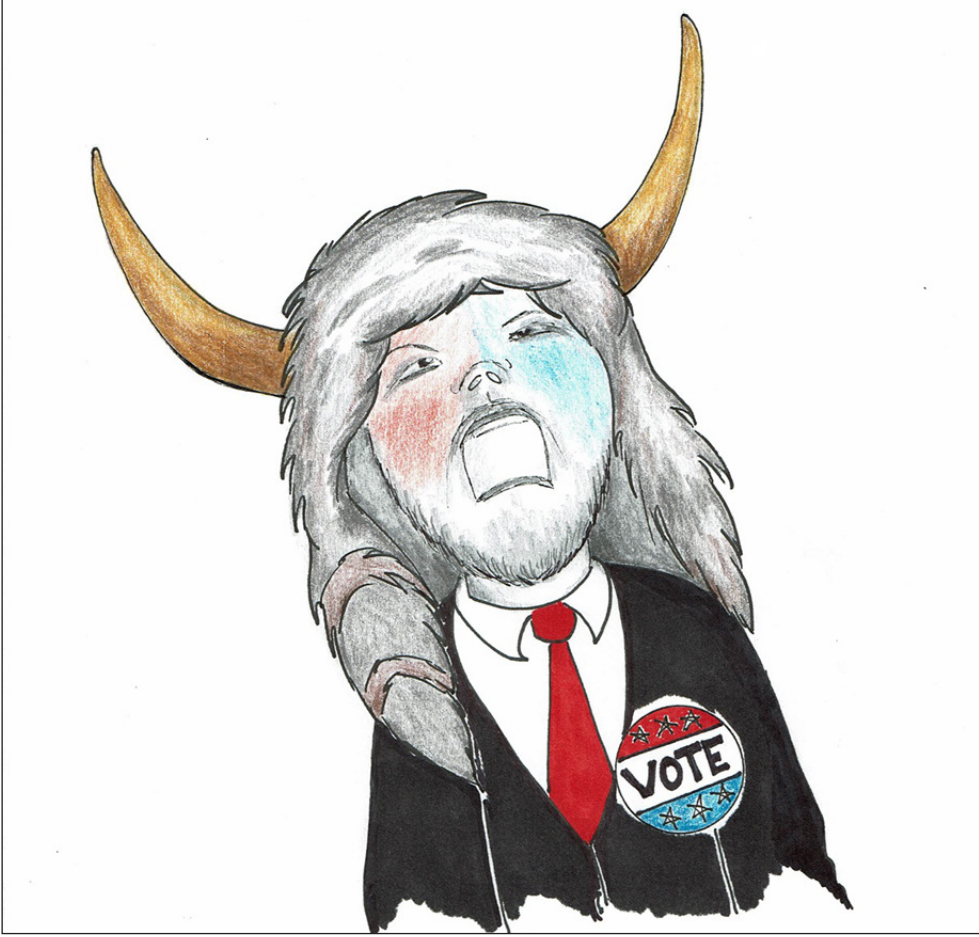
No partial sets or incomplete information will be distributed. Bidding Contractors shall assure coordination of all parts.

Bid Requirements:

- All potential Bidders must register by email to receive Bid Documents and any subsequent Addenda: [james@coeandcoearchitecture.com](mailto:james@coeandcoearchitecture.com)
- Bid bond security equaling 5% of the bid total. Invitation To Bid



# Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



**“WE HAD AN ACTOR AS PRESIDENT, A BARBARIAN AS GOVERNOR AND NOW A HORNEDED VIKING IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS!”**

## BIRTHS

### Alistair Carlos Jones

A son, Alistair Carlos Jones was born to Austin Jones and Brenda Quispe-Jones, of Wolcott, on November 21, at Copley Hospital.

### Marvyl Meredith Pearce

A daughter, Marvyl Meredith Pearce, was born to Jean Marie Pearce, of East Hardwick, on November 21, at Copley Hospital.




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## How Does Alcohol Affect You As You Age?



For healthy adults ages 65 and older, drinking more than one drink per day can lead to health problems.

### What is considered one drink?

-  12 fl. oz. of regular beer — about 5% alcohol
-  8 fl. oz. of malt liquor - about 7% alcohol
-  5 fl. oz. of table wine — about 12% alcohol
-  1.5 fl. oz. shot of 80-proof distilled spirits (gin, rum, tequila, vodka, whiskey, etc.) — 40% alcohol

**Decreased Tolerance** - Aging lowers the body's tolerance for alcohol.  
**Increased Health Problems** - Certain health problems are common in older adults. Drinking more than the recommended guidelines can make health problems worse.  
**Medication Interactions** - Many prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and herbal remedies can be harmful or even deadly when mixed with alcohol.  
**Medicine and alcohol misuse can happen unintentionally.** Here are some signals that the interaction is a problem:

- Loss of coordination
- Irritability, sadness, depression

If you or someone you love is struggling with alcohol dependence - call VT Helplink 802-565-5465

This message is supported by a grant from the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs



# OUR COMMUNITIES



*courtesy photo*  
The Cabot Community Contra Dance will be held on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Willey Building.

## Cabot Community Contra Dance Dec. 8

CABOT – The second Friday Cabot Community Contra Dance will be held on Friday, Dec. 8, in the Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St). The dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., with a short intro session for new folks at 7:15. The dances will be taught and called by Don Stratton, of Bristol. Live music is provided by a group of local musicians, led by Franklin Heyburn. Everyone is welcome, and all dances are taught. Admission is on a sliding scale, but nobody is turned away. Water and cups will be provided, or bring a water bottle. Masks are welcomed but not required.

## Art Opening Dec. 16

MARSHFIELD – The art opening of local children's art at the Jaquith Public Library will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. At 2 p.m., there will be a viewing of the art with refreshments, and at 3 p.m., there will be a reading by local children's authors Leda Schubert and Victoria Mansuri.

Leda Schubert will read her recent book, "Dogs Love Cars." Schubert fulfilled her early dreams after working as a teacher, librarian, and faculty member at VCFA and has now published 13 picture books. Victoria Mansuri will be reading from the book she edited, "Yoclivihc and the Garden of Dreams" by Alejandra Lorenzo-Chang, a fairy tale that transports children and adults to the land of dreams.

Call (802) 426-3581 for more information. The library is located at 122 School St., room 2.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Galaxy Bookshop workers Sally Anstey (left) and Vanessa Gengler (right) wait on customers Colin Lane (left) and his brother Aiden Lane (right), of Elmore, during Small Business Saturday, November 25 in Hardwick.



# IN THE GARDEN



*courtesy photo*

*I've had this Smart Cart for 20 years.*



*courtesy photo*

*Sculpture in the woods at Bedrock Gardens.*

## Holiday Gifts for the Gardener 2023

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Once again it is time to find the perfect gifts for your loved ones. Gardeners are easy to shop for because there are so many good things to shop for, and they will probably be pleased with whatever you choose. As a shopper, I always try to support local, family owned businesses: they support our community and I want to support them when possible. Let's take a look at some ideas.

Think about buying tickets for you and your gardening friend to a special garden, or perhaps one of the spring flower shows. This will allow the two of you to have some time together and to get some ideas about what you both can do in your gardens. One of my favorite gardens is Bedrock Garden in Lee, N.H. This garden was developed by plant guru Jill Nooney and her husband, Bob Munger, over a 25 year period and recently achieved 501(c)3 status as a non-profit. Not only does it have a fabulous collection of plants, Jill is a sculptor and welder who has created art that is displayed in the gardens. This is truly a gem of a place and worthy of visits. Suggested donation of \$15. See their website for schedules.

Another garden I love is Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, N.H. Augustus Saint Gaudens was a world-known sculptor who lived and worked there in the early 20th century. The well-maintained formal gardens and grounds are enhanced by his fabulous life-sized (or larger) bronze sculptures. The grounds are open year-round, and the galleries are open from Memorial Day weekend through October 31. Admission

is \$10 and is valid for 7 days.

Of the spring flower shows, the Connecticut show in Hartford is probably the biggest in New England, and well worth a visit. It will be February 22 to 25 in 2024 and although tickets are not yet on sale, you can make up a nice card inviting your gardening buddy to go with you.

Garden tools are generally a hit. On my second birthday I was given a child-sized wheelbarrow, a watering can and a shovel, all of which helped form me as a life-time gardener. Most garden centers sell good quality tools for kids made of metal, not plastic. See what you can find for a small person in your life.

Adults like tools, too. For 20 years now I've had a Smart Cart, a well balanced two-wheel cart. The frame is made of airplane-grade tubular aluminum and the seven-cubic foot body of heavy-duty plastic. It comes either with bike-type wheels or smaller, fatter wheels capable of traversing wet areas more easily and carrying heavier loads. I chose the wide wheels, which make the cart rated for 600 pounds. The narrower wheels are rated for 400 lbs. I've never had a flat tire and the cart has served me well. The bin pops out if you want to wash a dog in it, or carry home manure in your Subaru. It is not inexpensive, but worth the investment.

My favorite weeder is the CobraHead weeder, a single-tine, curved hook that teases out roots with ease and precision. It has become an extension of my body. I use it for planting, weeding, and more. It is about \$29 and available not only on-line, but from good garden centers and seed companies everywhere.

Although there may be no

better mousetrap to invent, amazingly there is a new design to the shovel, one called the Root Slayer. It is all one piece of steel; it has a straight leading edge that comes sharp and stays sharp. The edges are serrated and able to slice through roots like a hot knife through butter. Great for planting in the woods or near trees. I still use my regular shovel or spade for digging in my garden or filling a wheelbarrow with compost. But if I want to plant a tree in a field, it is great for slicing through sod. I use it for dividing big clumps of daylilies and other tough perennials and it is available at good garden centers.

I know most of you probably keep track of garden events on your phone, things like when you planted lettuce seeds or when your delphinium bloom. I don't. I like an old fashioned journal I can write in with a pen. Blank books are readily available, and some companies even sell special garden journals. Gardening is a slow and thoughtful pastime and lends itself to the handwritten word.

If you know that your gift-recipient starts seeds in the spring, or plans to, you might consider getting an electric heat mat as a gift. They considerably speed up the time needed for germination of weeds in the spring. So for example, corn seeds can take two or three weeks to germinate in cold, wet soil, but will pop up in three to five days when on a heat mat. Of course, you then have to transplant the seedlings, but that is not bad for a small patch. I generally use a planting flat with 98 cells for corn and transplant them when they have leaves two inches tall.

If deer are a problem, some

garlic-oil clips will add some protection in winter for your tasty trees and shrubs. I've had excellent luck with them, specifically with a brand called "Plant Pro-Tec Deer and Rabbit Repellent". They come in a package of 25 for about a dollar each, and seem to last all winter. They are advertised as working for six to eight months. Of course, depending on how hungry the deer are, they may not be 100% effective.

Seeds are great gifts, and serve well as stocking stuffers. If you save heirloom tomato or flower seeds, you can package up some of your favorites for a friend, along with a good description. And you can gift a nice houseplant, particularly one in bloom. But most of us already have all the houseplants we need.

Lastly, books are great gifts for gardeners, especially now, in winter when we have time on our hands. If I could select just one book, I'd pick "Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States" by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge (2018, Imagine, Bunker Hill Studio Books, \$35 hardback). I'm totally behind the movement to plant native plants to support our birds, pollinators and wildlife and this book will answer all your questions – which are attractive to deer, salt tolerant, good for poor soils and much more. It has excellent photos.

Enjoy picking good gardening gifts as you play Santa this year. Your loved ones will love you even more.

[Homeyer is writing just one gardening article per month this winter. You may reach him at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or by e-mail at henry.homeyere@comcast.net.]



# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Looking Up for the Geminid Meteor Shower

by Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

FRANCONIA, N.H. – I've always loved the idea of watching the sky for shooting stars. But I'm much more likely to be up to watch the sunrise than I am to stay awake past midnight, when most meteor showers happen. Lucky for me, the upcoming Geminid meteor shower will provide an opportunity to wish upon a shooting star before my bedtime. Peaking from December 13 to 14, this year's Geminids coincide with the dark sky of a new moon, which should make for great viewing – assuming the night is clear, of course.

"Many meteor showers are best in the hours after midnight," said meteorologist Mark Breen, director of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. "This particular meteor shower has the advantage of starting a little earlier, because the constellation Gemini, which is the radiant point of where these meteors come from, is already above the horizon by 9 o'clock in the evening. That means that really any time after 9 o'clock and through the rest of the night is a good time to look."

Although many people refer to these lights that streak across the sky as "shooting stars," they're not stars at all. Meteors are particles that have broken off from comets or asteroids orbiting the sun. While comets comprise mainly ice with bits of embedded rock – sometimes described as "dirty snowballs," Breen said – asteroids are mainly rock. In between, there is a wide range of ice-to-rock composition, which is where the parent asteroid of the Geminid shower – 3200 Phaethon – falls.

Whether originating as comet or asteroid, these meteors remain in orbit after separating from their

parent form.

"Planets orbit the sun in close to a circular pattern, but for comets, it's much more elliptical – zooming in very close to the sun, then zooming back out again," Breen said. "The particles that break off the comet stay on that orbit all the time, and every time the Earth runs into those particles, we get a meteor shower."

Scientists discovered and named 3200 Phaethon in 1983, and Breen describes the Geminids as an "increasing" meteor shower, meaning each year seems to reveal a greater number of meteors. In the 1980s, he said, there were roughly 60 to 70 meteor sightings per hour during the Geminids' peak. Now, that range is closer to 100 or more meteors per hour.

"It's now become the most prolific meteor shower of the year," Breen said, although he noted that August's Perseid Meteor Shower is perhaps more popular, falling as it does during a warm season, with a higher likelihood of clear skies.

As with other meteor showers, the Geminids shower extends beyond its peak viewing dates. In this case, observant sky watchers may spot meteors streaking across the night sky from late November through around Christmastime, although they'll be much less prevalent than during the sharp peak from December 13 to 14.

Breen offers a few tips for finding meteors, regardless of the season or specific shower. First, dress for a temperature of 20 degrees cooler than your thermometer indicates, as sitting outside at nighttime in any season doesn't generate much body heat. Second – and this tip is key to success – allow time for your eyes to adjust completely to the dark, which may take 15 minutes or more. That means no porchlights



Geminid Meteor Shower

or headlamps or looking at phone screens – even dimly lit ones can hinder your ability to see well in the dark. Third, find a spot with as expansive a sky view as possible, then sit back and look up. Although the Geminids meteor shower radiates from the Gemini constellation, Breen said it's best to simply gaze upwards, rather than searching for a specific point

in the sky.

As much as I love snow in December, I'm hoping this year the sky will stay clear during the peak of the Geminids, so I can bundle up and sit outside, looking up, and counting shooting stars.

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

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## The Gazette matters, now more than ever! What's going on here?



Although we no longer have a location in Hardwick, we continue to cover Hardwick and the ten towns in our coverage area. We are located in the Greensboro Town Hall and use high-speed digital connections provided by Spark in Greensboro. We continue to produce a weekly electronic newspaper and look forward to continue our 134-year coverage of your home town. Archival electronic editions of the Gazette back to 2007 are available on the Gazette website.

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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Mary Piper (left) of Hardwick and Gloria White (right) of Greensboro Bend check out the baked goods at the First Congregational Church of East Hardwick Christmas Bazaar, December 2.

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Slava Ukraine: Setting the Record Straight

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – For several years, I worked in the former Soviet republics where I learned a profound respect for the Ukrainian people. In recent years, I have been even more awed by the Ukrainian peoples’ heroic determination to build a free and democratic country in the shadow of Russia’s oligarchic tyranny. Not since Hitler’s invasion of Poland has a war been fought with greater moral clarity than Ukraine’s fight against Putin’s unprovoked, barbaric invasion. Many of us have been outraged by Putin’s butchery, but despite our outrage, few of us have been able to do much of anything to make a difference.

That is not true of Scott and Theresa Cianciolo and all of the friends and neighbors they marshalled to aid, support and help heal some of the many victims of Putin’s war. While the heroism of the Ukrainian people has been remarkable, the public record should show that there are some unsung heroes here in Vermont, as well.

Over the last year and a half, it has been my good fortune to get to know Scott and Theresa and the work they have done. Scott and Theresa’s Ukrainian journey began in 2014, in the midst of the Maidan Revolution when they adopted two twin boys, Sammy and Alex, with Down syndrome and autism, from an orphanage in Ukraine. The path led to work with more Down syndrome children in Ukraine, their parents, Ukrainian universities, and the Ukrainian Ministry of Education.

When Putin’s tanks rolled into Ukraine they were determined to help as many Ukrainian people as possible. They took \$80,000 in equity out of their home. At their own expense, they went immediately to meet Ukrainians at the Mexican border. There they were able to help at least one Ukrainian girl get to Seattle for urgent heart surgery. When entrance through Mexico was stopped, Scott and Theresa worked with Senator Leahy’s office to help bring other displaced Ukrainians to the U.S. and when the Biden Administration’s Uniting for Ukraine program went into effect, Theresa and Scott worked tirelessly to create a safe haven, Mercy House, to help dozens of displaced Ukrainians to get back on their feet.

Within three days of arrival, every Ukrainian received Medicaid cards, EBT cards, Reach Up, and COVID housing assistance. Every child and adult with special needs received medical attention within 24 hours. One was at Dartmouth Hitchcock for seven days. Within two weeks, every Ukrainian was helped to sign up to see a dentist. In one of countless acts of incredible generosity, dentists opened their offices on Saturdays to provide care, free of charge.

A licensed RN met every displaced Ukrainian that arrived at Mercy House the day of arrival. They were given a baseline exam and two of those children who arrived went to the hospital immediately. One of those children died in two months. She was ten years old and she weighed 29 pounds.

Along with medical and dental needs, children’s educational needs were looked to immediately. Ukrainian parents were provided several options: public school, school at Mercy House with eight retired teachers from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day, Hope Academy, or home schooling. Northeast Kingdom Learning Services had two certified ELS teachers come in four times a week to help adults learn English.

There have been countless acts of generosity and kindness—from individuals, churches, local businesses, doctors, dentists, painters, electricians, and plumbers. I know that even artists and musicians rolled up their sleeves to lend a hand because the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro brought together artists not only from Vermont, but through the magic of the internet, from Ukraine, as well. In fact, the Ukrainian choir that helped was recorded and you can hear their wonderful holiday concert on the Highland Center for the Arts YouTube channel at [youtube.com/watch?v=yG9J-znSOv0&t=163s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG9J-znSOv0&t=163s).

Vermonters can be cantankerous, but we have a tradition of working together, especially in a time of need. The Ukrainian peoples’ fight for freedom and independence has made them our kindred spirits. Their fight is our fight and it is not over. So thank you to Scott and Theresa and all of the others who have stood with Ukraine. Hopefully, Vermonters will continue to do so until the Ukrainian people prevail.

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Some Things are Worth Repeating

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – My friend, the late Walker Weed of Etna, N.H., was the oldest member of the Geriatric Adventure Society, and easily the most experienced. When he offered an opinion or a pronouncement, I listened. He opined one day that if you ever have had an especially good experience – say, a traverse of the famous Haute Route – you shouldn’t do it again, because inevitably the second trip will disappoint in comparison with the first. Obviously, I’ve never forgotten that bit of advice.

Still, there are some things worth repeating, and they come up with regularity. School reunions, for example. They generally occur every year, with particular emphasis on the classes that graduated a multiple of five years before. The cynical among us might say that reunions are largely the creation of “Advancement,” or fund-raising departments. But I’ve always found them quite enjoyable, even though in recent years my own class has produced few survivors able to get there. So I go.

There is one celebration, however, that’s been celebrated every year since well before presented in the school chapel just before Christmas vacation. With the chapel windows blank in the early winter darkness, the interior glowing dimly with candlelight, and the ancient and familiar music from the school choir, chamber orchestra, and organ filling the darkness, it’s a lovely way to invoke, both literally and figuratively, the light shining in darkness.

I’m not quite sure how or where it started, but sacred music has long been a staple of my old school. It certainly helped that the school’s founder, Dwight L. Moody, was a world-famous 19th-century evangelist who traveled with an equally famous singer and hymn leader. One of the first self-proclaimed fundamentalists, Moody named the school after Mount Hermon on the Israel-Syria border, then considered to be the traditional Mount of Transfiguration. Very few of us students, I suspect, appreciated the symbolism while we were there. Looking back in later years, however, I’ve found it quite obvious. The place and the people there changed my life.

Still, in spite of the lovely memories of the Christmas Vespers concerts I’d sung in while I was there, I’ve never gone

back. The weather was daunting, or my family didn’t feel like going, or I felt too busy. This year, finally, was different. I don’t know why; maybe the fear that there won’t be too many more chances. So when the announcement arrived on my computer, I copied it into my schedule, made a reservation, and reserved a local motel room. At noon Sunday I headed south two hours, and my friend Bea headed west two hours to the Inn at Crumpin’ Fox (don’t ask; just look it up), dressed properly for a reception, and drove a few miles in the dark over roads much changed in 70 years (I got lost) to this year’s celebration.

It wasn’t just the roads that were changed. The kids, too, didn’t look like us; their robes were changed from severe black to blue with a logo (probably the result of uniting the boys’ and girls’ schools some years ago); the music sounded to my old traditional ears more eclectic. But the huge old stone chapel still soared above us; the mighty organ pipes still filled the front wall with silver and the air with great vibrations; Handel still resonated with the glory of the Lord. It might have been just my imagination, but everybody seemed happier than I remembered. I wondered if today’s students still sing, during the interminable stretch of fall term, “Hark, the herald angels shout, 76 more days and we’ll be out.” I hope they do.

The service ended, as I’m guessing it always has (and as Christmas services seem to almost everywhere) with “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” and the immortal tune and words written by an obscure German church organist long ago, “Stille Nacht.” We left through a vestry full of happy students cheerfully accepting congratulations and best wishes for the holidays, and drove a few miles in the rain (my phone told me it was snowing hard back home) for a delightful post-concert, late-evening Scotch and pasta with the school archivist (a particular friend) and his wife (another), who’s the liaison appointed by Advancement to my sadly diminishing class.

Next morning after breakfast in the dining hall, Bea went east and I went north. On the way, I pondered Walker’s advice. But remembering how welcoming everyone had been, from the headmaster to the lady dispensing muffins, I’m thinking I may be back to welcome in the Advent season again in what feels like a second home.

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## MEETING MEMO

**Thursday, December 7**

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

**Monday, December 11**

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

**Tuesday, December 12**

•**Hardwick Energy Committee**, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st Floor.

**Wednesday, December 13**

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

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# SPORTS



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Lady Cat Caitlyn Davison (center) passes the ball to Isabelle Gouin (left) as Lake Region's Alivia Poutre follows the play during a scrimmage, Friday.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Hazen Union's Mya Lumsden (right) eyes the basket as Madison Bowman (left) of Lake Region looks to steal during action, December 1, at Hazen.

## Lady Cats Look for an Encore to Last Season

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls' basketball team ushers in one of the most dynamic freshman classes in the state to surround their star senior point guard, as they look to build off last season's incredible run to the Barre Auditorium.

Head coach Randy Lumsden was a smashing success in his first year on the bench, leading the Lady Cats to a 20-win season, including a trip to the Division III Final Four. He ran his offense through one of the best basketball players in the state of Vermont in Caitlyn Davison, who averaged 21 points per game to earn her second straight Vermont Dream Dozen selection. Both Davison and Lumsden were also named Mountain League Player and Coach of the Year after leading Hazen to 19 straight wins on their way to capturing a league title.

Lumsden will have holes to fill with the graduation losses of sharpshooter Alexis Christensen and the inside presence of Haley Michaud and Craftsbury Academy's (CA) Ella Gillespie. He does return plenty of experience however in

seniors Davison, Tessa Luther, Sarah Collier, and CA defensive stopper Sadie Skorstad. Sophomores Julia des Groseilliers and Isabelle Gouin also return with invaluable varsity experience to add size and speed to the roster, along with Baylie Christensen, who'll be rehabbing an injury for the majority of the season.

"We have 10 girls on varsity right now and we brought up five players from eighth grade to fill out the JV roster. Caitlyn scored over 400 points for us last season in what was a great season, but we hope to have a little more balance offensively as a team this year, which is good. We have good leadership with fellow seniors Tessa, Sarah, and Sadie and Julia has the size to be the true big that we'll need underneath," said Lumsden.

Filling out Lumsden's roster and pushing for starting roles will be a dynamic freshman class led by Taylor Thompson, Autumn Dailey, Mya Lumsden, and Kelsey Rivard. This talented group led the Lady Cat junior varsity team to an undefeated season last winter under head coach Alison Blaney and gave Cat Nation a preview of their athleticism this past fall on the

soccer pitch. Lumsden has helped develop this class since they were in middle school and truly believes they can be the best freshman class in the entire state.

"We are going to be more athletic and faster across the board this season and we'll have more options to trap and execute full court pressure. These freshman will be a great addition to our team and they'll play meaningful minutes for us this season. We had a great run last season, but we strengthened up our schedule a bit this year and hopefully that gets us better prepared for postseason play," said Lumsden.

The Lady Cats added Division II Enosburg and Lyndon Institute to their non-league schedule, along with defending Division IV state champion West Rutland. The Lady Golden Horde were a perfect 23-0 last season and have reached the Barre Auditorium 11 years in a row. Hazen will have one final tune up against Richford on Wednesday, before tipping off the high school basketball season at home against Enosburg on Friday night. They are scheduled to have their first road test Tuesday against Danville.



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# SPORTS

## New Era Begins Under Bador for Trojan Program

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team will have a new face on the sidelines for the first time in almost a decade, as Kris Bador takes over head coaching duties for the Trojan basketball program this winter.

Bador replaces Chris Hudson who, after nine seasons, led Twinfield Cabot to four Division IV Final Fours in his first six seasons at the helm. Bador coached with Hudson for several successful seasons at U-32 and took over the Trojan junior varsity last winter. He's been heavily involved in area AAU basketball over the years and views his chance to lead a varsity basketball program as a dream opportunity that is 17 years in the making.

"I've been very fortunate to work with Chris for so many years and this is an unbelievable opportunity to coach the varsity boys' basketball program at Twinfield-Cabot. This is a great group of

boys and I'm honored to have this opportunity to coach them. This isn't about myself, it's about these players who are putting in the hard work, and I just feel fortunate to be part of this great Trojan Nation community," said Bador.

Promising starts by the Trojans have been derailed by injuries the past few seasons and last year was no exception in an 11-10 year where Twinfield-Cabot's roster was made up of seven freshmen by season's end.

The upstart Trojans still managed to knock off Proctor in the first round of the Division IV playoffs before falling to Danville in the quarterfinals. Bador only lost one senior to graduation in T.J. Bernatchy and returns a talented core led by Vermont Dream Dozen selection Tej Stewart. Stewart burst onto the varsity scene last December with a 30-point effort in his Trojan debut, leading Twinfield-Cabot to their first ever title at the Bob Abrahamson Classic in Proctor.

He led the Trojans in scoring as a freshman and was named team captain by his teammates late last week.

"We have a talented core of sophomores returning and the off-season work that Tej put into his game is already noticeable. He's got a year of maturity under his belt and is taking on a leadership role for us this season. He's improved his left hand and the work he's put in the weight room has given him a thicker body that will be able to absorb more contact. Jola Otten is another sophomore who is going to develop into a silky-smooth point guard for us," said Bador.

Six seniors will provide some much-needed senior leadership for the Trojans, led by Meles Gouge who earned Mountain League honors last season. Fellow seniors Brayden Cushing, Sam Russell, Dom Hale, Mike Thresher, and Caiden Green will give Bador depth to his 12-man roster, with Cushing,

Russell, and Hale being named senior captains. He will also have a full junior varsity squad this season with encouraging high numbers coming out for the program. Bador understands the challenges of navigating a rugged Mountain League schedule, but likes what he's seen early on from his squad in practice and in scrimmages.

"These guys came in with great work ethic and they came in shape. They're focused and they're asking questions and that is a good sign. Our goal is simply to stay healthy and get a little better each and every day. They know they have things to improve on as a group, but they're willing to put in the work. It's a long season and we're excited for the challenge and this is their time to shine," said Bador.

Twinfield-Cabot will scrimmage Spaulding on Wednesday before traveling to Proctor to defend their Bob Abe Tip-off Classic Championship on Friday night.

## Whalen Takes Over Lady Trojan Program

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – Former Twinfield-Cabot multisport standout, Jack Whalen, takes over a Lady Trojan basketball program this winter that will look to stay healthy after the injury bug decimated their starting rotation last season.

Whalen, a 2018 Twinfield-Cabot graduate, replaces David Conover after a five-win season that ended with a first round loss to Arlington in the Division IV playoffs. The Lady Trojans ended last season with 13 straight losses after suffering season ending injuries to four players in their starting rotation. Whalen got a firsthand look of the adversity the program went through last season as an assistant coach and is excited for the opportunity to lead the program with what he describes as a very resilient group of athletes.

"This opportunity is new and exciting. Last season was tough, having to play out the year with a majority of our offensive production lost to injuries. This is a resilient team and group of girls who not only had to battle through last season with younger players, but most of them have had a different coach every year since they were freshman. This program needs consistency and that starts with me as a coach. I want to be here for a while and help build this program from the ground up. I have a strong connection to this community and I want to reconnect this program and these players to it all the way down to the youth level. I want to create a varsity program here at Twinfield-Cabot that the kids in this community can look up to and that starts with us

as coaches and players getting involved with youth practices, games, coaching, and officiating," said Whalen.

Whalen lost Ginger Klarich, Maddie Duke, Aleacya Moshinskie, Aiden Corbett, and Julie Williams to graduation, but returns a talented core led by lone senior captain Alice McLane. Jorja Washburn joins McLane as a returning starter after leading the team in scoring before going down with a season-ending injury. The Lady Trojans also return experience in Kendall Fowler, Carly Mancini, and Haylee North. Whalen had an encouraging 13 girls come out for the team this winter and hopes to have a junior varsity program as early as next season.

"First and foremost, we want to stay healthy. If we can do that, we can improve on a lot from last season. Alice gives us good size and great senior leadership and Jorja leads with her work ethic and play. Carly and Kendall have been great in leading our younger players in drills and practices and Haylee brings great positive energy that is infectious throughout practice. We have some talented young players on this team and we are going to need them this season to keep everyone healthy. Our veterans have done a great job making them feel a big part of this team and that is great to see. We all want to win games this season, but we also want to keep everyone healthy and continue to build this program for future success. This is an amazing community and it was inspiring to see neighbors pull together and help one another this past summer during the floods. Our

players are going to get out there and connect with this community and we want to create a culture where the community in turn wants to come out and support the play we put out there on the basketball court. We're excited to get started," said Whalen.

The Lady Trojans will finish up their pre-season with scrimmages against Lyndon Institute and Northfield on Wednesday and Friday before tipping off the official season at home against Peoples Academy next Tuesday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen senior Wildcat, Xavier Hill (right), drives toward the basket as teammate Jameson Lamarre (center) sets up a screen against Kohl Guinard (left) of Danville during a scrimmage held Saturday at Hazen Union.