



Kings of the court: seniors lead Wildcats to state title



Hazen Union team manager Blair Demers and players (from left) Talon Michaud, Lucian Jurkiewicz, Dawson Michaud, Noah Foster, Chayse Newell and Kobe Smith react as the score begins to pull away from Randolphs in the final quarter. At right is head coach Aaron Hill.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

by Ken Brown

BARRE – Behind outstanding senior play, the Hazen Union boys basketball team conquered third seeded Thetford Academy and top seeded Randolph over the weekend to reclaim the Division III crown.

Sully Laflam, Morgan Michaud and Ethan Gann ended their stellar high school careers at Hazen in style on Saturday night, leading the charge in a 66-49 epic take-down of No. 1 Randolph in front of a raucous crowd at the Barre Auditorium. Laflam poured in a season-high 22 points, including 18 in the second half to help turn a two-point deficit at half into a runaway down the stretch. Michaud (16 points, eight rebounds and four steals) and Gann (seven rebounds) did anything and everything necessary to combat the distinct size

advantage the Ghosts had with pure effort and grit.

“Randolph is a big and physical team. They had handled us twice this season, and it was trending that way again through the first 1 ½ quarters. Our seniors played so much bigger than what they are physically and with so much heart and toughness. Some of our former players messaged me after the game referencing Hazen DNA in a win like that, and I couldn’t be more proud of these kids,” said head coach Aaron Hill.

Randolph’s physicality was on full display in the first 14 minutes of the game, twice having the ball with a chance to increase their lead to double digits. With the Wildcats struggling from the field and the free throw line (3-12) in the first half, senior grit kept them afloat,

See KINGS, 4

Reorganized select board holds first monthly meeting

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The March 5 regular select board meeting consisted of select board appointments, construction updates and discussing the proposed Buffalo Mountain Town Forest purchase.

To kick off the meeting, the board voted unanimously to elect Ceilidh Galloway-Kane as chairperson. Galloway-Kane was re-elected for a three-year seat on Town Meeting Day, March 3. Shari Cornish was unanimously voted vice-chair. Galloway-Kane assumed control over the proceedings, welcoming newly-elected candidates Derek Richardson and Larry Fliegelman to their first meeting since being elected to the board.

The board discussed forming a steering

committee or task force for the potential purchase of the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest property, but ultimately decided against appointing members at the meeting.

Galloway-Kane noted the town of Wolcott recently underwent a similar process, suggesting the board gather information about how their current town forest committee is structured, noting Wolcott currently has sixteen members serving on their committee. After some discussion, Kristen Leahy will begin working on the process of committee development in relation to the town forest. Galloway-Kane will reach out to the town of Wolcott to gather information about their process, including hearings, committee structure as well as how management decisions were developed.

See REORGANIZED, 5



The Hardwick Select Board holds its organizing meeting, Thursday, March 5, welcoming (from right) Derek Richardson and Larry Fliegelman for one-year terms, with Ceilidh Galloway-Kane reelected for a three-year term and becoming chair. From left are Casey Rowell, Kristen Leahy, David Upson, Shari Cornish newly elected as vice-chair and Tim Ricciardello.

photo by Paul Fixx



Traffic in downtown Hardwick has been reduced to one lane with alternating traffic lights since CCS Constructors began work, February 27, on the South Main Street retaining wall and pedestrian bridge site. The traffic impacts South Main, Wolcott (Vt. Routes 14 and 15) and Mill Streets, but businesses remain open. The work is expected to continue into early summer.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Anger over Act 181 bubbles up, lawmakers consider postponing implementation

by Carly Berlin, VTDigger

VERMONT – Hannah Burrill, a real estate agent in the Northeast Kingdom, was floored when she learned while gearing up for her license renewal this winter about a slate of land-use law changes coming down the pike from Montpelier. To her, Act 181 seemed to represent an infringement on rural landowners’ property rights and a death knell for future growth in small towns, and few people knew about it.

“There’s plenty of people not paying attention because they’re simply too busy trying to keep their head above water,” Burrill said.

Act 181 is a politically contentious overhaul of Vermont’s signature development review law

that will remove regulatory hurdles in some population centers and designate certain ecologically sensitive areas as needing additional protection. It passed the Legislature two years ago and its implications are swiftly becoming a reality.

As a key Senate committee faces a deadline to tweak the legislation this week, ire over the law has bubbled up beyond the statehouse among rural communities awakening to its future impacts.

A Facebook group has cropped up to share information about Act 181 and organize opposition to it. The Vermont Farm Bureau has begun collecting stories from rural landowners.

See ANGER, 5

PUBLIC SERVICES



The Cabot Volunteer Fire Department was called to a car fire in Walden on March 11. Social media post

Cabot Volunteer Fire Department Car fire puts nearby house at risk

CABOT – On March 11, the Cabot Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fully-involved vehicle fire in Walden. The fire was hot enough to buckle siding on the nearby residence. Their quick action likely averted disaster. Cabot Fire Department responded with all three apparatus as mutual aid, and were canceled upon arrival. Cabot Engine 1 was en route to the scene in Walden with five firefighters within six minutes of the initial call and arrived on scene minutes later.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Ten people used AWARE services between March 1 and March 15. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender. For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

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March 18 - March 24

End of Winter Sale continues through March 31. 25% Off all winter clothes. Hats, Gloves & Mittens

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Starbucks Coffee \$10.49 12 oz.	Cheez-it Snack Crackers \$2.99 9-12.4 oz.	Food Club Beans 89¢ 15.5 oz.
G.M. Assorted Cereals \$2.99 8.9-12 oz.	Classico Pasta Sauce 2/\$5 15-24 oz.	Barilla Pasta 3/\$4 12-16 oz.
Near East Side Dishes 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.	Cabot Mac & Cheese Dinners 2/\$4 6.25 oz.	Chi-Chi's Tortillas 2/\$5 16-17 oz.
Ortega Taco or Fajita Seasoning Mix 99¢ 1 oz.	Tutorosso Tomatoes 3/\$5 28 oz.	Kraft Salad Dressing \$2.99 16 oz.
Angel Soft 4 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue \$3.99 135.1 s.f.	Califa Almond Milk Creamer \$4.79 25.4 oz.	Califa Almond Milk \$5.99 48 oz.
Cabot Butter \$3.99 16 oz.	Birds Eye Steam Fresh Vegetables 4/\$5 10 oz.	Swanson Hungryman Dinner \$3.79 16 oz.
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WEATHER WATCH

Brief cooling, clearing today; steadier rain and snow by Sunday

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Snowpack depths continue to plummet across the low and mid-level elevations, with little, if any snow in the valleys. Other places, such as Craftsbury, have up to four inches of snow depth at elevations of 1,500 feet. The higher terrain of Greensboro has closer to 12 inches.

Tuesday was one of the warmest days of last week, with Montpelier coming in at 67 degrees. This broke the previous record for that day of 60 degrees set back in 1977. It reached 71 in St. Johnsbury, 70 in Morrisville, and 65 in Plainfield on March 10. A total of half an inch to an inch of precipitation fell

during the week, with runoff gradually dissipating over the course of the week and limiting a significant flood threat.

The upcoming forecast period commences with an area of high pressure approaching in the wake of a strong storm system in our large-scale pattern. Expect temperatures to be slightly below normal with mostly sunny skies today, giving way to some clouds by tomorrow as a passing frontal boundary leads to some light snow showers by late afternoon.

As we move into Friday, a weak low forming over the Great Lakes looks to bring a few scattered rain or snow showers, before a brief respite on Saturday.



A Hardwick Electric Department truck parks in a muddy Church Street driveway while the meters are being read on a rainy Monday, March 16.

photo by Paul Fixx

Another low-pressure system arrives for Sunday, although some discrepancy exists over the exact low track and timing. For now, an inland track seems plausible given climatology and forecast persistence, so we'll hold closer to that solution. Just don't put your shovels away yet, as there may be a few inches of snow on the backside of this system for Monday morning. Any precipitation, however, will be light to moderate. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. High: 27. Low: 15. Calm wind.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. High: 37. Low: 24. South wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers. High: 42. Low: 23. West wind 5-10 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny. High: 35. Low: 20. Light and variable wind.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Rain and snow. High: 37. Low: 18. West wind 5-10 mph.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – 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.

March 9: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Cedar St.; Alarm, Industrial Park Road; VIN verification, Stratton Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Trespassing, Mackville Road; Assist - Public, Wolcott St.; Assist - Agency, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, West Church St.; DLS, Lamoille Ave.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

March 10: Traffic Hazard, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; 911 Hangup, Center Road; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Wanted Person, Granite St.; Citizen Dispute, Montgomery Road.

March 11: Directed Patrol, S.

Main St.; Suspicious Event, Montgomery Rd.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15 W.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Mill St.; Medical, Vt. Route 15.

March 12: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, North Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Theft, Vt. Route 15 W.

March 13: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Cottage Road; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Highland Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Trespassing, Vt. Route 14 S.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.

March 14: Suspicious Event, Bunker Hill Road; DLS, Mackville Rd.; Assist - Agency, Spruce Drive; Custodial Dispute, Hays Drive; Threats/Harassment, Woodbury St.

March 15: Alarm, S. Main St.; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, McAllister Farm Road.

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Weekly Highlights

Just a taste of the deals this week. Stop in for hundreds of local items, cafe food, and more!

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Bonne Maman, varieties, 13 oz \$5.79	Amy's, 9 oz \$5.99	Bragg, 16 oz \$4.49	Cascadian Farms, 10 oz 2/\$6
Celestial Seasonings, varieties, 17 oz 2/\$7	Ben & Jerry's, varieties, 16 oz \$4.49	Teddie, varieties, 16 oz \$3.79	Cabot, varieties, 8 oz 2/\$6
Clean Cause, varieties, 16 oz \$2.29	Mi Niña, varieties, 12 oz \$3.99	Edward & Sons, varieties, 3.5 oz \$2.99	Ithaca, varieties, 10 oz \$3.99

Some of our Member-owner Deals This Week ...

Fussie Cat, varieties, 2.82 oz 15% off	Organ, varieties, 8 oz 10% off	Zoup, varieties, 16 oz 15% off	Real Pickles, varieties, 26 oz 10% off
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PUBLIC SERVICES



The Walden Volunteer Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire on March 11, that endangered a nearby house. *Social media post*

Walden Volunteer Fire Department Fire department saves home

WALDEN – On March 11, the structure prior to extinguishing the vehicle fire. Strong gusty wind blowing toward the structure was a significant factor. Tanker 1 stood by with additional water and Cabot Engine 1 arrived with a crew. Walden FAST was also on scene.

Kings

Continued From Page One
but Lincoln Hill's (16 points and three steals) sharpshooting turned the game on its head. The talented junior challenged Randolph's towering center Eli Messier to beat the first half buzzer, giving him 6 straight points in the final two minutes to cut the lead to 28-26. Hill picked right up where he left off in the third quarter, scoring five straight points for Hazen, sending a sea of red into a frenzy with Hazen's first lead of the game.

"We were struggling to score in any form, and the game was teetering there for us in the final minutes of the first half. Fortunately, we got some stops and did a good job executing our half-court trap to create some opportunities. Lincoln's scoring was huge at exactly the right time. Instead of going into the locker room at the half a dejected basketball team, we were upbeat and optimistic. He then continued it into the second half and really set the tone the rest of the way for Sully and Morgan to carry it on," said Hill.

The Wildcats blitzed the top-seeded Ghosts 40-21 in the second half to end a three-year run of state runner-up finishes. The last two have come to Thetford Academy, a demon the Wildcats were forced to face once again two nights earlier at the Aud. Michaud's career-high 26 points and junior Jameson Lamarre's 22 led the way to an emphatic 69-52 semifinal win over the Panthers. Hill (15 points) added three more triples for the Wildcats as they survived six long-balls and 24 points from Thetford's Braxton Adams. Coach Hill's Wildcats navigated a brutal Capital League schedule before taking down a Peoples Academy team in the quarterfinals that had won five straight, solving two-time defending champion Thetford before finishing off a top-seeded Randolph team that was looking to end a 30-year state title drought. Saturday was the seventh state championship for Hill at Hazen Union and quietly (somehow) No. 450 in his legendary coaching career. Legendary descriptors are usually applied as you age out but Hill is on the right side of

50 still in his 27th year on the sidelines. He was much more interested in talking about his seniors and his team getting the opportunity to cut down the nets after a grueling season.

"This year's team was all about mental toughness and resolve. They cleared so many obstacles that can get in the way of team's focus whether it be rivalries like Peoples four times in one season, or three straight losses in the Finals or overcoming a nemesis like Thetford. I'm just so proud and happy for those kids. Our seniors get the ending that they deserved and earned, and they'll be missed for sure. We also have such a talented group coming back led by Jameson and Lincoln. They really took their games to a whole other level this season and they'll be surrounded by a great returning group led by Jeter Demers, Kobe Smith and Noah Foster who now take the baton from our seniors to carry on that unselfish foundation that those seniors established here," said Hill.

Another magical championship run by Hill's program will also

Hardwick Police Department

Theft, criminal suspensions, car crash

HARDWICK – 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 for criminal DLS without incident and processed at the Hardwick Police Department. Brier was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court, April 6, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the above charges.

On March 6, at 11:29 a.m., Casandra Rich stole a purse off a female walking on the sidewalk by removing it from her shoulder and running down the sidewalk. Rich was found and issued a citation into Caledonia Superior Court, Criminal Division, on March 30. The purse was recovered but the money was gone.

March 9, at 4:55 p.m., officers from the Hardwick Police Department were dispatched to Lamoille Avenue, for a possible disturbance. Investigation revealed though there was a minor disturbance, the only criminal action was in Denise Fradette operating a motor vehicle while under criminal suspension. She was issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division, to be arraigned on the above charge.

On March 10, Hardwick Police conducted a traffic stop for a

motor vehicle violation on Granite Street. The passenger was identified as Wendell Walbridge. Walbridge was found to have an active warrant for his arrest and a probation violation. Walbridge was taken into custody without incident. He was transported and lodged at the Northeast Correctional Complex.

March 11, at approximately 3:51 p.m., Hardwick Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Mill Street in front of Buffalo Mountain Co-Op. A 2009 Dodge Caravan operated by Jan Bodendorf pulled out into traffic from the co-op parking lot, into the right of way of a 2009 Subaru Forester operated by Jacob Gates. Gates's vehicle received damage to the front drivers side and Bodendorf's vehicle received damage to the passenger doors.

On March 14, at 11:22 a.m., an officer from the Hardwick Police Department observed Ryan Hill of Hardwick, operating an unregistered side-by-side ATV on Granite Street, Winter Street and Mackville Road. The DMV record of Hill indicated he was under criminal suspension at the time of this operation. He was issued a citation to appear at the Caledonia Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division, to be arraigned for DLS.

be remembered in 2026 by the word "family." Alongside his brother and longtime assistant coach Travis Hill (1996 champion as a player), Hill has now witnessed his son Carter and Travis' sons Xavier and Lincoln capture state titles as Hazen Union Wildcats. He also had his daughter and former Lady Cat great Letty Hill on the bench this season for the first time during a championship run. Junior varsity coach Adam Gann and Hazen alum Kevin Doyon were also key contributors on the coaching staff, along with Evans Bouchard. The former Craftsbury Academy head coach was given the game ball by Hill after the game, celebrating his first state title after 37 years in the profession.

"The family dynamic in our program is a pretty special thing to me. Travis and the whole staff put in a ton of hours throughout the year, and I just feel really fortunate to get to go through it with them. We push each other and getting to enjoy a championship together at the end with the players just makes it that much more sweeter," said Hill.

Reorganized

Continued From Page One

Moving on, Galloway-Kane noted some downtown businesses expressed concerns about traffic conditions due to the construction. Town Manager David Upson provided a brief update on the situation. Upson informed the board that he as well as the chief of police are collaborating with the contractor, CCS, to adjust traffic signal timing during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times at the schools, to improve the flow of traffic.

Barriers on Main Street are also being moved to allow for oil deliveries to businesses. Upson noted work on these issues is ongoing, and residents or businesses with concerns are encouraged to contact the town managers office.

The board reviewed recommendations for a consultant for the requisite environmental assessment for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant. The town received seven proposals, which were narrowed down to the top three candidates. VHB was recommended for selection because they have staff in-house to perform all necessary components of the work, whereas other firms would need to subcontract for certain elements, such

as wetlands delineation. The cost of the work will be covered by the grant. Motioned by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the board voted to authorize the town manager to enter into a contract with VHB for the environmental assessment.

After reviewing each appointment individually, the board approved the following town appointments: David Upson, Civil Defense/Emergency Management Coordinator; Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, CVSWMD Representative; Tim Ricciardello, Town Service Officer; Elizabeth Dow, as Agent to Convey Real Estate; Shari Cornish, as Board Representative to Sign Warrants; Shari Cornish, as NEKarts Board Representative; Paul Fixx, as NEK Communication Union District Representative; Linda Markin, as NEK Communication Union District Alternate Representative; Eric Remick, as Hardwick Trails Committee Rep.; Danny Hale, Hardwick-Woodbury Rail Trail; Derek Richardson, Jackson Dam Study Committee Select Board Representative; David Upson, as Town Safety Officer; Maya McCoy, Town Website Coordinator; Kristen Leahy, Town Representative for NVDA; Larry Fliegelman, Select Board Representative for NVDA; Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Town Health Officer; David Upson, Deputy Health Officer; Shari Cornish,

as Hardwick Downtown Partnership Board Representative.

Two appointments were left vacant for the time being: Town Energy Coordinator and CVSWMD Alternate Representative.

The appointment of the health officer is through the Vermont Department of Health by a recommendation by the select board. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane will be the health officer by default as the select board chair and David Upson, town manager, is the deputy health officer. The recommendation form will need to be completed at the next meeting.

In other business, Zoning and Floodplain Administrator Kristen Leahy informed the board she will be on medical leave from March 27 through April 27. Leahy provided an overview of the planning commission's proposed update to the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws. The update modernizes the bylaws and aligns them with the Municipal Plan, recent state legislation, and issues identified through flood recovery, housing needs, and infrastructure planning.

The select board scheduled a public hearing on the proposed bylaw update for March 19, at 5 p.m.

Anger

Continued From Page One

A VTDigger opinion piece this week argues that the law's environmental protection aims are ultimately exclusionary. And an open letter to lawmakers penned by Burrill has been shared on social media hundreds of times.

"I am arguing that when you make it structurally impossible for families to build modest homes in small towns, and then charge them thousands of dollars just to try, those towns do not stay the same. They decline. And then they disappear," the letter reads.

When Act 181 passed, its supporters framed it as a "grand bargain" between housing proponents and environmentalists. The act sought to lift Act 250 regulations in areas that are already developed to encourage more home-building amid an acute housing shortage, even as it bolstered protections for sensitive ecosystems.

Those housing exemptions apply to places that have zoning and infrastructure, like water and sewer systems. Without those pieces in place, towns like Burke, where Burrill lives, would lose out on access to permitting relief, she wrote.

"What is Burke supposed to do? Wait? Wait for what, and for how long, and who decides when Burke has earned the right to grow on its own terms?" Burrill wrote in her letter.

Throughout the 2024 legislative session, Republican Gov. Phil Scott called Democrats' reform effort a "conservation bill" that would ultimately harm rural communities that couldn't meet the bar for housing exemptions. He vetoed the

legislation, but the Legislature's Democratic super-majority overrode him.

Much of Scott's push-back then and now has centered around a new "road rule." Expected to impact the majority of land in the state, the rule stipulates that Act 250 would kick in when a private entity wants to build a road longer than 800 feet, or a combination of roads and driveways longer than 2,000 feet. As written, the rule is slated to take effect on July 1.

Mary White, president of the Vermont Farm Bureau, told legislators this week that the rule and other new regulations would place an undue burden on rural landowners, adding considerable expense.

"In rural Vermont, we measure land in acres, not feet," White said.

Recent push-back has also focused on new protections for sensitive natural areas, where, once mapped by the state's Land Use Review Board, Act 250 review will be automatic for most development. In response to harsh feedback from municipal officials and landowners, members of the board have signaled that they want to limit the scope of these areas and to pare down the permitting requirements in them.

Facing an important deadline, a key legislative committee is currently poised to advance a bill that would delay Act 181's implementation, postponing the road rule's kickoff this summer along with the new sensitive ecosystem rules.

Scott said at a press conference on Wednesday that the delays envisioned by lawmakers don't go far enough. He has called for a repeal of the road rule and a dramatic

curtailing of the sensitive ecosystem maps.

"We have a long way to go to reverse course in the areas that will unfairly impact rural communities," he said. "I won't accept a short extension

so they can get through the November election."

This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.



WOLCOTT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND BUDGET VOTE

The legal voters of the **Wolcott Town School District** are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in Wolcott, Vermont on **Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** The assembled meeting shall constitute the **Public Informational Meeting** for discussion on the proposed FY27 School District budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$6,364,330.18 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Wolcott Town School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,382.17 which is 7.21% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Voting on the aforementioned Article 1 will be by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at the Wolcott Town Office, 28 Railroad Street, Wolcott, VT 05680, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close.

The legal voters of the Wolcott Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meetings shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Wolcott, Vermont this 12th day of March, 2026

Melina Main _____
Yasmin _____

 Wolcott Town School District Directors

Attest: *Brenda Harris*
 District Clerk

Date: **MAR 12 2026**



Learn more by scanning this QR code or go directly to the web page at <https://wolcott.ossu.org/fy27-budget>



EDITORIAL

Ice is everywhere

ICE is causing problems throughout the country and most recently in South Burlington, but the ice causing problems for the Gazette was at the bottom of my steps last Thursday when I stepped out on my way to teach a Tai Chi for fall prevention class.

My feet slipped out from under me and I landed square on my sitbones and tailbone. I somehow managed to make it to class, though I sat for a considerable portion while my co-teacher led much of it.

Afterward, I managed to load the car and make the 3-½ hour drive to Portsmouth, N.H., where I spent Friday and Saturday at the New England Newspaper & Press Association's annual conference, skipping meals to rest as much as I could and not writing stories I'd planned for this week.

Home now, I've spent the last two days in bed, unable to sit or lie on my back. This morning, folks at the Hardwick Area Health Center told me to rest, apply cold, then hot, take painkillers, then repeat as needed. I've order a special pillow to aid coccyx injury recovery, so hope to work relatively normally soon.

Sadly, because of that a small pile of stories that we'd hoped to have for you this week will have to wait for a future edition. An interesting story about Hardwick's Bridge 31, across the Lamoille River before Greensboro Bend, will have to wait. There, the bridge was destroyed in flooding and the Greensboro Bridge not far away is handling all the traffic.

A story about construction in downtown Hardwick and how it's affecting parking and businesses there will be delayed too. Employees are being asked to park in remote lots to keep more downtown parking spots open for shoppers and the Galaxy Bookshop has teamed up with the Jeudevine Library for library donations to purchase books from the local bookshop.

I met with a group of Woodbury residents last week at a home overlooking the hill where Swenson Granite plans a big expansion, adding a crusher and doubling the number of loaded trucks leaving the quarry there. The Woodbury Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) has begun hearings and a future Act 250 process is likely. It's an ongoing process as the ZBA has yet to report on its deliberations. There's a story to be written about that too.

Area legislators have shared comments with The Gazette about a proposed Vermont House bill, H.849, which creates a legal mechanism that allows Vermonters to seek accountability if their state or federal constitutional rights are violated by government employees. Current legislation allows state, but not federal accountability. This legislation closes that gap. You'll see

that story next week.

I've been glad to hear from some readers lately that The Gazette is too big to read each week. We never know until we're done how big an issue we'll have, but maybe you'll get a break this week.

Meanwhile, let's hope the ice on my backside solves the problem there.

Paul Fixx, editor

LETTERS FROM READERS

ICE agents should be arrested not assisted

To the editor:

I am appalled Vermont State Police assisted ICE agents on March 11 in quelling the First Amendment rights of citizens in South Burlington. And I am equally appalled the Vermont State Police used chemical sprays against protesters and, apparently, assisted in smashing open the door

of a private residence. I support law enforcement that works to serve and protect people. I do not support domestic law enforcement that destroys and conquers as though it is a military unit in a foreign operation. ICE agents should be arrested not assisted.

**Ross Connelly
Hardwick**

A building we can all be proud of

To the editor:

There have been public reports that the Woodbury School needs extensive repairs in excess of \$600,000 and this is just not accurate.

The architectural plans that were submitted to the district were just one option for the school, not a requirement in any way. After diligent research I have learned that the fire escape does need to be assessed by a structural engineer and this is being pursued. It may not need any modification. If it did need to be replaced the cost would be less than \$50,000 and this could be covered by the Building Reserve Fund, not through additional taxpayer dollars.

The elevator has been updated

and is functional with a current operating certificate. The playground has a new tube slide and replenished wood chips and it is also fully functional.

A plan for remediation of the water system is in place and engineering work has been submitted to the state. The corrective action would be paid for by a forgivable loan of \$30,000 at no cost to the district. These are all manageable and cost effective measures that are not at all extraordinary in any building. The Woodbury School has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1993 and is a building we can all be proud of.

**Lisa Flood
Woodbury**

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins,
Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONISTS - Julie Atwood, Abrah Griggs,

Joe Heller, Kay Spaulding

WEATHER - Tyler Molleur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

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ADVERTISING

Sandy Atkins, Paul Fixx, Raymonda Parchment
ads@hardwickgazette.org, sales@hardwickgazette.org

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CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Alley, Brendan Buckley

Ken Brown, Hal Gray,

Henry Homeyer, Willem Lange,

Cheryl Luther Michaels, David Rodgers,

Liz Steel, John Walters; Will Helms, intern.

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Fixx, John Walters, Stefanie Cravedi,

Anita Engel, Betty Jones

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

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

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

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

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.

E-mail addresses to send us messages: ads@hardwickgazette.org for advertising inquiries including display ads and business directory submissions; editor@hardwickgazette.org for corrections, letters to the editor, story ideas, website or newsletter questions and comments; news@hardwickgazette.org for all submissions of calendar of events, news stories, obituaries, births, press releases and everything else.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Alaska can't hold a candle . . .

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – December 13, 1989 – Dear Sir – You are cordially invited to participate in the NINETEENTH ANNUAL INTERSTATE GERIATRIC SKI TOUR and GRAND SUB-ARCTIC BUSHWHACK to be held at the Hell Gate cabins in the Dartmouth College Grant from Friday, February 16, to Sunday, February 18, 1990.

I see that this particular invitation, issued just after the mid-point of the life of the Geriatric Adventure Society (hereinafter GAS), is from the modern era; viz, written and printed on a computer, rather than the typewriter and copier of the early days. It limits participation to only twelve. By the time the winter bushwhack quietly died, it was attracting about thirty hardy souls. There were rituals: coffee and ice cream at the Errol Restaurant Friday afternoon, an ambitious thrash through the woods with map and compass all day Saturday, and shirt and tie Saturday evening at dinner.

I used to get asked this question a lot: You were only in your thirties when you started this organization. Why did you call it "Geriatric"? I always answered that I wanted a name we could grow into. I mean, how would it look if in our seventies (which we all aspired to reach) we were calling ourselves something like the Boy Scouts?

Questioners also alluded to our males-only membership. Weren't there women who could ski all day in the bushes, paddle hundreds of miles on our summer canoe trips, carry heavy loads into mountain campsites and climb with the best of us? Of course there were; and several women over the years asked to join us. But there was another woman, with whom I shared a home (and most nights, a bed), and who also planned, organized and packaged our rations for every trip, for whom the subject was not up for discussion.

And I have to say that every evening of a trip, as the cooks (a rotating job) were doing their thing and the rest of us were enjoying what's called, in pretentious circles, our libations of choice, I loved to just close my eyes and listen to the badinage: men's voices, every one familiar, laughs and stories getting told. It's always been one of the great pleasures of my life to work with a crew of men: at the bobsled run, in camp winter or summer, road

construction. A comfortable chair or Crazy Creek lounger; a warm fire or, alternatively, plenty of bug dope; a cool drink with just enough bite and peat: "Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!" I can still hear the rumble of the voices as I sit here in my quiet office years later.

Our language was borrowed from the mock heroic of 19th-Century England; our unofficial watchword was the closing lines of Tennyson's "Ulysses:" "Old age hath yet his honour and his toil; Death closes all: but something ere the end, some work of noble note, may yet be done, not unbecoming men that strove with Gods."

In 1989 we took our first of more than a dozen canoe trips to the Canadian Arctic. Americans always respond with "Alaska?" when they hear "arctic." These are the same folks who, deployed to Germany, ask for "Lowenbrow" and chat up the "Frowlines." Alaska, big as it is, can't hold a candle to Canada for territory. From Yukon to Labrador, from the Ottawa Valley to the muskox country of Banks and Victoria Island, sparkle hundreds of wild rivers. Looking back, I can recall swimming in a few of them, but never in an orderly or planned fashion. Surrounded by wildlife only cautious of us: caribou (even, on two trips, the elusive Peary caribou), muskoxen, wolves, grizzlies (of which, another week), ground squirrels, snowy owls, and trout the length of our arms, we made as little noise as possible.

I always sent out lists of recommended equipment and clothing (suggestions only; we're all adults here). My favorite response was from a doctor, a Harvard man, who questioned the number of underpants I specified: three for three weeks. He felt that wasn't enough. Well, I responded, you wash 'em now and then.

Right in the cold river water? No, I said. You know how every night we wash the dishes in hot, sudsy water, and then rinse 'em in scalding water? Well, if nobody sees what you're using for a dishrag... That got me out of the dishwashing detail for the rest of the trip. After that, he wouldn't let me anywhere near the fire.

I've come across something I wrote during one bushwhack: There is, most of all, the tacit sharing of the struggle with the others, each of whom is suffering at least as much as I, but suffering less because we share it. Almost all those worthies are now scattered to the winds. But they, and what we did together, live on in memory.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"DONALD TRUMP DID THIS!"

MEETING MEMO

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.

Monday, March 23

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

Wednesday, March 25

Greensboro Select Board, fourth Wednesday of month, 6:30 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

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ANOTHER OPINION

The moralization of politics has made nuance almost impossible

by Jeff Pierpont

WALDEN – Something has changed in the way Americans talk to one another about politics.

Not long ago, people could argue fiercely about taxes, war, immigration or social policy and still assume that their neighbor, coworker or family member was acting in good faith. They might be wrong, misguided or poorly informed, but they were not presumed to be immoral.

Today that assumption is rapidly disappearing.

Politics has become moralized. Our disagreements are no longer framed as differences of judgment about how best to solve problems. They are framed as conflicts between good people and bad people, between virtue and corruption, between those who care and those who do not.

Once politics moves into that territory, nuance becomes almost impossible.

If your political opponent is simply mistaken, you try to persuade them. If your opponent is immoral, persuasion feels pointless. Why reason with someone you believe to be fundamentally malicious?

Social media has amplified this shift. The platforms where much

of our political conversation now occurs reward certainty, outrage and tribal loyalty. Thoughtful hesitation does not travel well online. Careful argument rarely goes viral, but moral condemnation spreads with astonishing speed.

The result is a public culture in which complexity is flattened and suspicion replaces curiosity.

The irony is that the problems facing our country are not simple: Immigration, climate change, economic inequality, public health, war and technological disruption are enormously complicated challenges.

They require humility, patience and the willingness to listen to people who see the world differently.

American history offers a reminder that disagreement does not have to destroy civic life. During the Civil War, one of the most morally catastrophic moments in our national story, Abraham Lincoln spoke with remarkable restraint about those who opposed him. In his Second Inaugural Address he did not claim moral purity for the North or demonize the South. Instead he acknowledged the tragedy shared by both sides, saying that the war came upon the nation because both sides “read the same Bible and pray to the same God.”

Lincoln understood some-

thing we seem to be forgetting. A nation cannot survive if every disagreement becomes a declaration of moral illegitimacy.

Democracy depends on the fragile assumption that citizens who disagree still belong to the same civic community. Once we begin treating our political opponents as enemies rather than fellow citizens, democratic life begins to erode from the inside.

Nuance is not weakness. It is not indecision. It is the discipline of recognizing that complex problems

rarely come with simple answers and that people who disagree with us may still be acting in good faith.

Recovering that discipline will not happen on social media. It will happen in slower conversations, in communities, around dinner tables and in places where listening still matters more than winning.

If we cannot relearn how to disagree without condemning one another, we will discover too late that the casualty was not just civility.

It was democracy itself.



MOUNTAIN VIEW UNION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOUNTAIN VIEW UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND BUDGET VOTE

The legal voters of the Mountain View Union Elementary School District consisting of the Town School Districts of **Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, and Woodbury** are hereby warned to meet for the Public Informational Hearing on the FY27 Budget at the Hardwick Elementary School in Hardwick, Vermont, on **Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, for a discussion on the School District's proposed FY27 budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$9,173,292.42 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Mountain View Union Elementary School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,525.79 which is 6.05% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Voting on the aforementioned **Article 1** will be by Australian Ballot on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026**, between the hours of

- a. Nine (9) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open, and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling place for the following member town:
Hardwick: Hardwick Town House, 127 Church Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843
- b. Ten (10) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling places for the following member towns:
Greensboro: Greensboro Town Hall, 81 Laudedon Ave, Greensboro, VT 05841
Stannard: Stannard Town Hall, 615 Stannard Mtn. Rd., Stannard, VT
Woodbury: Woodbury Town Hall, 3675 VT Route 14, Woodbury, VT 05681

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed and reopened at the polling place in the town of Hardwick, and the ballots will be commingled and publicly counted.

The legal voters of the Mountain View Union Elementary School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont, this 16th day of March 2026

[Signatures of Directors]

[Signatures of Directors]

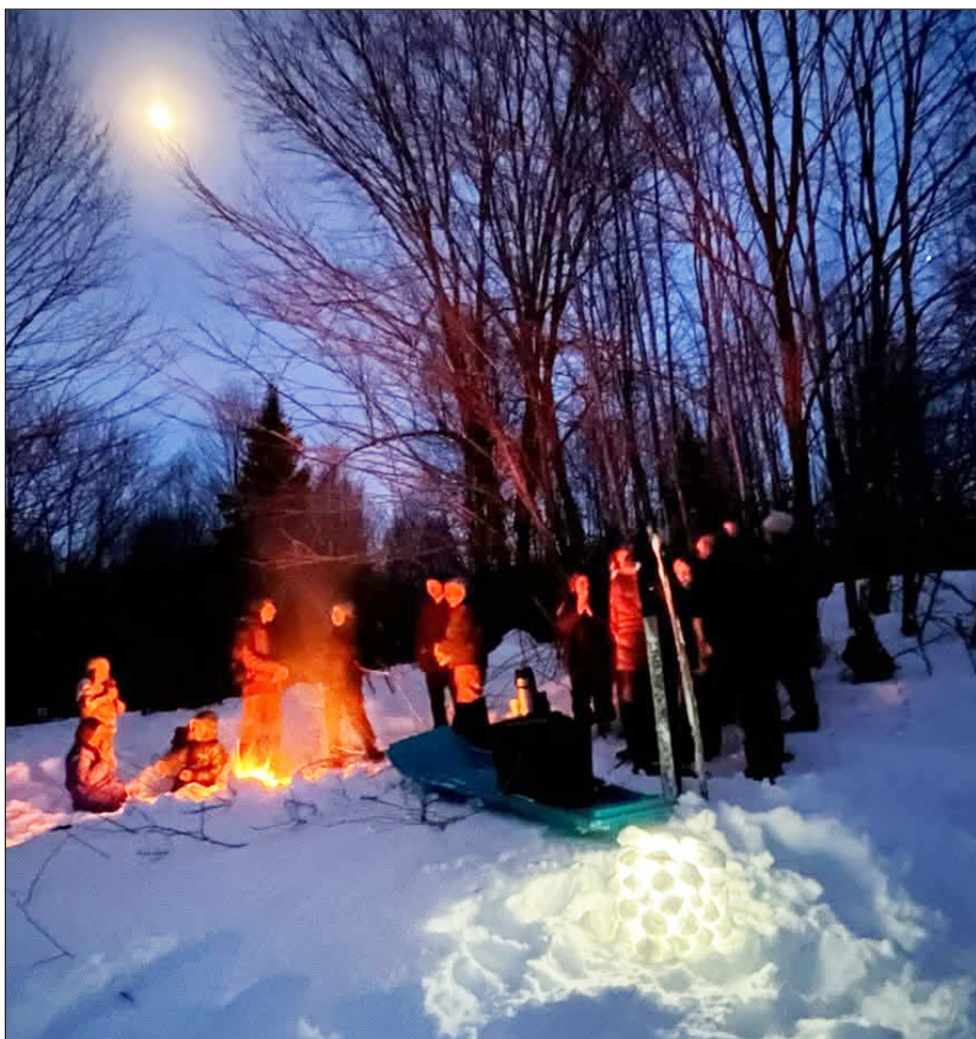
Mountain View Union Elementary School District Directors

Attest: *[Signature]*
District Clerk

Date: 3-17-2026



Learn more by scanning this QR code or go directly to the web page at <https://mountainview.ossu.org/fy27-budget>



Cabot Trails held a moonlight trail walk on snowshoes and skis, Saturday, Feb. 28, just 3 days before the full worm moon. Nate Curshmann of Dead Eye Works packed, leveled and groomed the trails; Michael Delact of Cabot Village Store supplied snacks; and Cheryl McQueeney and the Trautz Family allow use of their properties for for the trails. Learn more about the Cabot Trails at facebook.com/CabotTrailsNetwork and the trails committee at cabotvt.us/trails-committee/ courtesy photo

ANOTHER OPINION

Deyvi Daniel Corona-Sanchez and the affordability crisis

by Ross Connelly

HARDWICK – Shortly before Town Meeting Day, a select board candidates’ forum was held in Hardwick’s Jeudevine Memorial Library. Each of the seven candidates expressed concern about affordability. The message that came across was the cost of living and taxes are too high.

On March 11, ICE agents went to South Burlington in search of Deyvi Daniel Corona-Sanchez, an undocumented Mexican man. He was wanted because he allegedly came into the United States illegally in 2021, was caught, deported in 2022 and then eventually came back, to Vermont. He was charged in January with allegedly driving under the influence in Middlebury and given a court date; his immigration status was not questioned.

About 7:30 a.m., March 11, according to police and news reports, an ICE agent on Dorset Street saw two men get into a car. He ran the license plate and, learning the car was registered to Corona-Sanchez, tried to pull it over with the help of other unmarked ICE vehicles. A chase ensued, the car crashed and the two occupants sprinted away, all only a few blocks from where students and staff were arriving at South Burlington High School and Tuttle Middle School. According to the ICE agents, the two people ran into a house on Dorset Street.

Other agents arrived, as did citizens who surrounded the house. The busy street was soon filled with more ICE vehicles, and vehicles from the Vermont State Police and from South Burlington and Burlington police. An armed Vermont State Police tactical unit was also brought in. A day-long stand-off between the police and the crowd followed. Around 5:30 p.m., ICE

agents presented a warrant from a federal judge to enter the home to arrest Corona-Sanchez.

Three people, none listed on the arrest warrant, were taken from the house and jailed.

Photos and videos taken at the scene, and a state police statement, indicate flash-bang grenades, pepper balls and other chemicals were used by ICE to break up the crowd. The state police also used an irritant after someone allegedly broke the window of a state police vehicle.

According to a state police spokesman, state police arrested several people for disorderly conduct and engaged in “pushing and moving members of the public out of the way as needed.”

The day’s events came with a price tag: none of the ICE agents nor any of the police spent the day working for free; all of the police vehicles cost money. The fuel in the vehicles had a cost. The cost of police uniforms, including the tactical clothing, the guns, ammunition, the flash-bang grenades, the chemical spray, the gas masks, the helmets and heavy boots came out of budgets. The court clerks and the judge who issued the warrant for Corona-Sanchez’s arrest were paid for their work. An ambulance took a woman, allegedly thrown to the ground by a police officer, to the emergency room. Rescue squads and the medical professionals at the hospital are paid. There is a cost to keep the three arrested people in jail. Later court dates for arrested protesters have a cost, including court officers, clerks, a judge, and if needed, jurors. Several Burlington-area legislators, who are paid, went to the South Burlington site. Thursday, Gov. Scott and the Public Safety Commissioner held a meeting with legislative leaders

to review Wednesday’s event. The public officials are paid.

Who knows the total cost of the attempt by ICE to arrest Deyvi Daniel Corona-Sanchez who, it turns out, was not in the house.

The cost, whatever it is, is paid by taxes. Taxes collected on the local, state and federal levels. Our taxes.

What happened in South Burlington, March 11, was not an isolated incident. What happened in Vermont has happened in Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and countless other places around the country, and will continue to happen.

Our taxes paid for and will continue to pay for every one of those ICE raids and related costs.

Affordability? The taxes are too high?

The taxes spent to try to capture Deyvi Daniel Corona-Sanchez could be used to help pay for roads, bridges, education, health care, housing, food, public safety and the many other needs that can make this a healthier and more affordable country.

Affordability is a commendable goal. Squandering billions, yes, billions, of tax dollars on a crusade to cleanse the country of “the other” (to say nothing of the billions of tax dollars to wage an illegal war) is a pot-holed, mud-deep road to follow to get to an affordable cost of living.

Connelly was editor and co-publisher of *The Hardwick Gazette* from 1986 to 2017.

LETTERS FROM READERS

What have you got to lose?

To the editor:

Our essential services and agencies plundered. Costs are going up. Our data stolen. Costs are going up. Hatred and intolerance used to gain power. Costs are going up. A president who is not held to the law. Costs are going up. Violent felons released. Costs are going up. The U.S. constitution in tatters. Costs are going up. Secret masked police in our communities. Costs are going up. Peaceful, essential members of the American work force, snatched away from families and lives. Costs are going up. Warehousing of humans without due process. Costs are going up. Build out of concentration camps and growing militarization in local and state policing. Costs are going up. American leadership aligned with oligarchs here and world-wide. Costs are going up. The world order destabilized. Costs are going up. Illegal seizure of voting data. Costs are going up. The billionaires in charge. Costs are going up. Cover-up for sex

crimes against children. Costs are going up. Accurate information censored by major networks now owned by the oligarchs. Costs are going up. War that is killing thousands, further wrecking the planet . . . a war without clear objectives, a war of choice based on lies. Costs are going up. Humanitarian and environmental catastrophes continue and grow.

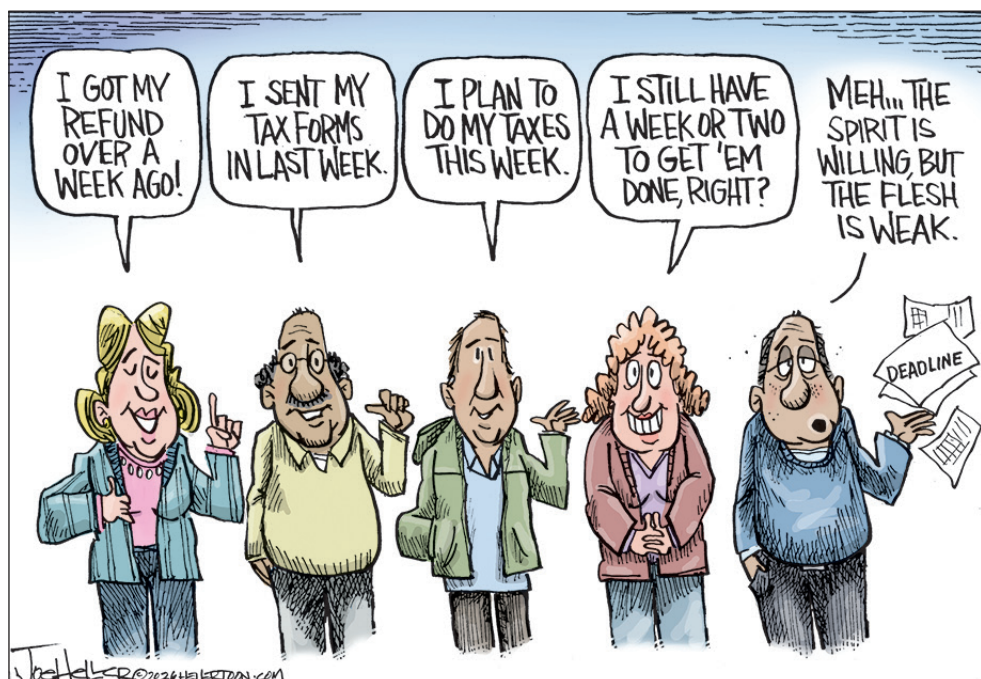
Have the costs become too much for you? Join millions in peaceful, nonviolent protest on Saturday, March 28, for No Kings 3. Currently these are scheduled for Hardwick, Montpelier, Morrisville, Newport, St. Johnsbury and Wolcott.

Experts on authoritarianism cite massive, peaceful protest with sustained resistance as the power that topples authoritarian regimes.

What have you got to lose, besides everything? Visit NoKings.org, sign up, and show up. It’s free.

Anne Hanson
Craftsbury

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



Question:

In what year did the Hazen Union girls varsity basketball team and the Hazen Union boys varsity basketball team both win their state championships?

Answer:

This year! An awesome accomplishment! An unprecedented historic event!

The Hardwick Historical Society sends hearty congratulations to the athletes and coaches.



ANOTHER OPINION

Prepared, not isolated

by **Kristen Leahy**

HARDWICK – The first 72 hours after a disaster is the period when communities rely most heavily on what is already in place locally. The flooding in 2023 made that reality very clear in Hardwick.

During those first days, it quickly became obvious which things actually helped people get through the disruption and which things mattered far less than we might have expected.

Preparedness, in that moment, was not about being fully self-sufficient. It was about reducing pressure on already stretched systems, and to buy time while help, information, and access slowly came back online.

Looking back, a few things made the biggest difference.

First, people who had basic supplies on hand, enough food, drinking water, medications and household essentials for a few days, were able to ride out early disruptions without needing immediate assistance. That did not mean stockpiling. It meant having a small buffer when deliveries were delayed and stores were harder to reach.

Second, ways to stay heated or cooled and powered without electricity mattered more than many people anticipated. Whether it was a safe alternate heat source, extra blankets, a cooler place during hot weather or a simple way to charge a phone, households that had thought through a short power outage were less stressed when outages lasted longer than expected.

Third, knowing where to get reliable local information made a real difference. People who knew

how the town would share updates, where notices were being posted or how to check in when communications were inconsistent were better able to make decisions.

Fourth, neighbors checking on neighbors filled gaps that no formal system could cover immediately. Informal check-ins, especially with older residents, people with mobility challenges or households dealing with medical needs, often happened before organized assistance could reach everyone. Those small acts reduced risk and anxiety in meaningful ways.

Finally, flexibility helped more than any single plan. People who were willing to adapt, delay non-urgent needs, adjust routines and share resources, made it easier for emergency responders to focus on situations that truly could not wait.

None of these things required

people to be isolated or on their own. In fact, they worked best when combined with connection. Prepared households were better positioned to help others, to wait when waiting was necessary and to ask for help when they needed it.

Preparedness is sometimes framed as a personal responsibility. In practice, it is a shared one. When households can cover some basic needs for a short period, it reduces strain on shelters, responders, volunteers and municipal staff during the most chaotic phase of an emergency.

That breathing room matters.

Prepared does not mean isolated. It means being ready enough to help each other through uncertainty.

Kristen Leahy is the zoning and floodplain administrator and the resilience and adaptation coordinator.

We need a new governor

by **Patrick Flood**

WOODBURY – To quote Governor Scott, enough is enough. I could not agree more. Not only with the murderous actions of ICE, but with the whole Trump administration and Republican Party.

But enough is enough also with a Scott administration that won't denounce Trump's trampling on the Constitution and the rights of Americans, and his senseless wars.

And enough is enough with a Scott administration that, over the past ten years, has failed to address serious problems in Vermont, offering weak solutions while our health care, education, and housing systems deteriorate to the point of ruin.

Let's look at the record with Trump first. Trump and his henchmen are taking a sledgehammer to the Constitution,

breaking the law every day and constantly lying. Now they have started a senseless war that will kill thousands of innocent civilians before it is over. They have been enabled by the Republican party, both in Congress and at the state level.

Governor Scott has been one of the Republican office holders who has mostly kept quiet while all this has been happening. First, Governor Scott said he could not respond to every statement out of D.C. Then, in his budget address he called political objection "posturing." After the murder of Alex Pretti, Governor Scott issued a statement criticizing the excesses of ICE and saying, "enough is enough". But he didn't criticize the leader of all this violence and lawlessness, Donald Trump. Governor Scott also said he had reviewed the video of Pretti's murder several times, and it looked

like "inadequate training." The state medical examiner ruled it a homicide. Now, as I write this, we are waiting in vain for our governor to condemn the unnecessary, illegal and unconstitutional war on Iran.

This is completely unacceptable. None of this would be happening if Trump were not ordering it. Trump is the leader of the Republican party, the same party that Governor Scott leads in Vermont. Our governor could show courage and denounce Trump, like other Republicans such as Adam Kinzinger. Or, better yet, Governor Scott could show integrity like another Vermont Republican, Jim Jeffords, and leave the party and become an Independent. Instead, Governor Scott's carefully chosen words make him complicit in the destruction of our democracy.

As if that were not enough, Governor Scott's tenure has seen worsening changes in affordability, our health care system, our education system, and housing and homelessness. Vermont is significantly worse off and less affordable than it was ten years ago when Governor Scott took office.

Our healthcare system is one of the most expensive per capita, not only in this country, but in the world. Vermonters cannot afford their health insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles and many cannot find a primary care doctor. Most of our hospitals are losing money. Our mental health system is in dire straits. Nursing homes need tens of millions of dollars to stay afloat. In his ten years in office, Governor Scott has not offered workable plans to solve these problems except the OneCare ACO that wasted eight years and cost Vermonters \$100 million. That

\$100 million could have paid for a lot of health care.

Our education system is also in crisis, a situation everyone saw coming for years, including the Governor. Instead of working with the Legislature to redesign education in Vermont, his solution is to reduce the number of superintendents and districts. This is likely, like its predecessor, Act 46, to fail to improve education or reduce costs significantly. Reducing districts is code for closing small schools. It does nothing to address the key cost drivers in education such as health care costs, aging infrastructure, specialized services, and behavioral issues in schools.

And, it is ironic at best for the Governor to complain about education costs while doing next to nothing to address one of the key causes, health care costs.

The Scott administration has not put forward a feasible plan to address homelessness in Vermont, which has doubled or more during his tenure. It is inhumane to have people sleeping outdoors in below zero weather. His administration has greatly reduced the availability of hotel beds but has offered nothing substantial to replace them.

Another Republican, Ronald Reagan, won the presidency by asking the question, "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" Vermonters should ask themselves, "Are we better off now than we were ten years ago?" We are clearly worse off. It's time to replace Governor Scott with an effective leader who has a clear vision for Vermont, concrete plans to solve our pressing problems and strong opposition to the disastrous regime in Washington.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



ANOTHER OPINION

But it won't go away

by **Retta Dunlap**

WOODBURY – I'm writing to speak from my heart about the terrible human toll of Act 181, the major overhaul of Vermont's land-use system that's threatening to destroy the lives of so many rural Vermonters.

My husband of 48 years has Alzheimer's. I have become both husband and wife in our duties at home as I care for him through his illness. We are on a fixed income, and since I've taken over our budgeting, I've found that we have enough to live on for now, but I also realize that his care may become expensive.

We own 12 acres of land, so I thought I could raise funds by selling half to someone to build a home. But then I found out that the Vermont Legislature has passed Act 181, which allows a rulemaking committee to classify my land into one of several development tiers. My land will likely

be designated as Tier 3, which means it will require an Act 250 permit to build a house on it. This effectively makes it unsellable.

I consider this a theft of our asset: the state effectively stealing land from two lowly landowners, or "cave dwellers" in the words of Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, who was quoted in a recent commentary for *VTDigger*, for that's what we surely must be. It is my understanding that the wildlife corridor maps behind these designations rely on a mapping tool developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to support conservation planning and land-use discussions, not to set development policy, and yet here we are. In fact, those who developed this software explicitly warned that it was "not a regulatory tool."

No one has come to look at my land to see if this makes any

sense. My husband and I are part of the land, from the land, just like the animals are. We have deer, moose and foxes that cross this land. They don't need a connection corridor to protect them; they already have freedom. I've seen moose swimming in the lake that I live next to, which, oddly enough, is not in the corridor. And yet I am the one losing independence thanks to my own legislature.

The legislature should protect the people, and the people protect the land. I honor the animals who live here. I don't shoo them away, nor do I shoot them. But I live here too. I exist on this planet, and I'm heartbroken that my own state has now made my life harder with no care for me.

From what I see of the legislature, they don't care about people. They care about land that's not theirs: animals that do not belong to them and walk

freely wherever they choose to go.

So yes, I object to Act 181, and I object to S.325, the bill now moving through the legislature to implement and expand it. I object to the legislature's constant obfuscation. Enough of taking more power from the people of Vermont. The regulations in this state are already horrendous. Businesses struggle to function. Housing can't be built because of the rules the legislature keeps piling on.

And I am tearful. I know that what I have written will be ignored, and I know it will get stuck in a file somewhere. I know there are people just like me. And I know there are people thinking, "we'll just hold our breath while reading this, for it will go away."

But I won't go away. I will continue to speak out from my heart and soul.

If you've read this far, thank you.

This opinion first appeared in VTDigger.

MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

Meaning-making

SHELBURNE – Many news clips these days begin with a dismal disaster headline followed by, "What does this mean going forward?" The answer is often, "We don't know. The message keeps changing." I watch the devastation in disbelief. "Eve of Destruction," Barry McGuire's song from the '60s, rings in my ears.

I found respite in reading "Writing Together: a year of meaning-making and friendship" by Penny Williamson and Darcy Shaw. I have Parker Palmer and his work in common with Penny, Darcy and their publisher, Shelly Francis of Creative Courage Press. The book's back cover asks, "What happens when two unlikely friends, separated by age, gender, profession, and geography, commit to writing together for a year? They discover how our most profound insights emerge when we create a safe, nonjudgmental space to listen to ourselves and to each other."

The Vermont Historical Society sponsors History Day for middle and high school students every April in advance of National History Day in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History" in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

I give the Women's History

Award in memory of my mother, Helen Vrooman Passmore. Historically, women have played pivotal roles in revolutions and in revolutionary movements around the world while also working for gender equality. Whenever a systemic status quo is challenged, it sparks a reaction. The reaction is often defensive and can sometimes be offensive. Reform only happens when the revolutionaries and reactionaries listen to each other.

War is not about listening, certainly not the generous listening we learned from Parker. Years ago, Bill and I were invited to a retirement party for a friend of his in the dining room of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Colin Powell spoke with downcast eyes as he admitted that the only thing he saw war accomplish was devastation and death. He had a firm handshake when I thanked him for his comments.

The song that stirs me now is "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" by Pete Seeger. I thought of it recently while on a zoom hosted by the Vermont Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. It was led by Robert Edsel, author of "Remember Us," which is about the Forever Promise Project in the Netherlands. They adopt graves of Americans buried in the cemetery in Margraten,

including that of Jimmy Wright, my mother's cousin. Their kindness is passed down through families, often through women.

March is Women's History Month. March 8 is International Women's Day. We seem to celebrate women quietly. As Pulitzer Prize winner and Harvard Historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich famously wrote in 1976, "Well-behaved women seldom make history." I was fortunate to have an American history teacher who told us, "Eleanor Roosevelt was a wonderful woman. Too bad she married such a creep!" Miss Woodworth modeled Graceful Mischievous.

Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Vermont Senate Majority Leader, introduced me to students at Champlain Valley Union High School who founded the HER Club: Her Education Required. These young women and their supporters are advocating for the mandatory inclusion of Women's History in all Vermont schools. A

friend and I co-hosted them with a group of women at Wake Robin. The students told us they wanted to meet women who made history. Join us in signing HER's petition on their website at hereducation.org/.

My best meaning-making occurs when I listen generously to myself and to others with loving curiosity in the moment and throughout history. It is the meaning we make together that could shape our future.

Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. A published author and poet, her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering, and retail, and founding and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at gracefulmischievous.com/. When her column refers to Grace, it is a presence in her life, and it is capitalized. She now lives in Shelburne.



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THE OUTSIDE STORY

Gobbling, strutting: wild turkey mating season

by Emily Haynes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At this time of year, wild eastern turkeys are still congregated in the flocks of 20 or so birds with which they spend the winter. Groups of hens, mature female turkeys, will generally winter with the broods they raised the previous summer. Toms, mature male turkeys, spend the colder months apart from hens and immature birds, in what biologists call “bachelor groups,” though males and females are sometimes seen congregating around food resources in winter. But as the days get longer and warmer, wild turkeys start feeling the urge to begin the spring shuffle, wandering in search of breeding opportunities and nesting sites.

The spring shuffle kicks off turkey mating season and generally begins in mid- to late March. The timing is affected by temperature, with heavy snows delaying its start and early spring thaws speeding it up.

Turkeys move seasonally because the resources they need from the landscape change as their focus shifts from surviving winter to raising the next generation. When selecting wintering grounds, male and female turkeys look for shelter from the elements and access to food resources, such as bird feeders, silage or waste corn, to supplement their foraged diet. But by early spring, food is less scarce, and hens begin assessing the landscape for sunken places where they can build their nests, ideally hidden from predators by fallen logs or dense vegetation. Toms, meanwhile, roam the landscape in small groups, searching for hens to mate with.

A key strategy to locate females is gobbling, a male turkey’s trademark loud and squabbling call. “There are vocalizations that occur that bring males and females together: males broadcasting where they are, females responding when they’re preparing to breed,” said Dan Ellingwood, turkey project leader at the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game. “That allows the two to make connections.”

During mating season, which generally occurs throughout April and May in New England, toms often begin gobbling from their roosts at dawn, listening for yelping responses from nearby hens. Once toms and hens find each other, male turkeys flaunt their showy sprays of tail feathers, puff up their plumage, and sashay for female turkeys in a mating display called “strutting.”

“Gobbling’s kind of a long-range advertising of their presence and then strutting’s kind of the short-range signaling of soliciting a breeding opportunity,” Ellingwood said.

While jakes, immature male turkeys, may gobble and strut for hens, breeding typically occurs only between toms and hens that are at least two years old. Hens may mate with multiple toms during breeding season, but they tend to only raise one brood per year.

At nesting sites, hens select depressions in the landscape or scratch out shallow basins, which they line with leaf litter. Turkey nests measure about a foot in width and length and typically hold 10 to 12 eggs, though sometimes a hen will lay as few as four eggs. Turkey eggs are beige

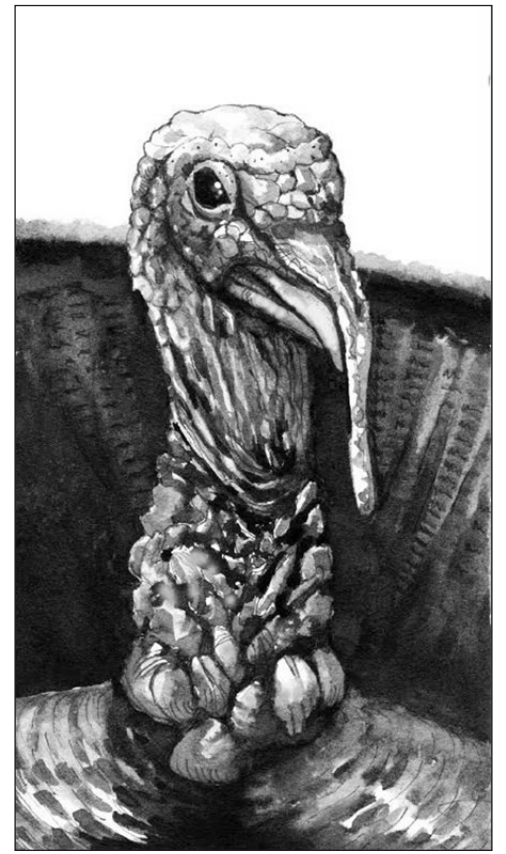
with brown speckles and slightly bigger than a chicken egg.

While hens start laying a couple days after breeding, they only lay one egg each day on average. The laying process can stretch on for two weeks. “They’ll start incubating after their entire clutch has been laid so that the embryos develop all at the same time so that they all hatch at the same time,” Ellingwood said.

Raising a turkey brood is no easy task, as their in-ground nests are susceptible to predation by raccoons, opossums, foxes, and other predators. Cold snaps and very wet weather can also threaten young turkeys’ survival.

“In cases where there is a nest failure, a nest loss, hens will re-nest, but they won’t nest multiple times in a year. They might attempt to re-nest once or twice through that breeding period, through the month of May,” Ellingwood said. “If things fail, they end up linking up with other adult hens, some with and some without poults.”

Wild turkeys were extirpated from both New Hampshire and Vermont for more than a century. They were successfully reintroduced to Vermont in 1969 and to New Hampshire in 1975, and both states now have healthy

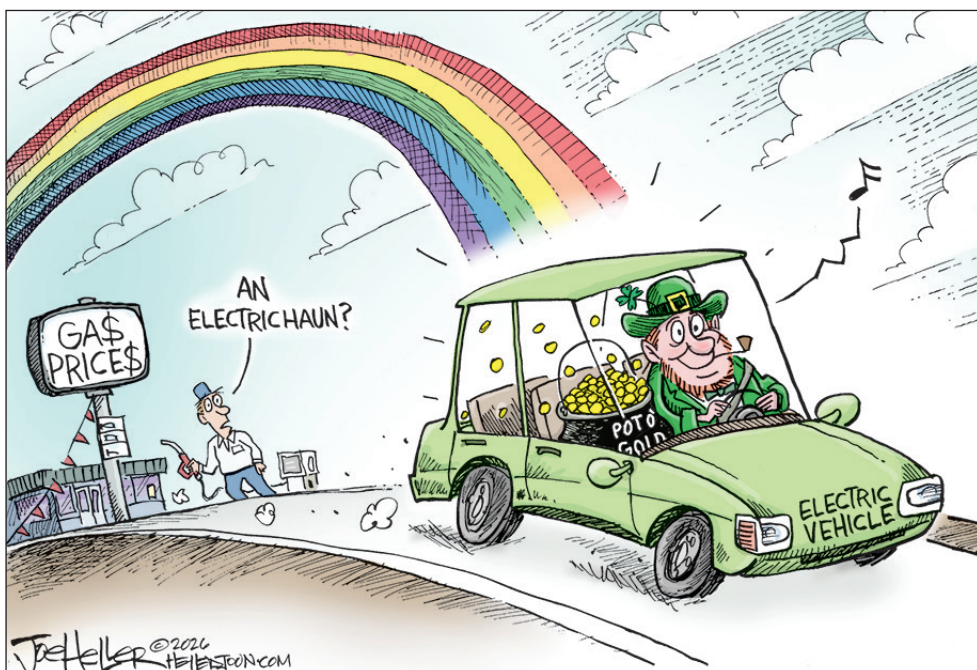


Turkey

populations. So, when you see toms strutting their stuff this spring, give thanks for all the biologists who helped bring these most magnificent of birds back to New England.

Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



Regional Coordinator: Northeast Kingdom or Central West

Migrant Education Regional Coordinators connect with migratory agricultural workers living in Vermont and work collaboratively with Farmworker Education team members to effectively implement education services, activities, and projects. Each position is expected to work a minimum of a .75 (28.12 hours per week) FTE with full-time benefits but may have the option to increase to a 1.0 (37.5 hours per week) FTE based on workload and funding. Regional Coordinators are responsible for identifying eligible farm workers, enrolling them and their family members into applicable programs, and facilitating educational and support services for enrolled students. They utilize judgement to prioritize work and select appropriate methods to respond to needs as they arise. This position functions with minimal daily supervision, while working in collaboration with a statewide team of outreach professionals and program coordinators to fulfil programmatic objectives.

An undergraduate degree and one to two years’ related experience OR an equivalent combination of training and experience is required. Applicants must be proficient in Spanish and English and demonstrate cultural humility as well as the ability to plan, organize, and coordinate effectively and independently. Strong interpersonal communication skills, capacity to work effectively with diverse audiences, and proficient computer/multimedia telecommunication skills are essential. Applicants must be willing to travel and work a flexible schedule, which at times may include evenings and weekends.

To apply, go to <https://apptrkr.com/6989966>

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any category legally protected by federal or state law.

IN THE GARDEN

Tillandsia, the world of air plants

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – You’ve probably seen them attached to magnets or posed on driftwood. You may have even wondered if those cute, spiky air plants that grow with no soil really are living plants.

The answer to that question is, yes, they are, though they are different in many ways from the plants most of us grow.

Air plants (Tillandsia) are evergreen perennials whose foliage grows in a rosette form. They’re members of the Bromeliad (Bromeliaceae) family and related to such diverse plants as pineapples (Ananas comosus) and Spanish moss (Tillandsia usneoides).

Their size can vary greatly, depending on the species. Most varieties offered as houseplants range in size from two to nine inches tall. They’re slow-growing, so be patient.

Air plants make their home in subtropical and tropical areas in the southern United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Different species grow in habitats ranging from low-lying coastal regions, to higher elevations in mountains, to arid deserts, to rain forests with high humidity. Some species require more moisture, while others may be drought tolerant. For best results, check the care suggested for your particular type of air plant.

Unlike most plants, Tillandsias are epiphytes: they live on other plants rather than in soil. That doesn’t mean they’re parasitic, they are not. Instead of using their roots to obtain nutrients from a host plant or from soil, air plants use their roots as a means to attach themselves to trees, plants, or other surfaces for support. Their foliage absorbs moisture and nutrients from the air around them.

Air plants are easy to care for. They prefer bright, indirect or filtered light, never direct sun, and temperatures between 50°F

and 90°F with good air circulation. You can move them outdoors with other houseplants during warmer months, but avoid direct sun and be sure to bring them back inside before the first frost.

Routine care includes regular watering and the occasional trimming of damaged or dead leaves.

Water once a week by filling a container with rainwater, bottled water, or tap water. Let tap water sit overnight so that chlorine will evaporate. Avoid softened water (the salt is harmful to air plants) and filtered or distilled water, which may contain insufficient nutrients.

Immerse air plants in room temperature water for 30 to 60 minutes, then allow them to drain on their side or upside down for an hour or two. Water that accumulates in crevices may result in rot.

Alternatively, mist air plants well two to three times a week, being sure to avoid accumulated water between leaves.

There’s no need to fertilize air plants, but if to do so, select a fertilizer formulated for air plants and apply it according to the directions on the package.

Air plants can flower, but only one time during their lifecycle. When in bloom, water carefully to avoid getting flowers wet. A wet



Air plants come in various shapes and sizes. There are more than 600 species to choose from.

photo by Debra Heleba



Air plants produce offshoots called pups as they mature, as this plant at the UVM Greenhouse Facilities illustrates. photo by Debra Heleba

flower can turn mushy and rot.

During or soon after flowering, they’ll produce offshoots (called pups) around their base. The foliage of the parent will begin to fade as the pups mature. You can remove pups when they have reached at least a third of the parent plant’s size with a gentle twist and tug. If leaving the pups in place, simply remove the leaves of the parent plant as

they die back.

Be warned, one air plant may lead to another and another and another, with over 600 species to choose from.

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

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General Contractor Invitation to Bid:

The Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department is seeking Construction Bids from qualified General Contractors for the Woodbury Fire Station Phase 2 Addition. Work includes, Civil Trades and Building Trades for a 2,992 s.f. addition to the existing Fire Station.

Dates:	Bid Documents Available:	March 18th 2026
	Pre-Bid Site Meeting:	March 26th 2026
	(Non-mandatory- Suggested)	Woodbury Volunteer Fire Station 3618 VT Rt. 14, Woodbury VT 05681
	Bids Due:	April 23rd 2026 – 4:00pm
	Start of Construction:	Anticipated June 1 2026
	Completed Construction:	273 days – anticipated February 28 2027 (liquidated damages of \$100 per calendar day)

Bid Proposals shall be submitted via email by the due date and time indicated. Bids received after the indicated date and time will not be considered. Bid Proposals will be opened via Zoom to submitting bidders, stakeholders, and the interested public at 5:00 pm on the receiving date.

The **Construction Contract** will be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and qualified bidder. The Owner retains the right to reject any, and all bids, or to waive informalities and irregularities in the Owner’s best interest.

Bid Documents include Invitation to Bid, Bid Form, Construction Drawings, Project Manual and Amendments.

Bid Documents are available as follows:

Electronically: Email request: james@coeandcoearchitecture.com

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

Bid Requirements:

- Registration by email to receive Bid Documents and any subsequent Addenda: james@coeandcoearchitecture.com
- Bid bond security equaling 5% of the Bid total

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States, as further outlined by the Office of Management and Budget’s regulation (reference 2 CFR 200) on the application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Author discussion, March 22

CRAFTSBURY – Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m., Julia Skonicki will give an author talk at the Craftsbury Public Library. Skonicki is the author of “Awakened: A Journey in Poetry and Photos.” This collection of poetry and photographs takes the reader on a journey through breast cancer.

She grew up in Chicago but has spent the latter half of her life in Vermont.

A former educator and lifelong writer and photographer, this is Julia’s debut publication.

For more information, contact the library at directorcraftsburypubliclibrary.org.

Sugar on snow at CCC, March 22

by **Kathleen Hemmens**

CRAFTSBURY – Sunday, March 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) will hold a sugar on snow party, with local maple syrup, donuts and pickles. Aside from treats, there will be a raffle of local

baked goods, as well as silent auction items. This is a free event for all, brought back to celebrate more than thirty years of active support and care in the surrounding communities.

The Craftsbury Community Care Center is located at 1784 E. Craftsbury Road.

Youth writing workshop, March 25

by **Rural Arts Collaborative staff**

HARDWICK – Professor and writer Sean Prentiss will present a youth writing workshop at the Old Firehouse. In this memoir writing class, participants will dive into their own life stories to uncover

significant, life-shaping moments. The class will meet for three Wednesdays, beginning March 25 from 3 to 5 p.m., continuing April 1, with the final session taking place April 22. A dinner and share-out event will take place April 30, at the Old Firehouse located at 59 Mill Street in Hardwick.

Teen clay workshop, March 26

by **Rural Arts Collaborative staff**

WOLCOTT – Cal Spinelli at Deep Woods Pottery Studio will lead four Thursday sessions of a teen clay workshop. Participants will learn foundational hand building techniques, focus on creating functional pieces such as bowls, cups or small plates, with

added elements that feel personal. The first session is Thursday, March 26 at 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by Thursday, April 2, at 4:30 p.m., as well as April 9 and April 16, same time and place. Deep Woods Pottery Studio is located at 1665 Town Hill Road in Wolcott. Prior experience is not required.

Contact Rural Arts website.

Third No Kings Hardwick Rally, March 28

HARDWICK – March 28, from 11 to 1 p.m., on Creamery Road, gather with neighbors for speakers and music, marching

with noisemakers and chants, as well as bubbles, face painting, corn hole and cotton candy. Food available from local vendors.

“Light Pirate” book discussion, March 24

HARDWICK – Discuss “The Light Pirate” with other readers at the Jeudevine Memorial Library on Tuesday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m., with Vermont Humanities Speaker Rachael Cohen. “The Light Pirate” by Lily Brooks-Dalton is a dystopian coming-of-age novel following Wanda, a girl born during a catastrophic hurricane in Florida, as she navigates a rapidly changing, climate-ravaged world. Structured in four parts; power, water, light and time, the story explores resilience, adaptation, and nature’s reclamation of a society in collapse.

Cohen has been a freelance

editor specializing in environmental and regional studies, a teacher of writing, literature, and natural history, a caller of contra dances, and a farm hand. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Environmental Education from the Audubon Expedition Institute/Lesley University.

This event is free and will be held in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main Street, in Hardwick. For information, contact the library at (802) 472-5948.

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: awareyouth@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.

The Hardwick Gazette



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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:





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Wolcott: Semi-separate quarters in rural, rustic, hand-built home, perfect for dog lover and gardener. Two rooms, half bath and balcony, upstairs from seven former sled dogs and their loving owners. \$600 all included. Garden space available. (802) 863-5625, HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Washington named executive director of NEK Council on Aging

ST. JOHNSBURY – The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (NEKCOA) has appointed Darryl Washington as its new executive director.

Washington succeeds Meg Burmeister, who recently retired after more than nine years of leadership at the council. Washington brings leadership experience and a focus on strategic planning, community collaboration and quality improvement. In his new role, he will guide NEKCOA's mission of helping older adults remain safe, independent and connected within their communities across Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex counties. During her tenure, Burmeister helped strengthen NEKCOA's programs and services for older adults throughout the Northeast Kingdom while guiding the organization through a period of growth and expanded community impact. Burmeister contributed to the broader aging services network through work and collaboration at the state and national levels.



Darryl Washington

NEKCOA provides a wide range of services that support older Vermonters and their families, including case management, caregiver support, nutrition programs, volunteer opportunities and access to resources. For more information about the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging and its programs, visit nek-council.org or call the NEKCOA Helpline at (800) 642-5119.

OBITUARIES

Marie A. Curschmann Sholan

HARDWICK – On March 4, Marie A. Curschmann Sholan passed away peacefully, bringing to a close a life that began on October 23, 1932. She was born to Freida (Sand) and Linus Ackermann, both immigrants from Germany.

After beginning their family in Pennsylvania, which included Marie and her siblings Rosemary and Albert, the family later moved to New York, where she graduated from Andrew Jackson High School in Queens Village, N.Y. In 1953 she married her high school sweetheart, Christian Henry Curschmann Jr., and moved to Peekskill, N.Y., beginning the life they built together and later to Putnam Valley. There they raised their four children, Lesa Cathcart (Curschmann) and sons Christian Henry Curschmann III, Craig Curschmann, and Alan Curschmann, while operating Curschmann's Country Store in Putnam Valley and Curschmann's Lakefront Diner in Lake Peekskill. They became well known for catering many local events, serving their community while raising their family.

Chris and Marie moved to Hardwick in 1984, where she began the next chapter of her life. After Chris passed in 1986 she worked at the Hardwick Liquor Store and the Hardwick Electric Department where she met Larry Sholan, whom she married in 1993. Together they enjoyed playing cards with friends and snowbirding in Florida during the winter months.

Marie was known for her elegance, strong presence and unmistakable personality. Outspoken, poised and proud, she carried herself with style and confidence that left a lasting impression. She enjoyed bird watching, puzzles, sewing, needlework, reading and took immense pride in her flower gardens. She was also a familiar face at the local bingo hall.

Marie was predeceased by



Marie A. Curschmann Sholan

her husband, Christian Henry Curschmann Jr.; her sons Christian Henry Curschmann III and Craig Curschmann; her brother Albert Ackermann; her sister Rosemary Gilmartin; and her husband Larry Sholan. She is survived by her children, Lesa Cathcart (Curschmann) and Alan Curschmann; her 10 grandchildren, Christian Curschmann VI, Nathan Curschmann, Nicole Curschmann, Tiffany Cathcart, Charles Cathcart, Craig Curschmann Jr., Samantha Curschmann, Matthew Curschmann, Malissa Curschmann, and Aileen Curschmann; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A Graveside Service will be held on Friday, June 5, at 2 p.m., in Fairview Cemetery, Hardwick. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow at the Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7. Arrangements are with des Groseilliers Funeral Home. Condolences and memories of Marie may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.

Those who knew Marie remember her unmistakable elegance and strong spirit. If you were fortunate enough to know her, admire her or cross her path, the family invites you to honor her memory in a simple way. In lieu of donations, plant a flower in her honor and when it blooms, think of her.



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STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Orleans Unit, Docket No.: 26-PR-00751
In re Estate of: Rachel Farrar

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Rachel Farrar, late of Craftsbury, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: March 11, 2026

Signature of Fiduciary: Lynda Tufts
Executor/Administrator: Lynda Tufts and Dennis Farrar
c/o Black & Govoni, PLLC, P.O. Box 353
Morrisville, VT 05661
(802) 888-7800
gjlockwood@blackgovoni.com

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Orleans Probate Division
Vermont Superior Court
Address of Probate Court: 247 Main St.
Newport, VT 05855

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The Town of Greensboro seeks a Town Administrator to support the Selectboard and assist with day-to-day municipal operations, grant administration, project coordination and public communication.

Position Details: Approximately 30 hours per week with some evening meetings. Hybrid work possible with at least two days per week in the Town Office.

Compensation: \$25-\$30 per hour depending on experience, plus Town employee benefits including paid leave and retirement benefits.

To apply, send a cover letter and résumé to the Greensboro Select Board at

macneil@greensborovt.gov and townclerk@greensborovt.gov

by April 16, 2026.

**Walden Heights Nursery
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Pruning Fruit Trees
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For more information or make a reservation,
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Rosanne Cash Returns to Fuller Hall, March 20

ST. JOHNSBURY – Rosanne Cash returns to St. Johnsbury Academy’s Fuller Hall, on March 20, at 7 p.m. One of the country’s singer-songwriters, Cash has released 15 albums of songs that have earned four Grammy Awards and 12 additional nominations, as well as 21 Top-40 hits, including 11 chart-topping singles. Born to country legend Johnny Cash, Rosanne joined her father’s tour as a wardrobe assistant and background singer in 1973. After stints in London and Nashville (and a year studying method acting in California), she launched her solo career in 1978. Though often classified as country, her music draws from folk, pop, rock, blues, and Americana. In the 1980s, she had a string of genre-crossing singles, most notably her 1981 breakthrough hit “Seven Year Ache,”

which topped the country charts and reached the Top 30 on the pop charts. Cash is also the author of four books including the best-selling memoir “Composed,” which the Chicago Tribune called “one of the best accounts of an American life you’ll likely ever read.” Her essays have appeared in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Atlantic, The Oxford American and more.

In addition to touring, Cash has partnered in programming with Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Library of Congress. Cash was awarded the SAG/AFTRA Lifetime Achievement Award for Sound Recordings in 2012 and the 2014 Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. She was a Carnegie Hall Perspectives artist in 2015-16 and was a 2015 Artist-In-Residence

at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Cash is one of only a handful of women to be elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. In 2017-18, she was a Resident Artistic Director at SFJAZZ and, in 2018, she received an honorary doctorate from Berklee and was awarded the “Spirit of Americana” Free Speech Award by the American Music Awards. In 2021, Cash was the first female composer to receive the MacDowell Medal, awarded since 1960 to an artist who has made an outstanding contribution to American culture.

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



Singer-songwriter Rosanne Cash performs at Fuller Hall in St. Johnsbury on March 20. *courtesy photo*

Robbins in Concert, April 24

PLAINFIELD – Sam Robbins performs live in concert on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m., at the Plainfield Opera House. Known for his stage presence and songwriting, Robbins brings his own take to the classic singer-songwriter tradition.

Robbins is a New England-based, nationally-touring musician whose music evokes classic singer songwriters like James Taylor and Jackson Browne. Touring with a new album, “So Much I Still Don’t See,” Robbins is named one of Atwood Magazine’s 2025 “Artists to Watch,” leading songwriting workshops and performances across the country.

After a brief stint on NBC’s “The Voice” in 2018, Robbins graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2019 and made his move down to Nashville. After five years in Music City, “So Much I Still Don’t See” is the first recording made after moving back to the Boston area in early 2024.



Singer-songwriter Sam Robbins performs at the Plainfield Opera House on April 24. *courtesy photo*

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with admission by donation, with tickets available online and at the door. The Plainfield Town Hall Opera House located at 18 High St., is wheelchair accessible and assisted listening devices are available upon request. For information, see plainfieldartsvt.org

Bread & Puppet Theater begins Spring tour

GLOVER – The Bread & Puppet Theater’s 63rd year begins with a tour of the Northeast and Eastern Seaboard. “The End of the World Never Minding Show,” is a new puppet show featuring our upside-down situation, a revolt orchestra, screaming choirs and a reckoning with the catastrophe of logic.

As with all Bread & Puppet shows, the event will feature puppet spectacles large and small,

music and politics. After every show, Bread & Puppet serves its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread & Puppet’s books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread & Puppet Press will be for sale.

The tour starts on March 26 at Greensboro’s Highland Center for the Arts and moves on to Barre’s Old Labor Hall on Friday, March 27. For tickets and details, go to BreadAndPuppet.org/Tour.

**The
Hardwick
Gazette**

**PEOPLE
SERVING
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Join us for our annual

SUGAR ON SNOW

at Craftsbury Community Care Center
Sunday, March 22, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Sweet treats • Silent auction
 Lucky draw raffle
 (auction and raffle benefit Care Center residents)

1784 E. Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury
CraftsburyCommunityCareCenter.org
 (802) 586-2414

HOLISTIC WELLNESS and PSYCHIC EXPO

Saturday, March 21
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

**Raffle to benefit
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 Sound Healing • Essential Oils
 Aura Photos • Tarot or Angel Card Readings
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 Vermont-made wellness products and more!**

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802-282-8215 (Adam)
 adambeckley87@gmail.com
 martialartsinhardwickvt.com

Wednesday, March 18

Cooking Club, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Make sweet and nutritious treats with maple syrup. For ages 10 and up. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Thursday, March 19

Cookbook Club, 6 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, Korean cuisine, bring appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert. Reser-

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EVENTS

Wednesday, March 18

Cooking Club, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Make sweet and nutritious treats with maple syrup. For ages 10 and up. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

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.

Presentation, 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

Movie, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace Church, 104 Vt. Rte. 16, East Hardwick, "Joshua," free with free popcorn.

Concert, 7 p.m., Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury, singer-songwriter Rosanne Cash performs. Information at catamountarts.org or kcppresents.org or call (802) 748-2600

Saturday, March 21

Workshop, noon to 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Tree grafting with Donna Hisson, grafting fruit trees for Marshfield's food forest. 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.

Benefit, 2 to 4 p.m., Greensboro United Church of Christ, Puzzles for Pantry. Donation food or monetary gift to enter door prize drawing. All proceeds go to Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

Sunday, March 22

Sugar on snow, 2 to 4 p.m., Crafts-bury Community Care Center. Raffle of local baked goods and silent auction items. Everyone welcome. 1784 E. Craftsbury Road.

Author discussion, with Julia Skonicki, 4 p.m., Crafts-bury Public Library. She will talk about her book "Awakened: A Journey in Poetry and Photos," about her journey through breast cancer. Information: director-craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

Monday, March 23

Jeudevine Players, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Tuesday, March 24

Honk & Wave, with Indivisible Hardwick, noon. Location Change: Corner of S. Main St. and Upper Cherry, Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

Wednesday, March 25

Youth writing workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., the Old Firehouse, 59 Mill St., Hardwick. With professor and writer Sean Prentiss. Meets for three Wednesdays. Information, go to Rural Arts website.

Presentation, 6 p.m., "Rain or Shine: Vermont's Changing Climate," St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, with Megan Duncan from the Fairbanks Museum.

Thursday, March 26

Story Time, 10:30 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick, with Hardwick Rescue Squad, for ages 5 and under. Information, jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Teen clay workshop, 3:30 to 5 p.m.5 p.m., with Cal Spinelli at Deep Woods Pottery Studios, 1665 Town Hill Road, Wolcott. No prior experience required. Contact Rural Arts website.

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, Crafts-bury Common.

Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Crafts-bury 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, Crafts-bury.

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

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

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.

Al-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 Vava Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information, Vvelzis@ossu.org.

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

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

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

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

Craftsbury Conservation Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing Fridays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing Saturdays

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

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

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

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

See EVENTS, Next Page



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EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page
Saturday of the month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Writing Group, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., first and third Saturdays, (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Ongoing Sundays

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

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

Service, 9 a.m., Danville United Methodist Church, Danville Green, Rev. Henry Cheney. Information, (802) 684-3389.

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

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

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

Story time, 9:30 a.m., The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, for children. thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 South Main Street. In person, Zoom or livestreaming.

Communion Service, first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, music director, an Open and Affirming Congregation. Information, (802) 472-6800 for information.

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

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

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

See EVENTS, Next Page

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EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

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, unit-edchurchofcraftsbury.com, united-churchcraftsbury@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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 Healling Stream Church of God, Wolcott Town Hall, Pastor Peter La-Bonville, 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 instructor Alice Perron. Information esanderson@nekcouncil.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 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 King-
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bury, (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/nutrition-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, cyber tipline, 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@st-jkrc.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, albany-publiclibraryvt.org. Mon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wed. 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 1 to 5 p.m. Story time for all ages: Mon., 10 a.m. and Sat., 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, greensborofreelibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., noon - 2 p.m.

Hazen Union School Library, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick, (802) 472-6511, hazenlibrary@ossu.org,

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Hazen Union Division III State Champions

(from left) are (kneeling) Kelsie Rivard, Mya Lumsden, Julia des Groseilliers and Isabelle Gouin; (standing) Head Coach Randy Lumsden, Marina Smith, Kennidee Gouin, Assistant Coach Alison Blaney, Eloise Foster, Autumn Dailey, Ella Renaud, Taylor Thompson, Ari Nichols, Sadie Gann, Kassidy Gann and Assistant Coach Sue Rivard. At right are Hydration Specialists Allie Foster, Ivy Demers and Estella Foster.

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Taylor Thompson, of Hazen Union, gets low to speed past Amelia Rockwood, of Windsor, during Division III championship play at the Barre Auditorium, Saturday. Hazen won 55-53.




Kelsie Rivard, Isabelle Gouin, Head Coach Randy Lumsden and Autumn Dailey react after their Division III win.



Mya Lumsden (left) dribbles up the court followed by teammate Kelsie Rivard (right) as a Windsor defender follows.

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Division III Champions

The Hazen Union boys team are the Division III Champions and include, front (from left) Dawson Michaud, Lucian Jurkiewicz, Talon Michaud and Noah Foster; middle, manager Zander Dimick, Jameson Lamarre, Lincoln Hill, Jeter Demers, Chayse Newell, Kobe Smith and manager Blair Demers; back, assistant coaches Evans Bouchard, Adam Gann, Kevin Doyon, Sully Laflam, Ethan Gann, Morgan Michaud, assistant coaches Travis Hill, Letty Hill and head coach

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union Wildcat Morgan Michaud avoids a block shot attempt from a Randolph player during championship play at the Barre Aud, March 14. At right is Wildcat Jeter Demers. Hazen took the victory 66-49.



Sully Laflam of Hazen Union looks for a teammate as he is double-teamed by Randolph players Saturday during the Championship Division III game held at the Barre Aud. Hazen prevailed 66-49.



Hazen Union head coach Aaron Hill holds up the net after his team's Division III Championship win against Randolph, March 14.



Hazen Union captains Ethan Gann, Sully Laflam and Morgan Michaud hold up the Division III State Championship trophy.



Sam Churchill of Twinfield-Cabot looks to power it up in front of Williamstown defense during Division IV Championship action at the Barre Auditorium, March 14. Williamstown won 71-64.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield-Cabot's Tej Stewart drives hard to the basket ahead of a Williamstown player at the Barre Auditorium during Division IV Championship action, Saturday. The Blue Devils defeated the Trojans 71-64.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Blue Devils stun Twinfield-Cabot boys to capture Division IV title

by Ken Brown

BARRE — Sixth-seeded Williamstown capped off a Cinderella run through the Division IV state tournament over the weekend with a stunner over the top-seeded Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team.

Senior big man Nick Mascitti finished off an epic run through the state tournament with 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead Williamstown to a 71-64 championship win over the Trojans on Saturday at the Barre Auditorium. Mascitti and the Blue Devils (18-6) finished off a two-week championship run that saw them knock off 22-0 West Rutland in the semis before finally solving a Trojan team that had beaten them by double digits twice during the regular season.

Mascitti cemented his status as a Blue Devil great after terrorizing the Division IV bracket with 98 points in their four wins, including the 1,000th of his career. Weston Pouliot (13 points) and Alex Clark (10) complimented the big man with balance inside and out and point guard Keeton Hull withstood Twinfield-Cabot's pressure in the backcourt with 11 points, seven assists against just a pair of turnovers. The Trojans (22-2) came into the championship riding a 19-game winning streak after dismantling Long Trail, Richford and No. 5 Twin Valley in the semifinals. Head coach Kris Bador had his team playing with a torrid pace that seemed unguardable the last few weeks, but Williamstown turned

"I couldn't be more proud to coach this group of young men. It wasn't the outcome we wanted but unfortunately in sports, this happens."

the tables on the Trojans Saturday with an up-tempo style that led to 30 Blue Devil free throws.

"When meeting a team for the third time in a season you can throw out all the records and stats, especially in a state championship game at the Barre Auditorium. It comes down to all the little details. This was our first title game as a group and it will make us better as a program and me as a coach learning from this experience," said Bador.

It looked like the same old hat in the first half for the Trojans, using a 9-0 run to push the lead to nine before Williamstown weathered the storm to go into the half down 36-30. After Mascitti opened the third with an up-and-under move to pull the Blue Devils within four, senior Eli Russell (18 points) buried a three to push the lead back to seven. The two teams went back and forth for the rest of the quarter, but a Mascitti-finish in the closing seconds gave the Blue Devils their first lead at 51-49 with eight minutes to play. The senior continued to punish the Trojans inside to open the fourth to push the lead to four and a third straight Twinfield-Cabot turnover led to a Clark free throw and a 54-49 lead less than forty seconds into the quarter. Senior Tej Stewart (16 points) returned from foul trouble

to give the Trojans back the lead at 58-57 with four minutes to play but a perfect post pass from Mascitti led to an easy Pouliot finish seconds later and the Blue Devils would never trail again.

Sophomore Omar Miksic-Knibb finished with 17 points for Twinfield-Cabot and senior Thomas Gouge chipped in with six in the loss. It was the first state title for Williamstown under head coach Sid Sweet and first since 2017. Sweet took over for legendary coach Jack Carrier who retired after bringing six state championships back to Williamstown over a 13-year period.

Bador has rebuilt a title contender quickly at Twinfield-Cabot in his three seasons on the sidelines, winning consecutive Mountain League and Division IV Coach of the Year honors. He'll graduate a historic senior class that has won over 50 games, including back-to-back trips to Barre. Russell and Stewart each eclipsed 1,000 career points this season, and Russell was named Mountain League Player of the Year after leading the Trojans in scoring for a second straight year. He also captured Mountain League Player of the Year honors on the soccer pitch this past fall for a record setting Trojan team that suffered their only loss in the Division IV

state title match. Stewart has been a Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) Outstanding Underclassmen selection in basketball since he was a freshman phenom. Bador will also graduate Gouge, Sam McLane, Zepherin Hebert, Sam Churchill, Ben Monaco and Wyatt Bickford, who all have had a hand in an unprecedented rate of winning at Twinfield-Cabot in both sports. He will return a dynamic back court in sophomores Miksic-Knibb and Azeem Stewart, along with an incoming freshmen class infused by the excitement that has resonated across two communities the last three years.

"I couldn't be more proud to coach this group of young men. It wasn't the outcome we wanted but unfortunately in sports, this happens. The road wasn't easy for this special group and looking at my guys in the face in the locker room with handshakes and hugs after the game hurt, but they are a resilient group, and this will not define who they are. We will look quite different next season, and the torch will be passed on from this incredible group of seniors. We have great numbers at the youth level, and I can't thank our administration, athletic departments and communities enough for the support and love they've shown me, the kids and this program. A special thank you to Brenden McLane, Pam Quinn, Lori Hebert and Tammy Russell. Trust me, the future here at Twinfield-Cabot is looking bright," said Bador.

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



The U.S. Paralympic Cross Country and Biathlon team in Italy. Athletes are in white and coaches and staff in blue.

courtesy photo

Craftsbury ski coaches in Italy for Paralympics

CORTINA, Italy – A week after the 2026 Winter Olympics wrapped up, another round of Olympics started up, the Paralympics. Audrey Mangan and Suzanne Dunklee have both been coaching for the U.S. Paralympic team this past fall and winter as the team prepared for these events. Mangan is one of the junior cross country ski coaches at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Dunklee oversees the biathlon program. This past week, Mangan served as wax tech for the cross country and biathlon ski teams, while Dunklee is coaching the biathlon squad. It has been a super successful week for the United States with athletes winning 11 cross country medals and four biathlon medals, including

10 gold medals. Sydney Peterson from Minnesota won three golds and a silver. Peterson has dystonia, a neurological movement disorder. Kendall Gretsch from Illinois took a gold and silver in sit ski biathlon; she has spina bifida a neural tube defect affecting the spinal cord. Jacob Adicoff won four gold medals in the visually impaired cross country races. Adicoff skis with guides Reid Goble and Peter Wolter. Oksana Masters continued her success in both disciplines winning four more gold medals in the sit ski divisions. The 36-year-old Masters now has 24 paralympic medals in skiing, biathlon, rowing and hand cycling. She was born with birth defects three years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and had to have both legs amputated in her early teens. She was adopted by a U.S. citizen when she was seven years old, having grown up in orphanages.

Craftsbury Skiers at Under 16 (U16) Northeast Championships and U.S. Junior Nationals

HANOVER, N.H. – Twenty four boys and 24 girls from each of Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, along with smaller teams from New York and the Midwest convened at the Oak Hill Ski Center this past weekend for four races over three days. Several Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) athletes found a spot on the Vermont Under 16 (U16) team. After three individual races, Aemelia Terrone finished 12th overall with a 5th place in the sprint as her best race. Lillian Sudday placed 46 overall and Amalie Pratt had 67 in the sprint. On the boys' side, Oakley



Craftsbury Ski Club coaches, Audrey Mangan and Susan Dunklee, are in the U.S. Cross Country Ski and Biathlon teams' wax room at the Paralympic Game in Cortina, Italy.

courtesy photo



U.S. Paralympian, Jake Adicoff, takes a bow at the finish line as he wins the 10 km classic race along with his guide, Reid Goble.

courtesy photo



Kendall Gretsch shoots her way to a gold medal in the biathlon pursuit competition.

photo by Fred Lee

Crawford tied for 4th overall with his best race being 5th in the classic distance race. New Hampshire edged out Vermont for the team title.

Out in Cable, Wisc., two CSC skiers qualified for the Northeast Junior National team consisting of about 50 of the top regional skiers in the U16, U18, and U20 divisions. Claire Serrano had her best race in the classic sprint (7th) and classic distance race (14) in the U18 group. Isaac Nadzam had a 16th place in the classic distance race and 30th in the sprint. CSC coach Anna Schultz was part of the wax prep team. Ten regional teams from across the country participated with over 500 skiers.

Bushey and Schwinghamer on the World Cup

OSLO, Norway – Dreams can come true. For Craftsbury Green Racing Project skiers, Byran Bushey (Montpelier, Vt.) and John Schwinghamer (Mora, Minn.) years of roller skiing, lifting weights, skiing, setting goals and skiing some more finally paid off with both obtaining

World Cup starts for the U.S. Ski Team for the first time. Both have had several top-five finishes on the SuperTour and at U.S. Nationals this past winter, Bushey in distance races and Schwinghamer in sprint races. This past weekend Schwinghamer placed 41 in the classic sprint on the streets of Drammen, Norway, while Bushey was 59 in the famous Holmenkollen 50 km race. They will be back in action in Craftsbury for the SuperTour Finals and U.S. Distance Nationals March 27-29.



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Rivard earns Capital League Player of the Year honors

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The 2026 Division III champion Hazen Union girls basketball team dominated the Capital League in their inaugural season, led by their star junior Kelsie Rivard, who was named their Player of the Year last week.

Rivard just finished up her junior season at Hazen but is already one of the state's most decorated players as a 1,000-point scorer and two-time Division III state champion. She led the Lady Cats in almost every offensive category this winter on their way to their championship run averaging nearly 21 points, over 12 rebounds, just under five steals and three assists per game. She debuted at the Barre Auditorium with a freshman record 33 points two years ago and punished Windsor with a 30 point and 24 rebound performance in the championship earlier this month.

Junior teammate Mya Lumsden also pulled down Capital League First Team honors after her best season in a Lady Cat uniform. The multi-faceted guard enjoyed career highs in scoring this season for Hazen and was also a First Teamer in the Mountain League last winter. Joining Rivard and Lumsden as Capital League First Team selections were



Kelsie Rivard of Hazen Union is heavily defended as she looks to the basket during semi-final action, March 5, at the Barre Aud. Hazen won the contest 55-39.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lamoille's Alana Crittenden and Ava Baisley, Peoples Academy's Daisy Berg, North Country's Addie Nelson and Sophia Guarriello from Spaulding.



Mya Lumsden of Hazen Union looks to pass during action at the Barre Aud. The Lady Cats won 55-39.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Greg Davis Jr. was named Capital League Coach of the Year after leading the Lady Lancers to a league championship (17-0) and a Division II state title run that ended in a loss to Hartford in the championship game. Lamoille's Maddex Percy was named Capital League Defensive Player of the Year.

Over in the Mountain League, former Cabot multi-

sport legend Billy Waller was named Coach of the Year after leading his Vergennes (17-6) girls team back to the Barre Auditorium for the first time in five years. Vergennes fell victim to eventual Division III champion Hazen in the semi-final round.

Mountain League First Team selections included Richford's Sophia Derby, Ashtin Stearns of Vergennes, Blue Mountain's Ava Kingsbury, Williamstown's Julia French and Adi See from Fairfax. Danville's Lauren Joncas and Myah Morgan earned Second Team selections.

Rookie of the Year honors went to Ayla Kittredge of Vergennes. Richford won the Defensive Team of the Year on the heels of capturing the Division IV state championship. BFA-Fairfax won the Mountain League Sportsmanship Award.

Derby was the best player in the league and what made her sophomore season even more impressive was the fact that she missed her entire freshman campaign due to injury. Derby led Richford to a dominant 17-2 regular season record and followed that up with 103 points over their four-game championship run. She capped it all off with a 28-point performance in a dominant 43-23 win over No. 3 West Rutland in the Division IV state title game.

KEN BROWN'S SPORTS NUGGETS

Lamoille ends 63-year championship drought

BARRE – The roller coaster ride of the Lamoille boys basketball team ended in championship glory over the weekend as they knocked off undefeated Hartford to capture their first Division II state title since 1963.

After mounting come-backs to survive and advance against Middlebury and Fair Haven in the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, the Lancers stunned top-seeded Hartford 56-53 on Saturday at the Barre Auditorium. Lamoille hit free throws and withstood a furious comeback from Hartford in the closing seconds behind a game high 20 points from Colby Hall. James Wallace (15 points) and Jackson Hoag (11) rounded out a balanced attack for a Lancer team that held the Hurricanes to one of their lowest offensive outputs of the season. Hartford came into the championship having beaten five-time defending champion Mont-



2026 Division II champions Lamoille Union Lancers

social media photo

pelier by 32 points in the semifinal round. Fifteen of Hartford's 22 wins came by twenty points or more this season and were heavy favorites to end the program's 97-year championship drought. Lamoille had other plans, capping off an incredible season that started with their first ever Dave Morse Classic title over Division III champion Hazen Union

sophomore Paige Cruickshank and her U-32 girls hockey team's Division II championship run came to an end over the weekend against Hartford at University of Vermont's Gutterson Fieldhouse.

Hartford captured their fourth straight state title on Sunday, knocking off the top-seeded Lady Raiders 5-1 on Sunday night. Eighth grader Johanna Kissell recorded a hat-trick and teammates Ali Morlock and Aubree Vail scored a goal apiece to power No. 2 Hartford. Despite being outshot 2-to-1 in the heavy-weight championship bout, Aubree Gramling was up for the challenge, turning away 29 shots. The Lady Raiders were seeking their first state title in 15 years.

Cruickshank leads U-32 to runner-up finish at Gutterson

BURLINGTON – Hazen Union

Four days earlier, Cruickshank recorded an assist in a 5-3 semifinal win over fifth seeded Middlebury. U-32 will graduate six seniors as their season came to an end at 15-7-1.