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Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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Volume 137 Number 9

Lady Cats refuse to lose, topple Windsor in title bout

by Ken Brown

BARRE – In an overtime thriller for the ages, the Hazen Union girls basketball team dethroned Windsor for a second time in three years to lay claim to the Division III state championship crown.

Junior Kelsie Rivard continued to set new records at the Barre Auditorium, pouring in 30 points and corraling an eyepopping 24 rebounds to power the Lady Cats to a 55-53 overtime win over Windsor Saturday night. Rivard needed to sink the back end of a pair of free throws with just over four seconds remaining in regulation, just to give Hazen a chance in overtime. The freshly minted 1,000-point scorer hit nothing but net in

one of the biggest pressure cookers in Vermont high school basketball and found herself right back at the line in the waning seconds of overtime. After securing her twenty-fourth rebound of the night off a Cassie Clark, missed three, Rivard was fouled at half-court with 2.4 seconds left. Rivard stepped to the line and calmly swished both free throws and Windsor never got off a shot as the buzzer sounded. Rivard was a freshman phenom in the Lady Cats 2023-24 Division III state championship run,

See TITLE, 4

See boys basketball playoff stories for Hazen Union and Twinfield-Cabot on Sports pages.



Coach Randy Lumsden and the Lady Cats (from left), Julia des Groseilliers, Ari Nichols, Eloise Foster, Kennidee Gouin, Cassidy Gann, Marina Smith, Ivy Demers, Allie Foster and Estella Foster react as the Saturday game against Windsor goes into overtime. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Voters approve anti-ICE, pro-farming resolutions

by Claire Charlow and Eisha Qureshi

PLAINFIELD – Voters on Town Meeting Day approved two non-binding resolutions: one calling for the abolishment of ICE, and the other supporting “the right to grow food.”

The first resolution, proposed by resident Debra Stoleroff, seeks the dissolution of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The second resolution, called the Right to Grow Food, seeks to protect small farmers’ ability to raise, donate and sell food they have produced without undue interference from government.

See RESOLUTIONS, 5

Australian ballot items pass

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – In Australian balloting, 406 (40.5%) of Plainfield’s 1,002 registered voters cast ballots last Tuesday, with 40 by absentee ballot.

Both bond items passed as voters approved one for no more than \$700,000 to replace the water line under School Street on a vote of 285 to 74.

The bond for Paving Main Street, at up to \$250,000, passed 301 to 58.

See PASS, 5



Voters at Plainfield Town Meeting Day, March 3 overwhelmingly approved anti-ICE and pro-farming resolutions by a voice vote

photo by Claire Charlow



Robin Leslie raises her hand while counting votes on the floor of the Hardwick Town Meeting in the packed Town House last Tuesday.

photo by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane

Wolcott, Mountainview schools budgets rejected

by Paul Fixx

AREA TOWNS – Similarly to last year, the Wolcott school district budget of \$6,364,330.18, did not pass, with 143 votes against 108, and new this year, the Mountainview Union budget failed.

Last year, Wolcott residents had concerns about taxes, with a 30-cent per hundred dollar assessed value increase in taxes, estimated to add \$300 per hundred thousand of value to a Wolcott property.

In Australian balloting on the \$9,173,292.42 budget, the Mountain View Union Elementary School District that includes the elementary

schools in Hardwick, Woodbury and Greensboro 389 of the 778 cast were against approving it, while 377 were in favor.

Hazen Union School District No. 26 passed its 9,178,952 budget on a vote of 396 to 352.

Margaret Randolph Bledsoe and Terri Vest, both running unopposed, were reelected.

In Craftsbury, the following individuals were elected as school district officers in the town of Craftsbury; Jeannine Young, moderator, one year; Michelle Warren, dually elected treasurer and clerk, one-year seats; Cedar Hannan, school district officer, three-year seat; Michelle Menard, school district officer, two-year seat.

See REJECTED, 6

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PUBLIC SERVICES

Flood watch until March 12

WOLCOTT – A flood watch was issued March 9 at 1:52 p.m., until March 12 at 2 p.m., by the National Weather Service, Burlington. Warm temperatures may melt snowpack and increase river flows. Flooding caused by a combination of rain, snowmelt and ice jams is possible for all of northern New York and northern and central Vermont.

Excessive runoff from snowmelt and rainfall will cause sharp river rises, likely resulting in river ice break up. Ice jams will be possible, along with rapid onset flooding. Flooding of rivers, creeks, streams and other low-lying and flood-prone locations will be possible and creeks and streams may rise out of their banks.

Mild temperatures will lead to rapid rises on area rivers through early this week. This will be followed by widespread rain Wednesday into Thursday. Rising rivers will cause river ice to break up and flow, potentially resulting in ice jams and associated flooding. As rain moves in Wednesday, the threat will turn more toward open water flooding for those waterways that have lost their ice. Any open water flooding will likely persist through Thursday. Monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings at <http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop.

Hardwick Police Department

Attempt to flee, criminal suspension

HARDWICK – On February 28, the Hardwick Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on Route 15 E. The operator eluded the officer and was later located in Wolcott. The operator, Travis S. Ward was found to be criminally suspended and had an active Warrant for his arrest. Ward was taken into custody without incident and processed at Morristown Police Department by Officer Donna. Ward was lodged at the Northeast Correctional Complex on the Warrant. Ward was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia

Superior Court on April 13, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. to answer the charges of Criminal DLS, Attempting to Elude and Negligent Operation.

On March 4, the Hardwick Police Department conducted a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on Granite Street. The operator, Douglas Brier, was found to be criminally suspended and was taken into custody without incident and processed at Hardwick Police Department. Brier was issued a citation to appear in the Caledonia Superior Court unit on April 06, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the above charge.

Contents

Public Services.....	2, 3
Weather Watch	3
Our Communities	6
Town Meeting Results	7
News Notes	8
Budget passes after 90-minute paper ballot.....	9
School budget passes without incident.....	11
Editorial: Invest in the future of our communities	12
Letters from Readers: Luneau	12
Yankee Notebook: "Geez!" I exclaimed as I took it from him.....	13
Woodsmoke (cartoon).....	13
Another Opinion: Circosta, Kelley, Leahy, Gulka, Grant.....	14, 15, 16
Legislative Report: Yacavone	15
Voices of Spirit: True religion.....	17
The Outside Story: Song sparrow	17
In the Garden: Combat high prices with a garden.....	18
In the Garden: Spring cover crops	19
Heller's World (cartoon)	19
Our Communities	20
Education.....	20, 21
Obituaries: Donlon, Bean.....	21
Norcross named to Heroes of Western Swing Hall of Fame	22
Satellite Gallery hosts Kadunc exhibition through March.....	22
Concordia Choir brings 70 singers to Fuller Hall	23
Psychic comedian takes Highland Center stage.....	23
Events	24-28
Twinfield-Cabot boys roll Twin Valley	29
Hazen boys suffocate Wolves, punch ticket back to Barre.....	30
Eric Hanson's Ski Report	31
Ken Brown's Playoff Roundup	31



March 11 - March 17

New for Spring Skida Brim Hats		Jigsaw puzzles still on Sale	
Arizona Tea 2/\$7 128 oz.	Maxwell House Coffee \$6.49 9.9-11.5 oz.	Salada Tea Bags \$3.69 40-100 ct.	
Cabot Reserve Mac & Cheese Dinner \$3.49 11 oz.	Dole 4 Pk. Fruit Cups \$2.99 16 oz.	Dinty Moore Beef Stew 2/\$5 15 oz.	
Wishbone Salad Dressing 2/\$5 15 oz.	Vlasic Pickles 2/\$5 16-32 oz.	Skippy Peanut Butter 2/\$5 15-16.3 oz.	
Betty Crocker Cake Mix or Frosting 2/\$3 12-16 oz.	Newman's Cookies \$2.99 10-13 oz.	Keebler Town House or Club Crackers \$3.49 12.7-13.8 oz.	
Quaker Chewy Granola Bars 2/\$5 6.5-6.7 oz.	Glad Trash or Tall Kitchen Bags \$8.99 25-40 ct.	Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	
Stonyfield Organic Yogurt \$4.29 32 oz.	Almond Breeze Milk Alternative \$2.99 64 oz.	Ms. T's Pierogies \$2.99 16 oz.	
Willow Tree Chicken Pie \$3.99 10 oz.	Bounty Essential 6 Triple Roll Paper Towels \$10.99 438 s.f.	Charmin Essential 12 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue \$10.99 431-460 s.f.	

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WEATHER WATCH

Milder mode for precipitation, light snow sandwiched in middle

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – A warm-up over the weekend brought highs well into the 40s and 50s with some light rain transitioning into breaks of sun by the start of the work week. Total rainfall amounts from Tuesday, March 3, to Monday, March 9, ranged generally from one quarter to one half of an inch. The warm temperatures and sunshine also put a dent in the snowpack, dropping it from two feet in the mid-elevations down to about a foot of depth.

Cold air trapped at the surface on Wednesday means conditions start out less mild as a storm system approaching from the Great Lakes lifts a warm front through our region in the morning. It brings steady rain with a chance of light freezing rain. That low intensifies as it reaches the St. Lawrence River Valley Wednesday evening, when precipitation turns into bursts of showers with some gusty winds. Rainfall amounts of half an inch are possible, with above-freezing conditions contributing to runoff and concerns for minor river

and ice jam flooding. A flood watch is in effect until Thursday afternoon for this reason.

Temperatures cool behind a cold front with rain showers finishing as snow. Another clipper follows on the heels of the first. This one looks cold enough that we will receive a couple inches of snow as the clipper approaches later Friday into early Saturday. Finally, a third low finishes the weekend with a stronger warm nose and the potential for all precipitation types. This storm could bring some moderate precipitation, although we are too far out to talk about specific precipitation types and amounts. Plan on travel conditions being poor later Sunday into Monday morning. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Cloudy. Rain or freezing rain in the morning, then showers likely by evening. High: 43. Low: 29. South wind 5-10 mph, becoming southwest and increasing to 15-20 mph with gusts to 35 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, then becoming partly sunny. Scattered morning snow showers. High: 40. Low: 17. Northwest wind



Warm spring weather had Crossroads Maple Sugar House on Montgomery Road in East Hardwick boiling Sunday afternoon.

photo by Dawn Gustafson

10-15 mph. Gusts to 25 mph in the morning.

Friday: Partly sunny in the morning, then becoming mostly cloudy. Snow showers likely in the afternoon. High: 35. Low: 23. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning.

High: 34. Low: 17. West wind 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny in the morning, then becoming mostly cloudy. Snow or rain by evening, with mixed precipitation possible. High: 40. Low: 28. Light and variable wind, becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – March 1: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15 E.; DLS, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Assist - Public, N. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Bunker Hill Rd.; Assist - Agency, Main St.

March 2: Parking Problem, Church St.; Mental Health Incident, Vermont Ave.; Vandalism, High St.

March 3: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Citizen Dispute, Spruce Dr.; Suspicious Event, Slapp Hill Rd; Fraud, High St.

March 4: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14.

March 5: Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, LVRT; Welfare Check, Lower Cherry St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14;

Alarm, Depot St.

March 6: Alarm, Vt. Route 14; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Snowmobile, Hardwick; 911 Hangu, S. Main St.; Theft, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Rd.; Snowmobile, Bridgeman Hill Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Medical, Baker Hill Dr.; Snowmobile, High St.; Snowmobile, High St.; Accident - TCNR, Porter Brook Rd.

March 7: Citizen Dispute, Mackville Rd.; Threats/Harassment, Dale St.; Snowmobile, LVRT; Assist - Public, Wolcott St.; School Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Sex Offender Registry, S. Main St.

March 8: Noise Disturbance, S. Main St.; Medical, Vermont Ave.; Suspicious Event, Pleasant St.; Welfare Check, Vt. Route 15 W.; Accident - TCNR, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

United Way of Lamoille County

MORRISVILLE — On March 5, there are 27 households who are at risk of becoming homeless, and 64 households are homeless in Lamoille

County. In total, there are 124 adults and 39 children who are at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness in Lamoille County.



The sky over Buffalo Mountain to the west of Hardwick shows a red glow as the eclipsed worm moon sets at sunrise on Town Meeting Day, March 3..

photo by Paul Fixx



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Championship game

Singing the National Anthem before the start of the Hazen Union Division III championship game against Windsor, March 7, are (front center, going left) Hazen students Ethan Gann, Chloe Cloutier, Sadie Gann, Kassidy Gann, Ursa Goldenrose and Garrett Sisk. Officials (at left) are Richard Wells, Jade Blais and Pat Whalen. Hazen team members (from left) Head Coach Randy Lumsden, Assistant Coaches Alison Blaney and Sue Rivard and players Isabelle Gouin, Taylor Thompson, Autumn Dailey, Mya Lumsden, Kelsie Rivard, Julia des Groseilliers, Ella Renaud, Ari Nichols, Kennidee Gouin, Eloise Foster, Marina Smith and Hydration Specialists Allie Foster, Ivy Demers and Estella Foster.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Title

Continued From Page One

the program's first in over three decades. She set a freshman record with 33 points in her Aud debut, and she and her young teammates leaned heavily on Hazen all-time great Caityln Davison and her 34 points in the title game. The target and the pressure was all on her this time around and boy was she ready.

"Stepping to the line at the end of regulation needing to make that free throw, it was a feeling I can't even put into words," said Rivard. "The rush, the adrenaline and the crowd, it was just unreal. Seeing our community, my teammates and our coaches all show up in that moment meant everything to me. I knew I had to step up. That was the kind of moment I've been dreaming about since elementary school,"

The top two teams in Division III got prime-time billing as the Aud's nightcap from the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) and didn't disappoint. In what became an impossible game to cleanly officiate between two teams that love to press and run, 38 fouls were called on the night, and there could've been more. Hazen took a 14-10 edge into the second quarter but lost junior Autumn Dailey (three points) to foul trouble just three and a half minutes into the contest. Star senior Amelia Rockwood (13 points) and fellow senior Cassie Clark (11) knotted the game at 14-14 before a beautiful feed from Isabelle Gouin (three points) to Taylor Thompson (7), capped off by Rivard's only three of the night, made it 21-14 Hazen midway through the second. Callie Spaulding (14 points) banked it in from long distance and freshman Addi Crane (9) connected on one of her two 3-pointers on the night to cut the Lady Cat lead to 23-21 at the half. Bad passes and turnovers appeared to infect Hazen's entire team for most of the third quarter as Rockwood knifed through the lane to give Windsor a 29-27 lead with 3:45 left. Junior Maya Lumsden (12 points) stopped the bleeding with one of the biggest shots of the night, nailing a step back three from the left corner to give Hazen back the lead at 30-29. A monster offensive board, finish and one by Rivard erased a two-point lead by Windsor with two minutes left but Clark drilled another three and Rockwood solved the Lady Cat defense again to give the defending champs a 37-33

advantage with eight minutes to play. Hazen head coach Randy Lumsden knew he had to calm his team down after a sloppy third quarter.

"We got a little rattled in the third and gave them a lot of extra opportunities with turnovers. I just wanted to remind them to relax and breathe. In the end, it's just a game and they've all been through these moments before. Let's stay composed and run our stuff," said Lumsden.

Rivard set the tone at the beginning of the fourth, finishing strong off a perfect seal from senior Julia des Groseilliers and in a 30 second blur, Gouin and Thompson finished off steals that gave Hazen the lead at 39-37 with six minutes left. Windsor put Hazen into the bonus with their fifth foul at the midway point and Thompson capitalized immediately, capping off an 8-0 run to start the quarter with a pair of made free throws. Five straight points from Crane and another deep ball from Spaulding gave Windsor a 46-45 lead with 1:15 to play and a chance to salt the game away. The Lady Cats trapped but didn't foul and as time ran down, Lumsden had one of the plays of the championship, stripping Rockwood from behind and going the distance to send the Lady Cat fan section into a deafening frenzy and a 47-46 lead with 31.5 left. Rockwood went coast to coast for a quick answer and Rivard was fouled with 4.4, making 1-2 free throws to send the game into an extra period at 48-48. Spaulding gave Windsor an early lead at the start of overtime, but another Rivard free throw and a Lumsden gather and finish off her own blocked shot gave Hazen back the lead at 51-50 with two minutes left. Gouin committed her fifth foul on Clark with just under a minute left and she netted both free throws for a 53-51 lead. A Lumsden turnover led to a pair of missed free throws by Windsor and Rivard literally muscled her way to the rim at the other end to tie it at 53-53 in the closing seconds. Clark's missed three was short off the front rim and Rivard hauled it in with a head of steam before getting knocked to the floor by multiple Lady Yellowjacket defenders with 2.4 remaining. After Rivard made both free throws, Windsor inbounded the ball too close to their sideline and never got off a shot. Windsor was gunning for their fourth state title in head coach Kabray Rockwood's fifth year on



Hazen's Kelsie Rivard aims for two of the 30 points she scored during the Division III championship game against Windsor Saturday. Rivard also pulled in 24 rebounds. photo by Vanessa Fournier

the sidelines as their season came to an end at 17-7. Lumsden's talented squad secured their fourth straight 20-win season and second division III state championship since he took over the program four years ago. His senior class led by Gouin, des Groseilliers, Ella Renaud, Sadie Gann and Ari Nichols will graduate in the spring having never lost a home game at the Cat Den in their outstanding high school basketball careers.

"I think that basketball game may have taken five years off my life," Lumsden joked. "Just two of the most physical teams in Division III basketball going at it until the end. There were so many defining plays throughout that led to us winning that game and I'm so proud of these girls for what they accomplished this season and the character they showed collectively as a team. Kabray runs such a class act program over there, they only know winning and they do it the right way. These two teams have created a heavyweight North-South state rivalry in girls basketball. It's going to continue and it's great for Vermont high school basketball. This particular group persevered through a lot this season and for them to come out the other end on top is special. This will be their state championship for the rest of their lives."

Resolutions

Continued From Page One

On Tuesday, residents packed into the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House. They were welcomed by volunteers selling primroses and pies to fund-raise for the Cutler Memorial Library.

At the end of the meeting, Stoleroff stood to propose the resolution calling for the abolishment of ICE.

Nine Hardwick residents from Colombia, Nicaragua and Ecuador were arrested and detained by ICE in September, according to Vermont Public.

“It’s important that Vermont towns stand up and that people know we care about our residents,” Stoleroff said.

The resolution passed overwhelmingly by a voice vote.

The Right to Grow Food resolution also passed by a voice vote with no opposition.

By passing this resolution, Plainfield residents are petitioning the state legislature to protect the rights of Vermont farmers, specifically those who own four acres of land or less.

In 2025, the state Supreme Court overturned decades of legal precedent ruling that farming is not exempt from all municipal regulation, according to the resolution.

“The court concluded that municipalities may regulate all aspects of farming that do not relate to water quality, thereby setting a new precedent,” the resolution states, “in stark contrast to the previous statewide understanding that farming is exempt from municipal zoning regulations.”

According to the resolution, municipal officials are not currently equipped with agricultural expertise to assess the risk the Vermont landscape faces, especially with the increase in natural disasters. Hands-on experience in regulating livestock, nutrient management and land suitability can help in setting evidence-based zoning regulations, it says.

While Plainfield residents participated in discussion and exercised their debate rights on the floor for some controversial article items, they came together near the end.

Rae Carter is a Plainfield farmer who proposed the resolution. After it passed, she said it could help small farmers and homesteaders be able to be more in control of their livelihoods.



Pies at Plainfield Town Meeting.

photo by Claire Charlow

At the end of the meeting, retiring town Emergency Management Director Michael Billingsley delivered a speech about the impact of natural disasters on Plainfield.

Floods have been displacing Plainfield’s residents, especially those living in valleys and low areas. Average rainfall has increased by several inches, causing the destruction of

homes, he said.

Emergency management in Plainfield has been focusing on moving people out of the valley and onto higher ground and mitigating hazardous climate change impacts, he said.

“This is a Vermont town with a long history, and a lot of that history has included disasters where people have pulled together in the past. I am encouraging people to continue to do that again in the future,” Billingsley said.

The present is the time to start preparing for better evacuation plans, better shelter plans and better emergency management plans, he said.

In other business, Plainfield voters approved an appropriation for the Cutler Memorial Library to pay for the librarian, a library assistant and the purchase of materials and services, including those to make the library more accessible to the community.

By Australian ballot, voters were asked to approve bonds for repairing and modernizing the water system, and for repairs to Main Street.

Claire Charlow and Eisha Qureshi write for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont internship, for The Hardwick Gazette



Plainfield farmer Rae Carter proposed the “Right to Grow Food” resolution at town meeting.

photo by Claire Charlow

and George Cushing as collector of delinquent taxes.

There were only write-in votes for three cemetery commissioners and an auditor. All of which remain vacant and will need to be appointed by the select board.

In voting on the floor of town meeting, articles four to 14 were approved, which began with acceptance of the 2025 Town Report. Amounts allocated by voters will apply to FY27 beginning July 1, 2026.

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) will receive \$6,883.06, \$1,499 was appropriated for the Route 2 commuter bus service and \$16,500 for 17 community service organizations providing food, education and housing for those from birth into old age.

The water department’s appropriation of \$311,874 passed on a voice vote, while an amendment proposed from the floor of the meeting to change “ratepayers” to “users” failed.

The wastewater department will receive \$392,055 and town operations, the fire and rescue and highway departments were approved for \$1,842,047.44, of which \$1,326,787.44 will come from taxes and the remaining \$515,260 from non-tax revenue.



Volunteers at the Plainfield Town Meeting sell primroses and pies to fundraise for the Cutler Memorial Library. photo by Claire Charlow

Pass

Continued From Page One

Donny Osman was reelected as Plainfield’s moderator, Sara Andrews as school director, Karen Hatcher and Andy Robinson for select board, Jeffrey Slaton as lister

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Board tackles reappraisals, software upgrades, historic preservation

by Jenni Belotserkovsky,
The Bridge

MARSHFIELD – During the February 17 meeting, the Marshfield Select Board and Listers Meg Eberhardt and Kathleen Hayes discussed the need for a town-wide reappraisal of the grand list. Marshfield went without reappraisal between 2006 and 2022. In 2023 the town completed a full reappraisal.

The state of Vermont uses Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) values to determine when towns are due for reappraisal. The state website notes that the education tax is funded through a variety of taxes, one of them being the property tax, which is based on a municipal grand list. Most grand lists are not at 100% fair market value, which is why the state requires reappraisals. The COD is supposed to ensure that property valuations in a municipality are equitable and that they reflect the current fair market value.

The common level of appraisal (CLA) helps to determine that property owners with homes of comparable value, in different towns, pay similar education tax. When the COD values begin to differ above 20%, towns are required to reappraise. Marshfield is at 21.79% over the median.

Bobbi Brimblecombe, town administrator, said the town has sufficient funds to pay for the reappraisal. Part of those funds come from the state, which pays each year \$8.50 per parcel to the towns. Starting in January of 2025, Act 68 requires all towns to reappraise every six years.

Brimblecombe said this requirement will place the burden of reappraisal costs onto towns.

Under this new law, the amount the state provides for reappraisal costs may cover less than half the cost for reappraisal. Because of a dearth of appraisers throughout the state, Marshfield is scheduled for reappraisal in two years.

Listers Meg Eberhardt and Kathleen Hayes said the software currently used to feed data into the grand list is outdated. The listers use two different software providers for maintaining the grand list. One software program listers use is Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA). The CAMA program calculates the value of a property. This software needs to be upgraded according to the provider.

The software program NEMRC keeps track of names, addresses, utility values, and property transfers. Brimblecombe explained that the NEMRC program is so outdated it frequently kicks administrators out. This can be especially challenging when someone wants to pay their taxes and the administrator can't enter the program for 30 minutes. The software provider NEMRC recommended that the town change to cloud-based services. However, to do so, the town will have to pay a one-time migration fee of \$750, plus an annual cost of \$1,850 (based on the 2025 cost), plus an additional \$20 per month for each person using the system. When the town is fully staffed this would cover six employees. Cloud-based systems do not work without the internet. The current cost of one of the CAMA providers was a one-time fee of \$1,500; however, that company has been bought out. The new cost will be covered by the reappraisal fund.

Andrew Larosa, the architect hired by the town for 2023 flood renovations, presented floor samples and informational materials for the Old School House gym. Larosa and the select board discussed the durability and uses of each material, as well as acoustic treatment. Larosa presented a variety of design options for the tectum acoustic treatment. The select board and Larosa agreed that the Building Commission can provide ideas on the arrangements of the panels. The cost for the renovation has been approved by FEMA.

Conservation Committee member Bob Popp reported about the property around the covered bridge along U.S. Route

2. This 73.6-acre property is owned by the town of Marshfield and is approximately 60% open fields and 40% forest and wetland. Popp discussed the importance of conservation in these areas, noting that the habitat includes four rare species: the Eastern State freshwater mussel, Hayden's sedge, wood turtles, and bobolinks. Popp emphasized the importance of delayed mowing in order to protect these species. The recommendation is to cut hay no earlier than May 20 and no later than July 24. Tim Maclay has been haying the fields at no charge but explained that adhering to the timeline restrictions could make it more difficult.

Committee member Ed Jalbert explained that the 26 acres of forest have been evaluated by an expert, who stated harvesting the wood is not economically feasible because of access challenges.

The open fields are divided into three sections. The maintenance of these fields and the bridge has been paid by donations. Brimblecombe said the late Rich Phillips was instrumental in the conservation of the covered bridge and helped the town acquire these donations. This fund currently contains about \$5,500.

Committee member Lloyd Potter requested herbicide applications for one of the areas troubled by knotweed. Brimblecombe replied that there is no town policy on the use of herbicides on town properties. The select board and Nathan Phillips, Rich Phillip's son, discussed the establishment of the group Friends of the Covered Bridge. This group of volunteers will not be affiliated with the town and must agree to request town approval of any minor plantings. The select board moved to approve the establishment of this group.

OUR COMMUNITIES

TimeWise curriculum, March 17

MORRISVILLE – TimeWise, a flexible, youth-centered curriculum and resource that focuses on time-use, choice, leisure, boredom, variety and balance, well-being, risk-taking and belonging will be introduced at an in-person and online meeting on March 17, 3 to 4:30 p.m., in the large conference room at the Morrisville Health Department.

The second edition has been updated and digitized for access and use for local schools and communities and expanded to serve youth from kindergarten through high school. The curriculum will be introduced at a coalition meeting

of Healthy Lamoille Valley.

Participants are asked to have a laptop or other device for hands-on exploration of the TimeWise website. Educators and others who attend the Coalition meeting and will consider implementing TimeWise, 2nd Edition will receive a \$10 gift card to a local business.

For more information, see healthylamoillevalley.org or email Healthy Lamoille Valley Policy & Outreach Coordinator Alison Link at alison@healthylamoillevalley.org. The health department is located at 67 Professional Drive.

AWARE book group, discussions

HARDWICK – In recognition of Sexual Violence Awareness Month, AWARE will host a group in April to read and discuss Virginia Roberts Giuffre's "Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice".

This community book group is offered in partnership with AWARE, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Clarina Howard Nichols Center and Lanpher Memorial Library.

Two in-person groups are available: Hyde Park, at the Lanpher Memorial Library. Mondays, April 6, April 13, April 27, from

5:30 to 7 p.m., register by emailing: info@clarina.org. In Hardwick at the Jeudevine Memorial Library. Tuesdays, April 14, April 21, April 28, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., register by emailing: awarayouth@vtlink.net

Made possible in part by a grant from Vermont Humanities, the first ten people who register will receive a free copy of the book. The Galaxy Bookshop will donate 20% of proceeds to AWARE, with Bear Pond Books in Stowe donating 20% of their proceeds to the Clarina Howard Nichols Center.

Rejected

Continued From Page One

The Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) that includes Calais Elementary School passed its \$43,271,845 budget, resulting in per pupil education spending of \$16,372.81, 7.21% higher than the current year.

Daniel Keeney was appointed to a 3-year term as the Calais representative to the WCUUSD board.

The Cabot School District budget of \$,792,620, passed with 226 votes. Two individuals were elected as school district officers; Jason Monaco, school director for two years and Ellen Cairns, for three years.

TOWN MEETING RESULTS

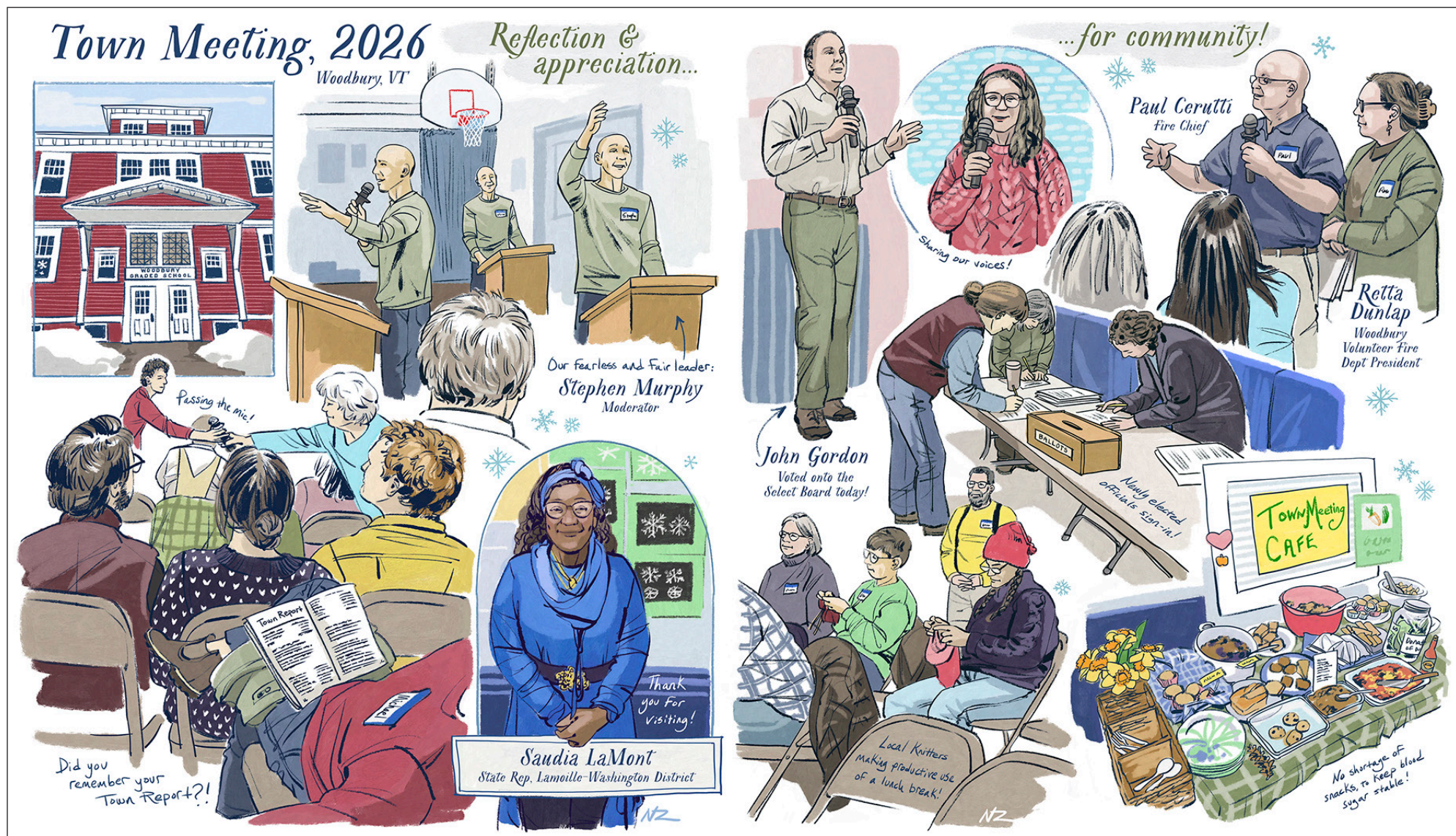


Illustration ©2026 Natalya Zahn

Tire disposal, new fire dept plans nixed

by **Raymonda Parchment**

CABOT – Two articles that were heavily discussed on social media prior to town meeting did not receive enough votes to pass.

Article 12, asking voters to grant the Cabot Conservation Fund a sum of up to \$10,000 for the removal and disposal of used tires that have been dumped at a property in lower Cabot by the property's previous owner, failed to pass on a voice vote.

Also failing was the non-binding advisory Article 13 that asked voters to approve the construction of a new Volunteer Fire Department building at 2466 Main Street.

Walter "Skip" Bothfeld was elected to a two-year select board seat and Fred Ducharme to a three-year seat. Other town officers elected were Brittany Butler as town clerk for the next three years; Jason Monaco as school director for two years and Ellen Cairns, school director for three years.

Town meeting results are now available at cabotvt.us.

550 vote on Town Meeting Day

by **Paul Fixx**

CALAIS – In Australian balloting on Town Meeting Day Tegan Dykeman-Brown won the town clerk spot with 545 of the 550 votes cast. Jordan Keyes and William

Davis will fill select board spots and Toby Talbot will serve as lister.

Appropriations pass easily

by **Raymonda Parchment**

CRAFTSBURY – All articles taken up by residents in-person at the Craftsbury Town Meeting last Tuesday passed by wide margins with six or less no votes in all cases.

Operating expenses for the town are projected to come to \$1,116,584 in FY27, beginning July 1, 2026. Voters approved raising \$723,471.86 in taxes to cover the non-revenue balance.

Fire department operating expenses of \$72,500 were also approved.

Eight Craftsbury activities and expenses totaling \$33,800 were approved as a block to cover \$2,500 for the block party fund, 8,000 for cemeteries, \$7,000 for the conservation fund, \$10,000 to pay stipends to fire department volunteers, \$3,500 for the recreation committee, \$500 for the energy committee, \$800 to the energy committee and \$1,500 to the village improvement society.

The community care center received \$14,500, the library \$50,500 and Saplings \$6,000 as a single vote

Fourteen additional appropriations received a total of \$53,794, with the largest allocation of \$27,852 to the Hardwick Rescue Squad, followed by \$5,000 to the

Hardwick Area Food, \$4,500 to the Greensboro Nursing Home, \$4,200 to Orleans Essex V.N.A & Hospice, \$3,500 to Rural Arts and \$1,500 to the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library

Other organizations receiving less than \$1,500 each include AWARE, Green Mountain Farm to School, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, Lamoille Family Center, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, NVDA and Rural Community Transportation.

Taxes will be due on July 15 and September 15, with the balance due on November 15 to avoid interest.

Craftsbury Old Home Day will be Saturday, Aug. 8.

The following individuals were elected as town officers; James Jones to a three-year select board seat; Tom Boyle as lister;

Ann Ingersol, auditor; Mike Martin, cemetery commissioner; Rudy Chase, trustee of public funds; Bruce Urie, WWII Memorial Fund Trustee and Jeannine Young as moderator for the coming year.

Complete Craftsbury Town Meeting results are available via craftsbury.gov.

Augeri wins select board seat in write-in balloting

by **Paul Fixx**

WALDEN – Walden's Town Meeting last Tuesday, began with the election of Carolyn Greaves as moderator, after which the town and highway budgets passed without discussion.

In Walden's Australian balloting, 125 of the 783 registered residents cast ballots. Jon Augeri won

See RESULTS, next page

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Results

Continued From Previous Page

a seat on the Walden Select Board with 22 write-in votes against 14 other write-in candidates, including Bob Hatch with three votes and others with less. Seats for two cemetery commissioners and a constable remain open and will need to be appointed by the select board.

Other elected officials are Listers Emily Varvir and Dia Michaud, also the collector of delinquent tax; Auditor Judith Clifford; Library Trustee Sarah Augeri and Cemetery Trustee Daniel W. Mencucci.

Most town positions filled in Australian balloting
by **Raymonda Parchment**

WOLCOTT – Two hundred thirty-five of the 1,228 Wolcott voters cast Australian ballots in Town Meeting Day voting, with 49 absentee ballots cast.

Joe Hester-Ingram was elected moderator; Linda Martin to a two-year select board seat and Michael Paradee for three years. Nicollete A. Leriche won a two-year term as library trustee and Edith Duff for five years. Derrick Lowell will serve four years as a cemetery commissioner and Lucien Gravel for five years.

A lister and library trustee position failed to reach enough write-in votes to be filled and will need to be appointed by the select board.

Complete town meeting results can be found at wolcottvt.org.

Town meeting less contentious, yappers remain
by **Raymonda Parchment**

GREENSBORO – Like last year’s town meeting, the proceedings began with the discussion of a letter, as well as some complaints. The recipients of the annual Greensboro award were revealed to be residents Cilla and Nat Smith, introduced by Mike Metcalf. Both are long-term residents and have contributed much to their community.

Cilla, a founding member of the Greensboro Greensboro Ladies Walking Society (GLWS), also arranges flowers weekly for services at the United Church of Christ. She also organizes and leads the weekly bone builder’s exercise group, among her many other activities. She is listed as this year’s town tree warden. For many years, she compiled the “Green Sheet” calendar of summer events around town, biking around to gather information. She is a deacon with the United Church of Christ, and regularly helps with pancake breakfasts and church suppers.

Nat too was noted for his several positions serving the community. Former president of Mountain View Country club, he was referred to as the current “czar” of the men’s scramble. He is the current Secretary of the Greensboro Land Trust,



Wolcott Town Moderator Joe Hester-Ingram (right) is stepping down after holding the title since 2007. At left is Town Clerk and Treasurer Belinda Harris photo by Vanessa Fournier

as well as vice-chair of the Development Review Board, as well as serving on the board of the Greensboro Fire District No.1., and on the board of Hardwick Electric Department. He also organizes weekly bridge games, now online post-pandemic, with regular players in Greensboro, Hardwick and in several other states.

The following individuals were elected as town officers: Mavis

MacNeil, moderator; Judy Carpenter, three year select board seat; Ellen Celnik, two-year select board seat; Kim Greaves, town clerk three years; Mike Cloutier, collector of delinquent taxes, one year; MacNeil, cemetery commissioner, three years; Jan Terwiesch and Carol Reynolds were both elected library trustees with three year terms.

Town meeting results are available via greensborovt.gov

NEWS NOTES

Town notification system alerts residents of water leak

by **Paul Fixx**

HARDWICK – An Emergency Alert Notification message sent from the Town of Hardwick Public Works Department and signed by Town Manager David Upson last Wednesday near 8:30 a.m., went to residents who have signed up for town notifications.

It warned of a water leak affecting residents on Granite Street,

Brook Street, Cottage Street, Spring Street and Lower Cherry Street North of Elm Street, and said they “will be experiencing little to no water pressure while the leak is being repaired.”

“Crews have isolated the leak near the intersection of Cottage and Lower Cherry and have begun work,” it said. “We will put out additional notifications as the day progresses.

A subsequent message less than three hours later included similar text, except noted, “What: Water Leak (repaired),” and added, “Crews have repaired the water leak at the intersection of Cottage Street and Lower Cherry.”

A boil water notice was added at the end, saying, “If you live on the affected streets, it is recommended that you boil any water used for drinking for the next 24

hrs.”

Anyone can sign up for Hardwick emergency alerts by texting “HARDWICK” to 91896 or go to the town website at hardwickvt.gov, click on the homepage popup with “TextMyGov” in green, enter your phone number and click “opt-in.” Clicking on the first blue box at the left of the homepage will allow you to sign up for email alerts as well.

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Budget passes after 90-minute paper ballot

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Town Meeting Day in Hardwick brought new experiences for many attendees, with use of the Town House venue that hadn't been used in 20 years, the election of Audrey Grant to replace long-time Moderator Orise Ainsworth and a vocal group intent on seeing as many articles as possible go to a paper or Australian ballot.

Grant was unopposed and elected moderator on a voice vote. After taking the gavel she invited Rep. Mike Southworth (R, Cal-2) to speak to the more than 250 assembled for the meeting. Southworth shared his view of legislative priorities and the work of the House, saying approximately 902 bills have been introduced this session, while a small number eventually become law.

Topics currently under consideration, including data privacy, cell tower siting, large-scale renewable energy projects, healthcare and the state budget, he said.

Proposed land use changes under Act 181 would divide the state into tiers and affect how land may be used and developed and conservation goals established in Act 59 (2023) aim to conserve 30% of Vermont land by 2030 and 50% by 2050. He noted ongoing discussion regarding whether land enrolled in the Current Use Program could count toward those conservation targets.

Rep. Southworth said education funding continues to be a major legislative focus, with multiple proposals under consideration and no final decisions made.

Southworth said he's staying on top of reimbursement to Hardwick Elementary School for PCB remediation last year, noting that



Hardwick resident Karen Gates makes a point during town meeting, held in the Town House for the first time since 2006.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

the Department of Environmental Conservation is currently funding six schools through FY26. If funds remain after those projects are addressed, Hardwick may receive partial reimbursement this fiscal year, with the possibility of additional funding in a future state budget.

Legislation related to large-scale solar development is being considered, he said, noting that certain net metering or standard offer projects may contribute to increased electric rates and possible adjustments may help balance renewable energy development with ratepayer impacts. Southworth encouraged municipalities to ensure that town plans and zoning by-laws address the siting of cell towers and large-scale energy infrastructure to avoid potential legal challenges.

Issues with large-scale data centers are being discussed due to their potential impact on electricity and water usage.

Anne Galloway asked that the select board give a summary of the town report and Select Board Chair Eric Remick responded that was planned for Article 5, though what got discussed then was primarily the budget.

Town officials at the meeting were elected by voice vote with only the tree warden being contested as Michael Deering and Geoffrey Fehrs were nominated and Fehrs was reelected on a show of hands.

Others elected were First Constable Lindsay O'Steen, Second Constable Charlie Bartlett, Town Agent Dave Shepard, Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber Levi Chase, Fire Department Officers as presented in the 2025 Town Report, Library Trustees Beth McIntyre and Myles Tandy, Grand Juror Eric Remick and the Hardwick Select Board as cemetery trustees for the town's seven cemeteries.

Select board members and school district directors weren't known until after Australian ballots were counted when the polls, located behind the Town House stage curtain, closed at 7 p.m. By 9 p.m. results of that voting showed Ceilidh Galloway-Kane had been reelected to the select board, with 430 of the 505 votes cast. Derek Richardson had received four write-in votes and 12 others had received as many as three.

"It is an honor to be elected for another term on the select board. . . Yesterday was a shining example of local democracy in action. Town meeting 2026 was the best attended, longest and most riveting I have experienced in the past six



It was a full house in the newly-renovated Hardwick Town House for the return of this year's town meeting. The meeting and polling place had not been there since 2006.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

years," Galloway-Kane later said.

"I personally appreciated the honest feedback, debate, and ideas. I look forward to carrying all of these with me into the next three years on the select board. We heard loud and clear that we need to make Hardwick more affordable and we will work hard to do just that.

Emphasizing what it means to live in a small town she added, ". . . it is important to say that in this small but mighty community there is no us and them. We can disagree but we are all neighbors doing the best we can with the best interests of Hardwick in mind. I hope to see the same level of engagement at our regular meetings and that we can all work together to make Hardwick even better for ourselves, our children and for generations to come."

In the race for a one-year select board seat, with seven candidates, Larry Fliegelman and Derek Richardson were elected in a tie vote, with 198 each, followed by Miranda (Davison) Brown with 194 votes, Joe Nudell with 185, Andrew Gilbert 110, Tyler LeBeau 33 and Bruce Larow 9.

"I'm humbled by being elected. I look forward to listening and learning in the coming months," Fliegelman said. "Town Meeting was a show of democracy just when we needed it. The passions during the debates show just how much folks love Hardwick and just how much work it will take to find common ground. I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

Richardson said, "I feel very honored and thankful to be able to represent the Town of Hardwick and be a voice for the community. Thank you everybody for your vote of confidence."

Sen. Scott Beck (R-Caledonia) was invited to speak, saying

he gets more email from Hardwick residents than other towns in the county and appreciates it.

Giving updates on the legislature's work this session, he pointed to housing affordability, taxes and the cost of living as important priorities, along with education funding and school district structures. Proposals for the final look of governance are still being created, he said, with the number of superintendents in Vermont seeming higher than what is essential and being a place to look for consolidation.

He praised Hardwick residents for showing up and sharing their voices without fear or judgment.

Harold McCoy made a comment to Beck about the tiered structure of Act 181 and how the current rule-making could potentially trigger Act 250 review for those with long driveways. Beck indicated legislation now being considered is likely to delay implementation of Act 181 because rules have not been completed as the implementation date approaches.

The meeting resumed with Article 4 quickly being approved; to have the town treasurer collect taxes.

Next Renaud Demers expressed concern that some attending the meeting might not be residents of Hardwick and asked that a paper ballot be used for voting on the town budget in Article 5.

There was considerable discussion about the process to be followed, and Remick reviewed the budget, calling on Town Manager David Upson to explain certain items as needed and taking many questions from the floor.

Eventually a paper ballot was properly called for and, roughly 90 minutes later, 239 confirmed residents had voted on the budget

See BUDGET, next page

Budget

Continued From Previous Page

approving the expense of \$4,741,600 on a vote of 167 to 72.

People lined up around the perimeter of the Town House while the paper balloting happened, allowing time for conversation, during which many people said they liked the new look of the building and accessibility.

Demers commented that he hoped all future votes might happen by Australian Ballot.

The next article, to add a 1% local option tax on rooms, meals and alcoholic beverages, failed by a wide margin in a voice vote.

Before taking up the next item, rules of the meeting were modified to require a majority hand or voice vote before authorizing a paper ballot.

There was considerable discussion about Article 7, to allocate \$25,000 for the acquisition of 239 +/- acres for a Hardwick Town Forest that includes the top of Buffalo Mountain and leverages \$700,000 in public and private funds, while creating a \$25,000 fund to be used by the Town of Hardwick to initially maintain it.

That article passed by a wide margin with over 150 in favor and less than 60 opposed, according to Grant, who supervised the counting and did much of it herself.



The well-filled Hardwick Town House hosted Town Meeting last Tuesday for the first time in many years. photo by Cecile Leriche

Immediately afterward, an attempt to revote the article with a paper ballot failed on a hand count

It was then moved to take up the various appropriations in articles eight through 24 as one block, which motion passed, providing \$3,500 to AWARE, \$2,600 to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice, \$4,000 for the support of Center for an Agricultural Economy, \$2,500 to the Craftsbury Community Care Center, \$5,000 to support Greensboro Nursing Home, \$5,000 for the Area Food Pantry, \$3,000 to Hardwick Community Television, \$2,800 to the Downtown Partnership, \$3,000 to the Historical Society, \$1,000.00 to Justice For Dogs, \$2,500.00 to the Lamoille Family Center, \$3,500 for the support of NEKarts, \$4,500.00 to the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, \$3,161.00 for Northeast Kingdom Human Services, \$1,000.00 for Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, \$6,181.50 to Rural Community Transportation and \$1,500 for the support of Salvation Farms.

A warned article about where to hold the 2027 Town Meeting required two votes in which the vote to move back to Hardwick Elementary School failed and the vote to keep it at the Town House passed.

Property of Hardwick Rescue Squad, Caspian Lake Lodge Masonic Temple and Caledonia



After being elected moderator, Audrey (top left) invited (center) Rep. Mike Southworth (R - Cal-2) to speak to the town meeting last Tuesday, March 4, while (seated from left) retiring Select Board Chair Eric Remick, Town Manager David Upson and Select Board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane listen. photo by Paul Fixx

Grange were exempted from taxes for the next five years, with the Rescue Squad and Grange being unanimous.

The two usual items allowing the select board to enter into contracts also passed unanimously.

Danielle Smith thanked Moderator Grant, Andrea Brightenback expressed gratitude for the chance to see democracy in action and Harold McCoy applauded the town report while thanking the board for mailing it to all residents.

Before adjourning the meeting, Emily Lanxner made a motion for a non-binding resolution stating: "We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people and for all people, and we oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression. We declare ourselves an apartheid-free community and pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation."

While there was some discussion about the number of people who had left the meeting and that it might be a divisive issue, the motion passed with a hand

count of 29 to 22.

After the meeting, Grant offered, "I've now moderated the select board candidate forum and Town Meeting Day in the last two weeks, and if it's shown anything, it's that people here care, are engaged, and are passionate about our town. That's what matters most."

Town Clerk Tonia Chase said she was contacted after the meeting about procedures to call for an Australian ballot vote on the proposed town forest article. Subsequent to that three petitions have been circulated. The first calls for a special meeting to reconsider the town forest article, which would result in an in-person vote. A second petition would allow that revote to be taken up by Australian ballot at a later date.

A final petition asks for a special meeting to consider whether all public questions, town budget and appropriations be voted by Australian ballot beginning with the next annual meeting.

Those interested in signing or learning more about the petitions may contact Roberta Foster, (802) 533-2591.

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School budget passes without incident

by Tyler Molleur

STANNARD – In contrast to several towns that took up contentious financial figures in their school budgets, a small town of just over 200 people unanimously passed their town school budget from the floor with little incident.

The \$273,353.50 budget approved by voters represents a 0.01 percent increase from the current operating year. Although voters expressed contentment with the amount itself, discussion surrounded that some of the revenues and expenses are in limbo as the town considers its future operations.

“I feel that penalty is still lurking in the shadows,” says school board director Diane Janukajtis, referencing a penalty levied by the state for exceeding a maximum per-pupil spending limit. Janukajtis said the board worked closely with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union to get the final per-pupil spending figure of \$15,731.58 under the excess spending threshold. An unexpected finding was the presence of a surplus that offset expenses this year.

In a last-minute request last year at the 2025 town school district meeting, Janukajtis encouraged voters to spend an additional \$24,600 from the district’s reserve fund so the town would not be heavily penalized for exceeding the excess per-pupil spending threshold.

At that meeting, expenditures relating to tuition ballooned when secondary schools increased their rates across the board, leaving the town with few options to control costs.

Stannard, which has no education services, covers tuition for grade 7-12 students to attend a school of their choice. She said in previous years, decisions to assess a penalty to a school district for excess spending could be appealed if an extenuating or uncontrollable circumstance existed. She said that protection has since vanished. Uncertainty remains as to what the town will do in coming years to

address this issue.

When the school district has a surplus at the end of the year, Janukajtis said, it comes from either a student dropping out of school or moving out of town. It is not secure from year-to-year. The reserve fund currently has a balance of zero after the use of the \$24,600 last year. Many wonder about the impact of education spending on the school district if a large group of secondary students move to town.

State Representative Michael Southworth, who spoke at the meeting, received questions from the audience on what options exist to offset expenses relating to health care, which is a large expense in school budgets and an asset to employees within the schools.

Moderator Tom Gilbert thanked attendees for participating in the floor meeting, noting the atmosphere of civic engagement allowed people to think about shared values and collaboration at a time when polarity and distancing is prevalent.

He spoke of his youngest daughter, who used her attendance at town meetings when she was younger as a topic of her college essay.

“We’re seeing the erosion of direct democracy,” Gilbert said. “It’s a special thing we’re holding on to and preserving tradition.”

The idea of a municipal website and improving communications in town was a theme that permeated multiple discussions posed by voters in other business. Several aspects of discussion including agricultural practices in town and emergency preparedness focused on the need to polish a final draft of the town plan. A draft town plan exists from previous work, but momentum died on submitting a final plan when two small issues with the plan were raised.

Select Board member Katy Knuth said it’s time to look at who is and can be appointed to the planning commission, and reminded the audience that any planning commission meetings are public

meetings and open comment opportunities will exist. The select board welcomed interested volunteers to sit on the commission.

The town will also be looking to appoint a zoning administrator and may consider services from zoning administrators from other towns should no interest or qualified individuals exist.

Feedback was solicited by one voter in a Front Porch Forum post to assess interest in modifying town meeting day and time. That feedback was brought to the select board. “When we talked about it, we thought it was a good discussion for town meeting,” Knuth said.

“We’ve got to keep the lifeblood going in this town. There’s so many people who can’t be here,” said resident Chris Foster.

Gilbert suggested that the question may be better answered if the registered voters of the town were asked what it would take to encourage more voter turnout, noting that a floor meeting could still be easily managed with up to three times the attendance of the current roster of 20-30 individuals.

In the absence of consistent internet through the town, discussion from the floor concluded that the best way to solicit holistic feedback was by mailing the questions

to registered voters. Some ideas from the floor included offering childcare and sending announcements of town meeting earlier.

Questions were also raised whether moving the day or time would have the effect of drawing in more people. One limitation of the current practice is that, although it is a state holiday, time off from work relies on concessions from private employers.

“I’ve missed a lot of town meetings for work. We’re definitely swimming against the current,” said school director Simon Cohen. “I have respect for the hurdles people have to jump to make it work.”

The municipal budget of \$335,845.36 passed unanimously, and incumbents for most town office positions were re-elected.

Dianne Molleur was elected to the cemetery commission; Maria Messier was elected as an auditor; and Asa Kuhn and Donald Janukajtis were voted in as listers. With the constable position vacant for over a year, John Reece was elected to the two-year position. Jan Lewandoski reported that the constable position has become easier with time, noting the town started an arrangement with an individual who assists with abandoned, neglected and stray dogs.

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 \$3.29 USDA ORGANIC Avocado Oil Potato Chips Boulder Canyon, varieties, 6 oz	 \$3.49 Brianna's, varieties, 12 oz	 \$5.69 Coconut Secret, 8 oz	 \$2.19 COCOJU Dairy Free Yogurt Cocoju, varieties, 4 oz
 \$5.49 USDA ORGANIC Organic Bread Food for Life, varieties, 24 oz	 \$8.49 LOCAL 100% ORGANIC Organic Flour King Arthur, 5 lbs	 \$5.49 KODIAK Protein Flapjacks or Waffles Kodiak, varieties, 15.37 oz	 \$4.29 LOCAL Organic Chocolate Bars Champlain Choc., varieties, 3 oz
 \$4.99 Little Northern Bakeshouse, 17 oz	 \$3.99 Minor Figures, 32 oz	 2/\$8 USDA ORGANIC MILD Organic Salsa Muir Glen, varieties, 16 oz	 3/\$7 USDA ORGANIC Herbed Ch. Couscous or Rice Pilaf Near East, varieties, 5.7 oz

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EDITORIAL

Invest in the future of our communities

HARDWICK – Having graduated from Hazen Union in 2019, as well as attending Hardwick Elementary School, I consider myself familiar with the OSSU schools system.

As a student, each year I saw the faculty give it their absolute best, under continuously shrinking budgets. Some years, I recall the budget freezing mid-semester, halting instructional plans, activities, trips and more.

As a young adult in a position that requires knowledge of municipal and school budgets, I see now how convoluted and strained our current funding system appears to be. It is also plain that our educators deserve more compensation for their ever-growing breadth of responsibilities.

I can attest to the quality of education provided within our small but effective system of K-6 elementary education and the mixed middle and high school community at Hazen Union.

I saw classmates start successful businesses immediately upon leaving school, become a U.S. Marine or go on to attend Ivy League universities.

As I am only twenty five, there is surely more to come from my fellow students.

I believe these successes would be impossible without dedicated teachers and faculty.

Our devoted educators deserve more.

Echoing the sentiments of some other editorial contributors this week, I believe we must restructure the current funding system.

Teachers deserve fair compensation, classroom supplies and support.

They shouldn't go to work making backup plans for a mid-semester budget freeze.

Time and again, educators are expected to take on more and more responsibilities. They are asked to educate students first and foremost, a large enough task on its own, on top of monitoring the physical health and emotional well being of students as mandated reporters.

In recent years, they have been trained to defend the classroom with their lives, in the event of an active shooter.

Again, there is no additional compensation, just ever-growing expectations.

Surely those tasked with shaping future generations should be compensated as such.

When I was a child, I assumed teachers made more than enough money to sustain themselves: an innocent, yet ignorant assumption.

I assumed everyone valued education, and thus our educators, as much as we students rely on them in our formative years.

The existing structure does not work and is not sustainable.

If there are steps to be made, we need to start making them.

As the nation must bargain with a decidedly anti-educator administration right now, we must rethink how we value education, and those that provide it to our communities.

With the attempted dissolution of the Department of Education and other roadblocks to federal dollars, I believe we must bear more responsibility as a state to incentivize educators to continue

on their path of stewardship.

Our classrooms should not be where we cut costs. They should be the place where we invest in the future of our communities.

Raymonda Parchment, reporter

LETTERS FROM READERS

Severe and critical concern with 911 response

To the editor:

My name is Ashley Luneau and I am a resident of Walden. I grew up in Walden and my family has been around the area since I've been born and prior to that and even employed in the area.

I am a Doctor of Nursing Practice of cardiology for Dartmouth and have been in the medical community for most of my life. I have a four year-old daughter and a six week old son and have been proud of the medical community in this area up to this point.

I write today with severe and critical concern for not only my family, but for other families in the area as well. This past week, my daughter went into a febrile seizure at our home at around 4 a.m. in the morning and we called 911.

We were on the line for 20 minutes while our daughter seized and were being told by 911 that the ambulance was in an unknown status. After that amount of time I asked for an update as to where the ambulance was and when the 911 dispatcher called the team, they were not even out of their homes or to the station yet.

I worked in the operating room for many years and had to be on-call and knew that it was a dire response timing so this concerned me greatly that a pediatric call could not conjure up some support.

We had to cancel the ambu-

lance call and drive our own daughter to Northern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) with no phone service for about 15 minutes until we got to the service in Danville for cell phone service if something had occurred on the road.

My daughter ended up having another seizure in the emergency room at NVRH and had to be transported to Dartmouth within an hour, which makes me even more upset that the ambulance did not respond appropriately in my area.

Every year at town meeting, we are asked to contribute to the ambulance squad of Danville and Hardwick, and this makes me not want to contribute appropriately given the lack of response we experienced.

I understand that this is a voluntary service, but that does come with protocols for response time, especially if they were told it was a pediatric case with seizing.

My household was lucky that I do have medical training, but another household may not be as lucky next time. I urge the community to have some response to this whether it is stricter protocols and awareness and training. I feel like we were thrown to the wayside and this is not satisfactory care.

**Ashley Luneau
Walden**

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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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.

We make every effort to include all submissions with timely content in the earliest possible edition. Call with requests to include submitted content in specific issues. Submissions may be edited for style and length. We cannot guarantee publication dates.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

“Gee!” I exclaimed as I took it from him

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – I see by the news that the Iditarod Race is in full cry up in Alaska. There’s a ceremonial false start right near Anchorage: kind of a parade, really, with celebrities everywhere. Then next day, safely out of downtown, the real thing begins: a roughly thousand-mile slog under fairly strict rules through almost everything Alaska has to offer in late winter.

Like many great ideas, the race commemorates another, a heroic 1925 relay of dog teams rushing diphtheria antitoxin to stem a deadly outbreak in the otherwise inaccessible town of Nome in the far north on the Bering Sea. But like most great ideas, it’s also generated some ritual over the years, like the ceremonial start, extensive media coverage and corporate sponsorship.

Back in 1984 (I think) I read that there was to be a so-called Iditaski, in which cross-country skiers would follow the Iditarod Trail for about one hundred miles out of Anchorage and then circle back to the start: about 205 miles in all. Sounded good to me. I’d been training every day and already had about five hundred miles on my odometer in my daily journal. But I was also going broke (it was a very bad year in our house), so I needed sponsorship as well as a diversion.

Luckily, a friend of mine published a magazine for cross-country skiers. I was able to get my air fare paid, my entry fee waived and lodging with a local banker and his wife. Naturally, I called my best buddy, Dudley, an ear-nose-and-throat specialist who reliably answered with an enthusiastic affirmative to every cockamamie idea I proposed. In early February we loaded everything into a Dartmouth coach and headed for Logan. The driver actually drove up onto the sidewalk in front of our airline and helped us unload: skis, pulks (sleds with rigid shafts instead of harnesses), winter clothes and camping gear. We were on our way.

The folks of Anchorage couldn’t have been more hospitable. We dined like kings at our hosts’ house, got some necessary sewing done and were ferried to the pre-dawn start a couple of days later. No ceremonial start here; just a countdown to “Go!” and we were off across Knik Lake. It was impossible not to notice

that the eventual winner, a package handler at a local warehouse, was already climbing the bank on the far side of the lake before Dud and I were halfway across. Clearly, we were not headed for a podium finish.

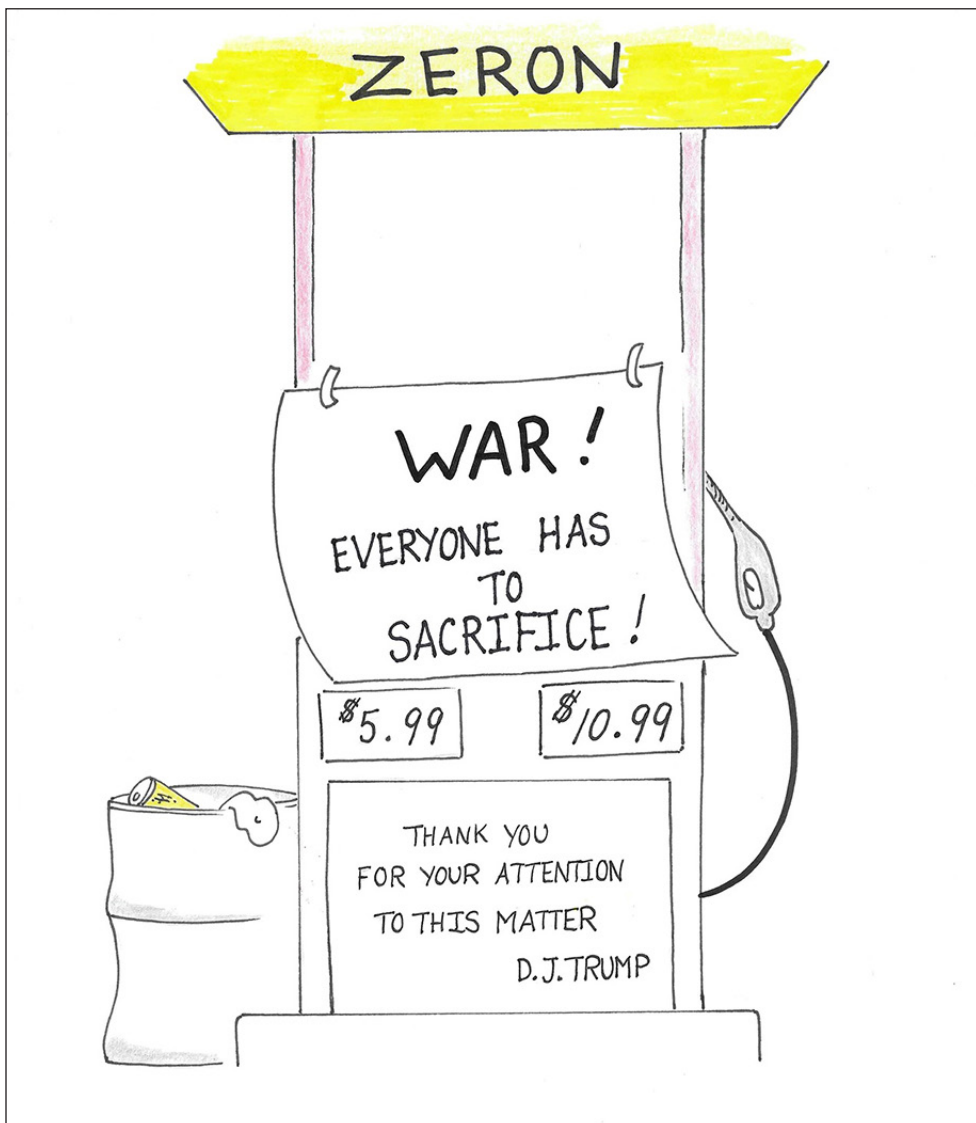
I always used Fischer skis. I’d like a nickel for every time I saw that name slide forward under my nose over thousands of miles of trails. I discovered inadvertently that when the word changed from dark red in front of my eyes to dark green, I was seriously dehydrated. Dud and I slid on and on that day, there was a checkpoint every 25 miles. and just at dusk found ourselves on an open flat, probably a lake, with nothing in sight but the faint holes in the hard snow from ski pole tips and weird little black spruces looming out of the gloom here and there like Giacometti bronzes.

Dud asked if I could carry his pack for a while. He always brought more stuff than he needed, and had a rucksack in addition to his pulk. “Geez!” I exclaimed when I took it from him. “What the hell you got in here?” The main item was a two-quart thermos of hot tea. So we had a tea time right there in the gathering darkness, put on our headlights (the old-fashioned kind with the four D-cell batteries in a case inside your shirt), and soldiered on.

During the night Dudley (he was a master fixer) excised, dusted with antibiotic and wrapped up an infected blister on my left heel. Next day he did the same for a friend he found blistered and about to quit at a checkpoint. Still later, at a squatter’s cabin, he examined and referred an Iwo Jima survivor with facial paralysis to a doctor in Anchorage who could enable him to close his eye for the first time in forty years,

For me, there was marvel after marvel. The northern lights were almost enough to ski by. The planet Venus was bright enough to cast the shadow of my mitten onto the snow. We stared, amazed, at the Alaska Range in alpenglow one evening, then skied all night down a frozen river at 26° below, We came across a warm cabin checkpoint about three in the morning with fresh sweet rolls about eight inches across, with gallons of hot tea. I had almost no idea where we were, or when we might get to the finish; but wherever we were at any given moment felt about as good as it could be.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



MEETING MEMO

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

ANOTHER OPINION

For whom the bill tolls: property taxes are killing Greensboro

by Gary Circosta and David Kelley

GREENSBORO – Town select boards pore over municipal budgets line by line for weeks. The town budget process is difficult and time-consuming, but it isn't complicated. There are revenues and there are expenses. School budgets are different. Vermont's Education Funding Formula has become so complex that most school board members can't understand it, much less explain it. Multi-million dollar school budgets are drafted primarily in a supervisory union's central office by a financial manager. They are approved by school boards after being considered for a handful of hours while board members' eyes glaze over.

That complexity has led to a myriad of problems. It has minimized actual oversight by the people who are paying the bill. It also leaves towns and taxpayers subject to one-size-fits-all formulas. And sometimes taxpayers fall through the cracks in those formulas.

In 1997 Vermont passed Act 60, creating a statewide education property tax hoping to equalize spending among school districts (it didn't, but that's another story for another time). This year Greensboro is falling through the cracks in Vermont's Education Funding Formula. Because we have a Statewide property tax, it's important that the value of the property that is taxed be measured by the same standard. That standard is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA).

Applying the CLA calculation rules rigidly to every town statewide does not result in equitable outcomes in small, rural towns with very few property sales. In a town like Greensboro with two

very different types of properties, a small number of sales in a single year can dramatically skew the results. When that happens there should be a "circuit breaker" that reviews the outcome and applies some common sense. Best practices in financial modeling do not include the real-world application of a model that is wildly sensitive to small changes in inputs.

Greensboro's CLA has plummeted from 63.35% in 2024 to 49.33% in 2025. From 2019 to 2024, Greensboro's CLA had moved in tandem with Hardwick's CLA and Woodbury's CLA, the two other major towns in our school districts. However, for 2025, Greensboro's CLA plunged much more than the CLAs of the other two towns. The question is why, and two reasons are described below. Greensboro's plunging CLA has made Greensboro's homestead education taxes skyrocket and are currently (as of February 21, 2026) projected to increase 29.0%, while Hardwick's are projected to increase 7.4% and Woodbury's are projected to increase 11.9%. If the two problems described below were fixed, Greensboro's CLA would instead be 55.25% and its education taxes would instead be projected to increase 15.2%, which is much more in line with the increases in the two other towns.

The first problem is that eight sales of camps and lake houses around Caspian Lake spread over a three-year period barely squeaked in below the seemingly arbitrary sampling error cutoff; this will result in a projected increase in Greensboro's total homestead education taxes of 8.07% above what they otherwise would have been. This issue alone causes an increase of \$195 per \$100,000 of assessed value, represents 33.2% of the total increase in projected

homestead education taxes to be paid in 2026, and results in Greensboro paying an additional \$477,700 into the Education Fund.

The second problem is that seven sales of residential property with six or more acres, spread over a three-year period, slightly exceeded the seemingly arbitrary sampling error cutoff; this will result in a projected increase in Greensboro's total homestead education taxes of 3.35% above what they otherwise would have been. This issue alone causes an increase of \$85 per \$100,000 of assessed value, represents 14.4% of the total increase in projected homestead education taxes to be paid in 2026, and results in Greensboro paying an additional \$207,500 into the Education Fund.

No matter what happens in the future with school budgets, the state spending tens of millions of dollars to buy down education tax rates, etc., Greensboro's education tax rates will be around 11% higher than they would otherwise be solely due to rigid rules within the CLA formula.

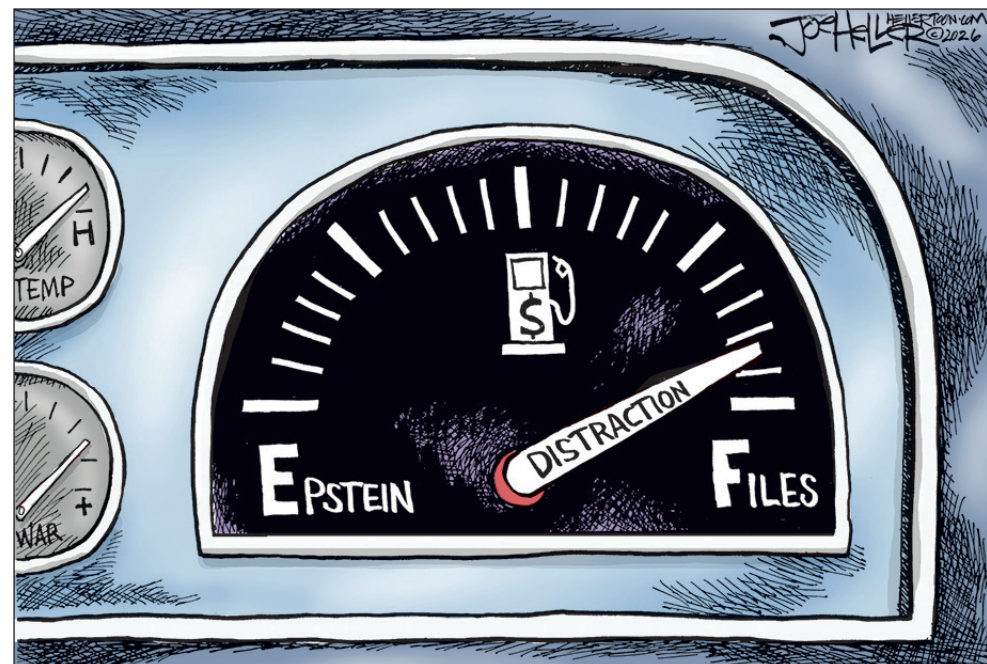
In total, these two wrinkles in the funding formula are projected to result in an unbelievable increase of \$280 per \$100,000 of assessed value, represent 47.7% of the total increase in projected homestead education taxes to be paid by Greensboro's taxpayers in 2026, and are projected to result in Greensboro paying an additional \$685,200 into the Education Fund.

This seems completely inequitable.

At a press conference on February 25, Governor Scott said he was planning to vote no on his local school budget because the increases in "other counties are significant. It's like \$250 per \$100,000 [of assessed value] of increase based on their projections." Greensboro could only dream of an increase of \$250 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Heck, the wrinkles in the CLA formula alone are causing an increase of \$280 per \$100,000. As of February 21, Greensboro's total projected increase in homestead education taxes is an eye-watering \$586 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Greensboro has 48 students in Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. If nothing changes, Greensboro's taxpayers are projected to pay more than \$130,000 per student.

Ultimately Vermont has to get its spending under control. The foundation formula, contemplated by Act 73, caps spending and can save money. However the state legislature has spent the last decade, including this year, working on the equivalent of shotgun marriages with school district consolidation and forced mergers. There is almost no evidence that forced district consolidation or mergers save any money. The way to stop spending money is to stop spending money. The legislature needs to move forward with the foundation formula.

Heller's World by Joe Heller







2026-2027

Preschool

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration is open for 2026-2027 at **Lakeview Early Education Center** (full-day, full-week) and at **Craftsbury Preschool** (half days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). For eligible students, there is no tuition cost to attend OSSU public preschool programs. To register, students must be **at least 3 years of age on September 1, 2026.**

Find out more and access registration at ossu.org/enroll/pre-kindergarten or scan this code:



Scan Me!



ANOTHER OPINION

The first 72 hours matter most

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – In emergency management, there is a phrase that comes up often: the first 72 hours. It refers to the period immediately after a major event, when outside help may be delayed, systems are disrupted, and communities must rely largely on what they already have.

For Hardwick, it is not an abstract idea. We saw it clearly during the flooding in July 2023, when road closures, washed-out crossings and regional impacts left the town nearly cut off from outside deliveries and assistance. Fuel, food, medical access and information all became more complicated at the same time.

In those moments, the question is not whether help will eventually arrive. It is how a town functions before it does, and how households manage alongside that effort.

Emergency management training emphasizes readiness for the first 72 hours because that time frame is often the most unstable.

Power may be out.
Roads may be impassable.
Communications can be inconsistent.

State and federal resources are mobilizing, but they are not yet on the ground.

What happens locally matters most during that window.

For Hardwick, that means building systems that can operate under strain.

Some of that work is visible: strengthening emergency shelter planning, expanding volunteer training, gathering emergency supplies and improving how emergency communications are handled when demand spikes.

Those efforts are meant to ensure that when people need a

place to go, a way to ask for help, or reliable information, needed systems are already in place.

Other work happens behind the scenes. It includes identifying where supplies can be staged, how requests are logged and routed, and how municipal staff, volunteers and partner organizations coordinate without duplicating effort or creating confusion.

During the first 72 hours, clarity often matters as much as speed.

Hardwick has been working to build redundancy.

When one route is closed, what is the alternative?

When a facility is unavailable, what is the backup?

When staff are stretched thin, who is trained to step in and support essential functions?

These questions come directly from what we experienced in 2023 and 2024.

The first 72 hours are not carried by municipal systems alone. They are shared by households, neighbors and local networks.

When people can meet some of their own basic needs, food, water, medications and heat, even for a short period, it reduces pressure on emergency systems and allows limited resources to reach those who need them most.

That is where individual preparedness fits in. Not as an expectation to “go it alone,” but as part of a larger, shared effort.

Town systems work best when they are supporting people, not compensating for every possible gap at once.

Regional and watershed coordination also shape those first days. Emergencies do not stop at town lines. Flooding upstream affects access downstream. Power restoration, fuel supply and road repairs are coordinated across

multiple communities at once.

Hardwick has been working with neighboring towns, regional partners and watershed-based groups to improve communication and coordination when conditions change quickly.

The goal of all of this is not perfection. It is adaptability. The first 72 hours are about using what is available, adjusting as conditions evolve and keeping people safe until stability begins to return.

The same lesson applies at home as well. Small steps that

help households stay stable for a few days can make a meaningful difference during that early window.

Hardwick’s experience has made that reality clear. The work underway now is about making sure that when the next disruption comes, the town and the people who live in it are better positioned to get through those first days together.

Kristen Leahy is the zoning and floodplain administrator and the resilience and adaptation coordinator in the Town of Hardwick.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

It was another sobering week

by Rep. Dave Yacovone

MONTPELIER – It was yet another sobering week at the State House. Below are several facts I learned this week. Each reflects a separate area of concern, yet together they illustrate the challenging times we face.

Twenty-five percent of students in our schools are chronically absent. “Chronically absent” means missing at least two days of school per month. That is one out of every four children.

Thirty-five percent of our dairy farms have closed since the beginning of this decade.

Of Vermont’s 74 high-hazard dams, ten are in poor condition. A high-hazard dam is one where loss of life is expected if the structure fails.

Interpreter services for the deaf-blind population are recommended for elimination in the governor’s proposed budget.

The list goes on.

To me, it speaks of the fragile social and economic moment we are living through.

Government cannot be all things to all people. But surely it must provide a safety net for the most vulnerable among us and foster the conditions necessary for a viable economy so families can thrive.

When I reflect on the number of students who do not attend school consistently, I cannot help but wonder about the circumstances they face. It does not mean their parents do not love them or are not trying.

Rather, it suggests stress: economic stress, family stress, perhaps lingering effects from Covid-19.

When I was growing up,

you went to school, no questions asked. Something has changed, and we would do well to understand why.

Our dairy industry has been in decline for some time. While we produce more milk than we did 50 years ago, we do so with only a fraction of the farms that once dotted our landscape.

Vermont’s working landscape is central to the beauty and identity of our state. We must find a way to protect that heritage while also making thoughtful, and sometimes difficult, development decisions to meet our housing needs.

Much of our infrastructure is aging. Schools, roads, bridges, utilities and dams all show the wear of deferred maintenance and insufficient long-term planning. These challenges did not arise overnight, and they will not be solved overnight.

Finally, the proposal to eliminate interpreter services for the deaf-blind community raises a fundamental question about our values.

A budget is not just a financial document; it is a moral document. What we choose to fund reflects who we are.

Some may say these updates are too dark or gloomy.

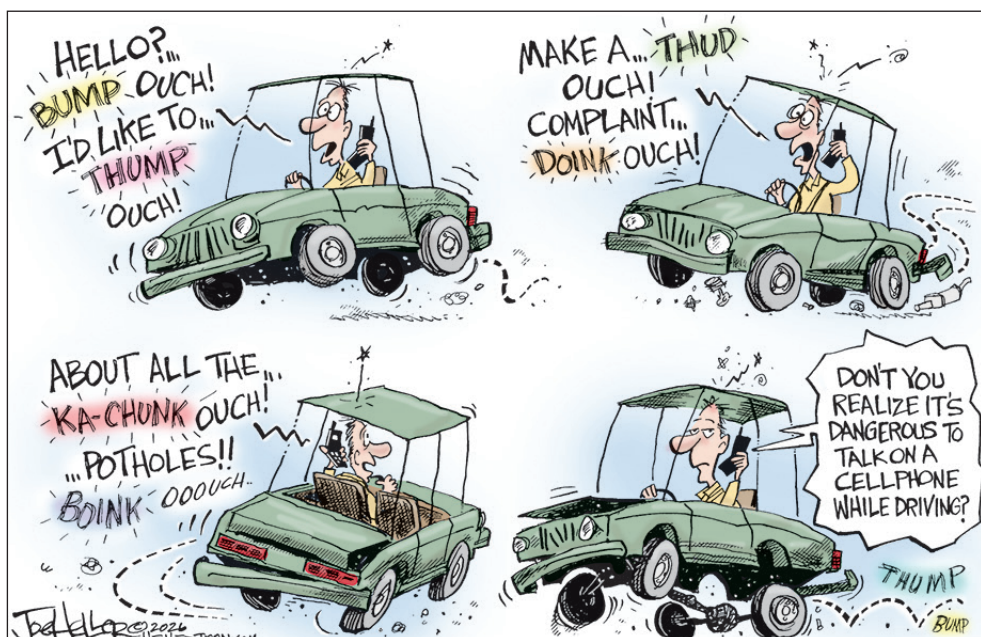
Serving on the Appropriations Committee means confronting the sobering realities head-on.

An old friend of mine, the late Stub Earle, used to tell me: “Tell it like it is, whether folks want to hear it or not.”

I believe that is still good advice.

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

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



ANOTHER OPINION

The absurd push for school consolidation

by Cecilia Gulka

CABOT – Dear Governor Scott, Secretary Saunders and Vermont State Legislators:

I am a retired educator, with 40 years' experience in teaching and leadership roles.

I don't understand how you can continue this absurd push for school consolidation: creating huge districts, closing small schools, mandating class sizes, imposing spending caps: all for the purpose of saving property taxes, without thinking of the children.

Show me the studies indicating improved academic performance when you:

Deprive young children of adequate sleep (because they must get up earlier to get to school)

Subject children to the stress of long bus rides in the cold and dark, snow, rain and mud

Subject children to the ever-

present risk of getting stuck, landing in a ditch or having a more serious accident. I cannot imagine the emotional scars we will impose on whole busloads of small children after sliding off the road or getting mired in mud.

Show me the studies with improved social, emotional, mental wellbeing from: lack of sleep, excess stress, longer time away from caregivers, less individual attention to student needs, less community interaction and socialization.

We live in a beautiful, sparsely populated, rural and mountainous state. It is what draws people to live here, raise a family, visit, and start small businesses: the natural beauty, the peace and quiet, the lack of, crowds and stress. And the quality of education that small schools provide.

Vermont schools have a nationwide reputation for Inclusion and meeting the needs of children with a wide range of abilities. Small

rural schools in Vermont have historically demonstrated excellent academic outcomes, by addressing individual strengths and needs. In small schools everyone knows everyone else. Principals, teachers, support staff, maintenance and custodial staff, bus drivers, food service staff, all know each child by name and truly care about every child.

Things have only gone downhill, when budget drives staffing decisions and standardized computerized testing and bureaucrats, judge learning, instead of highly trained teachers with intimate knowledge of each individual student.

Please stop this effort to destroy our small rural schools and communities. When you close small rural schools that are the heart of the community, you not only destroy the emotional and social heart of a town, but you also destroy a significant economic driver.

Parents and teachers who work out of town will no longer frequent the local village store, the local garage, the local hardware store, the local post office on their way to work.

Local teachers and support staff will lose their jobs.

Working parents will lose pay and possibly their jobs to attend parent conferences and school events, to retrieve a sick child, or drive an hour each way to take them to the doctor or dentist,

Small schools have been pinching pennies for decades, because of the source and formula for funding. That is the problem that needs to be solved. We need a total overhaul of how we pay for education. Those who have more, should pay more.

These are our children: they are our investment in our future. We need to put the children first.

Cecilia Gulka is a retired educator and resident of Cabot.

This year was going to be a challenge

by Audrey Grant

HARDWICK – When I was asked to be town moderator, I immediately said yes. Town Meeting Day is my favorite day of the year, of course I will step up when asked to serve my community. I knew enough of Robert's Rules to accept the challenge and then spent days doing my homework. I read through Hardwick's Warning and built a script, read "Ruling the Unruly: The Town Moderators Guide," I watched last year's town meeting, and consulted with other town moderators to prepare.

I only had a few weeks to study up for the best day of the year, and wanted to make my home town proud. Orise Ainsworth left large

shoes to fill, and I want to thank her for her years of service as town moderator.

I also want to thank everyone's patience and kindness as we all figured out the 2026 Hardwick Town Meeting. From audio issues, to my newness in the role, to the lack of food (I promise there will be food next year!), it was a roller coaster from start to finish.

I appreciate community members' help with Robert's Rules and all the kind words of encouragement throughout the day. It made the challenges easier knowing that, while I was helping my community, my community was helping me.

As Senator Scott Beck said at town meeting, Hardwick residents show up and share their voices

without fear or judgment. It's what I love about this town: Hardwickians show up and care so deeply about this community.

And Senator Beck was also right, he's never been to a town meeting like Hardwick's! Even in the toughest moments there was still joy and humor that radiated through the room.

And this year was no exception. I knew it was going to be a challenge as there's a lot of large questions our town is facing. Similar questions that were brought up on the floor around all the projects our town is managing, the need for growth while keeping taxes low, and where the town's priorities are. All of these are questions we do need to be asking and I appreciated seeing that in action on Town Meeting Day.

And, they are questions that need to be asked year round. Engaging in our town does not stop nor end at town meeting. It is carried on in the various committees, organizations and community members that make our town work!

I also had the pleasure of moderating the select board candidate forum at the Jeudevine a few weeks ago. While I knew that it wouldn't be as contentious as a town meeting, it was still an honor to moderate a forum of the eight candidates running for three seats. We are all so lucky to live in a community with so many folks willing to step up to the challenge.

I grew up in Hardwick village, and my parents emphasized the importance of voting and participating in Town Meeting Day, but also that the care for our community

doesn't stop there. We show up for each other on the first Tuesday of March, and also when a neighbor needs to be pulled out of a ditch or needs a meal train.

The commitment to community is a strong value in our town, and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

As someone who grew up here, I am glad to see that the core of Hardwick has not changed, even if the faces do. People are moving to our community because of the heart it has; and I am grateful to share that with all who choose to call Hardwick home.

As our community continues to change through population growth, flood disasters, public works expansion and community activity, let us not lose sight of that heart, and the core of what makes Hardwick so great.

Town meeting can bring out the best and worst in people; at the end of the day, we are all human and deserve to live dignified, whole lives. And Hardwick is welcoming and open to all, whether you're a fourth generation Hardwickian or just moved here last month. Everyone has a home here; and more importantly, a voice.

So, Hardwick, I hope you continue to use that voice. Use it for the passion of your community, for the love of your neighbors, for the respect of our greenery and the natural life here, and for those around the world. We are all connected in this struggle, we all have faults and issues we're overcoming. But if there's one thing Town Meeting Day has taught me, it's that we can take on anything: together.



Work by CCS Constructors on the South Main Street retaining wall and pedestrian bridge project began February 27 in Hardwick. Traffic will be one lane with alternating traffic lights on South Main, Mill and Wolcott Streets (Vt. Routes 14 and 15), with another light directing traffic exiting the Village Restaurant parking lot onto Wolcott St. photo by Vanessa Fournier

VOICES OF SPIRIT

True Religion

by Anthony E Acheson

The only possible true religion
(if there could be such a thing),
would be a whole new way of seeing,
which our divine Source,
in and through us,
would weave in tandem.
And through the lens of that re-perceiving,
—and re-partnering—
could come a re-remembering
—of our birthright member-ship—
in our most real and actual family:
the Love-made human race.

Hand in hand, we could study and learn
from the paradigms and parties,
philosophies and faiths,
wisdom streams and ideologies

that have already come to birth
and made their opening statements,
bearing their initial hints.

And we could study, and learn to say ‘Yes’
to the best in each,
and ‘No’ to the worst in all,
while staying free of fully embracing
—or rejecting—
any pre-assembled supposed certainties
concerning which is which
or what is Truth.

And all the while, might we not
—the more and more of us—
soften and open,
while joining our hearts,
in an eye-wide, honest and mutual search
for discernment; not about which faith is best,
but about which of our human ways

are helpful or hurtful,
and about where and how
the damages of our doings
arise and slay;
or about how and where
the services of our hearts
can sow and heal?
And might we not thus courageously commit
to how trust and linking can be furthered
in this world,
and suffering and fear be assuaged,
regardless of this or that group
to which we—or they—may belong?

Is not this the real sacred altar
where best we can kneel and bow?
The one inscribed with:
All.
Together.
Now.

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Backyard neighbor: the song sparrow

by Susan Shea

Brookfield – In early March, birds that have been gone all winter begin appearing at my feeder. One of the earliest of these spring migrants is a brown-backed sparrow with a white breast coarsely streaked with brown. The streaks converge in a dark central breast spot, an easy identification mark. This is the song sparrow, our most widespread and abundant North American sparrow.

Song sparrows are found throughout the United States and Canada below the subarctic. There is a high degree of regional variation in their appearance. For example, sparrows of the California coast are smaller and have black streaks, while those of Alaska’s Aleutian Islands are one-third longer than eastern birds and weigh twice as much. Because of this geographic variation, there are 24 recognized subspecies.

Song sparrows prefer open habitat with brushy cover near water, such as marshes, wet meadows, woodland edges and backyards with shrubs. Most birds that breed in northern regions migrate south as far as Florida and northern Mexico in winter, while those in milder regions remain year-round.

In winter, song sparrows survive on grass and weed seeds,

waste grain, and dried fruit that persists through the season. In summer, they add insects, spiders, snails and earthworms to make up half their diet. These birds stay low while foraging, scratching at the ground and hopping and flitting through branches of shrubs. When flying short distances, they tend to pump their tail downward.

In spring, male song sparrows establish territories by singing from exposed perches and attacking and chasing other males. Their variable series of chips, trills and buzzes is one of the characteristic sounds of early spring. Song sparrows are primarily monogamous, but up to 20 percent will mate with more than one partner over the breeding season. Mated females build nests on the ground hidden in a clump of grass or weeds, or low in a bush or small tree. The nest is a cup woven of grasses, stems, leaves, and bark strips lined with fine grasses, rootlets, and hair. In it, the female lays three to five pale green eggs, heavily speckled with reddish-brown spots. Then she incubates the eggs for 12 to 13 days while the male defends their territory.

At hatching, the nestlings are almost naked, with sparse down, and their eyes are closed. Both parents forage for caterpillars and insects to feed their young. After 10 to 12 days, the fledglings are



Song Sparrow

fully feathered and leave the nest, though they are not yet able to fly. Their parents will feed and care for them for a few more weeks until they become independent. Song sparrows may raise two or three broods a year.

In good habitat, such as a field overgrown with brush, a song sparrow’s nesting territory is typically less than an acre. Hawks, owls, raccoons, skunks and foxes prey on ground nests. Song sparrows are one of the brown-headed cowbird’s most frequent victims. The female cowbird surreptitiously removes a sparrow egg while the female sparrow is off the nest and lays one of her own in its place. Cowbird eggs appear similar to those of the song sparrow and may not be recognized by the host, which can end up raising a large, hungry

cowbird chick.

Since song sparrows are common and widespread, they have made ideal research subjects. Ornithologist Margaret Morse Nice made significant contributions to understanding the life histories of song sparrows beginning in 1928. For eight years, Nice carefully observed song sparrows near her home in Ohio. She helped shift the field of ornithology away from collection, description, and studies of distribution, to observing living birds in the wild. Many of her methods are still in use today.

Singing in song sparrows has been studied extensively in more recent years. Scientists have found that male birds instinctively sing songs of two general types: one short and quick, and one that begins more slowly and contains more notes. They learn by listening to males from neighboring territories. There is regional variation in songs, but males in the same area sing songs that are composed of similar notes and phrases arranged in different orders. Female song sparrows occasionally sing as well.

Keep an eye and an ear out for this melodious little bird this spring: it may be nesting as close as your backyard.

Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based living in Brookfield. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

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IN THE GARDEN

Combat high prices with a garden

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – It seems to me that the prices of many things have gone up significantly in recent times. One way to combat that, as a gardener, is to start plants by seed instead of buying plants that someone else has started, watered and mothered for months.

Many gardeners enjoy starting lettuce or carrots by seed outdoors, but few of us start perennial or biennial flowers by seed. Why is that? Because we want results right away. This summer we want gorgeous new varieties of purple cone flower, black-eyed Susans or Shasta daisies. Alas, most perennials and biennials will develop into handsome plants this year if started by seed, but few will blossom before next year.

Biennials, by definition, do not bloom in their first year. They grow foliage this year, send up a flower stalk next year, and then, having produced seed, they die. Probably the best known of these are foxgloves, specifically *Digitalis purpurea*. It has a flower stalk that is 18 to 60 inches tall, adorned with blooms in pink and purple and shaped a bit like the finger of a glove. One named variety, “Foxy” will bloom late in its first year if started early enough. Foxglove blossoms bloom in sequence along their stem over several weeks.

Foxgloves do well in part shade and like lightly moist soil. They are easy to propagate: I just cut a stalk that has finished blooming, and shake the small seeds over bare, lightly cultivated soil and pat down without covering. There are also yellow foxgloves that are fully perennial (*Digitalis lutea*).

Hollyhocks are also terrific

biennial flowers, though some books list them as half-hardy perennials. These beauties can grow to be up to six-feet tall and bloom for a long time. If you cut off the stem as soon as it finishes blooming, sometimes you can confuse the poor thing – it doesn’t know if it produced seed or not. So it may send up another flower stem next year.

Perennials generally live for several to many years. The genus “*Sanguisorba*” includes several species of perennial flowers, all of which are delightful. The common name for these is burnet. “*Sanguisorba canadensis*” is our naïve species, a tall, late flowering wetland species, and is called Canadian burnet. I’ve had a big clump for 20 years at least, and love its fuzzy white pendulous blossoms. Pollinators love it in the fall.

My favorite of the burnets is *Sanguisorba hakusanensis* or Korean Burnet, one called “Lilac Squirrel”. Why that name? The blossoms are pink to lilac in color and hang down like the squirrel tails attached to bicycle handlebars in the 1950’s. Less tall than our native, it does need staking as it can get to be 2- to 4-feet tall. I have found it easy to propagate by seed, and blooms in its second year. I collect and grow all species of burnets, which can grow from miniatures to big bush clumps of gorgeous foliage five feet tall and five feet wide, but have not collected seed from them, yet.

Hosta are great foliage plant that do best in shady areas in rich soils. If you collect seed from your favorite hostas be forewarned that most hostas are hybrids and the seeds will not produce plants iden-



Peonies with foxglove

tical to their seed-producing parent plant. I only planted them by seed once, and I did it with seed from one called “*Hosta sieboldii*”. The parent plant is known for having variegated leaves, but mine produces all-green leaves. Still, I’ve had that clump for 40 years, and it gives me pleasure every time I walk past it.

Generally it is best to give hosta seeds a cold period of six to eight weeks in your refrigerator. This is true for many varieties of seed, so a good practice for all. Hosta seeds may need some sunshine on them to germinate, so cover them with a very thin layer of soil in their starting pots, or with vermiculite. Mature hostas are easy to divide to get more plants.

What about starting trees from seed? It’s not hard: blue jays and squirrels do it all the time: they bury them, and forget where they put them, just like us with the car keys. Although you can plant tree seeds, I recommend just looking for first-year seedlings planted by your wildlife. Of course, this works best with native trees like oaks and maples.

Last year I dug up half a dozen sprouted acorns and moved them to

an area that needed more trees to screen my property from the road. It was a dry summer and I was less than fully vigilant, so some of them died. But there will be others I can dig up this year.

Remember: watering is key for any first year planting.

So here is my challenge: Go to your local garden center and buy seed packets for three perennials or biennials. Start them either indoors under lights, or later, outdoors. Buy things that you like and want several plants, or even a bed full of them. You can fill in a bed of first year perennials with some annuals that will bloom this year. Please email me how that works out for you if you do so.

Lastly, it might better to plant flower seeds in small pots rather than in the soil, as it can be difficult to identify them when weed seeds are growing around them. Or plant them in a perfect circle to help identify them. Good luck

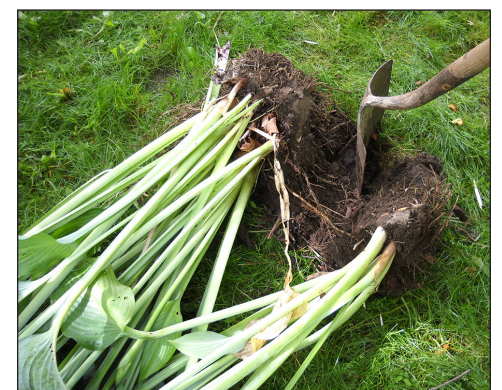
Reach Henry by e-mail at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or by snail mail at P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. His column appears here monthly.



‘Lilac Squirrel’ *Sanguisorba* blossoms are delightful to touch and see.



Acorns that float are not likely to germinate, so throw them out and plant ones that sink.



Dividing hostas is an easy way to get more.

IN THE GARDEN



Cover crops can be used in the vegetable garden. Here, a blend of oats and field peas have been sown. photo by Faith Alexandre



Legume cover crops can help improve soil fertility for vegetable plants while providing nectar and pollen to beneficial insects. photo by Debra Heleba

Spring cover crops for vegetable gardens

by Amy Simone

SOUTH BURLINGTON – The ground may still be covered in snow, but now is an excellent time to start planning to improve the soil in vegetable gardens for the planting season ahead.

Cover crops are effective tools in the gardener's toolbox for soil improvement. While some are food crops, they are not planted for harvest. Instead, they share the beneficial qualities of their species to either build organic matter and tilth, add nitrogen, suppress weeds and/or fight soil compaction in your garden.

Cover crops planted in the spring can provide a number of benefits to a garden right at the beginning of the growing season. Start by determining goals for the cover crop. If soil is compacted and simply needs to be loosened up prior to planting

summer crops, a round of oats, fava bean, field peas or annual rye could be planted.

If, however, a soil's needs are greater, or not precisely known, it is best to start by assessing its deficiencies or imbalances with a soil test, available at go.uvm.edu/soiltest. Using the results of the test, choose the cover crops that best address the needs of the soil.

Soil that is low in nitrogen fertility will benefit from a legume cover crop like field peas, fava beans, hairy vetch, crimson clover and red clover. If the issue is a lack of organic matter or a need for better tilth, cover crops like oats or annual rye can provide that to your soil.

In recent years, garden centers and online seed providers have made it easier for home gardeners to find cover crop seeds. They can be found both in bulk and pre-packaged options.

Blends of two or more species of plants, such as field peas and oats, take the guesswork out of application rates and supply multiple benefits.

Ideal cover crops for spring can germinate at colder temperatures, for example, 38°F for oats, or 42°F for crimson clover. This allows planting a crop as soon as the snow is gone and the soil can be worked. Some may even be frost-seeded, using the spring's natural freeze-thaw cycle to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.

Most of these crops will mature between 45 and 60 days and they should be terminated two to three weeks before intended planting in the soil. This means planning to plant cover crops in March and into early April.

Unlike a fall cover crop, which dies off naturally in the winter cold, plan how and when to terminate your spring crops. Pay attention to timing: some

cover crops (especially annual rye) should not be allowed to flower to avoid creating an unintentional bed of weeds. Many of the crops can simply be chopped and dropped or tilled under and will break down, improving biomass. Follow the directions for specific crops to extract the most benefits from them.

Another excellent use of early cover crops is as a living or green mulch. Rather than laying down straw, cover bare soil around vegetable plants with a ground cover such as white clover or lacy phacelia. These plants can suppress weeds and reduce soil erosion while also producing flowers for pollinators.

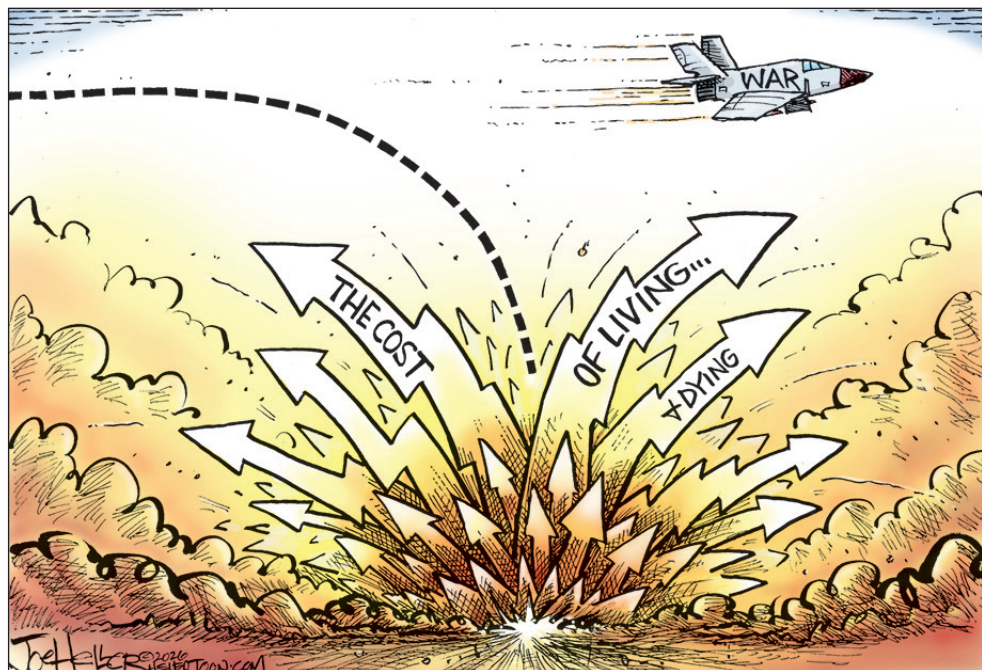
Vegetable garden soil works extremely hard. Give it a boost with early cover crops to get the growing season off to an excellent start.

Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington, Vermont.



Legumes form white or pinkish bumps on their roots called nodules that house nitrogen-fixing bacteria, which take nitrogen from the air and convert it into a form plants can use, enriching the soil naturally. photo by Debra Heleba.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



OUR COMMUNITIES

Spring “Whodunit” lineup

HARDWICK – Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m., the Friends of the Jeudevine will continue the mystery film festival screenings in the Parker Ladd Room. Popcorn, cookies and cider are included.

The upcoming “whodunit” takes place in Mississippi and a wooden post is part of the plot.

Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m., a mysterious poison at a posh

country estate will appear on the silver screen.

The series concludes at 7 p.m., Friday, April 10, with a “whodunit” set in post-war California with a variety of conspiracies.

More details are available are the Jeudevine Memorial Library website jeudevinememoriallibrary.org.

Annual pie breakfast reaches twenty-third year, March 14

WOODBURY – The annual Woodbury pie breakfast is scheduled to take place on March 14, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Woodbury Elementary School. The snow day is March 15.

Come for a morning of pie eating and silent auctions to benefit the Woodbury Community Library. Please donate pies (any pie or quiche) by contacting the Woodbury Library (802 472- 5710 or library@woodburyvt.org). Pie donors will be entered into a raffle. All people and all pies are welcome.

“We are thrilled to host the Annual Woodbury Pie Breakfast in support of the Woodbury Community Library,” said Sara VanHof, Library Trustee. “This event is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy delicious pies, and contribute to the continued success of our beloved library.”

To volunteer as a kitchen helper, pie server, or clean-up crew, contacting the Woodbury Library.

Admission for adults is \$10; children four and up are \$3; children under four are free.

Astronomy series begins March 11

GREENSBORO – Wednesdays, starting March 11, the Greensboro Free Library will host a family-friendly astronomy series with Bobby Farlice-Rubio, from 6 to 7 p.m. One session, date to be determined, will take place at the Peacham Observatory for an opportunity

to observe the night sky more closely. Contact library staff to sign up for upcoming Wednesdays, March 18 and 25, April 1 and 8.

This program is free and open to all, made possible by a grant from the NASA Vermont Space Grant Consortium.

Robotics and chili dinner, March 13

The St. Johnsbury Academy Robotics Club will be at the Greensboro Free Library, Friday, March 13, for hands-on engineering from 4 to 5 p.m. Participants are welcome to join the library’s annual fundraiser

This program is designed for children and families to explore, build and learn together. No prior experience is needed and the session is free and open to all ages.

Participants are welcome to attend the Greensboro Free Library annual fundraiser immediately afterward: Comfort Food and Chili Dinner at the Greensboro United Church from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Participants will rotate through interactive stations featuring LEGO building challenges, button robots and other creative problem solving activities.

Puzzles for the pantry, March 21

by Greensboro United Church of Christ staff

GREENSBORO – There will be an afternoon of puzzling, conversation, snacks and door prizes at the Greensboro United Church of Christ, Saturday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring a donation of food or any monetary gift, and be entered into the door prize drawing. All food and funds go directly

to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

Door prize donations from Black Bird Bistro, Smith’s Store, Allstad Farm, Buffalo Mountain Co-Op, Burdock Acres Flower, the Civic Standard, Whistle Emporium, Cork and Fork, Galaxy Bookshop, Willey’s Store, Gebbie’s Maplehurst Farm, Jasper Hill Cheese, Summersweet Gardens, Village Restaurant, House of Pizza as well as books and crafts by local artists.

EDUCATION

Helms wins awards in art, writing competition

HARDWICK – The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union has announced Hazen Union student Will Helms (grade 11) is among 167 young artists and writers from across Vermont who have been recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for their exceptional artistic and literary talent.

Helms earned a silver key for his novel, “A Story About Teenagers.”

“It was a great honor to find out that my work had been awarded with the silver key,” commented Helms. “This novel means a lot to me, and I’m so glad it got to be recognized.”

The students’ award-winning writing and artwork was exhibited at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center and Helms attended the awards ceremony on March 7. Cartoonist and illustrator Harry Bliss delivered the keynote address.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a national recognition program for aspiring visual artists and writers. Each year, students in grades 7-12 are invited to submit



Will Helms

art and writing in dozens of categories, including ceramics, digital art, painting, photography, poetry, science fiction, personal essay/memoir, and more. Submissions are judged on a statewide level, with the top award winners then considered for national awards, including college scholarships, museum exhibitions and publication opportunities.

A list of all Vermont award winners (Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention) is posted at brattleboromuseum.org. National awards will be announced in June.

Annual seed swap, March 22

HARDWICK – The Swap Sisters annual seed swap and social returns in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Memorial Library at 93 North Main St., Saturday, March 22. Participants will be asked to introduce themselves, as well as to share the story of their seeds or special instructions for their care,

before the free-for-all seed swap begins. All are welcome to attend this free event whether they have something to swap or not. This year donations may be made to Migrant Justice migrantjustice.net/.

For more information about the swap, email swapsisters@gmail.com

Woodbury Enjoy a lakefront private apartment with two bedrooms, living space, bathroom and private laundry in popular summer vacation spot. \$850 plus \$300 utility. (802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO



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OBITUARIES

Edward Francis Donlon

GREENSBORO – Ed Donlon, known as “Da” to his grandchildren, and increasingly to others, died on March 2, in Greensboro, after 97 years of a life fully lived.

He was born in New Haven, Conn., November 12, 1928, and grew up in a poor part of the then-prosperous city. He never forgot where he was from or tired of sharing stories about the Italian, Jewish, and Irish families, neighborhood characters, Catholic school and nuns, markets and figures who populated his childhood where he fished with his father, delivered for the tailor and ushered for shows bound for Broadway at the Schubert Theater.

Thanks to a combination of Catholic school education, mentoring, later the GI Bill, and, most importantly, his own creativity and ability to write, Ed found himself in the newspaper business at an early age. Starting as a paper boy, then moving to the newsroom floor of the New Haven Register as a teenager; first as a copy boy, then an obituary writer and junior reporter.

After his time at the Register, he served as a communications liaison in the Army National Guard in Germany, attended UConn graduated from UCLA film school and then attended Boston University's graduate program as a WGBH Scholar, before starting a career in writing and public relations for trade magazines and IBM. Upon retirement from IBM, he completed



Edward Francis Donlon

a chef's program at the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Ed married Betsy Getsinger in 1956 and had spent the past 70 years with her raising three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, moving up and down the East Coast from Connecticut to South Carolina and ultimately to Northern Vermont agreeing on all the things that matter in life, but arguing over just about everything else.

Ed will be most remembered by all who know him for his kindness, his humor, his adaptability, his ability to improvise, his moving and witty dinner toasts at family gatherings, his love of acting and community theater, his garden planting, his enthusiasm for cooking and entertaining and his eagerness to share experiences with his family. Ed loved travel, oysters, Pepe's pizza, a cocktail or three, the news, and never met a salad or physical activity that he liked.

Kylee M. Bean

ELMORE – Kylee Marie Bean, 43, of Elmore died tragically from injuries sustained in an accidental vehicular accident on March 1.

She was born August 24, 1982, in Morrisville, the daughter of David C. and Carol L. (Pierce) Bean. She graduated from Hazen Union School in Hardwick and continued her education at Community College of Vermont.

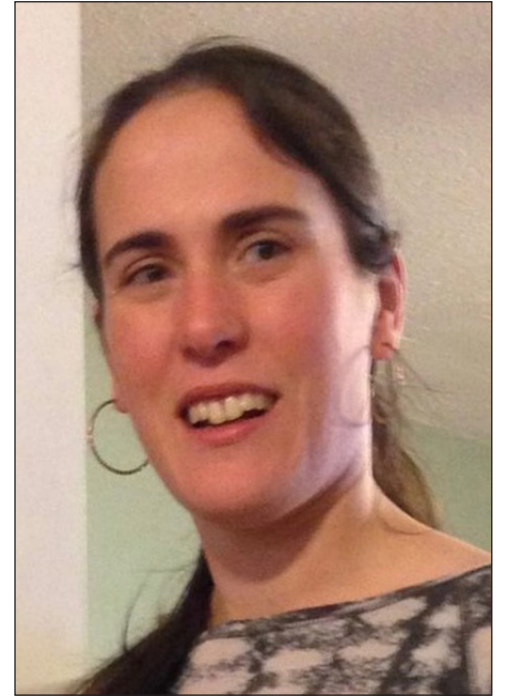
Kylee was employed as a nurse's aide at local nursing homes and for home health. Following the birth of her children, she stayed at home to care for her young family.

She enjoyed antiquing, snowmobiling, dancing, writing poems and watching horror movies. She loved just being outdoors, spending time with her girls, friends, swimming, enjoying the sun and she had a great love of animals.

Survivors include her grandmother, Linda Pierce of Hardwick; her father and stepmother David and Charmain Bean of Johnson; two daughters, Taylor Izor and Suri Izor, and her companion Todd Glowa, all of Elmore.; a sister, Kristy Parchment of Vergennes; five aunts Cherie, Angel, Kim, Jody and Dorothy; one uncle, Mike Bean; nieces and a nephew, Sequoyah, Carol, Raymonda and Tivy; as well as many cousins.

Kylee was predeceased by her mother, Carol Bean in 1995; great-grandparents Lillian and Albert Robarge, and grandmother Amy Dufrane.

Visiting hours will be held



Kylee M. Bean

from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, March 13, at Northern Vermont Funeral Home, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 14, at the United Church of Hardwick with Pastor Avril Cochran officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Jenna's Promise, P.O. Box 575, Johnson, VT 05656.

Arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneral-service.com

EDUCATION

Governor's Institutes applications due March 31

VERMONT –Vermont high school students currently in grades 9-11 may apply for a career-focused summer learning experiences held on Vermont college campuses. Applications are due by March 31 for the Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) Summer 2026 residential programs.

GIV Institutes run for one to two weeks and allow students to explore a topic of interest through hands-on projects, expert instruction and peer collaboration. Institute areas include arts, engineering, entrepreneurship, global issues and youth action, health and medicine, mathematical sciences, technology and design, and

weather and climate science.

New in 2026, GIV is partnering with UVM to bring the Health and Medicine Institute to Burlington to work with professors and healthcare professionals. Alongside learning about careers from nursing to respiratory therapy, biomedical research to dentistry and surgery to psychology, students will have the opportunity to earn a Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR) certification, which allows them to work on local ambulance crews.

Programs are designed to be accessible to all Vermont families, with sliding scale tuition.

Learn more and apply at www.giv.org.



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PRENEED
 PLANNING



Rick Norcross, left, and Billy Bowles in Lubbock, Texas. Bowles has named Norcross to the Heroes of Western Swing Hall of Fame.

photo by Dave Rowell

Norcross named to Heroes of Western Swing Hall of Fame

LUBBOCK, Texas – Billy Bowles, host of “Swinging Country,” revealed recently that Rick Norcross, longtime bandleader of Rick & The All-Star Ramblers Western Swing Band, has been named to the 2026 Heroes of Western Swing Hall of Fame by the Cowtown Society of Western Music with induction ceremonies set for May 2, at their annual Western Swing Fest in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Norcross, is a singer-songwriter, based in Burlington and a third-generation Hardwick Academy graduate, who resided in East Hardwick as a child.

He led the seven-piece band, The All Star Ramblers, and recently retired from music after playing more than 1,000 shows over a

60-year span. Norcross wrote and re-released “You Can’t Make It Up,” a song about attending the 1962 Hardwick Academy Junior Prom where the only place to buy a corsage was the town funeral home. That song went on to be honored by the Academy of Western Artists “Western Swing Song Of The Year.”

Norcross also wrote the theme song, “I Love Western Swing,” for the Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing Festival, a three-day event held annually in Fort Worth. Norcross has released 13 albums on the Airflyte Records label and Vermont author, Stephen Russell Payne, wrote the book, the Norcross biography, “Riding My Guitar - The Rick Norcross Story.”

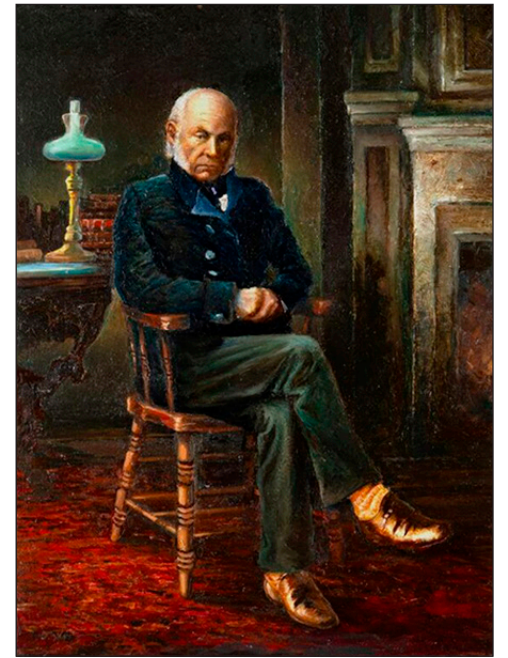
Satellite Gallery hosts Kadunc exhibition through March

LYNDONVILLE – Lyndonville’s Satellite Gallery, in partnership with Catamount Arts, presents a new show “First Light,” an exhibition of paintings by Barnet artist Edward Kadunc. The exhibition will be on display, at the Satellite Gallery, 71 Depot Street, in Lyndonville, through March.

“First Light” features portrait work inspired by nineteenth-century Vermont and the individuals who shaped its history. The exhibition includes oil paintings of union soldiers who served in the Vermont Cavalry and Infantry, academics, suffragettes, politicians, underground railroad agents and the events in which these influential Vermonters helped steer local history.

Driven by early American history, Kadunc drew from archival photos to create portraits capturing lives of Vermonters who helped shape the policies of the Union.

“Much of the history of this era,” writes Kadunc “occurred around our local communities and with [the] participation of local individuals.” Kadunc’s paintings focus as much on local Vermonters



Edward Kadunc’s paintings will be on display at Lyndonville’s Satellite Gallery through March.

courtesy photo

as on nationally recognized figures, reminding viewers that some of the most influential Americans in times of national conflict lived and worked in the Northeast Kingdom.

The gallery is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m., or by appointment.

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Mary Young shows Greensboro Free Library visitor Jeff Maclay some of her work, Saturday, March 7, before the opening talk for her "Notions and Nature" art show. The show is on display there through March. photo by Paul Fixx

Psychic comedian takes Highland Center stage

GREENSBORO – From the judges on America’s Got Talent to headlining in Las Vegas and selling out shows in London’s West End, Peter Antoniou entertained audiences around the world with his mind-reading abilities and British humor.

He’s bringing his wit to the Highland Center for the Arts stage on March 14 at 7 p.m., and March 15 at noon.

For tickets and show information visit, highlandartsvt.org or call (802) 533-2000.



Psychic comedian Peter Antoniou brings his wit and mind-reading to Highland Center for the Arts March 14 and March 15. courtesy photo



The a capella Concordia Choir performs March 12 at St. Johnsbury Academy’s Fuller Hall. courtesy photo

Concordia Choir brings 70 Singers to Fuller Hall

ST.. JOHNSBURY – The Concordia Choir comes to St. Johnsbury Academy’s Fuller Hall, on March 12, at 7 p.m.

The Concordia Choir of Moorehead, Minn’s Concordia College has earned a reputation as one of America’s finest a cappella choirs. Since 1920, the 70-voice choir has performed in nearly every major hall around the globe, including Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center, as well as St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. A February 2010 performance and recording session with the Grammy Award-winning King’s Singers, plus numerous ACDA Conference appearances. Featured in the Emmy Award-winning Concordia

Christmas Concerts, nationally broadcast on public television, and with recordings distributed internationally, the choir is one of the top-selling choirs in the country. “This is why we love choral singing,” says conductor Tim Seelig about the Concordia Choir. “The chorus is simply flawless.”

Among the Concordia Choir’s members is Henry Sipple, a recent graduate of St. Johnsbury Academy. Sipple will be returning to his high school alma mater to perform in the March 12 show.

To buy tickets or learn more, visit catamountarts.org or keppresents.org or call (802) 748-2600 or visit the Catamount Arts box office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury.

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EVENTS

Wednesday, March 11

Astronomy series begins, with Bobby Farlice-Rubio, 6 to 7 p.m., Greensboro Free Library. For youth and adults. Contact the library to sign up.

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.

Presentation, 6:30 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, "Thirty-Eight: The Hurricane That Transformed New England," by Stephen Lang. Information at (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

Concordia Choir, 7 p.m., Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy. Information and tickets: catamountarts.org, kcp-presents.org, (802) 748-2600, or go to the Catamount Arts box office, 115 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury.

Friday, March 13

Book Club, 10:30 a.m., St. Johnsbury House, 1207 Main Street . St. Johnsbury, "The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts, sponsored by the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Information at (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

Murder Mystery, 7 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, N. Main St., Hardwick.

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

Poetry reading, hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library, 2 to 4 p.m. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Monday, March 16

Workshop, 10 a.m., needle felting, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, teens

through adults, free, register at laughingcrowfarmvt@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 17

Honk & Wave, with Indivisible Hardwick, noon. On the sidewalk uphill from St. Norbert's Church, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick. Location change during construction. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

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

Cybersecurity, 10:30 a.m., password management with Seth O'Brien, to noon, Cabot Public Library. Information: cabotlibrary.com.

Thursday, March 19

Cookbook Club, 6 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, Korean cuisine, bring appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert. Reservations required at mrobinson@stjathenaeum.org or call the Athenaeum at (802) 748-8291.

Presentiion, 6:30 p.m., Hurricane that transformed New England with author Stephen Long who wrote "Thirty-Eight: The Hurricane that Transformed New England, Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Friday, March 20

Music, 1 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, Bob Amos performs. Information at (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

Saturday, March 21

Tree grafting, noon to 2 p.m., with Donna Hisson. A hands-on workshop on grafting fruit trees for Marshfield's food forest, Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. RSVP at (802) 426-3581 or email marshfieldrh@gmail.com.

Sip & Resist. Come make signs for No Kings on March 28, 2 to 4 p.m., Community Center, 56 High St., Hardwick. Materials provided. Family-friendly. Light refreshments. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

Puzzles for the pantry, 2 to 4 p.m., Greensboro United Church of Christ. Bring a donation of food or any monetary gift and be entered into the door prize drawing. All proceeds go directly to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

Wednesday, March 25

Presentation, 6 p.m., "Rain or Shine: Vermont's Changing Climate," St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, teens

See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

Street, with Megan Duncan from the Fairbanks Museum.

Thursday, March 26

Book Club, 6 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, for inquisitive readers, "The Light Pirate" by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Information at (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

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, 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.

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.

Crafft, 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.

AI-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

See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

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, 4p.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 cd�.tim@gmail.com

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

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.

See EVENTS, Next Page

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EVENTS

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. Infomration, (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 Being, 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 Shbeharsing@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 LaBonville, 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 Shbeharsing@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., Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd 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.

Craffit, 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

See EVENTS, Next Page



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EVENTS

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

Edward Kadunc exhibit, Satellite Gallery, 71 Depot St., Lyndonville, through March. Open Wed., Fri., Sat., noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

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.

Ice Shanties: Fishing, People and Culture, through April, courtesy the Vermont Folklife Center, at the Athenaeum Hall Art Gallery, 1171 Main Street . St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-8291, stjathenaeum.org . inform@stjathenaeum.org

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

Online safety, cybertipline, reporting online exploitation, missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline?gad_source=1

Online safety, Take it Down, support for removing and reducing spread of explicit images, takeitdown.ncmec.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@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 Fril, 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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Twinfield-Cabot's Azeem Stewart (left) is double teamed by Leif LaMothe Gee and Bentley Branon of Long Trail during playdown action at Twinfield March 4. Twinfield-Cabot topped Long Trail 90-22.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Ben Monaco of Twinfield-Cabot gathers the ball for a short jumper surrounded by Leif Larson, Trace Vaine and Wyatt Matteson of Long Trail during a playdown at Twinfield March 4. The Trojans won 90-22.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield-Cabot boys roll Twin Valley, advance to championship Saturday

by Ken Brown

BARRE – After steamrolling Long Trail and Richford in the first two rounds of the Division IV state tournament, the Twinfield-Cabot (22-1) boys basketball team kept their foot on the gas Monday night against fifth seeded Twin Valley to advance to their first state title game in nearly a decade.

Senior Eli Russell (32 points) and sophomore Omar Miksic-Knibb (16) set the tone in the first two quarters for the Trojans as they blew by Twin Valley 77-57 Monday night at the Barre Auditorium. Russell scored the first nine points for Twinfield-Cabot with an array of finishes at the rim. He finished with 11 in the quarter and Zepherin Hebert's (12 points) corner three and two straight finishes by Sam McLane (five points) gave the top seeded Trojans a 20-14 edge after eight minutes of play.

"After reaching 1,000 career points a couple weeks ago, Eli has been a little quiet offensively in our last four games, including the playoffs. He's still been doing all the things that help our offense go, but I could tell it was bothering him. You could see a night like this coming soon," said head coach Kris Bador.

Miksic-Knibb opened the second quarter with two straight finishes at the rim to make it 26-17, missed an and one opportunity moments later to push the lead to 31-20 and scored his tenth point of the quarter with less than two minutes in the half to balloon the lead to 35-20. Brayden Brown (22 points) ended a 12-0 run for the Trojans at the end of the half to make it 38-22 at the break. The Wildcats looked to mount a comeback at the start of the second half with back-to-back steals and finishes

from Brown and Brian Sullivan (eight points) but consecutive finishes by senior Thomas Gouge in the paint quieted a hopeful Twin Valley fan section. Russell continued to pour it on with eight consecutive points in the paint, Hebert added another before Russell provided the knockout punch with a long distance three at the end of the third quarter to make it 60-40. After a Tej Stewart (eight points) three at the top of key made it 70-49 with five minutes to go in the game, Niko Gerding (10 points) and Landon Brown (15) gave the Wildcats one last hope with back-to-back field goals, cutting the lead to 70-53 midway through the fourth. Miksic-Knibb found Russell on a beautiful back door cut for his 30th point of the night, Hebert converted an and one opportunity with just over three minutes left and Miksic-Knibb finished a layup in transition to extinguish any hope.

Twinfield-Cabot advances to their first state title game since consecutive appearances under Chris Hudson in 2016-17. Connor Spencer, Jordan Moore and Anthony Golden were part of those teams and now serve as assistant coaches on Bador's staff. This will go down as a historic senior class at Twinfield-Cabot, but this game meant a little extra something to Russell, McLane and Ben Monaco. The senior trios' only loss of the soccer season came to Twin Valley in the Division IV state title match five months ago in Rutland. They were forced to watch the Wildcats (17-0) complete a perfect season, while ending theirs at the same time.

Earlier in the week, Hebert poured in 19 points, Stewart added 15 and Sam Churchill (14) did the dirty work inside in a 90-22 first

round win over Long Trail. They went on to blitz Richford 73-39 on Friday night behind Miksic-Knibb's 18, punching their ticket back to the Aud for a second straight season. Under Bador, the Trojan program has won 41 games the past two seasons against just five losses. They roll into the state title game this weekend against Williamstown having won 19 consecutive games, including a regular season sweep of the Blue Devils. The two rivals went toe to toe in the Winter Solstice at the Barre Auditorium over the Christmas Holiday before the Trojans pulled away late for a 76-63 win. It was a different story three weeks ago as Twinfield-Cabot protected its home court with a dominant 82-61 victory. Williamstown brings a newly minted 1,000-point scorer of their own into this matchup in Nick Mascitti and Bador knows his team will have to execute the game plan a third time in a row to complete the mission they've been on all season.

"Contain their Bigs, limit

their three-point opportunities and continue to play good team defense. Take care of the basketball and we need to put 32 minutes together one more time as a team and as a family," said Bador.

The Trojans will square off against Williamstown in the Division IV state championship on Saturday afternoon at the Barre Auditorium.



Twinfield senior Eli Russell protects the ball from Liam Farnsworth of Richford during quarterfinal action at Twinfield March 6. Twinfield-Cabot took the win 73-39.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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Hazen Union's Sully Laflam looks to turn the corner on Rupeni Mara, of Peoples, March 7, during quarter-final action at Hazen. Following the play is Jack Lafayette of Peoples. Hazen won 66-48.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union junior Jeter Demers heads toward the basket defended by Connor Nolan, of Peoples Academy, during quarter-final play in Hardwick, March 7. Hazen prevailed 66-48.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen boys suffocate Wolves to punch ticket back to Barre

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – After a first-round tuneup against Stowe, the Hazen Union boys basketball team solved storied rival Peoples Academy (PA) for a fourth time this season to punch their ticket to the Division III Final Four at the Barre Auditorium for a fifth consecutive season.

Junior Jameson Lamarre punished the Wolves with 22 points and 10 rebounds to power the Wildcats to a 66-48 quarterfinal win Saturday afternoon in front of a standing-room-only Cat Den crowd. Hazen struggled to shake PA early as senior Jack Lafayette followed up a steal and a thunderous dunk with a pair of contested threes to keep the Wolves within a free throw at the break 28-27. Morgan Michaud (12 points) and Lamarre had back-to-back finishes inside to maintain a 36-35 lead for Hazen with just under three minutes to go in the third quarter before junior Jeter Demers nailed a corner three for a 39-35 lead a minute later. Lincoln Hill swished a pair of free throws to extend the lead to 6 thirty seconds later, but Rupen Mara (10 points) ended the quarter with a finish inside to make it 41-37 and keep the Wolves within striking distance with eight minutes to play.

“Peoples came in playing incredible basketball the past few weeks and we knew it was going to be a challenge beating them a fourth time,” said head coach Aaron Hill.



Brothers Dawson and Morgan Michaud, teammate Sally Laflam and Zander Dimick, celebrate their 66-48 quarterfinal win against Peoples Academy, March 7. The Hazen Union team will move on to the Barre Aud for a semi-final game against Thetford, Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

“They started in a triangle-and-two defensively and we really struggled early on to get into an offensive flow. Lafayette is one of the most gifted offensive players in the entire state and we will not miss facing him again. After that dunk, I think the boys took their intensity to another level in the second half,”

A Hill steal and finish and another corner three from Demers pushed the lead to 46-37 in the opening minutes of the fourth and

opened up the flood gates for the Wildcat offense, outscoring the Wolves 25-9 to end the game. Senior Sully Laflam added 12 points, 11 rebounds and 6 assists and Hill finished with nine in the win. Michaud and Laflam added to their big nights by holding Lafayette to one point in the second half on 5-21 shooting for the game. The loss snapped PA's five game winning streak as their season came to an end at 12-10.

“Just unreal defensive efforts

from Sully and Morgan. We had great help team defense on top of that, blitzing the ball and trapping. Jeter's 3-pointers were just huge for us, and we took off offensively as a team from there,” said Hill.

Next up will be a familiar foe for Hill and his squad as they square off against two-time division III state champion Thetford Academy. The two teams split their regular season series this winter, but the Panthers have beaten the Wildcats in the last two state title games. Hill liked the pace his team came out with against Thetford in their 66-43 road win last month.

“There are no secrets at this point between our two teams. They are very physical in the post, and their size advantage creates a significant challenge for us. They really want to grind you down pace wise, and they accomplished that earlier this season. I liked the tempo we came out with against them last time and that will be a determining factor in our next matchup in Barre,” said Hill.

Lamarre torched Stowe for 27 points in the opening round of the state tournament, with Hill (15 points) hitting a trio of threes and Chayse Newell adding eight in a 74-25 win last Wednesday.

Second seeded Hazen and #6 Thetford will do battle once again at the Aud on Thursday night. Top seeded Randolph and #5 Vergennes will square off in the other Division III semifinal.

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT

Craftsbury Skiers at IBU Biathlon Races

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. – A handful of Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) biathletes competed the past two weekends in the international IBU races at Mount Hovenberg. These races are a level below World Cup but athletes from across Europe made the journey to the U.S. to participate. Jake Brown had a 7th, 8th, and 12th over the two weekends of racing for a great finish to his 10-plus years skiing biathlon. In the 20 km mass start, he missed six of 20 shots but had the 5th fastest ski time propelling him into 12th. Brown will be headed to the UVM Medical School in the fall. Bjorn Westervelt had a 35th in the mass start. Kelsey Dickenson led the U.S. women with a 33rd and Jackie Gorso was 48th in the distance race. Dickenson had several top-30s in five races and had perfect shooting in two races, while Gorso had several finishes in the 40s.

Two top 15s for Jack Young on the World Cup

LAHTI, FINLAND – Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) skier, Jack Young, had the chance to compete in two freestyle

cross country sprint competitions these past two weekends for the U.S. Ski Team. He's showing continued improvement by first making it through the qualifier racers into the heats. But then he's showing he's right there in the mix to move from the quarterfinals to semifinals. In Falun, Sweden, he placed within a ski length of making the top two in his quarterfinal, but a rule violation by the skier ahead of him, allowed him to move onto the semi-finals. He finished 12th for the day. This past weekend the World Cup races were in Lahti, Finland. "I felt faster today than I did in Falun, and I think I'm still on the way up. Tactically, I'm making the progress I need to make," Young continued. "I did a lot of things today in the heat that I haven't done in the past. I was taking up space and shutting down moves made from behind me better than I ever have. In the future I need to keep skiing aggressively and find ways to get into the top two before the last 100 meters." (quotes from FasterSkier)

Young should be racing in the final World Cup weekend in Lake Placid on March 21. This will only be the third time ever that

a World Cup has been held in the United States. The best U.S. skier in history, Jessie Diggins, will be retiring after this season, thus it will very fitting for her to close her career on home snow. That all said, some of the U.S. Ski Team skiers will likely be racing the SuperTour finals to be held at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center from March 27-29.

Craftsbury Ski Club's Tillie Lange Second at NENSA Eastern High School Championhips

North Creek, N.Y. – Tillie Lange, an 11th grader at St. Johnsbury Academy, has been skiing with the Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) since before middle school. The CSC provides extra coaching and training for skiers both during the snow season and the rest of the year. Many students from around the region take advantage of the opportunity and the CSC coaches provide support at the Eastern Cup competitions. Lange has had many top finishes over the years but she had an amazing stint as part of the 24-person team for Vermont at the New England Nordic Ski Association's Eastern High School Champion-



Craftsbury's Jake Brown shoots and skis to several top 15 performances at the biathlon races in Lake Placid. *courtesy photo*

ships. Each state puts together a team of the top skiers from each state to compete. The four race, three-day weekend is such and event the New York, Great Lakes, and Midwest send smaller teams out to join the fun. And it really is a lot of fun with over 220 high schoolers skiing and cheering each other on. Lange had 2nd, 3rd, and 5th places. Other CSC skiers included Adele Pritchard 7, Anya Moriarity 12, and Aemilia Terrone 21. On the boys side, Magnus Hayden finished 16th overall with Oakley Crawford 22, Max Demaine 45, and Oryon Hart 55.

KEN BROWN'S PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Waller gets Vergennes back to Final Four

BARRE – Former multisport Cabot high school legend Billy Waller and his Vergennes girls basketball team put up a valiant effort against eventual Division III champion Hazen Union last week before running out of steam in what was their first trip back to the Aud since 2021.

Waller's fifth-ranked Lady Commodores gave Hazen all they could handle in the first half last Thursday, taking a 19-16 lead into the break before ultimately falling 55-39. Kelsie Rivard led Hazen with 20 points and 11 rebounds, Isabelle Gouin complimented with 10 points, Taylor Thompson added eight points and seven assists and Julia des Groseilliers chipped in with eight points in the paint. Ayla Kittredge led Vergennes with 12 and 1,000-point scorer Ashtin Stearns added seven in the loss as their season came to an end at 17-6.

"Billy runs a good program

over there and the modified triangle-and-two he used against us in the first half really disrupted our offensive flow. We were able to figure it out at the break, putting Kelsie and Julia down on the block, which opened up some space for us. We did a nice job limiting Stearns outside shooting and overall, clamped down defensively in the second half," said head coach Randy Lumsden.

Waller will lose a core of seniors from this season's Final Four team but will return his talented freshman Kittredge, along with the post presence of junior Georgia Krause.

Title defense ends for Danville at West Rutland

WEST RUTLAND – Danville proved once again just how hard they are to kill last week in a valiant effort in defeat to top seeded West Rutland in the quarterfinal round of the Division IV state tournament.

Undefeated West Rutland survived and advanced Friday night 48-46 as Landen Fournier's potential game-winner from the top of the key missed the mark as time expired. Peter Guay led the Golden Horde with 19 points, Braden Hogan added 15 and Chase Razanouski chipped in with 10. Fournier and Sebastian Eldred led the Bears with 12 apiece and Alijah Andrews added 10 as their state title defense came to an end at 15-7.

Eldred, Fournier, Andrews, Kohl Guinard and Samson Kitonga put a bow on outstanding high school basketball careers at Danville that included three straight trips to the Barre Auditorium, capturing the Division IV state championship last March.

Northfield pulls off upset of the state tournament

QUEECHE – Winning just their fourth game of the season, the fourteenth ranked North-

field boys basketball team upset No. 3 Mid-Vermont Christian last week in the opening round of the Division IV state tournament.

Elijah Scott's 17 points and eight rebounds powered the Marauders to a stunning 52-41 road win over the Eagles last Tuesday. Former Hazen Union standout Damian Morrison added nine points for Northfield, who earned just their second playoff victory in over two decades. Williamstown ended the Marauders' Cinderella Run on Friday with a 74-48 win to advance to the Final Four in Barre. Senior Nick Mascitti (26 points, 15 rebounds) reached the 1,000-career points milestone for the Blue Devils in the win. Morrison scored 13 in the loss for Northfield.

Williamstown squared off against top seeded West Rutland at the Barre Auditorium on Monday night.

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