



Barron reelected treasurer as budget, allocations all pass

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – The Saturday town meeting began with Stephen Murphy's election as Woodbury Town Moderator, February 28, then moved on to correct errors in the 2025 Town Report.

The names of Cemetery Commission Secretary Stephanie Appleton and Member Amy Eldred were added and the amount requested by the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force was corrected to \$200. Then, Stephanie Appleton was added to the names of band members not in the photo on the back cover.

Later, budget items passed for General Fund expenditures of \$639,081 and Highway Fund expenditures of \$864,599 for the year beginning July 1.

Lilly Baron was elected town treasurer on a vote of 98 to Brandy Smith's 18.

John Gorden was elected to

fill a three-year select board term, Ron Wells to three years as a lister and one year as collector of delinquent taxes and Susan Martin to serve three years as auditor.

Cemetery commissioners elected were Susan Stitely to serve five years and Cacky Peltz for two years.

Allison Schmitt will serve two years as a library trustee and Steven Freihofner for three years as Hazen Union School District Director.

At the Mountain View Union Elementary School District meeting, February 24, Darren Usinowicz was elected to a three-year term as Mountain View Union School Director. The tax article passed as written: "Shall the Town have its taxes paid to the Town Treasurer, as Tax Receiver, sixty days after tax bills are mailed? (Estimated due date will be Oct. 29, 2026.) After the due date, taxes will become delinquent

and be turned over to the collector of delinquent taxes for collection with a penalty of one-half percent per month, that increases by one-half percent per month of delinquency up to a maximum of six percent if delinquent for one full year.

"Interest of one-half percent per month will also be charged. All of this revenue goes to the town.

The property owned by and used for the purposes of the non-profit volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance services was exempted from

town and education taxes. \$25,888 was appropriated to the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department to fund a truck loan payment in the amount of \$23,888.00 and to fund a truck maintenance reserve in the amount of \$2,000.

\$134,990.88 was then approved to fund the operations of the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, its Capital Replacement Fund for \$35,000 and operating expenses of \$99,990.88, with an additional \$100,100 appropriation to fund

See ALLOCATIONS, 6



The St. Norbert's Community Handbell Choir playing at the 2025 Hardwick Humanitarian Awards Program, February 23, has been directed for many years by Jean Hackett, who received an award that evening.

screen capture courtesy hctv.us

Local residents receive recognitions for humanitarianism

HARDWICK – Master of Ceremonies Sherry Lussier opened the 2025 Hardwick Humanitarian Awards Program February 23 by recognizing current and past Kiwanian's in the room, then sharing the exceptional quality of the evening's award recipients, "as they are every year," she said.

She was assisted in presenting the awards by Kiwanis President Audrey Grant.

Greensboro Fire Chief David Brochu presented the first award to Jen and Landon Thompson who were nominated by the Greensboro

Fire Department and community friends, then Audrey Grant presented an award to John and Sally Bellavance who were nominated by the Kiwanis Club.

The St. Norbert's Community Handbell Choir then performed before presenting an award to long-time choir Director Jean Hackett who was nominated by the Hardwick United Church.

Gail O'Brien was nominated by Hardwick Academy Hazen Union Alumni Association and Karen Hall presented her award, then

See RECOGNITIONS, 5



A close voice vote on Hardwick Town Meeting Article 7, whether to spend \$25,000 toward acquisition of a +/-329 acre Hardwick Town Forest on Buffalo Mountain required a show of hands with those in favor of the purchase voting first here, being in the majority at town meeting, March 3.

photo by Paul Fixx

Sterling students experience four-day winter expedition

by Raymonda Parchment

CRAFTSBURY – Imagine being dropped off in the midst of the Green River Reservoir state park for four days and three nights, at a time of deep snowpack.

For some Sterling College students, that scenario was the reality they woke up to this past weekend. Most said it was fun, cold and unlike a typical camping trip. All agreed the experience was one they will take to other areas of their lives.

The expedition consists of three days and four nights of outdoor camping, using simple tarps for shelter and open fires. Students must gather their

See EXPEDITION, 7



Instructor Adrian Owens stands thigh-deep amid the snow during the Sterling College final winter expedition this past weekend.

photo by Lew Collet

2026 Town Meeting results to appear March 11

Hardwick Gazette reports on town and school district meetings Tuesday, March 3, will appear in the March 11 edition. Those looking for results of floor and Australian ballot votes may contact town clerks. Town clerk contact information can be found on The Gazette's meeting memo in the opinion pages.

PUBLIC SERVICES

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Ten people used AWARE services between February 22 and March 1. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is (802) 472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides

help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

School Street closed

WOLCOTT – School Street will be closed from March 2 until September 26. Detour using the Wolcott Town Office will use Flat Iron Road.

Cabot Fire Department Two-vehicle accident

by Cabot Fire Department
CABOT — The evening of February 28, Cabot Fire Department provided mutual aid support to Walden Fire. The

incident entailed a two vehicle accident with airbag deployment at the intersection of Bayley-Hazen Road and VT-15. Walden FAST Squad and Hardwick Rescue also responded to the incident.

Hardwick Police Department

Car crash, suspended license

HARDWICK – On February 27, at 10:25 a.m., the Hardwick Police Department responded to Mill Street at Glenside Avenue for the report of a motor vehicle crash with no reported injuries.

Investigation revealed that Robert Ducharme of Cabot had tried exiting the Jiffy Mart lot onto Mill Street when his Subaru Crosstrek was struck by an east-bound Ford Bronco operated by Lawrence Lakus of Walden. The forces of this crash caused the Bronco to then hit a third vehicle, a three-axle straight

truck operated by Maryah Boyd of Washington. Though there was significant damage to the Subaru and the Ford, no one was injured in this crash.

On March 1, the Hardwick Police Department stopped a vehicle on Wolcott Street for a motor vehicle violation. Investigation revealed the operator, Jonathan Warner of Hardwick, was under criminal suspension. He was issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division, to be arraigned on the charge.

Contents

Public Services.....	2, 3, 4, 5
Weather Watch	3
MVUESD Directors appointed, meeting date changed.....	6
Advocates, legislators celebrate Universal School Meals	8
Greensboro's Long Pond Natural Area expanded.....	9
Housing advisory committee hosts guests.....	9
Education.....	9, 20
Maple open house weekend, March 21, 22	10
As winters get warmer, maple farmers adapt	10
Editorial: What's the solution?.....	11
Heller's World (cartoon)	11, 14, 16
Yankee Notebook: Bread and circuses	12
Woodsmoke (cartoon).....	12, 14
Another Opinion: Leahy, Kelley.....	13
Legislative Report: Yacavone	14
Our Neighborhood: Upstreet, downstreet, overstreet.....	15
The Outside Story: Seeds, frazil and flocs	16
The Outside Story: Two fishers meet in the winter woods.....	17
In the Garden: Late winter pruning	18
Our Communities	19
Obituaries: Massey	19
Mary Young reception, talk, March 7.....	21
Auditions held for "The Addams Family"	21
Events	22-26
Lady Cats punch ticket back to Barre	27
Rare 2K moment for Trojans program as they clinch No. 1 seed.....	28
Hazen boys storm into postseason with momentum	29
Ken Brown's Playoff Roundup	29
Eric Hanson's Ski Report	30



March 4 - March 10

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<p>Green Mt. Ground Coffee \$7.99 10-12 oz.</p>	<p>G.M. Cheerios or Honey Nut Cheerios \$3.99 18-18.8 oz.</p>	<p>Post Assorted Cereals \$2.99 16-20.5 oz.</p>
<p>Quaker Instant Oatmeal \$2.99 9.8-12.1 oz.</p>	<p>Hunts Pasta Sauce 2/\$3 24 oz.</p>	<p>Success Rice 2/\$5 12-14 oz.</p>
<p>Chi-Chi's Salsa \$2.29 16 oz.</p>	<p>Hormel Chili/Beans \$2.49 15 oz.</p>	<p>Chicken of the Sea Chunk White Tuna 2/\$3 4.5 oz.</p>
<p>Ghirardelli Brownie Mix \$3.49 18-20 oz.</p>	<p>Snack Pack Pudding 4/\$5 13 oz.</p>	<p>Butternut Mt. Farm Maple Cookies \$3.99 14 oz.</p>
<p>Orville Redenbacher Microwave Popcorn \$2.99 8.7-9.84 oz.</p>	<p>Nature Valley Granola Bars \$2.99 7.4-8.98 oz.</p>	<p>Tide Laundry Detergent \$7.99 84 oz.</p>
<p>Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets \$4.49 80 ct.</p>	<p>Bounty 6=12 Paper Towels \$11.99 221 s.f.</p>	<p>Wyman's Frozen Berries \$3.79 12-15 oz.</p>

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WEATHER WATCH

Trend toward substantial warming by weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – More daylight is evident on both ends of the day as the time between sunrise and sunset extends beyond 11 hours this week. Some events that come with that include a higher sun angle, some competition between airmasses, and the prospects of our clocks moving ahead so we see more of that light later into the evening.

Case in point: this past weekend featured some of our first mid-40s temperature readings in nearly seven weeks. Saturday was the warmer of the two days, with highs ranging from 45 degrees in St. Johnsbury to 48 degrees in Berlin. This occurred under a strong southerly breeze and an afternoon featuring some breaks of sun. The warm-up was nothing record-breaking by any means, but a preview of our trends as we approach spring solstice.

As much as that warm-up was strong, a cold front passing overnight on Saturday dropped temperatures by Sunday night as high pressure built over the northeast in its wake, bringing strong radiational cooling that dropped temperatures below zero by Monday morning. Lows of -16 and -13 were reported in Hardwick and Plainfield, respectively. The warm-up did melt some snow, but a solid two feet still remains on the ground at our East

Hardwick observing station.

A weak ridge of high pressure over eastern Canada starts the forecast period out with some breaks of sun and temperatures in the low to mid 30s, which is near-normal for early March. A slow-moving frontal boundary lifts north from the Ohio Valley late Thursday into Friday morning. It is also competing with the Canadian high to the north, which will keep any precipitation amounts light. With that boundary approaching the region, an intrusion of milder air aloft may occur as colder air likely remains at the surface in the northeast part of the state. Precipitation will start as a wintry mix, with all winter precipitation types possible, before ending as a few snow showers Friday morning.

As we look ahead to the weekend, a stronger system develops over the upper Midwest and lifts a warm front north into the St. Lawrence River Valley. This will bring a wintry mix that will quickly transition to rain on Saturday, followed by the passage of a cold front and a brief period of heavier showers Saturday evening. It will also be breezy on Saturday with high temperatures in the low-mid 50s and a rumble of thunder possible with the passage of a cold front. Some minor flooding concerns may exist with rising river levels from rain and snowmelt, combined with the breakup of river ice. A return



A labyrinth created by Nancy Riege the week before Valentine's Day on a Greensboro field bordering Breezy Avenue includes a heart at its center, "because we need it," she said. "Labyrinths are good for meditation."

photo by Nancy Riege

to slightly cooler weather occurs on Sunday but expect the trend of warming to return as we move back into the work week. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday morning. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. High: 38. Low: 22. Light and variable wind.

Thursday: Partly sunny. Increasing clouds with a chance of light rain/freezing rain by evening, changing to snow and sleet overnight. Very light snow/ice accumulations possible. High: 41. Low: 28.

Light wind, becoming northeast around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the morning. High: 37. Low: 30. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Cloudy. Some breaks of sun in the afternoon. Light steady rain or freezing rain in the morning. Showers and thunderstorms by evening. High: 52. Low: 33. South wind 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 30 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 42. Low: 32. Light and variable wind.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – February 22: Sex Offender Registry Check, Mini Mart Drive; Snowmobile, High St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

February 23: Traffic Stop, Terrace Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, McAllister Farm Road; Sex Offender Registry Check, Hideaway St.; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 15 West; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 15 East; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

February 24: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Craftsbury Road; Sex Offender Registry Check; Vt. Route 16; Sex Offender Registry Check; Montgomery Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Sex Offender Registry Check, Wakefield Street;

Sex Offender Registry Check, Craftsbury Road.

February 25: Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.; Accident - TCNR, Vt. Route 15; Dead Body, Vt. Route 16.

February 26: Sex Offender Registry Check, Bunker Hill Road; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; 911 Hangup, Petes Pond Road; Suspicious Event, N. Main St.

February 27: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15.; Snowmobile, LVRT; Animal Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14.

February 28: Snowmobile,

LVRT; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Road; Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Odor Investigation, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint,

Vt. Route 15.

March 1: Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Road; Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15 East; DLS, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Assist - Public, N. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Bunker Hill Road; Assist - Agency, Main St.

Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) Media Log

WOLCOTT – February 20: LCSD deputies investigated an abandoned vehicle in North Wolcott.

February 21: LCSD received a report of a suspicious event; LCSD deputies conducted a traffic safety patrol of Route 15; Two Directed Patrols, Wolcott Village.

February 22: LCSD deputies conducted a traffic safety patrol of

Route 15 in Wolcott.

February 23: LCSD deputies conducted a VIN verification check.

February 24: Deputies responded to Wolcott for report of a crash; Deputies conducted a directed patrol in the village.

February 25: Directed patrol on Route 15; Vehicle off road, Route 15; Directed Patrol, Elmore Pond Road.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Possible rabid raccoon sighted

by Karl Stein, Greensboro Health Officer

GREENSBORO – At 12:40 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, a raccoon was seen wandering on the centerline of Craftsbury Road between 4223 Craftsbury Road and Circus Road in Greensboro. The raccoon's behaviors were not normal: staggering, not responding

in a fearful way to oncoming traffic in both directions. The raccoon was running down the road for a considerable distance with no sign that it was trying to enter the woods despite traffic coming at it. This year so far there have been 13 known cases of rabies in raccoons or skunks in Orleans County. Four in Craftsbury and two in Greensboro.



Construction crews begin preparing for work on the retaining wall and pedestrian bridge beside Hardwick's South Main Street that will reduce the area to a single lane into early summer. Three traffic lights now control vehicular movement through the area. photo by Paul Fixx

South Main Street retaining wall project construction

by Town of Hardwick

HARDWICK – Construction began Friday, Feb. 27, at the South Main Street retaining wall and pedestrian bridge site. Work is expected to continue into early summer with traffic impacted on Mill

Street, South Main Street and Wolcott Street (Vt. Routes 14 & 15). Traffic will be reduced to one lane with alternating traffic lights. Delays are expected. Plan ahead, allow extra travel time and consider alternate routes if possible to help reduce congestion.

Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Fatal motor accident

WOLCOTT – The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department is investigating a fatal motor vehicle incident that occurred on March 1. At approximately 11:05 p.m., deputies were notified of an individual who had been brought to Copley Hospital by a friend after sustaining significant abdominal trauma reportedly caused by being run over by a motor vehicle. Hospital staff determined the victim was deceased.

The victim was later identified as Kylee Bean, age 43, of Wolcott. Deputies identified the involved vehicle as a white 2019 Ford F-550 with a dump body,

operated by Todd Glowa, age 52, also of Wolcott. Through investigation, deputies determined the incident occurred in the area of Elmore Pond Road and Brookview Lane in the Town of Wolcott. It is believed the incident took place at approximately 9 p.m. The circumstances and details surrounding the incident remain under active investigation. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was assisted by the Morrystown Police Department. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact Lamoille County Sheriff's Department at (802) 888-3502.



Last Wednesday Cabot firefighters conducted a walkthrough and familiarization of the Cabot School campus with Tommy Bricco, Caledonia Central Supervisory Union CSU Director of Facilities & Operations. The walkthrough included discussion of responses to a variety of potential emergencies across the campus and application of the Cabot Fire Department response protocol. social media photo



One person was injured in a two-vehicle accident, February 28, at Bayley Hazen Road and Thayer Drive in Walden. social media photo

Two vehicle accident, person trapped

WALDEN – On February 28 at 10:41 p.m., Walden Fire, Cabot Volunteer Fire Dept. and Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad were dispatched to a two-car motor vehicle accident with airbag deployment at Bayley Hazen Road and Thayer Drive.

Upon arrival one operator was out of their vehicle reporting no injuries. The operator of the other vehicle was found to be entrapped

with injury. Firefighters were able to dig the snow out in the ditch to open the drivers door to extricate the operator and get them up to the ambulance.

One lane of Route 15 was closed for the duration of the incident and Bayley Hazen road was briefly closed.

Cabot and Walden Firefighters provided traffic control until the vehicles were removed.

Recognitions

Continued From Page One

Jeannine Young of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish presented an award to Gail's husband David O'Brien.

David Upson and Kristen Leahy from the Town of Hardwick presented an award to John and Joyce Mandeville, followed by Upson, who presented Larry Hamel with a second award from the Town of Hardwick.

The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization's Dave Gross presented Mike Lance with an award.

Lucille Emmons and Heather Brooks presented Kathy Burnor with an award for which she was nominated by community friends.

Bethany Dunbar, recently retired from the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE), was nominated by her former co-workers. A CAE Community Connections team of Allie Howell, Haley Williams, Kate O'Neill, Reeve Basom and Hardwick Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator Kristen Leahy presented her with the award.

Helen Beattie then presented Ron and Norma Wiesen with an award for which they were nominated by Hardwick Trails.

Jen and Landon Thompson's nomination said they, "exemplify dedication to the community. They are constantly there with food, water and supplies for the fire departments, while we are busy fighting fires, in all kinds of weather without exception. They respond to any of the surrounding towns to help, calling in extra staff if need be. Their dedication is a welcome sight for the exhausted personnel. Friends say they are a team and they share a deep connection to their community while never asking for anything in return. They are supportive, and work tirelessly, prepare holiday meals and deliver to folks in the hospital or home shut-in's, they plow driveways for folks in need, donate ice cream to pre-school children and collect or purchase bicycles so visitors from out of state can ride them. They are a team

that contributes to strengthening our community.

Audrey Grant said of John and Sally Bellavance, "John started giving back in Scouts and attending the annual town meeting as a Scout to learn more about local government. He served on the school board and has committed most of his time to Rescue and Kiwanis. He and Sally are also big supporters of local Hazen Union athletics and attend many games. Sally does the books for the Rescue Squad and donates her time there. Both John and Sally have been fixtures at the Hardwick Blood Drives to check in blood donors, tend the blood drive canteen for post donation, and setting up before and cleaning up after. As Kiwanis members, John has been president and treasurer. Sally has been official photographer, and both have been eager workers for too many events and service projects to mention. We are grateful for all their community commitment and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.

Praise of Jean Hackett from Hardwick United Church said she, "brings her analytical mind, gentle humor, common sense and faith to everything she does. Her love of God, children, education, sports and community has been played out all her life. She graduated from UVM as a math teacher and became head of Hazen's high school math department. She was named Vermont Teacher of the Year and was one of the first winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics or Science Teaching. She used her award money for other Hazen faculty members' benefit.

"As for sports, Jean was no less distinguished. For years she coached girl's field hockey, basketball and softball and several of her teams became state champions. Jean served for many years as a Justice of the Peace, on the town select board and as a lister.

"Her lifelong love of music has been shared for many years with The United Church of Hardwick where she leads worship and plays piano. She is the frequent contact person for programs and projects and serves faithfully as a council member. She takes her tum

facilitating adult Bible study and is the director of St. Norbert's Community Hand Bell choir.

"We are blessed to know her!"

Gail O'Brien was recognized by Karen Hall as "a member and secretary of the Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association, as well as the recreation chair for East Hardwick Neighbors Organization. She is part of the liturgical committee at St. Norbert's Church, and she is a member in standing of the Hardwick Historical Society. She volunteers for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, and she established a local quilting group.

"Gail is a graduate of the Hardwick Academy Class of 1969. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 1973 with a degree in physical therapy. She and David O'Brien were married in 1972 and have two sons and four grandchildren. Gail and David live in East Hardwick."

Mary Queen of All Saints Parish said of David O'Brien that he "moved to Hardwick in 1963 when his father became the superintendent of schools. He graduated from Johnson State College and completed his master's degree in counseling at Assumption College. He began his career at Bennington United Services, a private, non-profit community mental health center. Gail and he met while he was at St. Michael's and she was at UVM. David became deacon in the Vermont Catholic Diocese while in Bennington. He now serves Mary Queen of All Saints Catholic Parish. David is a skilled craftsman who has dedicated his talents to Homes For Humanity and serving his community. He loves playing hockey, skiing and pickleball. He enjoys playing guitar and singing.

The Town of Hardwick said, "John and Joyce Mandeville have contributed many years of professional expertise and volunteer service to the Hardwick area. John has supported small businesses, workforce development and community-based economic growth across Vermont. He has been deeply involved in local service, including the Hardwick Development Review Board, East Hardwick Fire District, the Hardwick Electric Department, Salvation Farms, and

the Grassroots Art and Community Effort.

"Joyce Mandeville is a published novelist and short story writer. She has dedicated significant time to community service, including the Hardwick Planning Commission, the Northeast Kingdom Arts Council and the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization. Through EHNO, she has been involved in annual spring flower planting, the cookie project and the children's parade. She volunteers with the local food pantry and other community efforts.

"Together, John and Joyce have been active supporters of their neighbors, often contributing quietly through donations of food, clothing, time, and personal support to individuals and families in need. Much of this generosity has taken place outside formal programs and public recognition.

"Through their professional work, volunteer leadership and everyday acts of kindness, John and Joyce Mandeville have made lasting contributions to Hardwick and East Hardwick.

Larry Hamel's nomination said he "has served the town with distinction as resource officer, town constable and animal control officer, consistently stepping forward to meet the needs of the community.

"Known for his steady leadership and solution-oriented mindset, Larry approaches every challenge with professionalism and the belief that communities are strongest when people rise to the occasion together. In addition to his public safety service, Larry has played an important role in revitalizing several downtown buildings, contributing to the economic and civic renewal of the community.

"His dedication to both public service and local investment, reflects a deep and lasting commitment to the town and its residents.

Dave Gross said, "After retiring from the business world, Mike and Kris Lance moved to East Hardwick. Besides working on his novel, Mike also has become connected to his new community. He can be counted on to help with the children's parade and events held by our local civic groups. Mike also does much that goes unnoticed by most because when he sees a need,

See RECOGNITION, next page

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department

Vandalism, more information sought

HARDWICK – On March 2, sometime between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., a bottle was thrown at the back window of a parked Toyota Rav4 on Brush

Street, causing the window to break.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Hardwick Police Department.



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Recognition

Continued from previous page

need, he quietly does what he can to address it. Mike is being honored tonight specifically for his long-time care and concern for one neighbor who often needed occasional help with life's challenges. A ride to a store, a trip to the barber or dealing with an emergency, Mike was there for this neighbor.

"Recently, when it became apparent that a supportive living arrangement was necessary, Mike sought out a new residence for him, facilitated the move from his apartment and helped with the sale of his excess belongings. East Hardwick Village is lucky to have Mike as a member of our community. Thank you, Mike."

Lucille Emmons and Heather Brooks represented the community friends who nominated Kathy Burnor, saying, "Kathy Gabaree Burnor's heart has always been with organizations whose goals were to help others, and she has volunteered in them most of her life. She started volunteering in her teens at the Waitsfield United Church of Christ teaching Sunday school. As a young adult she worked on The Waitsfield Ambulance service and helped man a suicide prevention phone. She has worked with the foster care system helping children in need as a foster parent and as an instructor for prospective foster parents. When she moved to Hardwick 37 years ago, she quickly became involved. She helped start Care Bear Day Care with Debbie Cook. She has worked as a paraprofessional at Hardwick Elementary school, and then as a behavioral interventionist for Lamoille County Mental Health. She had children with autism riding the pony at her home. She joined the United Church of Hardwick and has worn many hats. She taught Sunday school and became superintendant of the Sunday school. She has been the treasurer and managed the yearly auction and rummage sale. She and Debbie Messier started the very successful Angel Outfitters Thrift Shop, the success of which is often measured by the joy it brings people, not the amount of money it generates. Kathy has often shown her love and caring in her sewing projects. She has been helping the holiday project by making Christmas stockings for the children they serve. Last year she and her grandchildren made 150 stockings. This year the goal is 200. Kathy's motto is "If there is a need, she will fill it" and she has proved that time and again.

Bethany Dunbar's nomination said her "background is in journalism and agriculture. She is a former president of the Vermont Press Association, award-winning investigative journalist, editor, photographer and photo editor with some experience in radio and television as

well. She is the author and photographer of a book of agricultural profiles and a town history book for the town of Lowell, Vermont. She and her first husband owned a small dairy farm with Jersey cows, which is what led her to concentrate on covering agricultural stories and economic trends. Covering the beginnings of the Center for an Agricultural Economy drew her to want to join the CAE team, and she served as the community programs manager there from 2014 until her retirement in December 2025. In her role at CAE, Bethany worked to build community every day, emphasizing relationships, shared learning, care, listening and empathy and finding hope in the shared efforts to make our local food systems function better for our farmers and community."

Hardwick Trails said "Ron and Norma Wiesen have been devoted volunteers with Hardwick Trails since 2003. They were co-chairpersons when the first strategic plan was created. Although they have been a part of the steady growth across all aspects of trails' development, they have also spearheaded a few beloved events. Ron takes the medal for the individual who has transported the most pumpkins in our community, estimated to be 33,600 "pumpkin touches" over the past 21 years.

"Norma has been busy in her own right, developing the naturalist program each season, providing a window into flora and fauna. She also was instrumental in creating and maintaining the poetry walk. Over the past 23 years, Ron and Norma have stood at the ready to do what was needed for every on-going program, every special event and many of the mundane tasks that managing the trails requires. They serve as the institutional memory and inspiration for the Trails Committee and continue to be devoted educators and community members."

Following the awards, some left to catch the basketball game while other friends and family stayed and socialized over snacks from the Village Restaurant and Kiwanis members.

Allocations

Continued From Page One

loan payment for the fire and emergency operations center.

Further appropriations all passed, with \$26,987 going to the Woodbury Community Library; \$17,300 to cemeteries; \$2,500 to the Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf; \$750 to Aid to Women, Men and Children in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE); \$250 to the American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont; \$600 to

MVUESD Directors appointed, meeting date changed

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The Mountain View Union Elementary School District (MVUESD) meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 24, began with the election of a new moderator.

Steven Freihofner was nominated and elected as long-time Moderator Orise Ainsworth was unable to preside. Moderator Freihofner then presided over the meeting, read the warning and established ground rules for the meeting, noting that the assembly consisted of legal voters from the four member towns (Hardwick, Greensboro, Woodbury and Stannard), however residents from the Town of Stannard were unable to vote as their town clerk was not present to validate the voters against the town voter rolls.

Freihofner requested nominations for district clerk, but received none. Incumbent Kevin Moore declined to be nominated so the MVUESD board will need to appoint a district clerk at a future meeting.

Tonia Chase, of Hardwick, was nominated by Kim Greaves of Greensboro to serve as district treasurer and elected on a voice vote to serve for the coming year.

Adam Gann, of Hardwick, was nominated by Ashley Foster, also of Hardwick, for the position of alternate district treasurer and elected via voice vote.

Ashley Foster, of Hardwick, nominated Emily Michaud of Greensboro and Erika Karp, of Greensboro, nominated Samantha Friend of Greensboro to serve as the Greensboro School District Director for a three-year term. Friend was elected with 27 votes to Michaud's 13 votes.

Hillary Seal, of Hardwick, nominated Juliana Swank, of Greensboro to serve as school

district director for one year remaining on a vacant three-year term and elected on a voice vote.

Tonia Chase, of Hardwick, nominated Meghan Shatney, of Hardwick to serve as school district director for a three-year term. Shatney was elected on a voice vote.

Ashley Foster, of Hardwick, nominated Adam Gann, of Hardwick to serve as school district director for a three-year term. Neil Yurick, of Hardwick, nominated Laura Cannon, of Hardwick, who declined the nomination. Foster was elected on a voice vote.

Yurick then nominated Cannon to serve the one year remaining on a three-year term for school district director and Cannon was elected on a voice vote.

Cindy Gordon, of Woodbury, nominated Darren Usinowicz, of Woodbury, who was elected to serve as school district director for a term of three years.

Salaries for the officers and directors of the school district were set at \$750 per year for officers, \$500 per year for directors, \$2,500 for the treasurer and \$25 per hour for the alternate district treasurer, and \$50 per day worked for the district clerk.

Tess Martin, of Hardwick, moved to adopt Article 3. Seconded by Stephen Murphy, of Woodbury.

The motion was briefly discussed and subsequently passed via voice vote. The budget of \$9,173,292.42 will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,525.79, which is 6.05% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year and was voted on by Australian ballot on town meeting day.

On a voice vote, the annual school meeting date was then changed to the third Tuesday of the month of February beginning in 2027 before the meeting was adjourned

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education; \$750 to Central Vermont Council on Aging; \$300 to Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation; \$2,000 to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice; \$650 to CIRCLE (Battered Women's Services); \$500 to Elevate Youth Services (Washington County Youth Services); \$100 to the Family Center of Washington County; \$484 to Green Mountain Transit; \$50 to Green Up Vermont; \$750 to Hardwick

Community Television; \$200 to Mosaic VT (Sexual Assault Crisis Team); \$200 to Our House of Central Vermont; \$100 to People's Health and Wellness Clinic; \$500 to Rural Community Transportation; \$200 to Salvation Farms; \$2,500 to Twin Valley Senior Center; \$210 to Vermont Center for Independent Living; \$200 to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force; \$1,000 to Washington County Mental Health Service.

Expedition

Continued From Page One

firewood to stay warm and boil water to drink or cook.

Dean of Academics, Dr. Laura A. Spence, explained the winter expedition has been an important part of the Sterling experience for decades, continuing from the boys' school era through into the modern day. There's been some changes along the way, and it's not quite the same, she says, but the message and the transformational power of this single educational experience has very much remained.

"Part of the point about winter expeditions is, it's perhaps more mental than it is physical. It's extremely physical, because you're carrying all of your stuff in the woods for four days. Everything you need, and you're traipsing through thigh deep snow, you've got snowshoes, you're pulling sleds. But the ability to do that is very strongly mental. And also, you can't do it alone. So it's a lot of team building, and you realize you need other people, and other people realize they need you. It's just such a powerful experience."

Spence says Sterling tries to instill the idea that everybody matters, and everyone is part of building the community, "Everybody has a responsibility to do that. Everybody brings their own skills to the table. Winter expedition is almost that in a nutshell, but throwing in extreme conditions."

She explained it's partly a matter of getting over that mental barrier; once a student can do that, what can't they do?

"If you work hard, if you're part of the team, if you're able to grin and bear it, you can get to the end. . . We think of it as an experience which translates into any difficult period in your life, which can be very different. Because that mental fortitude necessary to survive four days at, zero degrees or minus 20 degrees, is potentially the same mental fortitude that gets you through many challenging times."

Another important thing about winter expedition is that it connects alums across generations, she says, "Whether it's a pretty rubbishy tarp setup, and you get covered in snow, or you burn your source in the fire, or you forgot to defrost your sandwich on your belly, and so you're eating a frozen sandwich for lunch. All of those experiences, like, they happen in 1985, they happen in 2025."

All in all, it's a uniting experience while a lot of things around us change, Spence says. She also commended instructor Adrien Owens, faculty in environmental studies, outdoor education, as well as serving as director of athletics. This year was Owens' estimated thirty-fifth expedition. The added skill of responsibility, sometimes teaching students survival skills from scratch, is surely a

notable feat. Spence complimented Owen's fortitude, taking students out into the risky environment to test their skills.

Owens offered some perspective, "Part of the exercise is to see how little they can make themselves comfortable with? It's not the comfort they're used to, but then they can make a new level of comfort within that . . . that's kind of one of the big ideas, because it kind of resets what kind of standard of living do you need, in a material sense, even though the group part can be unlimited to how much fun you can have."

Owens said he's seen the value of the experience for different kinds of students over the years.

"They'll get more out of one particular part, depending on the level of skills . . . say they're in really great shape for snowshoeing, snowshoeing part is not gonna be a heavy duty challenge. But they're gonna find something that's challenging. Like, just getting water was slippery, and they fell on the stream while they were getting water. So they have to go through the challenges of drying off their clothes, or getting water for their groups."

Owens doesn't expect his students to live together forever, but they have to learn how for a few days.

"I think that's one of the biggest skills, that's very applicable outside life. Anytime you're living with somebody, you have to work through, like, who's washing the dishes, who's getting the water, who's, you know, taking up space, you're elbowing me, move over," Owens said.

Owens was sure to thank the twenty-odd private landowners who gave Sterling students permission to hike and camp for the duration of the expedition.

Concluding, Owens revealed the expedition was once required of all students. For the past ten years, it's been an elective course.

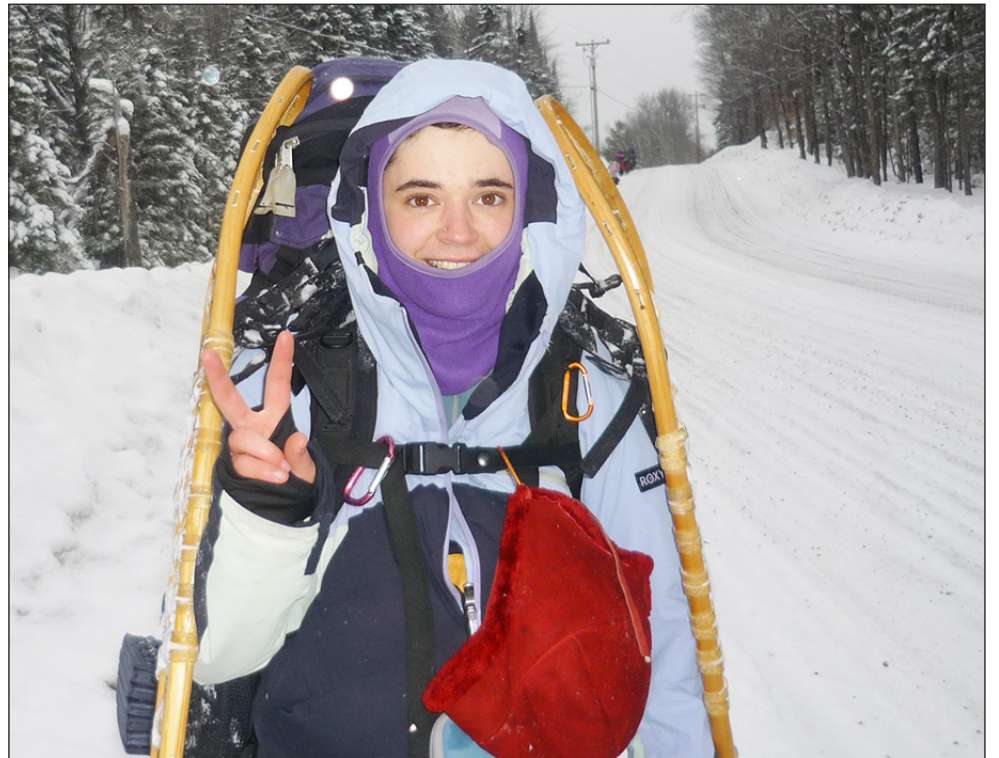
"I think that's been really gratifying, to see that they'll choose that on purpose. This is going to be uncomfortable but they know they're going to grow from it, or believe they're going to grow over it."

This year's expedition was a first for students Lew Collet, Lael Burgess and Vivian Holmberg.

Collet said "I've been camping in the winter before, but it was very different because we didn't bring tents or camp stoves, which is usually my jam. And I've never been camping with such a big group, yeah, which was a lot of fun."

He continued, "The most important knowledge is knowing what to bring and what not to bring. And I think that comes from taking practice trips. Beyond that, the most important skill is cooperating with other people, because other people can do things you can't do."

Collet said the experience



Sterling student Lew Collet flashes a peace sign, mid-trek under the snowfall the weekend of February 13. photo by Lew Collet

revealed he is more capable than he thought, "There's a point of exhaustion and frustration with the amount of work you have to do. In my normal life, I'd be 'this sucks, and I'm gonna go do something else,' but you have to keep doing it. I realized that point of exhaustion isn't my limit."

Lael Burgess too commended Owens, "Our teacher prepared us really well. What comes with it being a primitive style is that it's really simple. I would say we built those skills a little bit in class, then took them out in the field."

Burgess reflected on take-aways from the experience, "Being willing to be uncomfortable. Obviously, it's not going to be comfortable. Once you're with that, everything becomes way more comfortable, because you're like, this is how it is, I'm going to enjoy it, anyway."

There were many highlights too, Burgess said, "My favorite part was snowshoeing every day. It was so fun, and it was so beautiful to see everybody walking in line. You could not do it if you didn't work as a team. Basically, as you worked your way to the line, it got harder and then you broke trail, but then you got to go to the back of the line. Everybody would fist bump you once you stepped out of the way to wait to go to the back of the line. It was just so fun, and it was just incredibly familial."

Vivan Holmberg said waking up to her boots frozen solid was a surprise, "After the first night I learned to stick water bottles and extra socks in them to hold them open, so they wouldn't shrink and then freeze... you have to basically smash your boots until you think you can get in them in the morning."

In preparing for the expedition, Holmberg said, "Knowing a few essential knots is pretty good, because that not only helps with making our shelter, but also when we would have snowshoe mishaps, or you need to secure an odd shaped object to your pack."

She recalled an incident on a practice "uber light" trip, when she accidentally overturned a nearly burning kettle, putting out the fire she and her companions had started. New firewood had to be collected, as well as restarting the fire.

"I think previously I probably would have just collapsed and started crying out of frustration. But there was a moment where I was kind of on the edge, and just started laughing hysterically."

Holmberg says she found the strength to bargain with herself; she couldn't collapse until eating dinner.

"Sometimes you realize, you feel like s***, and then you get a snack and the world is suddenly so much brighter."

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Advocates, legislators celebrate Universal School Meals

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – “Universal meals is the right thing to do for our children, families, communities and education,” said Valerie Hussey, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Food Services Director last week.

Legislators, supporters and advocates from Hunger Free Vermont, the School Nutrition Association of Vermont and the Vermont Farm to School and Early Childhood Network gathered at the State House in January to celebrate five years of Universal School Meals and the state’s continued commitment toward this essential program.

“Food insecurity at school is a thing of the past and it should remain in the past. Children should not experience any stress whatsoever from owing money for school meals. We need to feed our children, all children, which gives them the nourishment, energy, focus, and ability to learn while in school,” said Hussey.

First implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, Universal School Meals became law in Vermont in 2023 via Act 64. Now, more than 14 million free meals are provided to Vermont children at school every year thanks to the program.

More than 150 Vermont farms sell to schools and early childhood programs, and every dollar spent on local food generates \$1.60 in economic activity in Vermont. That investment ripples out to farmers, processors, distributors, and rural communities.

“The Vermont Universal School Meals program also has positive impacts on school district budgets, which previously had to subsidize school nutrition programs. Vermont residents used to pay at the local level to cover the full cost of providing meals and unpaid school meal program debts, turning our principals into bill collectors. Now, principals can just focus on supporting their students,” according to a Hunger Free Vermont statement.

“We’re not going back to a system in which kids who were from families that didn’t qualify but were still food insecure went hungry,” Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth said. “We are not going back to a system where we

prefer some kids over others. We’re in a system now where there is no stigma to receiving your lunch. Everybody is treated equally, and we will stay that way.”

“I can no longer imagine a Vermont where we made eight-year-olds navigate lunch payment, where families carried a debt to feed their kids, and our food systems were missing this critical link for the health of our kids and our farm,” Senate Majority Leader Kesha Ram Hinsdale said. “Here’s to universal school meals, and feeding kids. It’s simply the right thing to do.”

“Universal school meals are worth celebrating,” Sen. Ruth Hardy said. “They help kids learn and grow, save time and red tape, and bring support to Vermont families, schools, and farms. Good food helps everyone!”

“I am proud that we made a clear choice by making universal school meals permanent: our students should be focused on their school experience and not have to worry about whether they will have access to healthy meals,” House Speaker Jill Krowinski said. “Our kids are the future of our state, and investing in them is an investment in Vermont’s future.”

“Today marks 1,000 days of Universal School Meals in Vermont. For five years, no child in our state has ever had to learn what it feels like to go hungry in school, and that is thanks to everyone here,” said Anore Horton, executive director of Hunger Free Vermont. “When we provide meals to all students, we know they are more engaged and better able to learn alongside their classmates without worrying about whether they will be able to eat while at school.”

“Universal School Meals are a critical strategy for food security,” said Kayla Strom, Farm to Institution Program Director. “For many children, school is where they receive the majority of their daily nutrition, which makes both access and quality essential. Together, Universal School Meals and Farm to School ensure that local, sustainable, nourishing food is not a privilege, but something all Vermont kids deserve.”

“Children are the future, let’s help to keep them on the path to success,” said Hussey.



A crew shovels snow from the roof of the Greensboro Nursing Home last Wednesday.

photo by B.J. Gray

Prices shown valid 03/03 - 03/12
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2/\$8 Equal Exchange Teas Equal Exchange, varieties, 141 oz	\$3.39 Traditional Polenta Ancient Harvest, varieties, 16 oz	\$4.79 Organic Soups Imagine, varieties, 32 oz	\$3.39 Corned & Roast Beef Hash Hormel, varieties, 14 oz
\$4.99 Irish Butter Kerrygold, 8 oz	2/\$5 Pickles Vlasic, varieties, 16-32 oz	\$3.79 Local Chocolate Bars Lake Champlain, varieties	4/\$5 Energy Bars Läbarbar, varieties, 16 oz
2/\$8 Indian Curry Sauces Maya Kaimal, varieties, 12.5 oz	2/\$4 Organic Ramen Mike's Mighty Good, varieties, 23 oz	\$3.99 Organic Cereals Nature's Path, varieties, 10 oz	\$2.99 Lucky Charms General Mills, 10.5 oz

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The Hardwick Gazette

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE



Sixteen people joined Joe Nudell for a two-mile snowshoe walk Saturday, into the proposed Hardwick Town Forest that includes the top of Buffalo Mountain, where they were able to take in a view looking out over downtown Hardwick.

photo by Tyler Buswell



Joe Nudell led a snowshoe walk to see a view of snow-covered downtown Hardwick Saturday.

photo by Tyler Buswell

Greensboro's Long Pond Natural Area expanded

by The Nature Conservancy staff

GREENSBORO – The Nature Conservancy in Vermont (TNC) has conserved a new 92-acre parcel of land at Long Pond in Greensboro. This purchase marks the organization's fourteenth conservation project in this region. This new property expands TNC's Long Pond Natural Area, a protected block that now totals 860 acres surrounding the

pond. Public access is allowed at all Long Pond TNC properties.

"Long Pond has long been valued by Greensboro residents and visitors as a special place of great natural beauty and diverse wildlife," said John Cannon, president of the Greensboro Land Trust. "Greensboro Land Trust is delighted to partner with TNC Vermont in efforts to preserve this property in its wild state, for generations to come."

Long Pond is recognized by

TNC and the Vermont Natural Heritage Program as one of the most ecologically diverse natural areas in the state. Its northern white cedar swamps, wetlands and undeveloped shoreline support a remarkable array of plant and wildlife species. The newly protected parcel includes 100 feet of shoreline on Long Pond and rolling northern hardwood forest that play a critical role in maintaining the health of the broader watershed.

The property is a high-priority area within the Resilient and Connected Network, a region identified for its importance to wildlife movement, biodiversity

and forest resilience in a changing climate. Conserving this tract strengthens an important wildlife corridor linking the Worcester and Green Mountains to the Northeast Kingdom.

"With this project, The Nature Conservancy continues its decades-long commitment to protecting the ecological integrity of Long Pond and the surrounding landscape," said TNC Vermont State Director Eve Frankel. "We look forward to continuing to partner with Greensboro Land Trust, The Freeman Foundation, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Vermont Land Trust to conserve this special area."

Housing advisory committee hosts Hardwick, St. Johnsbury guests

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD - The Plainfield Housing Advisory Committee meeting February 25, featured presentations from Hardwick and St. Johnsbury municipal leaders who shared their experiences with community revitalization.

Kristie Farnham from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development facilitated the discussion with Hardwick Select Board Chair Eric Remick who has served in that position for 14 years, Hardwick Town Manager David "Opie" Upson and St. Johnsbury Assistant Town Manager Joe Kasprzak.

The discussion focused on revitalization strategies following floods and the closure of Goddard College.

Speakers emphasized the need for professional staff, community consensus building and long-term planning on 10 to 20 year timelines for successful revitalization.

Topics included Hardwick's agricultural economy development through the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) and Food

Venture Center, which supports local farmers with business incubation space; St. Johnsbury's creative economy quantification showing \$7 million in economic impact and a 9.4% employment connection; flood recovery strategies including 20 FEMA buyouts in Hardwick, 10 of which have been completed, and flood mitigation projects; housing development including St. Johnsbury's \$9 million 560 Railroad Street project with nine housing units, at \$1,500 to \$2,200 rent, and two commercial spaces; rental housing inspection programs in St. Johnsbury covering 1,471 rental units with a \$35 annual registration fee and 96% to 99% compliance.

The importance of town manager and administrator positions for grant management (St. Johnsbury managed \$45 million in federal/state funds over 10 years); and public-private partnerships like Hardwick's Yellow Barn project (a \$12 million public investment with \$4 million in private fit-up by tenants) was expressed as a critical component for managing revitalization efforts.

EDUCATION

Leahy named to Dean's List

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. – Cormac Leahy has been named to the Siena University Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Leahy is

from Greensboro. To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.



Sydney Cutler exercises her freedom to discuss civic issues relevant to the Woodbury school community at a mock town meeting, February 20.

photo by Lisa Stinson

Maple open house weekend, March 21, 22



Shawn Messier in his sugarhouse

VMSMA courtesy photo

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Vermont Maple Open House Weekend is an opportunity to visit sugarhouses across the state where visitors can learn how maple syrup and other maple products are produced, while tasting samples and buying products to take home.

The 2026 weekend is coming up, Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22.

Events are free and open to the public.

“Maple Open House Weekend is Vermont’s sweetest celebration of the season. Over 90 sugarhouses and maple-loving businesses across Vermont invite you to learn, taste and explore all the ways to enjoy Vermont Maple,” said The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA), that organizes the weekend each year.

“From pancake breakfasts and maple donuts to live music, craft cocktails, tours, samples and more, you’ll be savoring sticky-goodness from sunup to sundown. Come out for a weekend packed with tradition, flavor, and fun.”

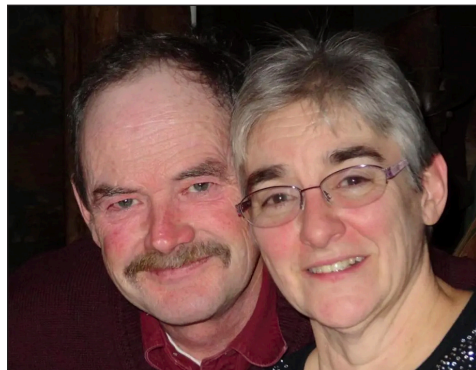
Several Hardwick sugarmakers join the weekend, with Shawn Messier, a second-generation sugarmaker, serving as the VMSMA Caledonia County Director.

He began sugaring in the Hardwick area with his father in 1972. In 2019, the family poured a new foundation for their sugarhouse, and in 2020, they expanded the production house while also preserving much of the original

beams and woodwork from the first building (ask him for stories about that when you visit).

Messier now has a heated space for reverse osmosis and a brand new roof. Sugaring has always been a family project for the Messiers and they welcome visitors.

For Mary Jane and Mario of Fradette’s Maple Syrup in East Hardwick, sugaring is more than a livelihood, it’s a way of life woven through generations of family, memory, and maple. From Mario’s childhood days helping his father rebuild the sugarhouse in the 1960s, to the family’s current operation nestled beside the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, their sugarbush tells a story of deep roots and hard



Mario (left) and Mary Jane Fradette
VMSMA courtesy photo

work. As they plan for the next generation to take over, one thing is clear: for the Fradette family, the sweetest part of sugaring has always been doing it together.

Formed in 1893, VMSMA is one of the oldest agricultural organizations in the United States. The association is made up of Vermont maple sugar makers, maple packers, equipment manufacturers

and other industry leaders who are dedicated to producing the high quality maple syrup.

In the coming weeks area open houses will be listed on the VMSMA map at vermontmaple.org/visit/

As winters get warmer, maple farmers are learning to adapt

by Indi Rose

VERMONT – Sugar maples are called “Goldilocks” trees for good reason.

Preferring temperatures to be just right, the trees produce more sap over freezing nights and on days that are just warm enough.

But warmer winters and mid-season thaws are disrupting that balance. Producers are being forced to adapt to protect both their trees and their livelihoods.

“The recent winters have warmed up way too fast to have much of a maple season,” said Matt Paggi, co-owner of Barred Woods Maple in Johnson.

Paggi said his maple trees are resilient, but not indestructible.

“We’re lucky so far. Hopefully the weather won’t keep getting warmer,” he said.

Maple syrup is a wild crop, which is rare for a major agricultural product. Having a successful season hinges on the health of an entire forest ecosystem. When that ecosystem shifts, so does the harvest.

When maple trees get cold, they produce a surplus of sugar to protect their cells from damage, acting as a sort of anti-freeze, according to Dr. Tim Rademacher, director of scientific research at the University of Vermont’s Proctor Maple Research Center.

Therefore, the colder the winter, the sweeter the sap in the spring.

“We have only a handful of events per year where we make most of our crop, and that’s purely weather driven,” Rademacher said.

Over the past three decades, winter temperatures in the Northeast have risen faster even than average temperatures in the U.S., according to climate data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This results in an earlier season that ends abruptly and can be punctuated by stretches that are simply too warm.

In Vermont, prime sugaring season has moved earlier, Rademacher said, to February and March, when it used to be April and May.

In addition to shifting weather patterns, invasive species are a growing concern. The emerald ash borer, which has decimated major parts of northeastern forests, has

been destructive to the ecosystems that sustain sugar maples.

To adapt to these changes, farmers are turning to new technology. Reverse osmosis machines remove a significant portion of water from the sap before it’s boiled, cutting down on the farmers’ labor and fuel costs. The technology has allowed farmers to scale up production and buffer against increasingly erratic seasons.

To keep pace, Vermont’s sugar forests look different now. Modern tubing systems weave through sugarbushes where buckets once hung. Farmers are digging deep channels through their soil to guide rainwater and mitigate erosion and carefully logging and cutting diseased trees.

For many producers, those investments come at a steep cost.

“It’s definitely tough,” Paggi of Barred Woods Maple said. “It’s made the business unpredictable.”

Groups such as the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers’ Association have stepped into help. In 2022, former U.S. senator Patrick Leahy secured more than \$600,000 in federal earmarks to help farmers offset their production costs.

The association has since awarded \$475,000 in grants for sugaring equipment, materials to test syrup for allergens and other items, said Allison Hope, executive director of Vermont Sugar Makers Association.

“For some organizations, that amount of money might not be a lot, but when we’re giving it all back to producers, that’s a lot,” Hope said. “It’s huge, and it’s meaningful.”

But the money is due to expire in October 2027. And with President Donald Trump’s administration cutting back on research funding, it’s unclear if the state will be able to fund such projects.

In the meantime, Hope said Vermonters can support their farmers simply by eating more maple syrup. They’ll have the chance to do so at Maple Open House Weekend, the state’s annual celebration of sugaring, scheduled for March 21 and 22.

“If people used one to two more tablespoons of maple syrup every day, your wallet really wouldn’t notice that difference, but farmers would,” Hope said.

Indi Rose writes for the *Community News Service*, a University of Vermont internship program.



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EDITORIAL

What's the solution?

With Vermont's Town Meeting Day upon us, most questions involve funding, or who will be responsible for making decisions in our towns.

At school district meetings we have budgets for education to vote on, most of which have gone up, some astronomically for several years.

Our state legislature ponders education funding and some degree of cost reduction by consolidation. Some of any savings to be found will be eaten up through increased transportation. There might be some savings from combined purchasing power and fewer buildings to maintain, but health care costs and paying living wages aren't going to be helped much by consolidation, except perhaps in fewer teachers to educate our students.

In all the education funding talk, I have yet to hear anyone cut administrative costs.

Vermont's education system is smaller than that of many cities. Consolidating purchasing for office supplies, heating and transportation fuels could be done statewide and immediately. Why haven't we heard that suggested?

Our individual health care costs and groceries keep rising, usually faster than an average person's income.

The average auto now costs close to \$50,000.

Now fuel costs are likely to rise due to new conflict in the Middle East, that the news isn't hesitating to call a war.

The average Vermonter isn't unique in this country. The average American is being financially squeezed in much the same way.

It's no secret that the very wealthy are getting wealthier by the day, some of which was accelerated during the Covid-19 pandemic. That increase in the relative wealth of those with capital to invest contrasts with that of the average American family. Most families now live paycheck to paycheck with little savings and a lot of debt, often in their mortgage, if they can afford to take on that debt. I'm not going to call that owning a home, because most Americans own only a portion of their home, a bank or lending company usually owns most of it.

It's the same with a vehicle. Most family vehicles are owned by a bank or lending company too.

Recent federal tax legislation has served to move more wealth to the wealthy, just as it has since the mid-1970s.

For 50 years this country has been redistributing wealth to the wealthy and making it harder for a family to get by.

The stress that puts on individuals and families is real. It creates mental health and substance abuse issues when people aren't valued by society for the contributions they make to it.

While the Vermont legislature says raising taxes on wealthy Vermonters may drive them from the state, I suspect it's not as significant as one might expect. The Vermont lifestyle attracts people to Vermont and causes them to remain.

We might be able to adjust the Vermont economy to improve the lives of average Vermonters, but the real solution is going to come from

adjusting federal tax policy to raise taxes on those individuals and businesses who've been taxed less year after year, for those 50 years.

Wealthy Vermonters will not want to move to other states when federal tax policy there is the same as here in Vermont.

Will some move to other countries? Probably.

Will the lives of Americans improve? Definitely.

Some think we can cut costs to make Vermonter's and American's lives more affordable. There's undoubtedly some waste in the system where savings can be found. Other cost cutting will eventually make itself known in worse health outcomes through products and an environment that are less safe.

Deteriorating infrastructure will take a toll in wear on our vehicles and higher prices for goods delivered by vehicle because maintenance for the companies maintaining those vehicles will cost more.

Insurance costs will rise when maintenance on public buildings causes accidents and other workplace health issues when state and federal oversight is cut to create short-term savings.

We can't cut costs to fund prosperity. The last 50 years have proven that.

Funding prosperity will take creating an economy that funds average families through a living wage.

That's the solution.

To have a look at some of the data about the Vermont economy you can look on the Public Assets Institute website at publicassets.org

Paul Fixx, editor

Heller's World by Joe Heller



THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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Letters to the Editor, Opinions and Editorials: We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day and welcome letters from all political points of view as the free expression of reader's opinions. Letters with claims of fact that are false or potentially damaging may be rejected.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. We might rarely withhold the writer's name with good cause. Letters are limited to 400 words and must be addressed to the Gazette's readers, not to individuals, public figures or organizations. Opinions longer than 400 words on topics of current and local interest to readers in our 11-town coverage area may be considered for publication. Thank you notes are not considered to be opinions and will not be printed as letters from readers.

Letters to the editor require the writer's name, town of residence and phone number. Letters and opinions may be mailed, e-mailed or brought to our office. Letters and opinions are the opinion of the author. Editorials are the opinion of the editor and not the staff or publisher.

Submissions of Content and Deadlines: The Hardwick Gazette is published late on Tuesday each week with Wednesday's date. Submit community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases, paid ads and business news the Friday before publication by 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Bread and circuses

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – I had the experience, some thirty years ago, of sharing a canoe in the Canadian Arctic with a delightful child psychiatrist. Naturally, we talked all day long of shoes and ships and sealing wax, I suppose, and I remember a few of the things I learned. One of them was that, when passing the serving platters around the table at Sunday dinner, you avoid offering more than one at a time to a very young person. They find the need to make a choice confusing, and will sometimes pass up both.

In a similar vein, my dear friend Bea the other day mentioned a phenomenon called Super Market Syndrome, in which a person faced with a very large number of choices (we've all felt this in the potato chip or salad dressing aisle) and unable easily to find the particular item they're looking for, will sometimes just give up and walk away, buying nothing.

I suspect that we all pretty much instinctively avoid confusion, distraction or diversion. Sometimes we use them, unconsciously or on purpose, to help us avoid unpleasant tasks or facts. Magicians use them to divert the attention of their audiences from what's really going on. Politicians use them for the same reason (isn't it a shame that the word, "politician," has such a negative connotation?).

The practice is as old as civilization. Organized societies depend upon an implicit compact of shared values in order to prosecute any projects or even to just get along in a mutual spirit of comity. Leaders of societies have an interest in fostering that spirit and, under stress from any source, preserving it.

Ancient Rome, founded upon noble principles (cf. Marcus Junius Brutus), eventually degraded into bad blood between patricians and finally, with the ascent of Julius Caesar, into an imperial system: sort of the ultimate classification of the populace, from slaves and peasants to the emperor, nobles and senators. Hunger was far from unknown among the lower classes, and the lives of the patricians were often wantonly profligate. Successive emperors couldn't have (to use an old Adirondack description) carried the matches to light Caesar's cigars. Predictably, the masses occasionally grew restive. Something was needed to divert them from their misery.

Enter the famous Roman system of panem et circenses (bread and

circuses). The government built large amphitheatres in population centers (think the Colosseum, for example) and staged entertainments featuring enslaved gladiators, wild animals, racing chariots, even naval battles in a flooded amphitheater. The peons loved it, which quieted their overlords' anxieties. Just as important as the entertainments was the distribution of free grain shipped in from the provinces. All of this was ostensibly done in the name of good government; it was also a way of keeping the natives quiet.

Articles about the Roman Empire's techniques for keeping the lid on things and our current situation here in the United States are, I find, generally leery of drawing too many parallels between the two. I don't share their reticence. If ever there was an effort at diverting a population's focus from something disqualifying and other items calling for our attention, this is it. What bothers me most of all that every attempt endangers the lives of innocent people just (as far as we know) to prevent the humiliation and impeachment of one sorry spectacle of a human being.

Apparently, the president's prior life was not that of an Eagle Scout. His followers, the so-called MAGA base, have been more than willing to overlook it because of his purported beneficial effects on the country's life. Yet, for all their support of his claims of lower prices and inflation and unemployment, they seem to stick at sexual abuse of girls. If that occurred at Mr. Trump's hands, and can be proven . . . well, it won't make much difference to me. I couldn't think less of him than I do. But it will make a colander of the kettle in which he keeps his support.

What would you do if you were in his shoes? None of the other diversions has worked; Representative Massie is beating the drum for the release of the files and is clearly in the effort for the long haul. Venezuela didn't work at all. The ICE goons are regrouping for another go (though probably in a warmer climate). I've got it! Let's start a war, have Secretary Hegseth claim they began it, and take down Iran. Congress, like the senate of imperial Rome, may bleat a bit, but they're no problem. Hundreds, even thousands, will die; but at least we'll get that monkey off our back.

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, March 4

Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.

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

Thursday, March 5

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

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: Bill at (802) 249-6004.

Wednesday, March 11

Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury Academy.

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

Thursday, March 12

Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among the three campuses.

Tuesday, March 17

Cabot Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Craftsbury Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, third Tuesday of month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise warned.

Hazen Union School Board, third Tuesday, 6 - 8 p.m., Hazen Union School Library.

Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.

Plainfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Wolcott Select Board, third Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

Wolcott Town School Board, third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Wolcott Elementary School.

Thursday, March 19

Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us
 Calais: calaisvermont.gov
 Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
 Greensboro: greensborovt.gov
 Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
 Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
 Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
 Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
 Walden: waldenvt.gov
 Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
 Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood

No Dice, ICE



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 We'll settle for nice!

*"THIS CARTOON SUPPORTS EVERYONE ON THE PLANET, EXCEPT DONALD TRUMP."

ANOTHER OPINION

At the crossroads of too many lines

by **Kristen Leahy**

HARDWICK – One of the less visible parts of running a town like Hardwick is how many different regional systems overlap here. On paper, Vermont looks neatly divided into counties and regions. In practice, especially in this corner of the state, those lines rarely line up in ways that make the work simple.

Hardwick works primarily within one regional planning framework, while much of the Lamoille River watershed is organized within another. That means floodplain work, culvert upgrades, erosion projects, and water quality efforts often require coordination across two regional systems at once.

Conservation districts add another layer. These districts generally follow county lines, not watersheds. That is not theoretical here. Greensboro, Hardwick and Wolcott sit in three separate counties, which means three separate conservation districts, all connected by the Lamoille River. When working on erosion control,

agricultural runoff or riverbank stabilization, neighboring communities in the same watershed may be operating under different technical providers and funding structures simply because of county boundaries.

Transportation adds more complexity. State-maintained roads in and around Hardwick fall under three different Vermont Agency of Transportation districts, along with the separate Rail Trail division. A bridge on one route may be managed by a different office than a culvert a few miles away. During storms, those distinctions matter.

Hardwick is the only town in this immediate area with a town manager. That administrative capacity means we often function as a hub for coordination, bringing together engineers, planners, state agencies and neighboring communities. That role is not formally assigned; it has simply evolved because of geography and capacity.

None of these systems are wrong. Planning regions organize growth. Conservation districts support land stewardship. Trans-

portation districts manage road networks. Each was created for a purpose.

The difficulty is that rivers do not recognize any of those lines.

Water flows downhill, and sediment moves where it can. Flooding upstream affects conditions downstream. When a culvert fails in one town, it can alter risk in another. The landscape operates at the scale of a watershed, even when our institutions do not.

Over the past several years, as flood recovery and resilience planning have become more complex, this misalignment has become more visible. A single project may involve multiple planning regions, different conservation districts, more than one transportation office and several state agencies.

From the outside, it can look like one culvert or one stabilization effort. In practice it requires the careful stitching together of systems that were never designed to overlap so closely.

There are advantages to this position. Hardwick is connected to a wide network of partners and tech-

nical expertise. We are often well positioned to compete for funding because of those relationships.

But there is also a larger lesson.

If we are serious about reducing flood risk, protecting infrastructure and making smarter long-term investments, we must think at a different scale. That means looking beyond county lines, beyond planning regions and beyond transportation districts. It means strengthening coordination at the watershed level, where cause and effect are directly connected.

The lines on our maps were designed by humans. The river was not consulted.

Hardwick sits at the crossroads of many administrative boundaries. That makes the work more complicated. It also makes the value of watershed-level thinking clearer.

If we want solutions that last, our planning needs to follow the landscape as much as it follows jurisdictional lines.

Kristen Leahy is the Town of Hardwick zoning and floodplain administrator.

As we become unmoored

by **David Kelley**

GREENSBORO – The United States has had more than its share of moral failure. From the Trail of Tears to the My Lai massacre there is plenty for us to be ashamed of. But with our democratic institutions, our Constitutional rights and the power of dissent, for 250 years, we have struggled to be a more perfect union. To Lincoln, despite our shortcomings, we were the “last best hope of earth.” To Reagan we were still “like a shining city on a hill.” Churchill is alleged to have said, “Americans always do the right thing, once all other possibilities have been exhausted.”

Moral leadership has always mattered. At the outset of World War I Theodore Roosevelt wrote: “. . . we must never act . . . without regard to the essentials of genuine morality . . .” During the Great Depression Franklin Roosevelt said the presidency was “preeminently a place of moral leadership.” When the Communist countries of Eastern Europe were collapsing Vaclav Havel wrote, “. . . politics is a matter of serving the community, which means that it is morality in practice.”

Moral leadership matters especially to young people. As a high school debate coach, I have seen the incivility, language and behavior of our President filter

into America’s secondary schools. I spent years working with young, idealistic students in countries like Latvia and Ukraine. They were determined to build new democracies. And I have watched our President and Vice President mock those hopes by embracing autocrats like Vladimir Putin and Victor Orban.

From threatening to take Greenland by force, to sending thugs into the streets of Minneapolis, to presidential social media posts that would get a high school student suspended, we have lost any semblance of moral leadership.

Human morals have evolved because we are all better off in a world that appreciates our responsibility for others. A world where we do for others, as we would have others do for us, is healthier and safer than a world that says it is dog-eat-dog and every man for himself. If the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, it is largely because we have learned that we are better off with justice than we are with the alternative. That arc has been long and its lessons have cost us dearly in bloodshed and suffering.

Enslaved people built Thomas Jefferson’s home, though Jefferson fully understood slavery was wrong. In his “Notes on the State of Virginia,” he wrote, “Indeed I

tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever.” And God’s justice didn’t sleep forever. A Civil War and the deaths of three-quarters of a million people ultimately began to secure for Black Americans the rights Jefferson asserted were endowed by our Creator for “all men.” It would take another hundred years of lynchings and rights painfully and brutally denied before passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 voting rights Act.

The twentieth century was the most blood-soaked century in human history. Between 15 and 22 million people were killed in World War I. Between 70 and 85 million people were killed during World War II. Ultimately that suffering gave birth to the Marshall Plan, the United Nations, the Atlantic Alliance, the European Union and a deepening appreciation of our common responsibility for our neighbors here at home and around the world.

We ignore fundamental moral principles of honesty and truthfulness, of an elemental sense of justice, of our responsibility for others, and of basic human rights at our peril.

We live in a world where we ourselves need allies and partners and we too depend on the moral principles that gave birth to our Constitution, our courts and our alliances with nations that share those values.

Today we are led by a man who would send armed rioters to overthrow a free election, who is untethered from the truth and who wants the federal government to control state and local elections. Whether God is just or not, we should all be trembling for our country.

David Kelley is a lawyer. He is a former debate coach at South Burlington and Hazen Union high schools and a co-founder of PH International. He lives with his wife, Kelly Robinson, two dogs, two cats and two horses in Greensboro.

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news@hardwickgazette.org

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Emotional health of seniors is not optional

by Rep. David Yacavone

MONTPELIER – I vividly remember the days, years ago, when I would occasionally deliver meals to homebound neighbors in our communities. Each visit lasted only 30 to 60 seconds, but the impact was profound. An isolated elder’s face would light up when I stepped through the door. I often knew I might be the only person they would see that day. For

some, that brief human connection brought a smile as bright as if they had won the lottery. Others carried a look of worry and quiet distress you could never forget.

Isolation and loneliness are powerful forces. Too many older Vermonters have no one to share their fears, struggles or daily burdens with. For them, even a moment of connection can mean everything.

That is why I was deeply

troubled to learn that the Governor’s proposed budget eliminates the Elder Clinician Program, a program that serves approximately 1,200 seniors each year. This program supports older Vermonters who are battling loneliness, depression, anxiety and addiction: challenges that too often go unseen.

Mental health matters. Depression and anxiety are not minor concerns; they can be overwhelming and, in some cases, life-threatening. Vermont’s suicide rates, particularly among older men, remain among the highest in the nation. We cannot ignore that reality.

As Mother Teresa once said, “The greatest poverty is the feeling of being alone and uncared for.” The message to older Vermonters cannot be that when they fall on hard times, they are on their own. Emotional well-being is not a luxury: it is essential health care.

The data reinforces this. Eighty-six percent of those receiving home health services are

living with three or more chronic conditions. It should surprise no one that, alongside physical care, many also need emotional and behavioral health support.

When I served as Vermont’s Aging Commissioner years ago, I met regularly with the staff of the Elder Clinician Program. I learned firsthand how prevalent depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders were among older adults. I never imagined that three decades later, I would be asked to vote on a budget that eliminates this very program.

Budgets are statements of our values. If we believe that no Vermonter should face aging, illness, or hardship alone, then our budget must reflect that belief. Supporting the emotional health of our seniors is not optional: it is a responsibility.

David Yacavone represents Lamoille-Washington in the Vermont Legislature, including Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester and Stowe.



The moon lights the snow sand silhouette’s a maple tree along Center Road in Hardwick at 1 a.m. March 1. photo by Kathy Rowley

For the record

Last week’s review by David Rodgers, “Woodard discusses films, farms and more,” should have indicated George Woodard’s father is George. His grandfather was Walt.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



Heller’s World by Joe Heller



The Hardwick Gazette PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Upstreet, downstreet, overstreet, Sue Slayton remembers Hardwick history

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Claire “Sue” (Goodrich) Slayton, grew up hearing stories about her grandfather, Samuel Daniels of Sam Daniels Manufacturing Company Inc., a maker of wood and coal furnaces in Hardwick and Montpelier from 1908 through 1969.

Graduating from Hardwick Academy in 1966, Slayton has many memories of Hardwick’s unique community history. From the foundry to sock hops in the academy gymnasium, she remembers some of Hardwick’s bygone but significant moments and features.

Slayton never met her grandfather, the company’s founder, but was often regaled with stories by her mother.

“One story my mother told me, about the ‘27 flood, and the water, the dam and the river. All of the water was coming up near the building, and he didn’t know what to do, so he got all his workers to get all the stoves and anything they could throw onto the river bed, to keep the water from coming up. My mom says there’s a lot of stoves and everything buried in there, somewhere.”

“My mom told me he also made, I’ve never seen one, and Mom says they’re still around, a big bucket you can collect sap in, on a sled.”

Her mother also told her the history of the swinging bridge, refurbished by her grandfather so his workers could use it every day.

According to the Hardwick Historical Society’s (HHS) volume no.10, issue 2, in March 1915 the voters at town meeting instructed the selectmen to spend no more than \$350 to build a bridge from a point between the former Gazette building and the flatiron building, which stood where the small park beside the swinging bridge now exists.

President of the HHS and author Elizabeth “Wiz” Dow wrote, “Sam Daniels had recently purchased the property across the river now called the Daniels Block, and he wanted a good bridge for his employees to have access to their work. Sam Daniels was an aggressive and highly competent inventor and businessman who took over the actual construction; he finished it in February 1916 . . . Daniels built the bridge far enough above the river that winter ice and spring floods did not cause a problem. His bridge lasted 105 years, with very little maintenance.”

Of what Slayton remembers

about the furnace business, she said, “us kids had the run of the place.” The showroom in particular held some memories. “That’s where he had the big furnace, and I’d crawl inside it and crawl around it, inside the furnace.”

She remembers trips down to Boston to pick up scrap metal. “We’d throw the scrap metal into the furnace. At 2 o’clock in the afternoon when they tapped it was when all us kids would go down.”

Pouring molten metal into the mold, workers would tap, or punch a hole to let out the trapped air, often causing a spray effect of piping hot material.

“We’d watch them filling the buckets, watching them fill the bowls. They’re memories that will never come back, it’s kind of sad, ‘cause those kids got to do it. We got to see it. You’d sit there, and you’d watch those men sit there, this pile of dirt. They had these little tools, and they would shape what it was, cover it with sand, and then they’d pour it and it would make the shape. We got to see all that.”

She laments that most children now rarely see the processes by which most items are made or produced.

“If I go through a town that has a foundry, the smell, it brings it all back,” said Slayton.

She continued her recollection of the production process, “And, then they’d have to wait and let it cool, and they had this big jackhammer. I mean, that thing was huge. They’d go and they would hit it, and then the sand would go away, and they’d brush it off, and there, what is it? It was a sight, behold, it really was. You know, you run back, and you’re throwing in the scrap metal. You have no clue what it’s going to be.”

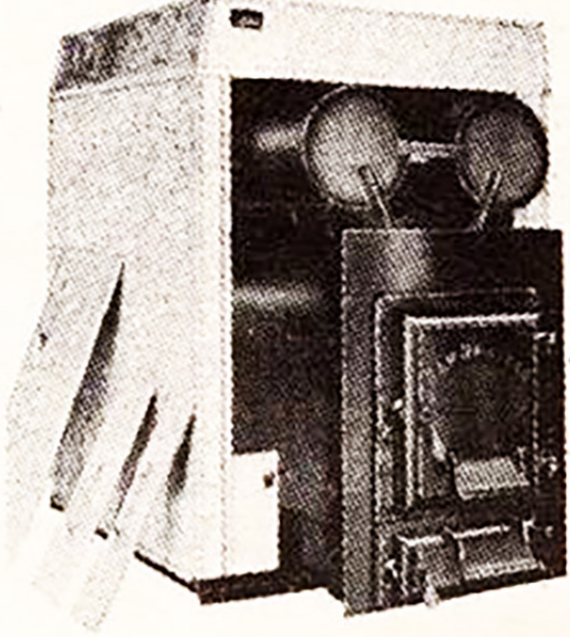
The furnace industry once sustained many families in the area, with a carpentry shop and foundry as well as a storefront for parts and repair.

“He really expanded the business, he had a lot of workers,” she says of her grandfather, “just about the whole town. It made jobs.”

Daniels also had contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense to make parts during the World War II.

Founded before the wonders of automation, furnace production required a human at each step of the process. “I mean you had everybody, right from the beginning. You had the welders, you had the piece-makers, and there were all these machines that were hand-worked on to make the

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A Sam Daniels furnace advertisement.

Google Images

shapes and bend it.”

Some may remember Slayton’s mother, Ezoa (Daniels) Goodrich, a kindergarten teacher for many years. “She loved kids, and she just wanted to be around kids, so she started a kindergarten. She did it for twenty years.”

The polio epidemic, peaking in the 1950s, was a noteworthy memory; “You’d go down to the hospital and they’d be in the iron lung. I had the shot, and then we went to school and we had to take the sugar cube.”

A Hardwick Academy graduate, Slayton recalled the original building’s location, up on the hill. Everything was in a group, she says of Hardwick Academy. “It didn’t matter what your ability was, what your intelligence was, you were part of the group, and that was it.”

“Hardwick Academy; I kind

of miss it, because it was one big family. From the first grade, to seniors you knew everybody.”

She remembers the old Hardwick. “It was called Little Chicago,” she said, a time when there were seven bars in the downtown area, with angled parking on both sides of the street. “Stores were open, everything was open. You’d walk down, there’d be a fight going on Main Street. That was a given, you could go down and watch the fights. Okay, who’s going to fight tonight? That was a given, you went overstreet to watch the fights,” she said with a laugh.

Slayton also provided examples of classic Hardwick terminology; downstreet, upstreet and overstreet. If you lived above Main Street, you went downstreet. If below, you went upstreet. If you lived mid-level, you went overstreet.

Thanks

for saying you saw it in the

Hardwick Gazette

hardwickgazette.org



THE OUTSIDE STORY

Seeds, frazil, and flocs: the story of ice

by Steve Arcone

HANOVER, N.H. – Mile-long Trout Brook cuts downhill through heavily bouldered glacial moraine in the Indian Ridge area of western New Hampshire. Like any woodland brook, it features waterfalls, cascades, pools and coves. By mid-December it is usually frozen over, with audible water running under the ice and snow. Only a mile from my home, I often visit this brook from mid-November until late March to see the splash-enhanced bulbous icicles and frozen foam.

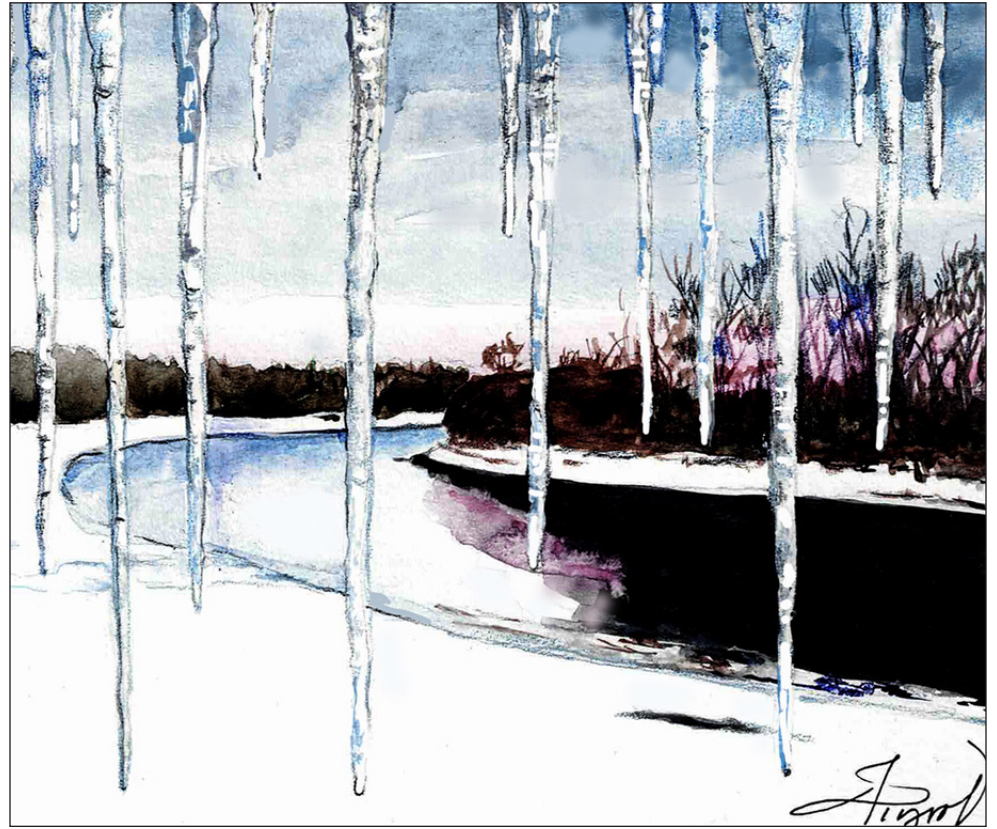
During some recent winters, however, climate change has brought unseasonably warm spells, incomplete ice covers, decreased water levels, and insignificant snowfall, all of which expose ice formations normally unseen. These formations are known as frazil (often referred to as frazil ice), and they don't begin in water, they begin in the air.

Ice first forms in air because water turbulence prevents freezing even when its supercooled temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and brooks and many parts of rivers are highly turbulent. Even on Trout Brook's widest pools, where you might see a leaf moving only a mile per hour or less, the water below is swirling, churning and mixing. Experiments have shown that vapor in cold air, which will not spontaneously freeze until its temperature reaches about negative 42 degrees Fahrenheit, will nonetheless freeze against dust or organic matter to form microscopic ice seeds at far warmer temperatures. In woodlands, airborne bacteria and fungal spores most commonly host ice seeds.

The ice seeds eventually fall into the supercooled turbulent water. Just as ice particles tumbling through air amazingly form symmetrical snowflakes, ice seeds tumbling within turbulent water collide, break (forming more seeds), and grow into tiny symmetrical discs. Most discs are elongated into forms known as spicules, typically one millimeter or less long. These forms are what scientists refer to as true frazil. Discs tend to stick together upon collision to form what is known as flocs. Their diameter can exceed a few inches as more discs and water freeze to them. Dipping a fish net into a brook after a cold night will likely catch several.

Frazil freezes against cold shores and gets caught in coves, accumulating to make what river engineers call border ice. This ice first appears as a random mesh with space for frazil to grow. Within hours, flat, inch-long, tree-like crystals with branches at different angles appear. If crystals within a fresh web are not obvious to your unaided eye, try a close-up cell-phone picture to see their beauty. Break off a chunk to find jumbles of inch-sized flocs, and crystals that have grown into vertical plates on the undersides. Within a day or two, borders will have grown into a solid white mass, far different than the fresh, transparent, bubble-rich ice we see on our New England lakes.

Frazil and flocs freeze and accumulate against submerged shores, mid-stream rocks, and river bottoms, all of which have been supercooled by the water. Engineers call this accumulation anchor ice. A few years ago, when I was exploring Trout Brook in late February, I found myriads of flocs accumulated against shoreline rock



Ice formations

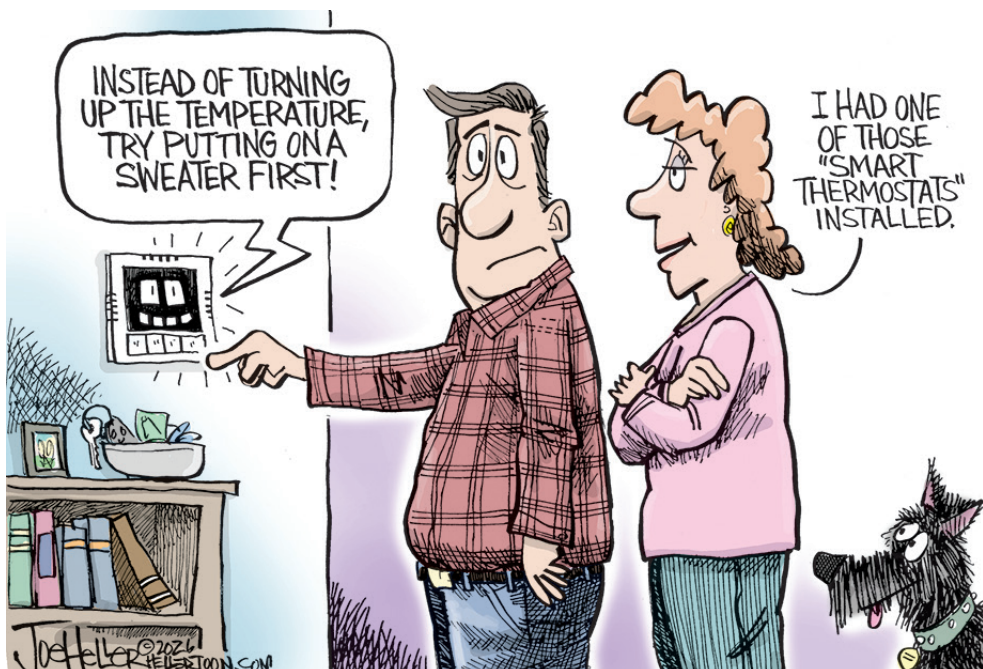
walls, on mid-stream boulders, and piled on the beds, as I expected. By early March the ice and snow were gone, Trout Brook was roaring, and moss and lichen on rocks and trees were fully visible. Though it felt like winter might be over, cold weather later that month brought me back to see plenty of fresh crystalline borders and anchor ice.

Visiting Trout Brook throughout the long winter has allowed me to see the many forms of ice and to understand how the story of ice forming might unfold again and again throughout future winters. As you walk through winter woods, I hope you might

stop at a brook or stream to notice ice. Look around at the lichen on the trees and any moss or fungi that may be exposed on the ground. Some bacteria are still active in cold weather, and a gust of wind can launch bacteria and fungal spores from their places into the air. These will attract more vapor, creating ice seeds, which will eventually become ice crystals.

Steven Arcone is a semi-retired research geophysicist whose professional career included 43 years at the U. S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



Iridescence in clouds over Cabot, February 24 at 8 a.m.

photo by Brittany M. Butler

The Hardwick Gazette

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Two fishers meet in the winter woods

by Jack Beaudoin

DEER ISLAND, Me. – Fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) have a reputation as the northern forests' ultimate misanthropes. These mesocarnivores are so territorial that within six to eight months after their birth, young fishers are unceremoniously pushed out of their mother's home range to fend for themselves.

This forced eviction leads to some of the most impressive "marathons" in the animal kingdom. While the average fisher disperses approximately 12 miles from its birthplace by early autumn, University of New Hampshire's Rem Moll noted that some explorers go much further. Moll, an associate professor of wildlife ecology and management, has been applying quantitative methods and geospatial modeling to better understand fishers, among other mammals, over the past decade.

"It is remarkable how far they move for a small animal," Moll said. He recently documented a female that trekked at least 73 miles (straight line) from Durham to Lincoln, N.H., in just two weeks: a long-distance record. Another study in the 1990s recorded a 66-mile movement in Massachusetts.

So, with home ranges that can span up to 30 square miles, fishers rarely cross paths by accident. It takes a specific, biological imperative to bring them together: a moment that arrives in the winter woods of late February and March, in an encounter that is exceedingly brief and unromantic.

"During the breeding season, the males start running around looking for a female," said Jacob DeBow, a regional wildlife biologist with New Hampshire Fish and Game, who was 15 when he spotted his first fisher and has been spellbound by them ever since. "They spend a short amount of time together. They breed pretty quickly, and then he's onto the next

one. His only job is just to move genetics across the landscape as widely as he possibly can."

If the male's contribution is a sprint, the female's is a marathon of patience, starting with a unique evolutionary strategy called delayed implantation. While a fertilized human egg implants in a mother's uterus within days, fishers, along with their cousins the black bears, press the pause button. The fertilized egg, or blastocyst, does not immediately attach to the uterine wall. Instead, it enters diapause, a state of suspended animation where it remains for the next 10 to 11 months.

Thus, for nearly a year, the female carries the spark of life within her, yet she is not "officially" pregnant. As DeBow said, this gives her time to work on "her personal health goals, to fatten up and to get healthy" over the coming spring, summer and fall without the nutritional expense of growing an embryo, before heading into the hardest months of winter.

"Then, in January or February of the following year, hormones trigger the blastocyst to attach," said Kayla Shively, a conservation ecologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society. This hormonal alarm clock kicks off a remarkably swift gestation of roughly 40 to 60 days, ending with the birth of one to four blind and vulnerable kits.

The sequence creates a critical and rare biological overlap. Because the blastocyst waits so long to wake up, implant, and develop, the female gives birth to one litter just as she is ready to conceive the next. "Most species don't ovulate while they're nursing," DeBow explained, "but fishers are unique. She'll have her young in a den and can breed almost immediately, all because of that delayed implantation."

This grueling schedule is a masterclass in phenological timing. By delaying the true pregnancy until late winter, the fisher ensures her kits arrive exactly



Fisher, illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

when the northern forest begins to stir. As the snow recedes in March and April, the subnivean tunnels of mice and shrews are exposed, and the forest floor becomes a high-energy buffet of emerging shoots, leaves, early berries, insects and returning birds.

As Moll noted, this process may be regulated by the increase in photoperiod; the lengthening days

of late winter signal to the female's body that the world is waking up. It is a nutritionally rich window that gives the kits a full summer to grow, hone their hunting skills, and prepare for the inevitable lean months of their first winter.

Jack Beaudoin lives on Deer Island, Me., and is frequent contributor to Northern Woodlands and a Maine Master Naturalist.



This barred owl was spotted on February 25 in South Woodbury.

photo by Carolyn Stewart



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IN THE GARDEN

Late winter is best time for pruning

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Just because there’s snow on the ground doesn’t mean there’s nothing to do in the garden until spring. Late winter is often the best time to prune many deciduous trees and shrubs while they’re still dormant.

Pruning during dormancy poses less stress on trees and shrubs than when they’re actively growing. The absence of foliage allows unobstructed observation of their structure. It’s easier to identify damage and crossing limbs and to assess their overall health.

Look for broken, damaged, crossed or diseased branches to be removed. Check for limbs that meet the trunk at a narrow (less than 45°) angle. They’re more likely to be weak and susceptible to breaking. Consider whether branches should be thinned, making foliage less dense and allowing more light in and better air circulation to help minimize foliar diseases. Once it’s determined what needs to be done for the plant’s health, consider whether pruning might improve or maintain shape or height.

While many trees and shrubs benefit from late winter pruning, some don’t. Avoid late winter pruning of plants that bloom in early spring, such as lilacs (*Syringa*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*) and forsythia (*Forsythia*), or there will be fewer flowers this year. They set buds soon after flowering and are best pruned right after their flowers fade.

If growing hydrangeas, before pruning confirm that the

variety blooms on new wood, such as *Hydrangea arborescens* (smooth hydrangea) and *Hydrangea paniculata* (panicked hydrangea). On the other hand, *Hydrangea macrophylla* (big leaf hydrangea) and *Hydrangea quercifolia* (oakleaf hydrangea) bloom on old wood and shouldn’t be pruned in late winter.

Basic tools include bypass-style hand pruners which are useful for trimming small branches. Loppers come in various sizes and can handle branches up to two inches in diameter. A pruning saw works best for larger branches.

Be sure tools are clean and sharp. Injury can be caused by a dull blade, and it’s more difficult to make a clean cut. A dirty blade could spread disease, even in winter. Wear eye protection and gloves for safety.

Take the time to assess the shrub or tree and decide on an end result before making the first cut. Prune judiciously. Additional pieces can always be removed, but it’s impossible to undo a careless or excessive cut.

Select a branch and locate a bud to identify a node near where to cut. Prune just above the node (bud), cutting downward at a 45° angle. This helps avoid moisture accumulation that could encourage disease.

If removing an entire branch, cut outside the branch collar (the area of raised bark where the branch emerges), but don’t leave a large stub.

Disinfect pruning tools between cuts. This is particularly important when removing diseased parts. Don’t compost diseased prunings.

Prune thoughtfully. Plan



Late winter is a great time to prune most shrubs and trees. Look for limbs that cross or rub others and remove. photo by Debra Heleba

cuts. Avoid cutting straight across the top of the whole plant in an attempt to control growth. Often referred to as “topping,” this can encourage fast, weak growth and damage the tree or shrub’s health.

To avoid stressing the plant, don’t remove more than one-third of a shrub or tree.

If pruning to rejuvenate a mature shrub, select no more than one-third of the largest and

oldest branches and cut them back to the ground. Reduce height by pruning the remaining branches by one-third, back to a bud. Do the same for the next two years.

Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist from North Adams, Mass., and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.



When pruning a branch, cut just above the bud at a 45° angle. The branch on the left shows a proper cut. The branch in the center is pruned too far from the bud and may hinder healing. The branch on the right is pruned flush or too close to the bud, which can prevent new growth.

photo by Debra Heleba



Winter pruning should include removing broken and diseased branches.

photo by Debra Heleba

OUR COMMUNITIES

Glimpses of maybe-future, March 12, 26

MARSHFIELD – A film about an election campaign will be shown at the Jaquith Public Library, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

A film about android human-like robotics will be shown on March 26, 6:30 p.m.

For more information see jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Pi day fundraiser, March 14

MARSHFIELD – Saturday, March 14, 3:14 to 6 p.m., a Pi Day fundraiser will take place at the Jaquith Library with the sale of pies and pizza pies. Whole pies and slices will be available for purchase from 3:14 to 6 p.m., or while supplies last. The Marshfield Village store will donate to the fundraiser twenty percent of proceeds from all sales, March 14, and Positive Pie in Plainfield will donate twenty percent of all food sales, including pizzas, on March 14, if the customer mentions the Jaquith Library. Volunteers to bake pies can contact the library to sign up.

More information is available at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581

Poetry readings, third Sundays

MARSHFIELD – Beginning Sunday, March 15, the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library will host Sunday afternoon poetry, from 2 to 4 p.m.. Each poetry reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets. This month will feature Buffy Aakaash and Bethany Ann Barrett Bohall.

Magazine, Progenitor Art and Literary Journal, The Mountain Troubadour and The Rio Grande Review.

Aakaash has appeared in journals and online poetry pages in the U.S. and abroad. His chapbook “Untangling the Knots,” was published in 2022 and his full-length book of poetry, “Breaking,” in November of 2025. He serves on the board of the Poetry Society of Vermont. For more information go to jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Bohall writes poetry, plays and fiction under the name Bethany Ann Barrett. Recent publications include *The Soliloquist*

Annual grain growers conference, March 18

ESSEX – The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program and Northern Grain Growers Collaborative (NGGC) will hold a Grain Growers Conference on March 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Essex Resort and Spa, located at 70 Essex Way, Essex

Showcase will be held from 3 to 4 p.m.

This year, growers, millers and bakers will present at the conference on topics including; small-scale grain production on vegetable farms; starting a direct market grain enterprise; bread flavor and flour and dough quality. There will be baking sessions, research updates and networking opportunities.

Register online or call UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at (802) 656-8407 to register by phone.

Bakers will showcase their best bread and baked goods. Bakers who want to showcase a product in the second annual Bakers Showcase, should contact Carrie Brisson at carrie.brisson@kingarthurbaking.com. The Bakers

Hurricane that transformed New England, March 19

MARSHFIELD – March 19, at 6:30 p.m., author Stephen Long will tell the story of New England’s Katrina, focusing on the devastation to the region’s forests and the challenge facing New Englanders in the throes of the Great Depression. His presentation is illustrated with archival photos of storm damage and the recovery operation. A journalist and co-founder of Northern Woodlands magazine,

Stephen Long is the author of “Thirty-Eight: The Hurricane that Transformed New England.” This is one of a series of events related to Vermont Humanities’ Vermont Reads book, “The Light Pirate: by Lily Brooks-Dalton. A free copy of the book is available at the Jaquith Library.

For more information, go to jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Tree grafting, March 21

MARSHFIELD – Saturday, March 21, from noon to 2 p.m., Donna Hisson will lead a hands-on workshop at the Jaquith Public Library on grafting fruit trees for Marshfield’s food forest. Hisson will cover root stock selection, scion selection and tools that help

make grafting successful. Some root stock and scion wood will be available. Grafting supplies will be available to use, but those with their own are encouraged to bring them.

RSVP at (802) 426-3581 or email marshfieldrh@gmail.com.

Supporting the unhoused discussion, March 27

MARSHFIELD – On March 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library will host a discussion with representatives from Good Samaritan Haven, focused on how to best support

unhoused neighbors. There will be time for resource advising as well as questions. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP at (802) 426-3581 or email marshfieldrh@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Clara J. Massey

MORRISVILLE – Clara J. Massey, 87, passed away peacefully on February 26, at The Manor in Morrisville, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born in Danbury, Conn., on April 5, 1938, the daughter of Julien and Esther Chouinard.



Clara J. Massey

Clara spent most of her life in Greensboro where she met her husband, Leo Massey. Clara and Leo met at Greensboro High School and were married shortly after Clara graduated in 1956. Clara raised three children: Tony, Joanne and David. In addition to raising her children, Clara spent much of her life operating Pond Lily Farm with her husband. After deciding to sell the farm, she worked at Wiley’s Store in the hardware department until her retirement.

She was a member of the St. Michael’s Church and enjoyed contributing to church events. Clara had many hobbies and interests, including snowmobiling, riding her lawn mower, knitting and traveling. She loved being around her family and friends, especially hosting her yearly sugar-on-snow parties. Clara spent the last few years of her life at The Manor in Morrisville, where she shared a lot of laughs with new friends.

Clara is survived by her sister Alice Chase, son Tony (Delores), daughter Joanne, granddaughter Lisa Lanphear (Dwayne), grandson Randall Massey (Alyssa) and his mother Laurie Randall, great granddaughters Alysha Leroux (Cole) and Ava Lefevre, great-great granddaughters Cooper Leroux

and soon to be baby Leroux, niece Brenda Gravel (Dana), nephew Denis Chase (Tonia) and many great nieces and nephews.

Clara was predeceased by her parents, husband Leo, son David, a daughter Claire who died in infancy and brother-in-law Arthur Chase.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, March 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., at des Groseilliers Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 7, at noon, at St. Michael’s Church in Greensboro Bend, with burial at St. Michael’s Cemetery to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in memory of Clara Massey to Lamoille Home Health & Hospice or The Manor Nursing Home. Condolences and memories of Clara may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.

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EDUCATION



At the Woodbury Elementary School Mock Town Meeting, February 20, Randy Sayers (left) looks on as Gavin Alexander expresses his choice to go to Buck Lake (Article 1: Shall Woodbury Elementary School go bowling as its end-of-year all-school activity? The alternative proposal was for the school to continue last year's tradition of going to Buck Lake.)

photo by Lisa Stinson



Mayla Alexander casts her vote on Article 2 (Shall Woodbury Elementary School purchase Legos to create a Legos Club, which any student could join and would meet one day per week at recess? The alternative proposal was for the school to use school funds to purchase board games and puzzles for each classroom) during the Woodbury Elementary School Mock Town Meeting, February 20.

photo by Lisa Stinson

Elementary school holds mock town meeting

by Lisa Stinson

WOODBURY – For more than 260 years, Vermonters have gathered to make their voices heard. On Friday, Feb. 20, Woodbury Elementary School carried that tradition forward with its annual mock town meeting. Both current superintendent, Dr. David Baker, and incoming superintendent, Becca Tatistcheff attended.

All students had the opportunity to express their opinions

and wishes on two articles proposed for the coming academic year:

Article 1: Shall Woodbury Elementary School go bowling as its end-of-year all-school activity? The alternative proposal was for the school to continue last year's tradition of going to Buck Lake.

Article 2: Shall Woodbury Elementary School purchase Legos to create a Lego Club, which any student could join and would meet one day per week at recess?

The alternative proposal was for the school to use school funds to purchase board games and puzzles for each classroom.

Through a floor meeting with both voice votes and through Australian balloting, students made their wishes known, voting for the trip to Buck Lake and the purchase of board games and puzzles.

An anonymous donor offered to purchase the Legos, as well, so those on all sides of that debate came out winners.

Facilitated by Stephen Murphy, Woodbury Town Moderator, and supported by many Woodbury town officials, students opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence in honor of community members who lost their lives during the past year. Students then sang "These Green Mountains," accompanied by music teacher Jonathan Chatfield.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by Friends of WES.

Goddard Spark launches, April 10

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – The Goddard Spark is an upcoming life-long learning program within the former Goddard College campus.

The first residency will occur Friday through Sunday, April 10 to 12, with instructors teaching a variety of classes that recognize individualized learning styles, meet individual needs and fosters community.

The initial courses for the program's launch weekend are "Introduction to Community Organizing" by Adam Hughes, billed as "A beginner-friendly course designed to provide anyone who takes it with the tools to start building community power back home afterwards like building campaign strategy, power-mapping your community and holding 1-on-1 conversations."

Hardwick's Emily Lanxner will offer, "Engaging the Steelband as a Vehicle for Activism." The class "will look at the history



Emily Lanxner will offer the course, "Engaging the Steelband as a Vehicle for Activism," during the Goddard Spark launch weekend, April 10 to 12, on the former Goddard College campus.

photo courtesy Goddard Spark

of the steelband in Trinidad as it relates to social activism, with a hands-on experience learning a short tune on the steelband instruments."

"Star Trek as America's Self Portrait," is being offered by Jessie Earl. It is "An exploration of how each iteration of Star Trek

reflects the social and political environment at the time of its release by how its progressive ideals are shaped within its storytelling."

"AC/DC: How to Rock at Adaptive Leadership," is Nathan Fry and Georgie Darling's "class using the metaphor of AC and DC electricity to explore the promises and pitfalls of directive vs. collaborative leadership styles and how to balance them for effective, sustainable long term leadership."

Kat Gordon offers "A class exploring the textile crafts as uniquely a ripe area for marginalized groups to connect and organize through, and a chance to learn about key periods in United States history which fabric culture played a large but overlooked role" in, titled, "Threads of Protest: Fabriculture as a Site of Resistance."

"De-Mystifying Translation as Writing Practice," is Mordecai Martin's offering, which is "A class exploring the practice of literary

translation as a valuable skill for writers of all experience levels via readings, discussions, and generative exercises, including exploring the surprising power and possibilities of 'mistranslation'."

Each day will have one class in the morning and one class in the afternoon. Each class will run over all three days in two-hour blocks and will continue with the same group and instructor throughout the weekend. Three meals a day and a room on campus also are both bundled into the price for the weekend residency.

"The launch residency aims to cultivate excitement and investment in this reborn form of the Goddard educational philosophy that, like the original Goddard College, inspires its students to bring their own unique ideas and experiences to face the challenges of the modern world," said organizer Adam Myers.

Learn more and register at goddardspark-org.us.stackstaging.com.



Mary Young, "Unbounded Poppy Heart," 12x12, Mixed media, 2025
courtesy photo



Mary Young, "Cozy Layers," 12x12, Mixed media, 2026
courtesy photo

Mary Young "Notions and Nature" reception, talk, March 7

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Free Library exhibits Mary Young as their March exhibit- iting artist. Notions and Nature reflects Young's lifelong connection to

creativity and the natural world. Her recent acrylic paintings explore color, texture and layered process, drawing inspiration from gardens, landscape and experience.

encouraging expression through art. In recent years, she has returned to painting.

An artist reception and talk is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m.

Young says art has long been woven through her life, from early drawings to years of homesteading in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and a career as a psychotherapist

The exhibition will be on view throughout April during regular library hours. Artwork will be available for purchase.

Auditions held for "The Addams Family," March 21, 22

HYDE PARK – The Lamoille County Players (LCP) will hold auditions for The Addams Family Musical on March 21 and 22 at the Hyde Park Opera House.

New director, Julia Frohn, joins LCP veteran Patricia Jacob to direct the show, featuring Addams Family: Gomez, Morticia, Grandma, Uncle Fester, Wednesday, Pugsley and Lurch. Auditions will be in one-hour sessions between 1 and 4 p.m. each day. Sign up in advance for a group audition slot at LCPlayers.com/the-addams-family. More information, audition readings and music clips are also on the website.

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EVENTS

Saturday, March 7

Bowling, 10 a.m., Craftsbury Academy bowling team at Maple Lanes, Claremont, N.H., Senior Classic.

Music, 7 to 9 p.m., Plainfield Granary, 153 Main St., Plainfield. Playing Carol's originals and songs of Alan Greenleaf on guitar, mandolin and piano. Information: carolbramblewoodmusic@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 8

Group sing, 4 to 6 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library. Houghtonanny with Rise Up Singing songbooks provided. All are welcome.

Tuesday, March 10

Demonstration, noon, Honk and Wave, with Indivisible Hardwick. Location change during construction, sidewalk uphill from St. Norbert Church, 193 S. Main St. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

Wednesday, March 11

Discussion, 7 p.m., virtual presentation, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland-Hanzas discusses the SAVE Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, presented by the League of Women Voters of Vermont. Register at <https://bit.ly/JLewisandSAVEAct>

Thursday, March 12

Film, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, glimpses of maybe-future, a film about an election campaign, jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Saturday, March 14

Pie Breakfast, 8 to 10:30 a.m., Woodbury Elementary School gymnasium. Silent auction closes at 10 a.m. Tickets at door.

Pi day fundraiser, 3:14 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library. Sale of pies and pizza pies. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Sunday, March 15

Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hazen Union School gymnasium, Hardwick.

Ongoing Wednesdays

Pilates, 9 a.m., mat level 2, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Office hours, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon, Craftsbury.

Parents of Challenging Children, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first Wednesday of month, support group for adoptive parents of children presenting serious emotional and behavioral challenges, Easter Seals Vermont, 641 Comstock Road, Berlin. Information, (802) 223-4744.

Outdoor Story, Activity, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Cabot Recreation Field Pavilion with the Cabot Public Library's Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

Parenting Group, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared toward babies to 18 months. Siblings invited. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Social, every first Wednesday morning, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Craftsbury Public Library, for book-lovers. Sharing books, authors or books new to the library collection, no assigned reading. Tea and coffee, handwork projects welcome.

Brain Injury support group, 1 - 2:30 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Vermont Department of Health, 107 Eastern Ave., Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, hosted by The Vermont Center for Independent Living. Information, (800) 639-1522 or tyoungman@vcil.org.

Quilters, 1-4 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. All levels welcome.

Acudetox, 4 p.m., ear Acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, 802-851-8120.

Community Supper, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick.

Food Shelf, 5 to 6:30 p.m., fourth Wednesday, 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

AI-Anon, 5:30 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Weigh-in at 5:15 p.m. United Church dining room, Hardwick.

Death Cafe, 6 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Information: (802) 755-6107, **See EVENTS, Next Page**

EVENTS

albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Jam Session, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities. Old-time jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., The Church in Cabot, 2 Common Road. Beginners' and open meeting.

Ongoing Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 - 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, West Church St., Hardwick. Literature and open meeting.

Tai Chi, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Church of Christ, Greensboro. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. Information, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com

Arthritis Relief, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Exercise class sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information at Sara, Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Office hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Information, mary-queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Tai Chi, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Qigong and Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. preschool, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under. Information, jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

Community Dinner, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 to reserve a meal. Take-out or eat-in. Donations appreciated.

Diabetes support group, 1:30 p.m., The Health Center, Plainfield. third Thursday each month. Information, (802) 322-6600 or dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org.

Peace Vigil, Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick, (beside the river).

Sign Language, 2 p.m., practice group, John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information at (802) 586-9692 or jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

Hang Out, 2:45-6 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen Union's Community School Coordinator Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information, Vvelzis@ossu.org.

Refuge Recovery, 3 p.m. Thursdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

All Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Craffit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Taming Knotweed, 4:30 p.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Prayer Service, 5:30 p.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Grief Support, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., first and third Tuesday of each month, a safe, confidential space to can share a story or be surrounded by those who understand and care, Lamoille Home Health & Hospice Building, 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville. Information, Oona Lee at (802) 888-4651 or olee@lhha.org.

Trivia, 6 - 8 p.m., Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, unless there is a home basketball game. Limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for about 10 teams.

Al-Anon, 6 p.m., Church on the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Services, 6:30 p.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Films, "Glimpses of a Maybe Future," 6:30 p.m., second and fourth Thursdays of the month, Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Ongoing Fridays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 3, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Taiji, 10:15 a.m., intermediate, Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield, playgroup.. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Homeschool Program, 10:30 a.m., Friday, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Meditation, 3-3:45 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center, 784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, the second and fourth Fridays, with Nancy Milholland. Open to all, sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

Farmers Market, 4 to 7 p.m., 13 Mill St., Plainfield. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.

Haiku Club, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, every first Thursday, Read published haiku, brainstorm Vermont kigo, or season words, write a haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

Contra Dance, 7-9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St., Cabot, second Fridays, through June 7. All dances taught, no partner needed, all welcome. Information, cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., for women only, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

News Discussion, 10 a.m., Front Seat Coffee, Visit with Hardwick Gazette staff.

Ongoing Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30 a.m., step meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

History book group, second Saturdays of the month, 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Food Shelf, 9 to noon, third Saturday of each month from 9 to noon, 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

Fiber Arts, 10- 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the third Saturday of the month.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. - noon, Craftsbury.

Al-Anon, 10 a.m., Community Justice Center, St. Johnsbury, information, (802) 626-5355.

Overeaters Anonymous, 10 a.m., Zoom meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Acudetox, 11 a.m., every fourth Saturday, ear acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: (802) 851-8120.

Taming Knotweed, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission

Osteoporosis Education and support group, 1 p.m., first Saturday of month, Better Bones of the Northeast Kingdom, Community Room at Community National Bank, Derby. Information, BetterBonesNEK.org or Mary King at Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org, or (802) 535-2011.

Craffit, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Vigil Mass, 4 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary-queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Contra Dance, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange, Montpelier. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. First, third and fifth Saturdays. Information at (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com

Writing Group, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., first

See EVENTS, Next Page



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EVENTS

and third Saturdays, (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Ongoing Sundays

Service, 8:30 a.m., United Church of Marshfield, U.S. Rte. 2, worship service and Sunday school, Pastor Carlyle Pierce. Information, (802) 684-2114.

Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary-queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Service, 9 a.m., Danville United Methodist Church, Danville Green,

Rev. Henry Cheney. Information, (802) 684-3389.

Sunday School, and prayer, 9 a.m., adults, Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Sunday School, 9 a.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, for all ages. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Sacrament Meeting, 9 a.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Rte. 15 W, Johnson. Bishop Erik Worthington, (802) 326-3035, mormon.org.

Story time, 9:30 a.m., The Christian

Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, for children. thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 9:30 a.m., West Danville United Methodist Church, Vt. Rte. 15, across from Joe's Pond, Pastor Pam Smith. Information, (802) 684-1201.

Service, 9:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information. (802) 472-5294.

Bible study, 10 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Information, (802) 586-7707, ecpcvt@gmail.com, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.com.

Worship, 10 a.m., and Sunday School, Albany Methodist Church, Route 14,.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 South Main Street. In person, Zoom or livestreaming. Communion Service, first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, music director, an Open and Affirming Congregation. Information, (802) 472-6800 for information.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Cabot, 2 Common Way, refreshments following. Information, (802) 563-2278.

Service, 10 a.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Children's service, 10 a.m., The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Rite II Service with music and coffee hour following service. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Service, 10 a.m., the United Church of Craftsbury, an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Handicap accessible, (802) 586-8028, unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com, unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., the Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, Pastors, : Marlin Wadel and Stephen Groff. Information, (802) 888-9113, (802) 888-5277.

Service, Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Calais-Woodbury United Church, Rte. 14, South Woodbury. Communion, first Sunday of month. Church phone, (802) 232-1013, information, (802) 456-1557.

Service, 10 a.m., First Universalist Parish of Derby Line, P.O. Box 454, Derby Line, VT 05830, (802) 873-3563, derbylineuu.org, Zoom service.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St. 802-533-2223, also online. Communion Service first Sunday of the month. Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters. Coffee hour following service. An Open & Affirming Congregation. gucvvt.org.

Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Michael's Church, 270 Bend Road, Greensboro Bend, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, confessions before Mass, Father Raj Madri. Information, (802) 472-5544.

Service, 10:30 a.m., The Act of Consecration of the Human

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See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Service, 11 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m., handicapped accessible. Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Information, (802) 586-7707, ecpcvt@gmail.com, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.com.

Service, 11 a.m., First Congregational Church (NACCC), 123 E. Church St., East Hardwick, worship led by Jim Casavant, interim Pastor. Closed in winter. Information, (414) 856-1620.

Pickleball, 11 a.m., Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group. Information, Sara at Shbehrsing@gmail.com.

Service, 11 a.m., Trinity Assembly of God, Rte. 15 East, Hyde Park. Pastor Ron Doyle. (802) 888-7326.

Fellowship Service, 11 a.m., The Healing Stream Church of God, Wolcott Town Hall, Pastor Peter LaBonnville, Wheelchair accessible.

Spanish Club, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the second Saturday of each month.

Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, Route 15.

Pickleball, noon, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information, Sara at Shbehrsing@gmail.com.

Service, noon, Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Poetry readings, third Sundays, beginning March 15, 2 to 4 p.m., hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library. This month features Buffy Aakaash and Bethany Ann Barrett Bohall. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Mending Circle, 3 to 5 p.m., every third Sunday, The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction, snacks supplied.

Poetry Readings, third Sunday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library. Each reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street,

Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Evening Service, 7:30 p.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Ongoing Mondays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 1, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Adaptive Biking, 2 - 3 p.m., the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, call (802) 427-4116.

Chess Club, 2:45 - 4 p.m., Craftsbury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-

Barkoczy on select Mondays preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament, March 28.

Mending, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

Quit Tobacco, support group, 3 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Adaptive Biking, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, (802) 427-4116.

Dads' Group, 5 - 6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. Connect with other dads. Information, Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or (802) 730-3000.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the

Common, Craftsbury Common.

Service, 6 p.m. Walden United Methodist Church, 109 Noyestar Road, handicap accessible, (802) 684-1201.

Families Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Alcoholics Anonmous, 7 p.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 S. Main St. Open discussion. Information, (802) 748-3708, local AA (802) 334-1213 or toll-free (877) - 334-1213.

Ongoing Tuesdays

Qigong, 8:30 a.m., the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Tai Chi, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Judevine Memorial Library Parker

See EVENTS, Next Page

Navigating the mid to late March Night Sky

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid March at 8 p.m. (daylight time) or late March at 9 p.m. (daylight time).

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.

The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the March night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Above the northeast horizon rises the Big Dipper. Draw a line from its two end bowl stars upwards to the North Star. Its top bowl stars point west to Capella in Auriga, nearly overhead. Leo reclines below the Dipper's bowl.
- 2 From Capella jump northwestward along the Milky Way to Perseus, then to the "W" of Cassiopeia. Next jump southeastward from Capella to the twin stars of Castor and Pollux in Gemini.
- 3 Directly south of Capella stands the constellation of Orion with its three Belt Stars, its bright red star Betelgeuse, and its bright blue-white star Rigel.
- 4 Use Orion's three Belt stars to point northwest to the red star Aldebaran and the Hyades star cluster, then to the Pleiades star cluster. Travel southeast from the Belt stars to the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius. It is a member of the Winter Triangle.

Binocular Highlights

A: Between the "W" of Cassiopeia and Perseus lies the Double Cluster. B: Examine the stars of the Pleiades and Hyades, two naked eye star clusters. C: M42 in Orion is a star forming nebula. D: Look south of Sirius for the star cluster M41. E: M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies to the southeast of Pollux. F: Look high in the east for the loose star cluster of Coma Berenices.

Astronomical League www.astroleague.org/outreach; duplication is allowed and encouraged for all free distribution.

EVENTS

Community Room, Hardwick. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

Tai Chi, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, Hardwick. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

Storytime, 10 a.m., Craftsbury Public Library, early literacy for children ages 0 - 5. Information at childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

Exercise, 11 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, lead by certified AFE crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com P instructor Alice Perron. Information esanderson@nekouncil.org, (802) 751-0431.

Moms in Recovery, support program, 1-2 p.m., tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information, , (802) 635-0084.

Kids' Chorus, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information at jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

After School, 3-5 p.m., Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Dungeons & Dragons, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Cabot Public Library, ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.

Smart Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Craftfit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Crafting Group, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Magic, 5 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, A group of young people get together at to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. New players are welcome.

Friends of Jeudevine Library, 5:15 p.m., third Tuesday of every month at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

As Bill Sees It, AA Meeting, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Taiji, 6 p.m. Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., meditation meeting, United Church, 6 Church Lane (next to library), Craftsbury Common. Open meeting.

Exhibits

Mary Young's "Notions and Nature," Greensboro Free Library, on view through April.

Kim Darling's "People and Things," Back Room Gallery, at NEK Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad St., #2, St. Johnsbury. Oil paintings on view through April 17.

Community Services

Aging assistance, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, St. Johnsbury, (800) 642-5119.

Aging assistance, Central Vermont Council on Aging, Montpelier, (802) 479-0531.

Community dinners, United Church of Hardwick, noon, third and fourth Thursdays, eat-in or take out. (802) 472-6566 to reserve meal.

Crisis line, 24 hours, involuntary custody screening, Lamoille County Mental Health, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., (802) 888-5026; nights and weekends, (802) 888-8888.

Food pantry, Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf, serving Calais, Woodbury, Cabot, (802) 472-6292..

Food pantry, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, 36 W. Church St., Mon., noon - 2 p.m.; Thurs. and Sat., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (802) 472-5940.

Food shelf, vtfoodbank.org/nuture-people/3squaresvt, (802) 855-6181.

Human services, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 181 Crawford Road, Derby, (802) 334-6744.

Human services, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 2225 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-3181, nkhs.org

Meals on Wheels, Greensboro Nursing Home through Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, (800) 642-5119.

Meals on Wheels, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Montpelier, (802) 224-1825, melissa@vcil.org.

Mental health, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, 72 Harrel St., Morrisville, (802) 888-5026, (802) 228-0591, lamoille.org.

Mental health, Washington County Mental Health Services, 9 Heaton St., Montpelier, (802) 223-6328, wcmhs.org

Recovery center, St. Johnsbury Recovery Center, 297 Summer St., (802) 751-8520, recoveryinfo@stjohnsburyrecoverycenter.org

stjkr.org, kingdom-recovery-center.com

Thrift store, Angel Outfitters Thrift Store, United Church of Christ, 216 S. Main St., Hardwick, Thurs., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; (802) 472-6800.

Veterans' services, Caledonia County, (802) 338-4324.

Veterans' services, Lamoille County, (802) 338-3411.

Veterans' services, Orleans County, (802) 338-4325.

Veterans' services, Washington County, (802) 338-4318.

Libraries

Albany Public Library, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org. Mon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wed. 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 1 to 5 p.m. Story time for all ages: Mon., 10 a.m. and Sat., 4 p.m.

Brown Library, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711, sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library, Mon. to Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

Cabot Public Library, 3084 Main St, (802) 563-2721, cabotlibrary.com, Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

Craftsbury Public Library, 149 Common Loop, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, craftsburypubliclibrary.org, Mon. and Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Story time, Fri., 10 a.m.

Cutler Memorial Public Library, 151 High St, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, cutlerlibrary.org, Tues., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wed., 3 - 6 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Glee Merritt Kelley Community Library, 320 School Hill Drive, Wolcott, (802) 472-6551, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-

2531, greensborofreelibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., noon - 2 p.m.

Hazen Union School Library, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick, (802) 472-6511, hazenlibrary@ossu.org, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public.

Jaquith Public Library, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., Marshfield, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org, Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. - noon, closed Sundays. Winter story time and playgroup, Fri., 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for weather.

Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N Main St., Hardwick, (802) 472-5948, jeudevinememoriallibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. 1 - 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

John W. Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 E. Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury, (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org. Wed., 9 a.m. - noon and 6 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. - noon and 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon; Sun. noon - 2 p.m.

Morristown Centennial Library, 7 Richmond St., Morrisville, (802) 888-3853, centenniallibrary.org, Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Walden Community Library, Walden Elementary School, 135 Cahoon Farm Road, (802) 563-2195, walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home, Tues., 6 - 8 p.m.

Woodbury Community Library, Woodbury School, 69 Valley Lake Road, (802) 472-5710, woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com, Wed., 1 - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To have your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, e-mail news@hardwickgazette.com.




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Hazen Union junior Ladycat Mya Lumsden (No. 11) aims for two as Hadley Cenate (No. 2) of Green Mountain follows the play. Lumsden scored twenty points during the game. Hazen outscored Green Mountain 73-27.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union's Autumn Dailey aims for the basket defended by Sophia Cherubini (center) and Mackenzie Koch (right) of Green Mountain Union during quarterfinal play in Hardwick, February 28. Hazen prevailed 73-27.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lady Cats punch ticket back to Barre with blowout win

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Barre Auditorium has become a second home for the Hazen Union girls basketball program the last few years and they punched their ticket to the Division III Final Four last week for a fourth consecutive time with a resounding quarterfinal win over Green Mountain.

Junior Kelsie Rivard punished Green Mountain with 24 points in limited minutes on Saturday to lead Hazen to a 73-27 blowout win at home. The Lady Grizz came into the Cat Den with high hopes after upsetting No. 8 White River Valley in the first round Wednesday night. Those hopes were quickly dashed against the relentless full court defensive pressure from Hazen as they opened the game on a 20-6 run. Junior Mya Lumsden continued to enjoy a breakout season, scoring 17 points for the Lady Cats as they increased their lead to 37-13 at the break. Fellow junior Autumn Dailey added seven points and senior Julia des Groseilliers chipped in with 6 in the win.

Jordyn Farrar led Green Mountain with 10 points as their season came to an end at 10-11.

“We had a good week of practice and preparation and were able to get a scrimmage in with Rutland earlier in the week, which can only get us more ready

for matchups ahead of us. Unfortunately, Kelsie broke her nose in that scrimmage and had to wear a mask for the game. It definitely didn't affect her much because she came out aggressive, scoring early and often. Our freshman Eloise Foster is getting closer to 100%, and having her back on the floor gives us more depth. It was a good win and going back to Barre is a great achievement for these girls,” said head coach Randy Lumsden.

Rivard has been a beast in her junior campaign for the Lady Cats, averaging north of 21 points per game, while becoming the first underclassmen in program history since the great Jennifer des Groseilliers to reach 1,000 career points. Lumsden too is enjoying a career year since moving to shooting guard, averaging over 13 points per game as Hazen's long-range threat that opens up the offense. Junior Taylor Thompson has been a demon defensively while running the offense, senior Isabelle Gouin just poured in a career-high 20 points last week. Dailey and des Groseilliers are giving high energy patrolling the paint. Lumsden's objective when he took over the Lady Cat program four years ago was to make it a powerhouse. A state championship, four straight Final Fours and nearly 80 wins later, most would agree that he's already achieved that.

“I'm happy for the girls

and getting to Barre is an achievement in itself. I'm not able to sit back and enjoy what we've accomplished yet because the job isn't finished. The goal is to finish the season with a W. I love the way the girls have matured, and they now have a lot of big game experience. Having players like them who work hard and buy in makes it easy to be a good coach. Vergennes will be a challenge. They're well coached and get out and run just like us. I'm sure they'll have a gameplan for

us, but some of the teams we've battled with this season will have us ready for the challenge,” said Lumsden.

Hazen (18-2) rolls into Barre as the top seed in Division III and will take on a fifth seeded Vergennes team (17-5) Thursday night that is coming off an upset win over No. 4 Bellows Falls. Second seeded Windsor and No. 3 Oxbow will do battle in the other semifinal match-up. The winners advance to the championship game on Saturday night.



The Hazen Union Laycats (from left) Julia des Groseilliers, Mya Lumsden, Taylor Thompson, Isabelle Gouin, Kelsie Rivard, Kassidy Gann and Eloise Foster, celebrate after their quarterfinal 73-27 win against Green Mountain, Saturday. Hazen will go on to face Vergennes in semi-final action at the Barre Auditorium, March 5 at 5:30 p.m.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Trojan Zepherin Hebert (No. 4) eyes the hoop followed by Logan Desjardins (No. 22) during play at Twinfield, February 26. Twinfield-Cabot beat Williamstown 82-61. The Trojans will play Long Trail Tuesday March 3 for a 7 p.m. play-down at home.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield-Cabot's Omar Miksic-Knibb (No. 13) soars to the hoop defended by (from left) Keeton Hull, Austin Smedy and Weston Pouliot of Williamstown during February 26 action at Twinfield.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

Rare 2K moment for Trojan program as they clinch No. 1 seed

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – Star seniors Eli Russell and Tej Stewart reached career milestones on the same night last week as they led their Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team through a gauntlet of Oxbow, Williamstown and Richford in the final week of the regular season to clinch the top seed in the upcoming Division IV state tournament.

Russell buried five threes on his way to a 21-point night Monday as the Trojans earned a hard-fought victory over Oxbow at home 64-57. Azeem Stewart complemented with 15 points and fellow sophomore Omar Miksic-Knibb added 12 points and four steals in the win. Twinfield-Cabot took a double-digit lead into the fourth quarter and withstood a late charge from the Olympians, who finished up the regular season at 12-8. Jayden Huntoon led all scorers with 20.

Russell and Stewart achieved the rare feat of both reaching 1,000 career points on the same night on Thursday as the Trojans thumped Williamstown at home 82-61. Russell reached the milestone early in the first quarter with his sixth point of the night. Stewart was 15 away heading into Thursday and swished a free throw in the fourth quarter to join his back-court mate. Play was stopped each time, and both players were honored



Twinfield senior Eli Russell is presented with a basketball and banner from Twinfield-Cabot head varsity coach Kris Bador after getting his 1,000th career point, February 26, during a home game against Williamstown. Russell needed six points going into the game and scored 25.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

with game balls and banners with head coach Kris Bador and family members. Russell finished the night with 25 points and Stewart finished with 16. Nick Mascitti led the Blue Devils with 20 but it wasn't enough to prevent a season series sweep as they fell to 14-6.

"I want to give a huge shout-out to our communities for packing the house on Monday and Thursday. They helped us set the tone in those games against two really good teams and the support they gave Eli and Tej on their historic night was special. I expected nothing less from the best



Twinfield-Cabot head varsity coach Kris Bador presents a basketball and banner to Twinfield senior Tej Stewart for reaching his 1,000th career point, February 26, against Williamstown. Stewart needed 15 points and scored 16.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

fans in the division and they got to watch two great young men who have been crucial in building this program into what it is today, reach career milestones," said Bador.

There was no let down on Saturday as the Trojans raced past Richford 55-35 on the road to cap off the regular season with their 16th straight win. Tej Stewart led the way with 16 points, fellow senior Zepherin Hebert added 14. Miksic-Knibb (nine points), Thomas Gouge (eight) and Sam McLane (eight) rounded out a balanced scoring attack for Twinfield-Cabot. Liam Farnsworth led the Falcons with 11 as they finished up the regular season at 12-8. The Trojans clinched their first No. 1 seed

under Bador since he took over the program in 2023. His veteran club has posted an impressive 38-5 record the past two seasons and will be aiming to get back to the Barre Auditorium later this week for a second straight year. A game-winner in the closing seconds from Danville's Kohl Guinard denied the Trojans from reaching the Final last March. The Bears went on to claim the Division IV state title.

"It was an amazing week! We are getting healthy and the boys went out and got three big wins to lock up the top seed. The race back to the Aud is on and our coaching staff will be scouting and putting together game plans for two potential home games this week. You can throw out the records; everyone is back to 0-0. The body of work these young men have put in is just incredible. It's a long season with a lot of ups and downs but everyone stepped up their game throughout the year with a next man up mentality. We look forward to Trojan Nation coming out to pack the gym again and this place should be rocking this week!" said Bador.

Twinfield-Cabot (19-1) welcomed in the winner of the play-in game between Long Trail and Sharon Academy on Tuesday night. If they advance, they will host the winner of Richford and Arlington on Friday night with a trip to Barre on the line.

Hazen boys storm into postseason with momentum

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys basketball team took care of business against Spaulding and U-32 last week to clinch the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Division III playoffs as they look to get back to the title game for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year.

Junior Lincoln Hill drained four threes on his way to a 20-point night to lead the Wildcats to a 68-37 dismantling of Spaulding at home on Senior Night last Monday. Fellow junior Jamison Lamarre added 16 points and six assists as Hazen started the game on a 16-0 run and never looked back. Seniors Morgan Michaud (14 points, 10 rebounds), Sully Laflam (9 points) and Ethan Gann were honored before the game with their family members for their outstanding high school careers on the hardwood. Freshman Noah Foster (five points) connected from long range and

Kobe Smith chipped in with two points and four assists in the win. Noah Cepeda led Spaulding with 8 points.

“It never gets old watching these seniors celebrate their careers here at Hazen with generations of their families, with now a lot of them having already come through our program. The quality of our kids and their families are so high in this community and it’s no surprise that I get to coach team after team that are all-in with no ego. We are so lucky to have the amount of past players that the younger kids can look up to as examples. They set a standard that was all about the team and the program without any sense of entitlement. It really makes you proud to be part of it,” said head coach Aaron Hill.

Lincoln Hill continued to torch the net from deep on Thursday, connecting on five more three-pointers to finish with a career-high 30 points to lead the Wildcats

to a 75-57 road win over U-32. Michaud did the dirty work inside with 14 points and a game-high 17 rebounds. Lamarre added 13 points and eight assists. Laflam chipped in with 11 points as Hazen went into the break with a 39-26 advantage.

The loss evened the Raiders record at 10-10. They will host Mount Abe this week as the eighth seed in the upcoming Division II playoffs.

The win helped Hazen move up and clinch the second seed in a loaded Division III bracket. Randolph and Hazen will carry the same 16-4 record into the state tournament but the Ghosts earned the top seed with a season series sweep of the Wildcats in the regular season. Woodstock (17-3), Winooski (15-4) and Vergennes (14-6) round out the top five seeds. Two-time defending state champion Thetford Academy enters the tournament at 12-8 as the sixth seed.

“Our division is so deep this year again and it is going to be a real challenge for everyone from the quarterfinals on. I feel great about where we are as a team right now. We’re playing with confidence and balance and are able to give teams different looks defensively. Getting Jeter Demers back healthy and the growth of Noah gives us the best depth we’ve had as a team all season. We’ve continued to get better as a team as the season progressed and so have some other teams at the top of our division. We’re looking forward to the postseason and the challenge,” said Hill.

Hazen welcomes Stowe to town in the first round of the Division III playoffs Wednesday night. If they advance, they will host the winner of Peoples Academy/Oxbow in the quarterfinals on Saturday afternoon. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

KEN BROWN'S PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Bid back to Barre falls short for Lady Wolves

BRADFORD – After thumping Woodstock in the opening round of the division III state tournament, the Peoples Academy (PA) girls basketball team’s upset bid over third seeded Oxbow came up a field goal short last week.

Former Hazen Union alum and current Lady Wolves’ head coach Rick Welcome nearly got

his upstart squad back to Barre for second consecutive season on Saturday, but Oxbow came back from a nine point deficit in the fourth quarter to advance back to the Aud with an improbable 46-44 win. Makenna Houston’s 15 points and Brooke Osgood’s 11 helped Oxbow complete the comeback from a 38-29 deficit with eight minutes to play. Freshman Daisy Berg led PA with 16 points and former Hazen Union freshman Chloe Moodie added 10 in the loss. Oxbow ended

PA’s Cinderella bid last season at the Aud in what was Welcome’s first season on the sidelines. The Lady Wolves season comes to an end at 14-8. Oxbow will face defending champion Windsor on Thursday night for a chance to go to their second consecutive state title game.

Bears begin title defense red-hot

DANVILLE – In what has been an up and down year for the defending Division IV champs, the Danville boys basketball team closed out the regular season against Williamstown with their eighth straight win last week and will enter the state tournament as the No. 7 seed.

Landon Fournier’s game-high 23 points helped the Bears earn a split in the season series with a 54-49 win over Williamstown at home last Monday. Fournier torched the Blue Devils for seven 3s and a 41-26 lead after three quarters of play. Alijah Andrews added 12 points and Kohl Guinard chipped in with nine. After starting the year with a pedestrian 6-6 record, the Bears roll into the postseason playing their best basketball. Their last loss came to top seeded Twinfield-Cabot back in January.

Danville will host No. 10 Proctor on Wednesday night in the opening round. If they

advance, they will likely travel to second seeded West Rutland on Friday for a quarterfinal matchup.

Cinderella run comes to an end for Lady Bears

WEST RUTLAND – After pulling off the biggest playoff upset in Division IV in ten years over No. 6 Arlington earlier in the week, the Danville girls basketball team struggled to keep up with second seeded Arlington over the weekend.

Lynsey Lavelly poured in a season-high 19 points and Myah Morgan dominated the paint with 13 points and 14 rebounds to lead Danville to a 51-45 road upset over Arlington last Tuesday. Lavelly punished the Lady Eagles with 17 second half points, denying them their fourth straight trip to the Barre Auditorium.

Four-time defending Division IV state champion West Rutland flexed its muscles against the Lady Bears on Friday night, ending their season at 8-13 with a 67-35 quarterfinal win. Peyton Winn led Danville with 13 points and Lavelly added nine in the loss. Haley Raiche led West Rutland with 14. The Golden Horde faced an upset minded Rivendell Academy team in Barre on Monday who knocked off second seeded MSJ in the quarterfinal round.



Twinfield-Cabot’s Sam McLane looks to pass ahead of Logan Desjardins (No. 11) during play against Williamstown, February 26, at Twinfield. Official Marc Newton is in back at left. Twinfield-Cabot took the victory 82-61.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



Skiers tag off in the exchange zone for the boys relay at the Vermont state meet, February 24.

photo by Eric Hanson

Stowe boys are D2 cross country ski champs

CRAFTSBURY – After four races over two days, the Stowe boys team came out on top in Division 2. The classic ski portion of the Vermont state meet took place Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center on a cold but picture perfect day.

For the Stowe team, it has been well over a decade since they've had a team this good, and it was the Stowe girls that time. Unlike some sports, the top teams ebb and flow over the years with powerhouses like Burlington High School going from first to near last after a bunch of seniors graduated last year, and U32, a former state championship team a few years ago, did not have enough skiers to field a full team this year.

In the Division 1 classic race, Acadia Enman (Mount Mansfield Union) took her second title of the week in 16:31. St. Johnsbury had two

top finishers with Tillie Lange 3rd and Anya Moriarity 4th. It was Claire Serrano from U-32 in D2 that had the fastest time of the day, two seconds ahead of Enman in 16:29. Serrano trains a day or two a week with the Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) and skis with them during Eastern Cup races. She'll be headed to Junior Nationals in early March in Cable, Wisc. Mary Harrington (Middlebury) was 2nd and Priscilla Richardson (Woodstock) placed 3rd. Craftsbury Academy's (CA's) Aemilia Terrone was 8th, Lake Region's Nora Demaine 11th and Ada Allen (CA) 47.

On the boys side in D2, Jorgen Pirrung (Middlebury) took the win in 14:53 with Magnus Hayden (Peoples, PA) 2, Isaac Nadzam (Montpelier) 3, Oakley Crawford (CA) 6, Oryon Hart (CA) 7, Max Demaine (Lake Region, LR) 10, Linden Urie (LR) 37, and Eli Davis (LR) 42. Hayden and Nadzam both ski with CSC as well.

The Woodstock girls won the D2



Claire Serrano of U-32 skis the fastest time of the day of both D1 and D2 skiers at the Vermont state meet, February 24, at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

photo by Eric Hanson

girls relay, while MMU took the D1 race. Stowe (D2) had the fastest boys relay time (28:12) ahead of Mount Anthony who won the D1 section.

After adding up both the free-style and classic races, MMU out-did St. Johnsbury and CVU for the D1 girls title. The Woodstock girls were ahead of Montpelier and PA in the girls division. In D1 boys, Mount Anthony placed first with CVU 2nd and BFA-St. Albans 3rd. For D2 boys, Stowe had their day against neighbor PA and Montpelier.

Local youngsters ski at Northeast Bill Koch Festival

JACKSON, N.H. – Every year, first- to eighth-graders and all their families gather and celebrate cross country skiing for a two-day festival sponsored by the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA). The festival location rotates from state to state and this year the action took place at the Jackson Ski Touring Center.

The first big event was the two-person relay Saturday morning. For the NE Vermont squad, most ski with the Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) and their coaches Anna Schultz, Audrey Mangan, Jake Barton and Ollie Burress. The coaches did a lot of wrangling and ski waxing to make sure everyone was ready to go. In the 7-8th grade boys race, Hollis Allen, David Stevenson and Joe Krebs made for a three-person team, finishing 12th and Finn Nunnery-Graham Smith 36. For the girls, Eleanor Hammond teamed up with some NW Vermont students, finishing 9. Grade 5-6 boys teams: Sam Koschak-Teddy Harvey 9. Grade 5-6 girls: Scarlett Podolin-Bea Johnson 4, Phoebe Buntten-Emerson McCarthy 16, River Fournier-Elizabeth Stevenson 19. Grade 3-4 boys: Martin Riechel-Win Raulinaitis 16. Grade 3-4 girls:



Craftsbury Academy's Oakley Crawford skis to 6th place in Division 2 at the Vermont state meet, February 24.

photo by Eric Hanson

Ruthie Podolin-Winter Pelland 2, Fern Hammond-Scarlett Hammond 8.

Grade 1-2: Russell Perkins-Paul Stevenson 9, Victor Riechel-Esme Karp 17, Enid Hammond-Coco Harvey 21.

Saturday afternoon was filled with games and adventure skis before Sunday morning's individual races. Grade 1-2: Russell Perkins 14, Esme Karp 27, Coco Harvey 31, Victor Riechel 37. Grade 3-4 girls: Ruthie Podolin 6, Fern Hammond 7, Scarlett Pelland 10, Winter Pelland 16. Grade 3-4 boys: Martin Riechel 25, Win Raulinaitis 43. Grade 5-6 girls: Bea Johnson 3, Scarlett Podolin 12, Emerson McCarthy 31, Phoebe Buntten 33, Elizabeth Stevenson 34, Mable Raulinaitis 56. Grade 5-6 boys: Sam Koschak 40, Teddy Harvey 51. Grade 7-8 girls: Eleanor Hammond 13. Grade 7-8 boys: Hollis Allen 10, David Stevenson 49, Graham Smith 70.

Well over 600 youth participated in this event so whether skiers were in the top ten or the back of 80 within his-her age class, everyone was getting to know one another and enjoying winter.



Craftsbury Academy's Aemilia Terrone (18) skis in the girls relay next to a CVU skier (5) at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Vermont state meet, February 24

photo by Eric Hanson