



Mountainview, Wolcott schools advance budgets for revote

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK, WOLCOTT, GREENSBORO, WOODBURY – Voters in the Wolcott and Mountainview Union School Districts will have the opportunity to vote April 7, on the identical budgets they rejected Town Meeting Day, March 3.

A state infusion of \$115 million to the Education Fund proposed in Governor Scott's FY27 budget would lower property tax rates without requiring the school boards to cut their budgets.

Projected tax rates to cover Mountainview Union's budget, rejected in a close 389 to 377 vote, will be reduced for property owners in all four of the district's towns. The increase is now 6.05% higher in the current fiscal year.

On a house valued at \$100,000 (using rounded figures to the nearest dollar) Greensboro's projected \$187 increase is now just \$134, Hardwick's falls from \$85 to \$46, Stannard's is down to \$59 from \$106 and Woodbury's projected increase is cut by more than half, from \$138 down to \$66.

Wolcott's budget was rejected by voters in a vote of 143 to 108. The proposed tax rate there has decreased by 11 cents this time around, amounting to a reduction of \$107.98, to \$135.51 on a property valued at \$100,000.

That leaves Wolcott's projected school tax increase 7.21% higher than in the current year.

Tax rates to cover the cost of school budgets voted on Town Meeting Day were based on the state's December 1 figures, which came out before Governor Scott had released his FY27 budget. Scott's FY27 budget proposal now includes a one-time General Fund transfer, or "buydown." The buydown takes money from the State's General Fund and moves it to the Education Fund, offsetting expenses and lowering

the impact on property taxpayers.

A buydown of roughly \$75 million for the current school year, FY26, reduced taxes. With no buydown indicated in the December 1 letter, property taxes needed to increase to close the gap, which was made even bigger by the anticipated increase in spending statewide.

That gap would no longer need to be covered by property taxes with the \$115 million.

The House's tax-writing committee voted on a bill to spend \$52 million in surplus funds on buying down increased education spending. The buydown included in the Governor's FY27 budget

See REVOTE, 5

Everything passes at Marshfield town meeting

by Raymonda Parchment

MARSHFIELD – One-hundred-fourteen voters checked in during the course of the Marshfield Town meeting, with \$900 raised in donations for the Onion River Food Shelf, Sunday March 1, the town of Marshfield Sunday, March 1, for their town meeting proceedings.

All of the town's annual business is conducted with floor votes, and aside from the school budget, there was smooth sailing as all articles passed, according to draft minutes,

Senator Andy Perchlik and Representative Marc Mihaly addressed voters to begin, discussing legislative issues.

The following individuals were elected to town officer positions: Michael Caccavo, elected moderator for a term of one year; Bobbi Brimblecombe, town clerk as well as town treasurer,

See MARSHFIELD, 6



Wolcott's School Street Bridge that has crossed the Lamoille River since 1928 has been removed, March 16, paving the way for a new bridge to replace it. photo courtesy Wolcott Historical Society social media



This injured male bald eagle, discovered near Hardwick Lake, is now in intensive care at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in White River Junction.

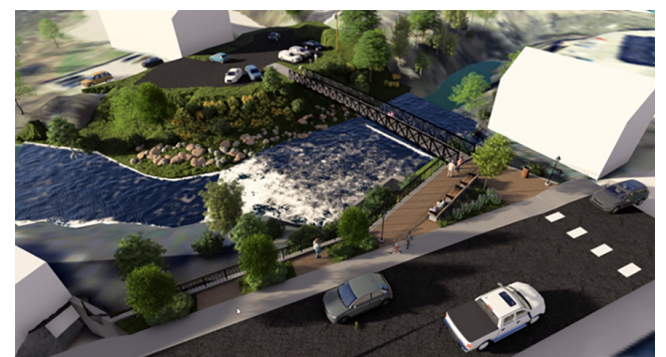
photo by Jana Smart

Local eagle injured

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – An injured bald eagle was discovered near the Hardwick Lake area earlier this week. A concerned citizen, Jana Smart of Craftsbury, called the game warden as well as the Vermont Institute of Natural Science

See EAGLE, 2



An overhead view of the Main Street and Lamoille River area in Downtown Hardwick where work is underway to replace the retaining wall shows what the area will look like this coming fall when work is complete. White blocks mark the Daniel's Building to the upper left, the former Hardwick Gazette building to the right and the Village Restaurant at the lower left.

artist's rendering courtesy Town of Hardwick

Merchants, travelers adjust to traffic lights, ongoing construction

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Less than a month into installation of traffic lights guiding drivers through Hardwick's one-lane Main Street, downtown businesses are adjusting to the construction and making plans to weather the construction that's planned to affect traffic into the summer.

The retaining wall replacement between the Village Restaurant and the former swinging bridge over the Lamoille River that was damaged by the 2023/24 flooding and replacement of the bridge abutment on the South Main Street side are well underway. While construction is expected to take four months, Main Street will be reopened to two lanes before all of the work is finished, reports the town.

Work will then move to the Daniels Block

See CONSTRUCTION, 7

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Eagle
Continued From Page One

(VINS) center for wild bird rehab in White River Junction.

The bird, unable to fly due to injury, was successfully taken into the expert care of VINS. While the source of the injuries remain unclear, VINS Director of Wild Bird Rehabilitation Bren Lundborg provided an update on the eagle's condition; "Based on the injuries and where it was

found, we suspect it was hit by a car. It's probably a male bird, and is an adult that is part of an active breeding pair: it has what is called a brood patch which some birds develop during nesting season. One of our volunteers has told us they think it's part of a pair that nests in the area. Physical exam and x-rays showed that it has internal trauma, and possibly a spinal or pelvic injury as well. Bloodwork also showed it had a prolonged clotting time, which could be a sign of rodenticide poisoning, but the test is not very exact and can't confirm whether it has been exposed or not. It is currently being treated in our ICU but due to the severity of the injuries its prognosis remains very guarded at this time."

When encountering an injured wild bird, contact the Wild Bird Hotline at (802) 359-5000, ext. 212.

**See News
Happening In
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PUBLIC SERVICES

Vermont State Police DUI, car crash

CALAIS – On March 15 at approximately 7:46 p.m., troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a report of a single vehicle crash on Marshfield Road in the town of Calais. Upon arrival, the operator was not on scene. Subsequently, the operator and her boyfriend, Noah Humphries-Lepage of Marshfield, arrived on scene in a different vehicle. Troopers identified Humphries-Lepage as the operator

of the uninvolved vehicle. He displayed signs of impairment, and troopers arrested him for suspicion of DUI. Humphries-Lepage resisted arrest and provided false information to law enforcement. He was subsequently brought to the Berlin Barracks for processing and was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court - Washington, Criminal Division, on April 2, at 8:30 a.m.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Eight people used AWARE services between March 15 and March 22. 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.

March 25 - March 31

Check out our Selection from Hill Farmstead Brewery

New Helly Hanson Raincoats

Food Club Butter \$2.99 lb.	College Inn Broths 2/\$4 32 oz.	Food Club Canned Vegetables 99¢ 14.5-15.25 oz
Poland Spring Sparkling Water 99¢ 33.8 oz.	LaCroix 8 Pk. Sparkling Water \$3.99 96 oz.	Post Great Grain Cereals \$4.79 14-16 oz.
Barilla G.F. Pasta 2/\$4 12 oz.	Zatarain's Rice & Bean Mixes \$2.29 7-8 oz.	Starkist Solid White Tuna \$1.79 5 oz
Food Club White Vinegar \$2.99 128 oz.	Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter \$3.79 16 oz.	Duncan Hines Cake Mixes 2/\$4 15.25 oz.
King Arthur G.F. Baking Mixes \$4.79 16-22 oz.	Food Club 10x Confectioners or Brown Sugar 2/\$5 2 lb.	Food Club Granulated Sugar \$2.99 4 lb.
Mi Nina Tortilla Chips \$3.99 12 oz.	Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/\$5 16 oz.	Cabot Bars or Shredded Cheese 2/\$6 6-8 oz.
Green Mtn. Greek Yogurt \$4.99 32 oz.	Pictsweet Frozen Vegetables 2/\$4 10-14 oz.	Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream \$4.49 16 oz.

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WEATHER WATCH

Rain in forecast; seasonably cold, dry by weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – What a way to welcome the first day of spring. A storm system lifting through the northeast on Friday had enough cold air to work with to bring several inches of heavy wet snow to the region, along with some slippery driving conditions. We ended up with 4.6 inches of new snow in East Hardwick from that event, which was followed by another 3.8 inches of snow Saturday night into Sunday. Each snowfall event brought a widespread four to six inches of accumulation and we now have a region-wide snowpack of at least half a foot, although the introduction of sunshine by Tuesday will slowly start to melt that away again.

Fair weather begins to degrade by later today as high clouds thicken and lower with the approach of a warm front by evening. The moisture with this system isn't terribly

impressive, so expect a light mix of rain and snow as we move into Thursday morning. A light south wind ushers warmer conditions in with a pause in precipitation until Thursday evening, when steadier rain ends as light snow with the passage of a cold front by Friday morning.

Friday afternoon into Sunday features a mix of sun and clouds as high pressure builds into the region. A weak shortwave passes north of us Saturday night with a slight chance of a snow shower. Expect seasonably cold conditions through Sunday, before we moderate toward near-normal temperatures. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Light snow or rain developing by evening. High: 40. Low: 25. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph later in the day.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Light rain or snow in the morning.



Blue sky on a sunny day shines on (from left) the knitwear building, Morse Insurance and the Hardwick Inn across the river from Brush Street on an early March Day. photo by Paul Fixx

Rain in the evening, possibly ending as light snow overnight. Accumulations of a dusting to an inch. High: 53. Low: 22. South wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: A few flurries in the morning, otherwise mostly sunny.

High: 28. Low: 4. Northwest wind 10-15 mph with gusts to 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 26. Low: 14. Calm wind.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 34. Low: 18. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – March 15: Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, McAllister Farm Road.

March 16: Alarm, S. Main St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Welfare Check, Upper Cherry St.; Medical, Hartt Drive; VIN verification, High St.

March 17: Alarm, Carey Road; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Abandoned Vehicle, Hazen Union Drive; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; Wanted Person, Holton Hill Road; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

March 18: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Public, Water St.; Traffic Stop, Kate Brook Road; VIN verification, High St.; Assault, Dale St.; Welfare Check, Maple St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Hardwick Farms Road; Assist - Public,

High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

March 19: Drugs, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Kate Brook Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Assist - Public, Wolcott St.; Assist - Agency, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

March 20: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 14.

March 21: Trespassing, Mackville Road; Wanted Person, High St.; Transport, High St.

March 22: Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 W.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.; Wanted Person, High St.; Traffic Stop, Church St.



On Friday, March 20, at 1:42 p.m., the Vermont State Police, Walden Volunteer Fire Department and EMS responded to a semi-truck rollover near 2078, Route 15, in Walden. The road conditions were poor at the time with multiple accidents happening in the area. Social media photo

WHERE ELSE?



- Where else would the public get the very complete coverage of the candidates for local and state offices such as appeared in this week's issue?
- Where else would there be coverage of the exciting news that Habitat for Humanity will be building two housing units in Greensboro Bend?
- Where else was there coverage of the beautiful mural recently unveiled in the Bend?
- Where else has there been unbiased coverage of the critical issues such as the future of the Lakeview School or discussion of the proposed use of Town Hall?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of events at the Highland Arts Center?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of Hardwick sports and local teams?

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hardwickgazette.org

Rights bill passes after raid raises red flags

by Paul Fixx

MONTPELIER – State police and protesters were involved in an event on March 11, where federal agents served a warrant, raiding a property and disrupting South Burlington traffic in search of a person who wasn't at the property involved.

A day later, the Vermont House took up H.849, an act relating to a civil action for damages for interference with state or federal constitutional rights by any government official.

The bill had been introduced in early February, where it was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill passed to a final reading that day on a tri-partisan vote of 97-39 and on a voice vote the next day, it became Vermont law.

House Speaker Jill Krowinski said in a statement, "This legislation is a critical piece of our work to ensure that Vermonters' civil rights are protected . . . H.849 enables Vermonters to defend their

constitutional rights and make a legal claim if a local, state or federal official violates the United States Constitution."

"Yesterday, we saw the most invasive action taken on Vermont soil by federal law enforcement agents in the City of South Burlington," said Speaker Krowinski. "The events that occurred have left many unanswered questions, including whether constitutional rights were violated, and this legislation is crucial to providing an avenue to Vermonters to seek justice if their rights are violated in the future."

Rep. Marc Mihaly (D - Washington 6: Calais, Marshfield, Plainfield) voted for the legislation and said, "H.849 . . . corrects an important imbalance that favors federal employees over state employees: Under current law, Vermont state employees are held to a higher standard than Federal. Vermont citizens may sue state employees who violate constitutional rights, but nothing authorizes Vermont

citizens to sue Federal employees who violate those same rights."

"It's worth noting that this bill was already on the House action calendar before the ICE operation that occurred in South Burlington this week," said Rep. Leanne Harple (D - Orleans-4: Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro), who voted yes on the bill. "However, the timing of that incident proves to many of us just how important these protections are, as some serious questions are being raised for many Vermonters, including upper-level government officials, as to how such actions are being carried out and whether constitutional boundaries are always being respected.

Rep. Mihaly further explained the historic origins of the discrepancy. "This imbalance has its origin in the post-Civil War era when the Southern states failed to apply rights guaranteed by the Federal Constitution to their African American citizens. So, we enacted the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitution to allow citizens to sue state employees of those states who violated those constitutional rights."

He said, "Now, as we see a president and federal administration violating those same rights, Vermont, joined by several states, has moved to correct the imbalance, to allow their citizens to sue Federal employees who violate their citizens' constitutional rights."

And concluded, saying, "I strongly support the effort."

Rep. Michael Southworth (R - Caledonia-2: Hardwick, Stannard, Walden) voted against the bill and expressed concern that the legislative process was rushed, commenting, "The bill was not in committee long enough to receive adequate testimony. There were only seven witnesses who offered testimony on the far reaching implications of this bill."

Rep. Southworth said some of the testimony did not fully support passage of the act. "...The co-director of the Civil Rights Unit in the Office of the Attorney General, had

reservations with the bill."

"I do not oppose accountability for government officials. Had there been a deeper dive into the issues surrounding the constitutionality of this bill, my vote may have been different," explained Rep. Southworth.

Rep. Harple, said, "I supported this bill because, like many patriotic Americans, I am increasingly alarmed (appalled, really) by the growing disregard for our constitutional rights that is being carried out right now by some federal officials. H.849 creates a legal mechanism that allows Vermonters to seek accountability if their state or federal constitutional rights are violated by government employees. This is important because if our constitutional rights are to have any meaning at all, we need to have the ability to defend them."

"Regardless of anyone's views on immigration policy, the fundamental issue at stake here is about protecting our constitutional rights and accountability for those in positions of power who, given the opportunity, would violate them unchecked," she said. "This legislation is not about protecting any one group of people in one particular moment, it is about protecting all Americans all the time, and preserving the very rule of law that is the bedrock of our American democracy."

"H.849 closes the gap in available constitutional remedies available to Vermonters or any other person within the jurisdiction of Vermont," said Representative Martin LaLonde, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. "If a right does not have a remedy, it is not much of a right at all."

Exemplifying the priorities of a citizen legislator when the state's most well-known crop is ready to harvest, Rep. Greg Burt (R - Caledonia-Washington: Cabot, Danville, Peacham) said, "I had to boil syrup the day of the vote, unfortunately."

Learn more about H.849 at legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2026/H.849.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department

Suspended licenses, active warrants

HARDWICK – On February 28, Hardwick Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on Route 15 E. The operator eluded the officer and was later located in Wolcott. Travis S. Ward was found to be criminally suspended and had an active Warrant for his arrest. Ward was taken into custody without incident and processed at Morrystown Police Department by Officer Donna. Ward is lodged at the Northeast Correctional Complex on the Warrant. Ward was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on April 13 at 8:30 a.m. to answer the charges of Criminal DLS, Attempting to Elude, and Negligent Operation.

On March 4, the Hardwick Police Department conducted a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on Granite Street. The operator, Douglas Brier, was found to be criminally suspended and was taken into custody without incident and processed at Hardwick Police Department. Brier was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on April 6, to answer the charge of criminal DLS.

On March 9, Hardwick Police conducted a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on Mill Street; The operator, Andrew Baird, was found to be criminally suspended. Baird

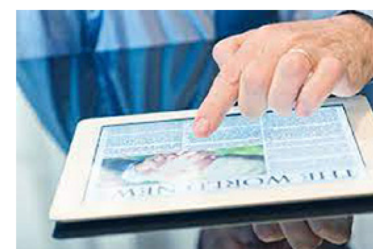
was taken into custody without incident and processed at Hardwick Police Department. Baird received a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on April 13, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the charge of criminal DLS.

On March 13, Hardwick Police were investigation a complaint of excessive noise involving a male and female on Houlton Street. Casandra Rich was found hiding in the back seat of a Ford truck. Rich had an active arrest warrant for failure to appear. Rich was taken into custody without incident and transported to Northeast Correctional Complex where she was lodged on the warrant.

On March 22, at 5:41 p.m., Hardwick Police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Granite Street. Kyle Kizer was a passenger in this vehicle. Kizer had an active arrest warrant for failure to appear. Kizer was taken into custody without incident and transported to Northeast Correctional Complex where he was lodged on his warrant.

At 8:23 p.m., Hardwick Police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on West Church Street. The operator, Lucas Molleur, had an active arrest warrant for failure to appear. Molleur was cited and released with a citation to appear in Orleans County Superior Court on March 23, at 12:30 p.m.

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Residents fundraise for radar speed sign

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – Speeding in the village of East Hardwick is one of the biggest complaints and highest priorities the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) reports hearing from residents of the village that they say lacks adequate sidewalks or speed patrols.

EHNO is now raising funds to purchase a radar speed calming sign for the village that will supplement the one purchased by the town last summer.

East Hardwick has four entrances into the village: Route 16 to Main and Cedar Streets, East Church Street and Brick House Road.

The town moves its current sign between Main Street and Church Street at least once every summer.

That one sign is not enough to cover the village’s four entrances, says EHNO. But there’s no budget for the town to purchase signs for the other entrances to the village at Brick House Road and Cedar St., reports EHNO.

Having an additional sign will allow coverage that includes those roads, says EHNO.

EHNO has received a \$2,500 grant from the Pleasants Fund of the Greensboro United Church of Christ toward the purchase of the additional sign and is fundraising for the remaining \$1,250 to cover the \$3,750 cost of the sign.

In an update Monday, March 23, the EHNO website reported being just \$220 from reaching its fundraising goal.

In making its appeal for donations and explaining why it’s purchasing the sign instead of the town, the EHNO website said, “The Town of Hardwick maintains and polices miles of roads. The police department simply does not have the budget to purchase radar signs for all of them or enough staff to adequately patrol all areas.”

The EHNO board talked with the Hardwick Police Chief to find ways to slow traffic and improve walkability and bikeability in the village, they say.

That conversation resulted in the town agreeing to dedicate the current radar sign to the village and to move it at least once during the summer. The board then approached the Pleasants Fund and received their maximum grant towards this project.

“Owning our own sign will allow EHNO to provide traffic and speeding data to the community and the Hardwick Police Department,” they said. The additional data will allow the police department to maximize the effectiveness of patrols.

Additional traffic calming solutions are identified in a Better Connections Program Report, but most are long-term and require significant investments. New sidewalks, reconfigured intersections and a state traffic study on route 16 are all recommendations the report made for future village traffic improvements.

“Purchase of the sign will immediately address concerns about speeding,” said EHNO.

EHNO has promoted traffic safety in the Village in many ways, including participating in the Hardwick Planning Commission’s AARP Walkability Study and partnering with it on a Local Motion Study; “Making it safe, accessible, and fun for everyone to bike, walk and roll in Vermont.”

They have spoken with the Laggis Farm about issues regarding



An example of the proposed radar speed sign the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) is fundraising to purchase for the village. image courtesy EHNO

jake brakes and sometimes speeding, mostly due to equipment and operators contracted by that and other local farms. The farm has offered to send some trucks around on Steven’s Lane and to notify EHNO during heavy traffic periods.

EHNO also made a presentation to the Hardwick Select Board asking the town to request a DMV traffic study on Vt. Route 16. They support a lowered speed limit as Rte. 16 passes by the village, with a crosswalk and signage at the Main Street crossing to Ward Hill, as well as improved site lines at the intersection.

Learn more at ehno5.wordpress.com/donate.

Each year the EHNO brings village get-togethers, the Children’s Parade, Fall Folk, a Little Free Library and December Cookies to East Hardwick. Last summer it worked to have a Vermont Historic Marker installed at Overlook Park. This summer it is building a trailhead on the rail trail, including a large pavilion and a picnic table.



About 17 people gathered, March 18, in the Greensboro United Church of Christ in a vigil for peace, joining with their neighbors for a brief time of reflection and connection. The vigil included silence, readings, mandolin music and songs. photo by Hal Gray

Revote

Continued From Page One

would raise the Property Yield in financial forecasts, which lowers the projected impact to taxes.

That \$110 million buydown is not yet final. As lawmakers reached the halfway point in this year’s legislative session, “The house’s tax writing committee voted on a bill to spend \$52 million in surplus funds on buying down increased education spending,” said a WCAX story, March 20.”

Reducing the buydown would raise the tax savings projected by the area school boards.

The legal voters of the Wolcott Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the

Informational hearing for discussion on the proposed FY27 School District budgets will be held in the coming days; for Wolcott Elementary School at the school, Tuesday, March 31, at 6 p.m., and for Mountainview Union at the Hardwick Elementary School on Thursday, April 2, at 6 p.m.

An Australian ballot vote at the Wolcott Town Office is scheduled Tuesday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., to decide the fate of that school’s budget for the second time.

Australian ballot votes on the Mountainview Union budget will also happen April 7. Hardwick voters will visit the Town House from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polls in Greensboro, Strannard and Woodbury will be open at each town hall from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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Church, parsonage set for repurpose, revitalization

by Liz Steel

GREENSBORO – The property containing the former Methodist church and parsonage on Main Street in Greensboro Bend is currently under a purchase option agreement between the Greensboro Community Trust (GCT) and the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. The goal is to repurpose and revitalize the church buildings and property for multiple uses to benefit the wider community.

The reimagining of the former church and parsonage is the current project of the GCT.

Called “The Steeple,” this project will look to bring the former church building back to life as a community gathering place for both regular use and scheduled events.

Feedback from a series of community events, surveys and an open house held over the last 18 months, confirmed a desire to transform the former sanctuary into a multi-use space, as well as restore the commercial kitchen and dining area on the ground level.

Ideas regarding the parsonage building, which is in need of more extensive renovation, include dividing the living space into smaller affordable housing units and adding potential hostel rooms serving the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

Members of the GCT have been reviewing the conditions of the property. Initial building assessments

have been carried out and discussions are underway regarding the water and wastewater capacity, which will be essential to determining the feasibility for any future use.

This spring, with the ongoing support provided by the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Council on Rural Development, through the Village Trust Initiative, the GCT will be conducting a full environmental review and impact assessment. Initial architectural plans will be created and a feasibility analysis carried out to determine how the property can meet the variety of needs and wants identified, and what funding sources are available to bring those ideas to life.

The GCT is a volunteer-led organization that grew out of the Bend Revitalization Initiative. The community support for, and involvement in, the buildout of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) trailhead parking area, pollinator gardens and mural, provided a foundation for community-led development of spaces celebrating community and local history.

The mission of the GCT is to continue this approach, creating strong social infrastructure and enhancing opportunity through the acquisition, transformation and sustained management of spaces and places within the greater Greensboro community.

For more information on The Steeple project, or to support the GCT work, contact GreensboroCommunityTrust@gmail.com.



The former Methodist church and parsonage in Greensboro Bend will be revitalized for community use. *courtesy photo*

Marshfield

Continued From Page One

and collector of delinquent taxes, all for one year terms; Luke Lampugnale, elected select-person for a term of three years; Marie Marclay, elected auditor for a term of three years; Kathleen Hayes, lister for a term of three years; lister (no nominations), two year term left vacant to be appointed by the select board; Shawn Codling, constable for a term of one year; Betsy Brigham, budget committee member for a term of five years; Amy Monahan, budget committee member for a term of four years; Beth Stern, budget committee member for a term of two years and Michelle McCormick, library trustee for a term of three years.

Lampugnale was elected after several minutes with no nominations, after Justin Campbell announced he was not seeking re-election to his three year seat. Campbell received a standing ovation from those in attendance, recognizing his work in the post-flood recovery efforts and more.

Elected as school directors to

serve on the Union District Board were Reta Bezak, school director for three years; Asa Baer, school director for two years.

Bezak will take over for Patrick Healy, former school board director, who also received a standing ovation at the meeting for his eighteen years of service.

The town budget passed on a floor vote. The budget of \$8,590,531 is expected to see \$1,062,584 raised by taxes. \$6,930,393 would be raised by non-tax revenue and \$597,555 would be carried over from the prior year’s surplus.

Brimblecombe explained that the budget includes eight bridge and culvert projects that are the result of the 2023 and 2024 floods. Much of the non-tax revenue is anticipated FEMA reimbursements.

In response to a 2025 Supreme Court ruling, which shifts agricultural oversight from the state to municipalities, the town passed a non-binding resolution to petition the State of Vermont to restore municipal zoning exemptions and codify a “strong Right to Grow Food”, including livestock and the right to sell.



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 Lauredon 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 Mountain View Union Elementary School District 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>



Jackson Dam study examines river, sediment conditions

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – A recently completed technical study of Hardwick's Jackson Dam examines how Jackson Dam interacts with the Lamoille River and how more than a century of sediment accumulation has shaped the river system around it.

The dam, located just upstream of the Route 15 bridge, has held back water and sediment along this stretch of the river for more than one hundred years, since 1912. During that time, natural materials carried downstream by the river: sand, gravel and silt, have gradually settled behind the structure.

This process is common in rivers where water slows behind dams. Over time, sediment can build up in the impoundment and change both the depth of the water and the shape of the river channel.

The study documents the sediment that has accumulated behind Jackson Dam and how it is distributed across the river and Hardwick Lake area. Engineers and river scientists also reviewed the current condition of the dam and considered how sediment buildup may influence river behavior during higher water events.

Since flooding in 2023 and 2024, neighborhood surveys,

comments from floodplain property owners during two rounds of Substantial Damage Determinations, outreach to businesses along Wolcott Street and a series of public meetings over the past two years has demonstrated increased interest among town residents and property owners in understanding how water moves through the Lamoille River system and how infrastructure interacts with those natural processes.

Understanding these conditions is an important first step as the town works to evaluate long-term management and the future of the Jackson Dam site.

The study was prepared by SLR International, an engineering and river science firm working with the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District and the Town of Hardwick. Their work provides technical information about sediment, river conditions and the current state of the dam.

Many dams across Vermont were constructed more than a century ago for purposes such as powering mills or generating local electricity. While those uses were once central to many communities, rivers themselves continue to change over time, and infrastructure built along them inevitably ages.

Hardwick Lake has long been



Water overtops low-lying areas and roadways downstream of Jackson Dam in 1973, reinforcing a long-standing pattern of flooding in the river corridor. Recurring flooding is part of an ongoing relationship between land, water and infrastructure. photo courtesy Hardwick Historical Society

part of the town's landscape and community life.

Sediment accumulation is one of the most common challenges associated with older dams. As sediment builds up, it can alter water depth, affect the shape of the river channel and influence how floodwaters move through the surrounding landscape.

The Jackson Dam study provides baseline information about how those processes are occurring along this section of the Lamoille River.

Understanding how sediment, river flow, and infrastructure interact is an important part of

managing rivers in Vermont communities. Information from the study will help the town continue evaluating conditions at the site as it considers possible next steps.

The report is available on the town's flood information web page (hardwickvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-03-13_Jackson-DamMemo_V2.pdf), and will be presented to the Hardwick Electric Department Commissioners and the Hardwick Select Board in the Memorial Building's third floor meeting room, March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Kristen Leahy is the Town of Hardwick Resilience and Floodplain Administrator.

Construction

Continued From Page One

side of the river to construct a bridge abutment in preparation for the arrival of the new pedestrian bridge, reconnecting the neighborhoods and businesses for parking and daily access for pedestrians and cyclists looping around from the LVRT.

"It has been fascinating to watch the projects from my window at Whistle Emporium," said the store's owner and Hardwick Select Board member. "I find myself reflecting on that afternoon back in September of 2020 when the cable snapped on our beloved Swinging Bridge. Nearly six years and hundreds of meetings [sic] later I am thrilled that we are going to be able to gather downtown later this year to celebrate the new pedestrian bridge."

In the meantime, Downtown Hardwick remains Open for Business," she said.

In the first week after the traffic lights were installed, Town Manager David Upson worked with interested parties to adjust timing of the lights to accommodate circumstances that included the elementary school's schedule and rush hour traffic patterns. He reported the wait was down to two minutes, though onlookers have reported rush hour

traffic sometimes required several light cycles to pass through the work area.

A speed calming radar sign on West Church Street was installed, though residents there continue to report a considerable increase in the amount and speed of traffic through the area.

Those attempting to avoid the construction have caused issues of their own and, much like "stuck-age" situations on Rte. 100 through Smuggler's Notch, a log truck was seen to be stuck turning onto Highland Avenue from West Church Street to avoid the Cottage Street Bridge, March 23, according to an area resident.

The town and Hardwick Downtown Partnership (HDP) are working to provide additional signage and support through this project, said Cornish. "HDP is working with downtown business and property owners to develop parking alternatives for staff in an effort to leave the downtown parking for visitors and customers.

Owners at the Clip Joint and Nikki the Barber have said the traffic lights don't seem to have affected their business at all, and may even have helped it as more drivers are stopped and able to learn about the

area instead of driving past.

A creative partnership between the Galaxy Bookshop and Jeudevine Memorial Library has bookstore customers buying gift certificates and donating them to the library to facilitate the purchase of books for the library. Customers can stop at the bookstore, call or order gift certificates online to avoid finding parking spots downtown, said the bookstore's Andrea Jones.

There's no remote option to eat at the Village Restaurant, though take-out is always available. There, a Facebook post on March 23 reported, "Downtown Hardwick construction continues, snow continues and we continue! We are open 7 days a week 6 a.m. until 3p.m." Proprietor Lynn Delerichelie says, "less than a month into construction, business seems about normal and I'm trying to stay positive."

An informational meeting for downtown businesses, property owners and representatives of the town has been scheduled for March 25 to get together and discuss more ideas and ask additional questions, March 25.

Next to the construction area, bordering the Lamoille River, the former home of The Hardwick Gazette and The Civic Standard at 42 Main Street stands empty."

Cornish has taken the lead on a project to preserve the building. Called FOCUS42, she is working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) and preparing a proposal the Civic Standard requires, on or before April 1st.

"Our first priority will be to pick up where the process left off over six months ago and engage Engineering Ventures PC to further investigate the foundation armoring and stabilization vs. planning, designing, engineering and related preparatory work for a new wet flood proof foundation," she said.

Twelve people have expressed interest in joining the FOCUS 42 team and \$2,500 has been donated to support the work, she added. "If the Civic Standard accepts our RFP, the historic property will be removed from the FEMA buyout list and FOCUS 42 volunteers will begin a more active fundraising campaign that will further subsidize our projects."

Plans that will give a different look to Springfest are in the works according to Downtown Partnership social media post, March 22.

Cornish said HDP will continue to post updates about the downtown construction at hardwickdowntown.org and to followers on its Instagram and Facebook pages.

Take down birdfeeders to prevent bear conflicts

VERMONT – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is receiving reports of bears coming out of their dens and is urging Vermonters to remove their birdfeeders and take additional steps now to prevent conflicts with bears over the spring and summer.

“Do not wait to take down your birdfeeders and bearproof your yard until a bear comes to visit,” said Jaclyn Comeau, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s bear biologist. “You need to act now to head off bear conflicts over the spring and summer, even if you have never had a bear visit your property before.”

Bear incidents have been on the rise over the past several years. Officials believe this trend is, in part, a result of Vermont’s abundant black bear population learning to associate people and food over multiple generations. Even with a steady increase in the number of bears harvested by hunters in recent years, including harvests exceeding 1,000 bears in 2024 and 2025, Vermont’s bear population shows signs of growth over the past five years.

Shorter winters also mean that bears are emerging from their dens earlier in the spring. In recent years bear activity has begun in mid-March. This is roughly two weeks earlier than what is traditionally considered the start of “BearWise season” in northern New England.

“Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods is key to successful coexistence with these long-lived and intelligent animals,” said Comeau. “Bears can be found in every corner of Vermont other than the Champlain islands. Put bluntly, most Vermonters live in bear country.”

The department asks Vermonters to take the following proactive

steps for coexisting with bears:

Take down birdfeeders between mid-March and December. Store garbage in bear-resistant containers or structures, trash cans alone are not enough. Use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe. Request a bear-resistant dumpster from your waste hauler. Feed pets indoors. Never feed bears, it is illegal.

“Deep snow may delay some bears from emerging from winter dens until April, but mid-March is the time for Vermonters to prepare for the early risers by taking down our bird feeders, making sure garbage is secure, and protecting backyard chickens and bees with an electric fence,” said Comeau. “This will help teach bears that our yards and neighborhoods are not good places to search for food, but it will only work if everyone does their part.” Taking these precautions will also help reduce the chance of attracting other wildlife species such as raccoons, skunks and rodents.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department also asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting bird feeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department’s Living with Black Bears web page. The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.

“At the end of the day, purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear,” said Comeau. “It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal. If bears are finding food on your property, it is your responsibility to remove that attractant and report a problem before the situation gets worse.”



Elfi Goldenrose displays brownie batter bites made with maple syrup created by the Jeudevine Memorial Library Cooking Club, March 18. The club meets monthly for children 10 and up in the Jeudevine Library’s new kitchen.

photo by Rachel Funk



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

Melissa Main
[Signature]
Wolcott Town School District Directors

Attest: *[Signature]*
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>



The Hardwick Gazette



Roadside Mowing Bids

The Walden Select Board is accepting bids for roadside mowing of all Walden town roads. Mowing should commence by July 13, and to be completed by August 24. All work is to be done at the direction of the Town Road Foreman. Sealed bids for the total amount plainly marked as “ROADSIDE MOWING BID” will be received until 4 p.m., on April 6, at the Walden Town Office. Enclose a Certificate of Insurance with bid. The board reserves the right to make the selection based on all factors and may not necessarily choose the lowest bid. The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids deemed not to be in the best interest of the town.

Bridge 31 replacement leads survey responses

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Since flooding in July 2023 damaged the East Main Street Bridge in Greensboro Bend, travelers between Hardwick, Walden, Stannard, Greensboro and Greensboro Bend have had to use the Bend Road Bridge instead.

The East Main Street Bridge is located in East Hardwick and known as Bridge 31. That bridge became impassable when the road washed out during the July 2023 flood and was determined to be unstable during an inspection after the 2023 flood, then removed in 2024 when repair was considered impractical due to the increased water flow the 2023 and 2024 floods brought to the area.

As Hardwick continues working to recover from the historic 2023 and 2024 floods, the future of bridge 31 is now being evaluated.

The bridge is just one-half mile from the Bend Road Bridge and one option might be not replacing the bridge at all, says the report. To help determine what the

best course of action is, the town asked those who travel through that area to respond to a survey. One hundred thirty-eight responses had been received at the time of a March 9 report which was presented to the select board at its March 19 meeting.

The survey summary reports, “. . . that the crossing functioned as a regular connector for individuals living or traveling within the immediate area, particularly for nearby residents and frequent regional users.”

One-hundred-one of those responding (73%) said, “Restoring the bridge feels important despite the cost. Just nine checked the box for “permanent removal feels more appropriate.”

With the report now in the hands of the Hardwick Select Board for decisions to be made about the next steps.

The report notes that FEMA has not approved any funding to replace the bridge and any cost not covered by FEMA would be the responsibility of Hardwick, despite its proximity to Greensboro Bend.



East Hardwick’s Bridge 31 is impassable following July 2023 flooding that washed out the eastern approach and was determined to be structurally unstable. photo courtesy Town of Hardwick

Reintroduction of the bridge would benefit travelers, but carry the usual costs of infrastructure and reintroduce a structure into the upper Lamoille River’s floodplain.

Permanent removal of the bridge and restoration of the river corridor would remove the structure at the river confluence with Stannard Brook and avoid major capital replacement costs, but potentially require traffic and safety mitigation.

One hundred and twenty-four of the 138 people responding reported using the bridge at least several times each month, with 71 using it daily.

Survey results confirmed that the bridge served a regional user base, with people using the bridge for a variety of reasons. Over half used it to access services or business and just under half on their

commute to work. Visiting family or neighbors, traveling to school or childcare, for emergency or medical access, and farm or business use, all received at least 20 responses.

Most respondents reported that the current detour adds a modest amount of travel time, with roughly 75 indicating the change isn’t noticeable, or adds less than five minutes to their trips through the area.

More than half of respondents reported safety concerns with the alternate routes available to them, with 50 reporting those routes are much less safe.

The report suggests the select board “may wish to consider what additional information or analysis would be helpful before determining a long-term direction for the site,” and makes no final recommendation.

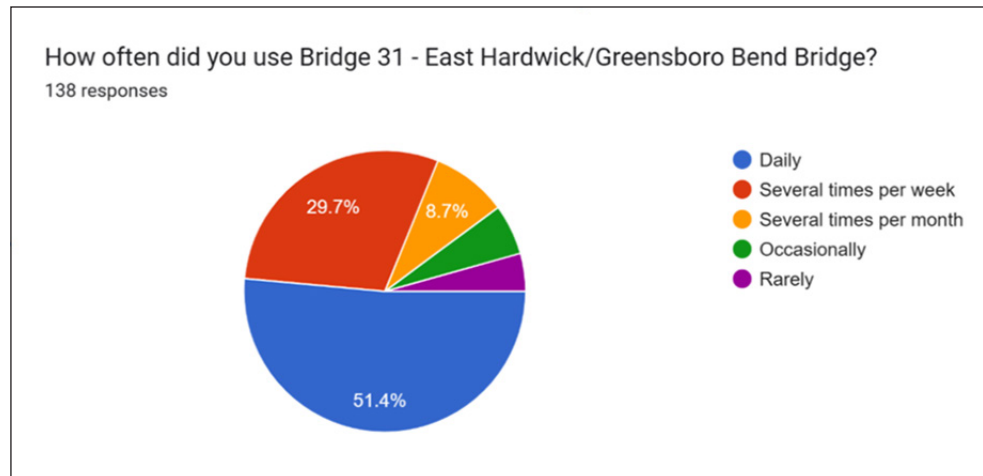


chart courtesy Town of Hardwick

Public comment invited on wetland map updates

by Paul Fixx

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invited the public to comment on draft updates to the state wetland maps in 150 towns, covering over 45% of Vermont in a notice published March 17.

The updated maps show the approximate location and shape of wetlands across major parts of Caledonia, Windham, Windsor, Grand Isle, and Essex counties.

In the Hardwick area, map updates for the Northern Connecticut River Basin include the towns of Cabot, Marshfield, Plainfield, Stannard, Walden and the nearby towns of Danville, Groton, Peacham and Wheelock.

Combined with other recent map updates, approximately 80% of Vermont’s wetland maps will soon be current, leaving only

20% outdated. The updates are required by the Flood Safety Act, Act 121, passed in 2024 and are ahead of the timeline established by law. DEC anticipates placing the remaining areas of Vermont on notice this year.

Using new technology and high-quality aerial images, DEC will continue to update maps for the entire state to better identify wetlands, which in turn supports project developers’ efforts to plan projects in ways that avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands.

“Wetlands are transitional areas where land and water meet,” said DEC Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli. “Marshes, swamps and other types of wetlands offer vital benefits to Vermonters, from drought prevention and floodwater storage to quality of life.”

Robust wetland maps can help property owners, towns, and

developers by guiding development, Streamlining the wetland regulatory process, Informing real estate decisions, Supporting land use planning and assisting with wetland restoration and mitigation efforts.

“Wetland maps are important planning tools, but up until last year much of the state was last mapped over 30 years ago and missed a significant amount of wetland area,” said Laura Lapierre, DEC Wetlands Program Manager. “Our department encourages everyone to check out the online interactive wetland map update.”

View the changes to the Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory Map on the online interactive

map.

Public meetings were held one and six days after publication of the notice, March 18 and 23, but comments will still be accepted until April 3 by clicking on the Comment button at enb.vermont.gov/?id=29600.

The notice indicates, “You must have commented in order to be able to appeal a decision and an individual may only appeal issues related to their own comment(s). The Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for protecting Vermont’s natural resources and safeguarding human health for the benefit of this and future generations. Learn more at dec.vermont.gov.”

EDITORIAL

SAVE Act or setback

HARDWICK – As the Democrats in Washington continue to push back against the prospective SAVE America Act, many, like myself, are wondering what the future holds for women across the country.

While I encourage readers to research the potential impacts themselves, here is a brief overview: The act would require documentary proof of citizenship be presented in person to register to vote. The legislation purportedly aims to block non-citizens from voting, which is already illegal and is very rare.

The bill would require an individual to present in person, a passport, birth certificate or other citizenship document when registering to vote or updating their voter registration information.

Voting rights groups have said the bill will pose a barrier for millions of American women and others who have changed their legal name because of marriage, assimilation or to better align with their gender identity.

An estimated 69 million American women and four million men do not have a birth certificate that matches their current legal name.

Republicans who support the bill claim that states will be able to create processes so people can prove their citizenship if their name doesn't match their birth certificate.

I have little to no faith that the government, whether it be state or federal, will go above and beyond to ensure women are not disenfranchised.

To some that may be a pessimistic view, but I believe the perspective is well founded. Women, time and again, fought, kicked and scratched for every inch of progress, including the right to vote. Across the country, and the world, this fight continues.

In fact, I believe that if men were the ones to be disproportionately affected by the SAVE Act, we would not be in this position (historically long government shutdown) or having this conversation. They would never conceive of such a thing.

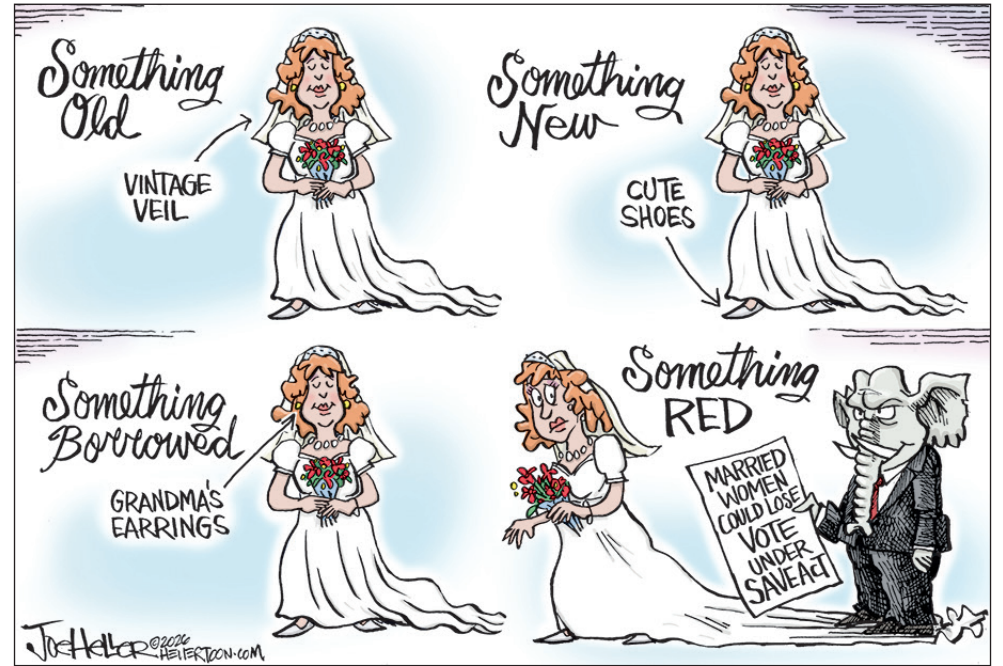
This country failed women the first and second time we elected Donald Trump. We knew what he was; an adjudicated rapist, racist, unfaithful husband and a bad businessman. He's a felon, a suspected pedophile, as well as a war-monger with no vision for this country's future.

If the Democratic party fails and the SAVE Act should pass, there is no telling what the future holds for millions of women in the United States.

Women are not half-people, and thus do not deserve half-rights. I can only hope those in office will vigorously defend those that elected them.

Raymonda Parchment, reporter

Heller's World by Joe Heller



We have big shoes to fill

Last week I was reminded of the legacy the nonprofit organization that now publishes The Hardwick Gazette inherited when I made the trip to Portsmouth, N.H., for the 2026 New England Newspaper Convention.

Former Gazette editor and publisher, Ross Connelly, and former sportswriter, David A. "Dave" Morse, are both members of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame 2026. Their names appeared in the program at the induction ceremony for this year's recipients of the honor. Connelly was inducted in 2012 and Morse, who died in 2014, probably the next year, according to Connelly.

Connelly's name also appeared as a member of The Yankee Quill Selection Committee in the program for the Academy of New England Journalists honoring extraordinary contributions and achievements by members of the New England press in the past year.

Connelly and Morse were consummate professionals. I and others on the staff here have big shoes to fill.

Paul Fixx, editor

The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~
News, Opinion, Entertainment, Sports & More!

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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

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

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

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

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Here's where my amazement began

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – As I age, I'm more and more frequently amazed at the complexity of various systems and the genius it must have taken to design and build them. The loop-the-loop highways of Montreal, Boston and Los Angeles are one example. Though much cursed, reviled and lampooned, it's hard to imagine what life would be like without them. Airliners are another: all those myriad parts working seamlessly together (most of the time) to propel that massive weight and all those passengers across oceans. Not to mention airports. What marvels of computer magic! It's a wonder to me that anybody in charge of such an operation can ever sleep peacefully.

This past week Bea and I got to experience another marvel of organization. We've listened for years to the ersatz King's English accent of the woman voicing the commercials for Viking cruises, "exploring the wuld in comfut." Her accent was impossible to like or ignore. In any case, she turned me off on the idea of signing up for any of Viking's offerings.

Then one of my kids went down the Rhine with a bunch of his family members and pronounced it a really good trip. So we tried to sign up for one last year. It was sold out months in advance. We were able to get reservations for the following (this) year.

Here's where my amazement began. Imagine the complexity of signing up hundreds of passengers from all over the United States and Canada, of all ages and physical conditions, and assembling them at one place at the same time. It must be like herding cats or rabbits; yet there we were (in spite of our usual confusion and impression that Heathrow Airport is staffed largely by raving maniacs), descending our ship's gangplank, being given an introductory drink from a proffered tray, handed the card key to our assigned cabins ("Staterooms," in the ship's parlance), and finding our luggage, last seen in Logan Airport the day before, in our cabins. Now, that's a pretty good trick. If you read the passengers' reviews of Viking trips, you see that it doesn't always work. But it did for us. We unpacked, stowed our duds in the dresser, and took a nap before dinner.

I've long been a bit dismissive of the Viking shtick: calling their ships "longships," for example, as if they were the famous open exploring boats of old. But I must admit they carry through with that business. Our ship was the Alruna, named after a young Valkyrie of

legend who went off to war one day and never returned. The founder of the company is Torstein Hagen. And the soap in the john is labeled "Freyja." The cheerful crew's accents ranged from English to Rumanian and Portuguese and beyond. The passengers were equally various; we came from Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Oregon, California, Toronto and Peterborough. For obvious reasons, we Yankees avoided conversations that veered toward the political.

The ship ran often at night; we woke regularly to a view different from that of the evening before. Prudence dictated closing the drapes. Those passengers whose insomnia kept them awake went up on deck to watch the 443-foot ship pass through the locks that keep the river navigable in spite of its healthy gradient. Daytimes, we had a choice of land excursions. At the start of the tour, in more rural surroundings than we experienced near its mouth at Amsterdam, we took a bus up into the Black Forest, where fresh snow made the hills and woods reminiscent of Vermont, and hundreds of elaborately carved cuckoo clocks hung on the walls of one shop. I wished I could have gotten them all going at once. Down in the restaurant they gave a demonstration of baking and frosting a German layer cake that, by the time you got done with it, was about half whipped cream.

The ship itself was more like a pretty good hotel than anything else: atria, skylights, wide staircases, and conversation nooks everywhere. A magnificent coffee-maker not far from our cabin door dispensed on demand and rapidly, everything from espresso to hot chocolate. A little cabinet beside it, kept stocked with cookies and pastries, added a touch of pleasure. At mealtimes, the waitstaff, attentive to the point of ingratiating, reminded us that we were not in the United States. I usually prefer beer to wine with meals. Filipe, our Portuguese waiter, picked up on that within two meals, and came up with a tall, frosty glass almost before I asked. Bea, who likes wine with meals, was in wine-lover's heaven. The chef appeared before dinners with pep talks about his recommendations from the menu each evening.

Passing through the narrows of the highlands, I finally got to see the famous mouse tower that I first read of as a kid in Longfellow's "Children's Hour." Castles everywhere.

And almost before we knew, it was time to put our checked luggage outside our doors for transport to the Amsterdam airport and the tender mercies of British Airways.

Auf wiedersehen.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"NEVER MIND LUGGAGE. GET THE BODY BAGS READY!"

MEETING MEMO

- Wednesday, March 25**
Greensboro Select Board, fourth Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 1**
Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.
 - Wolcott Select Board**, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 2**
Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
 - Town Clerks**
- Cabot: cabotvt.us
 - Calais: calaisvermont.gov
 - Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
 - Greensboro: greensborovt.gov
 - Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
 - Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
 - Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
 - Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
 - Walden: waldenvt.gov
 - Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
 - Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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ANOTHER OPINION

It's time for change and repair

by **Kristen Leahy**

HARDWICK – In a few days, I will be out of the office for a month to have my hip replaced.

I've been waiting nearly ten years for this. Long enough to adjust my life around pain. Long enough to forget what normal movement feels like. Long enough that even necessary change can feel unsettling.

This kind of repair is not sudden. It comes after years of small accommodations, workarounds and moments when I realized I am compensating more than I should. At some point, I had to decide whether to keep managing the problem or interrupt it entirely.

That decision carries weight.

Anyone who has faced a major repair, physical, structural

or otherwise, knows the paradox. You choose it because the current condition is not sustainable, but the process itself brings uncertainty. As with any careful repair, timing, preparation and what you do while waiting matter as much as the fix itself.

Waiting ten years has changed how I've thought about repair. It's taught me patience, but also created familiarity with the brokenness.

Even when something is not working well, it becomes known. Change, by contrast, requires trust.

In my work, I see this same tension often. Whether it is infrastructure, land or systems stressed over time, repair rarely happens all at once. Damage accumulates. Temporary fixes become routine. People adapt. And then, eventually,

a threshold is reached where adaptation is no longer enough.

At that point, repair is not just about fixing what is broken. It is about choosing disruption in service of something better.

That choice hasn't been easy. It's come with grief for what I've lost, anxiety about what comes next and frustration with how long it may take. Recovery is not linear. There will be setbacks. There will be days when progress will feel invisible.

But repair, when done with care, is an act of optimism.

It says the future is worth the effort; that function can be restored, that pain does not have to be permanent simply because it has been present for a long time.

As I step away for surgery and recovery, I am holding that

perspective close. Change can be frightening, even when it is chosen. Repair requires patience, support and humility.

It requires allowing yourself to be in the in-between; not what you were, not yet what you will be.

That space is uncomfortable. It is where healing begins.

When I return, things will not be the same. That is the point.

Repair is not about returning to the past. It is about creating the conditions for a more functional future, even when the process is slow and uncertain.

After ten years of waiting, I am ready for that kind of change.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Bill allowing land postings clarified

by **Rep. Leanne Harple**

MONTPELIER – Last week, we passed H.723 out of the House chamber, an act relating to the posting of land. While I receive many emails from across our community on a variety of legislative proposals, this bill has generated particular interest in our district. It stemmed from a proposed rule change this past fall by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department that would have required landowners to post their land on January 1, for a full year, with a need to repost it again the following January. This raised real concerns, especially for those with large parcels of land that would need to be posted in the middle of winter, often in deep snow, as well as for those with mobility challenges. Many of you reached out to me at that time, and similar concerns were raised across Vermont. For that reason, I co-sponsored H.723. This bill allows land postings to remain valid for one year from the date they are posted, regardless of the time of year. It also clarifies in statute that if a landowner is clearly attempting to comply with posting laws, such as being slightly off in the correct distance between signs, the land will still be considered properly posted. The House Environment Committee did choose not to include a "Purple Paint" provision, which would have allowed landowners to mark boundaries with purple paint instead of signage.

Concerns were raised that this could create confusion, allow for mistakes, and be too permanent in cases where land ownership

changes. Overall, this was a big win in protecting the rights of landowners. The bill now heads to the Senate, and if passed, the new rules would take effect on July 1, 2026.

This week, the House also passed H.739, prohibiting the use and sale of paraquat, a highly toxic herbicide linked to Parkinson's disease. It is still used in Vermont, particularly in apple orchards. This bill also now moves to the Senate.

In the Education Committee, conversations are shifting. Rather than mandating new school districts outright, the current focus is on creating Cooperative Education Service Agreements (CESAs). These agreements aim to reduce education costs by sharing services like special education, administrative functions, professional development, curriculum coordination, and transportation. In addition, these CESA regions would help facilitate local conversations about how districts might strategically merge under Act 73. The goal is to bring local voices back into these major decisions and allow for voluntary, thoughtful mergers that require a community vote instead of top-down mandates. This bill is still being developed and is likely to change and evolve quickly, as is often the case at this stage of the session, so stay tuned.

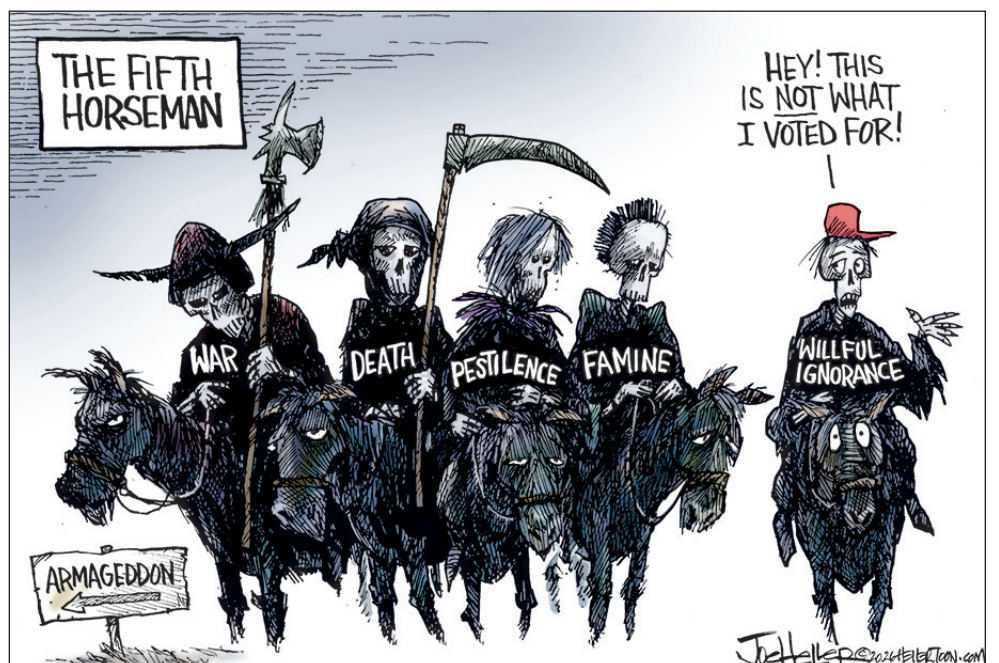
Many of you have also raised concerns about Act 181. Those concerns are being heard across both chambers of the legislature, and particularly by your Northeast Kingdom delegation. There are two opportunities next week to make

your voice heard: a bipartisan rally and press conference being held on Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. on the State House lawn, and a Rural Caucus listening session Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m., in person or by Zoom. You can sign up here: <https://forms.gle/dVbWy-i5N6ZDMRF6t7> or visit vtrural-caucus.com If you'd like to see other bills passed by the House this session, visit: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/passed/2026>

I also want to highlight Vermont Manufacturing Day at the State House on Thursday, April 2, hosted by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, this event connects manufacturers with policymakers to discuss workforce, supply chains, and economic growth. Participants will have the chance to attend hearings, meet with legislators, and

share their experiences in manufacturing. If you are a manufacturer in the Northeast Kingdom, I hope you will consider attending. If you are a manufacturer in the Northeast Kingdom, I encourage you to attend. Finally, I want to share that I am adjusting the schedule for my monthly coffee hours. Moving forward, they will be held on the first Saturday of each month instead of the last. They will run through June, with a final legislative wrap-up on June 6. I hope you can join me on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Highland Center for the Arts for coffee and conversation about how we can continue strengthening our community and our democracy. Leanne Harple represents Orleans District 4 that includes Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



LETTERS FROM READERS

Narcisist in chief

To the editor:

The Trump administration won approval of an unprecedented design by the Commission of Fine Arts on Thursday, March 19. The Washington Post wrote on Friday, March 20: "(it) is an extraordinary break with centuries of democratic aversion to depicting living presidents on the nation's money".

It wasn't enough for our narcissistic president to illegally add his name to the John F. Kennedy Performing Fine Arts Center. It wasn't enough to plaster his portrait in huge banners displayed on government buildings in Wash-

ington, D.C.. It wasn't enough to withhold congressionally-allocated funds to state projects until they re-named public facilities after him.

No, like dictators worldwide, his fragile ego now needs a gold coin minted to cement his hoped-for image as a powerful, resolute, authoritarian exuding vitality and a threat of retaliation if challenged.

Wake up, America! The authoritarian threat to our democratic Republic is as plain as the nose on Trump's minted face.

**Bob Hawk
Walden**

A school we can all be proud of

To the editor:

Last week, a letter to the editor clarified the costs of repairs to Woodbury School ("A building we can all be proud of"). The repairs are modest considering the building is 112 years old, and good investments considering its longevity.

The building is worthy of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and one of only 11 schools in Vermont to receive Energy Star designation in 2013 (being in the top 25% nationally for energy efficiency, while meeting stringent standards for health, ventilation, comfort and lighting quality).

While the building itself is strong, its surroundings add to its value. It stands in the heart of Woodbury Village. To the east is the Woodbury Town Hall, built in 1842, one of the oldest town halls in Vermont. Between these historic buildings is a stream crossed by a footbridge, and the volunteer-run Community Ice Rink.

To the south, separated by little more than the width of a swing set, is the Community Room and Woodbury Community Library. Beyond are gardens, a greenhouse, woodlands, wetlands, hiking trails, primitive outdoor classroom and the site of a planned structured outdoor classroom. To the west are ballfields, a playground and a basketball court.

And to the north runs Route 14, connecting the building to the

community it serves as a school.

It's a school we can all be proud of.

Standardized test results for 2024-2025 published by the Vermont Agency of Education show the percentage of Woodbury students assessed as "Proficient and Above" is consistently higher than the percentage in our supervisory union and across the state. (Note: quantity of test results are limited due to small class sizes.)

In addition to academics, the school succeeds in creative and educational programming. For example, Mock Town Meeting was twice recorded and broadcast by Vermont Public Radio. The Bears' Hibernation Feast was filmed and broadcast by WCAX TV. And in a collaborative project with the Woodbury Library titled "Dirt Tracks & Thunder Roads: History and Stories of Auto Racing in Vermont," students created a graphic novel and podcast on a subject that is popular in our community, but not traditionally featured in the library or school.

So, proud of the Woodbury building and school, and equally proud of Hardwick Elementary and Lakeview Early Education, we can support our students and teachers in the upcoming Mountain View Elementary School District Budget ballot, by voting Yes.

**Stephen Murphy
Woodbury**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Living at the mercy of someone else

by Rep. David Yacavone

MONTPELIER – When it comes to housing in Vermont, the stakes are high, and the power dynamic is clear: landlords hold the keys, literally and figuratively, to the homes so many of us call essential. With roughly 71,000 renter households across the state and rising median rents, a significant portion of Vermonters live at the mercy of someone else's property decisions.

The word "landlord" itself has an unmistakable history. Born in Medieval England, it once meant "lord of the land," a literal reflection of control over both people and property. Today, while the feudal system is gone, the imbalance remains. Tenants rely on access to shelter, while landlords control approval, rent levels and lease terms. That power dynamic demands respect in the lawmaking process.

One practical example illustrates this tension clearly: the eviction process. Today in Vermont, it can take on average six months to evict a tenant who fails to pay rent. Nationally, it takes roughly two months. For a small landlord, say someone who owns a three-unit apartment house, one nonpaying tenant can make it nearly impossible to cover the mortgage, insurance, property taxes and upkeep. When landlords cannot meet their costs, security deposits and monthly rents go up, making housing less affordable for everyone. Shrinking the eviction process closer to the national average isn't about being cruel; it's about preserving reasonably priced housing.

Some lawmakers have floated ideas like rent control. Here's the hard truth: rent control as a blunt instrument won't solve Vermont's housing crunch. Landlords, wary of losing income, often raise rents preemptively or limit investment in maintenance. Housing supply shrinks, and affordability deteriorates: the very opposite of what we want.

Good legislation must strike a delicate balance: protect tenants from unfair treatment and sudden displacement, but respect landlords' rights to manage, maintain, and invest in their property. Practical solutions like targeted eviction protections, rental assistance and incentives for new housing development are far more likely to help Vermont families than broad price controls.

As legislators consider these issues, they must remember that the goal isn't to punish landlords, nor to make the rental market a free-for-all. It's to ensure that all Vermonters have access to safe, stable and reasonably affordable housing without unintentionally shrinking the very supply we depend on.

Housing policy is complicated. But the principles should not be: protect the vulnerable, respect property owners and avoid sweeping measures that risk making a difficult situation worse. Finding that balance has always been the Vermont way, even if it is easier said than done.

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

Heller's World by Joe Heller



Thanks
for saying
you saw it in the
Hardwick Gazette
hardwickgazette.org



ANOTHER OPINION

Speak out for the Smithsonian

by Francy Hays

SILVER SPRINGS, Md. – As we near the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, conversations are taking place throughout the United States about the meaning of this event. How should we mark the occasion?

Museums and historical societies have a particularly important role to play in this conversation. On rainy days, we may have taken our families to visit the Fairbanks Museum and the Athenaeum in St. Johnsbury or the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.

Have you, perhaps, had the opportunity to visit the monuments and museums in Washington, DC? These visits raise probing questions and spark vital conversations.

I'm fortunate to have two homes: Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside Washington, DC, and Greensboro. Every year, during spring break season, I take pleasure in observing the many families and school groups visiting my favorite museums on the National Mall, even as the crowding may keep me from getting close to an exhibit. How

we tell the story of the places we call home shapes how we engage with our communities: in local, state, and national elections; in school board and PTSA meetings; and in town meetings.

Telling the story of the United States is the work not only of local and state historical museums and societies, including the one I know well in Greensboro, but also of our nation's largest complex of museums, the Smithsonian Institution. The Vermont Historical Society lists over 190 local history museums in Vermont alone from one-room exhibits to building and grounds complexes such as the Old Stone House and Village in Brownington. The Smithsonian Institution includes 21 museums and the national zoo as well as research facilities around the world and local affiliates in all fifty states.

This is a mutual story, a conversation, told by our local museums and our national institutions. The Smithsonian Institution links to affiliate museums across the country, including the Sullivan Museum and History Center at Norwich University; hosts traveling exhibits; and sponsors local exhibitions in small towns. This summer in partnership with the Vermont

Humanities Council, the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street program will sponsor exhibits in three small rural communities, Bellows Falls, Barnet, and Swanton, focusing on local invention and innovation.

Now this conversation among our museums, national, state and local, has become imperiled. Our story is best told by us: community members, school students and their teachers, historians, and artists, not by political parties, not by politicians, not by the President, who seeks to usurp our stories. At his direction, the National Park Service has been editing its signage for almost a year now, and the threat hangs over the Smithsonian Institution as well. Here in Maryland it's easy for me to visit battle sites of the Civil War, Gettysburg and Antietam, and Philadelphia for the creation of these United States. There it has taken a judge to stop the destruction of signage documenting George Washington's slaves. How will the story of the Civil War and its aftermath be revised?

Here in Washington, D.C., we have already witnessed the destruction of the East Wing of the White House and the desecration of the Kennedy Center. Will the Smithsonian be next?

The White House has threatened to launch an effort to fire Lonnie G. Bunch III, who has served as the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian since 2019.

Lonnie Bunch, the only historian ever appointed to lead the Smithsonian, has devoted most of his long career to the Smithsonian and to telling the story of our country. He led the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and has provided steadfast and effective leadership to the overall Institution through profoundly difficult periods, the COVID pandemic and shutdown, the assault on the Capitol, and now the second Trump presidency.

The Smithsonian has always been here for us; now the Smithsonian needs us to be here for it. The next meeting of the Smithsonian Board of Regents takes place in April. Please join your voice with mine. Write to the Board of Regents in support of the Smithsonian and Lonnie G. Bunch's leadership. Tell them why you care and why we need the Smithsonian Institution to safeguard our story: our history, our culture and economy, our science and our art.

Office of the Regents, Smithsonian Institution, PO Box 37012 MRC 050, Washington, DC 20013-7012

Or by email: Porter N. Wilkinson, Counselor and Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents, wilkinsonp@si.edu

Kate Forester, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents, foresterk@si.edu

Mallory Gianola, Special Assistant, gianolam@si.edu

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood

Arrivals

Departures



“SORRY, SUZIE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE’RE NOT GOING TO DISNEYLAND!”



At a Greensboro Free Library talk March 14, (from left) Joseph Maclay from Marshfield, Tobin Purdy (hidden) from Wheelock, Brody Adaams from Craftsbury, Jayden Maclay from Marshfield (holding scrabble board) and Alba Rosario, presenting a giant handmade scrabble board to the library during a talk by Stanley Parsons who owned the sawmill at the end of Hardwick's Elm Street Extension, where Scrabble tiles and letter trays was sawed from local lumber.

photo by Paul Fixx

WEEKS GONE BY

100 Years Ago in The Hardwick Gazette Town Clock Not on Time

For some time past our town clock has been ahead of standard time and today it is fully ten minutes fast. This is confusing to those in the community who endeavor to keep their time pieces correct and arrange business hours accordingly.

It is a simple matter to get the correct time once a week and keep the community clock right. Why not do it?

60 Years Ago in The Hardwick Gazette LOCAL SAILOR ON BOAT THAT RESCUED ASTRONAUTS

Gemini GT-8 (FHTNC) – Machinist's Mate Third Class Ronald G. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Brown of Mackville Road, Hardwick, Vt., helped recover astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott in the first emergent landing of the American manned space flight program, while serving aboard the Seventh Fleet Destroyer USS Leonard F. Mason.

Mason recovered both astronauts and their GEMINI GTA - 8 spacecraft about three hours after they landed in the Western Pacific, some 500 miles east of Okinawa, when their flight was cut short by engine failure after completing the historic docking maneuver with the unmanned Agena rocket.

After the emergency splashdown, rescuers parachuted into the water and attached a flotation collar around the Gemini spacecraft in choppy, three-foot waves while waiting for the Leonard F. Mason's arrival on the scene. All available ships and aircraft in the Western Pacific were ordered to the scene, prepared to search for the spacecraft.

25 Years Ago in The Hardwick Gazette by Deb Bizzozero

HARDWICK – Cable subscribers in town may have their own public access channel, if plans by a local group materialize.

Chaired by Louis Shattuck, the interim group, appointed by Town Manager Dan Hill, includes representatives from the Select Board, School Board, and chamber of commerce.

Shattuck said the plan is to set up cable outlets, possibly at Hazen Union School and somewhere in town, to provide local coverage of Hardwick events. It would contain educational coverage and government

meetings, and private individuals and clubs could also use the service.

"People would be able to come in an air their interests and views to cable subscribers," Shattuck said.

Shattuck said the process to set up such a station is complicated, and is expected to take up to a year to complete.

Shattuck noted the abundance of talented people in the area, and said "there is no limit on what this access could bring through these peoples expertise."

Members will also perform a community needs assessment.

Funding for the project would come from Adelpia, by way of franchise fees the cable cosplay, and its predecessors, have collected from subscribers. To this point, approximately \$18,000 will be returned to the nonprofit to go toward operating expenses.

John Bentley, of the Public Services Department, said the franchise dees do not belong to the town. When collected, they are turned over to run the public access operation, for the benefit of cable subscribers. Shattuck said staffing would be primarily volunteer labor. The group is looking for people to help put the project together.

Shattuck said the group is looking for suitable studio space, and he is confident on a successful outcome.

"We're taking the time to do it right," he said. With the enthusiasm of the committee and the commitment of the town fathers, "It's gonna fly."

Shattuck said the group will meet at 7 p.m., March 28 at the Memorial Building. The meeting is open to the public.

10 Years Ago in The Hardwick Gazette Record Warmth Brings Rapid Start to Mud Season by Tyler Molleur

HARDWICK – Students taking the bus to school Thursday and Friday last week did not receive the regular point pick-up service in some towns. The ruts from a heavy spring thaw impeded travel across the area.

Joanne LeBlanc, superintendent of the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union, said many students in Hardwick, Stannard and Woodbury had to be brought by parents to central pick up points, as the muddy back roads couldn't tolerate use by the school buses.

Mike Gravel of the Hardwick road crew said in addition to the roads that were not acces-

sible to buses, the public works department put a lot of sand, stone, and time onto roads.

"We've been spending all day on Hardwick Farms Road," Gravel said Friday.

He said the warm weather thawed the layer of frost under the road, causing it to turn into mud. The significant rainfall Thursday afternoon may actually help the roads, as it draws out the remainder of the frost, he said.

Other crews were also out in an effort to make the roads suitable for traffic. Harry Dailey, road foreman for Woodbury, said the roads around town are loose, including the Cabot Road. He said that was essentially impassible Thursday afternoon.

"They're muddy," he said. "We're hoping this rain will help to dry them."

Dan Tanner, Greensboro's road foreman, said their roads are also feeling the effect of the thaw.

"Our roads are pretty bad," he said. "We posted them today because they're the worst I've seen them since I got here."

A letter carrier in East Hardwick had some trouble along his route Wednesday afternoon. Eric Molleur said while every postal customer received their regular delivery, there were several spots where traveling the roads became difficult, including the Hutchins Farm Road in Stannard and the Montgomery Road in East Hardwick.

"The Montgomery Road was bad," said Molluer. "Even after they repaired the road it was still bad."

Molluer said he was surprised at how fast the thaw occurred this year and how the effects are not limited to a couple of isolated spots.

"Every town is dealing with the same thing," the Woodbury resident said.

Burlington reached 70 degrees Thursday, which broke the old record of 66, set in both 2000 and 2002.

Additionally, Walden checked in with a 58-degree high, while East Hardwick reported the mercury topped out at 56 on Thursday.



Reflections on a Swiftly Changing Climate
New Works by Vermont Composers
FRIDAY, MARCH 27 | 7PM

TURNmusic celebrates Vermont composers with a program that blends artistic expression and community engagement through music to raise awareness of watershed health, inspiring audiences to connect with and creatively respond to environmental challenges.

Thank you to Liz & Chris Steel for their support of this performance.

HIGHLAND
Center for the Arts
Greensboro, Vermont

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



The St. Norbert's Community Bell Choir gathers for practice. From left: Director Jean Hackett, Florence Martin, Debbie Wells, Christy Snipp, Lisa Washburn, Amy Papineau, Sheila Rysz, Diana Frederick, Melissa Rose, Laurie Thorpe and Diana Klingler. photo by Diana Frederick



From left: director Jean Hackett, performing members Florence Martin, Debbie Wells, Christy Snipp, Lisa Washburn, Amy Papineau, and Sheila Rysz. photo by Diana Frederick

Bell choir strikes a community chord

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – For many in the area, the sound of handbells ringing has been the backtrack to holiday Masses, the annual tree lighting, baccalaureate services and more.

The legacy of the St. Norbert's Community Bell Choir is a long one, spanning 26 years and countless performances.

Founded in 2000 by the late Bev Hutchins, member Florence Martin and director Jean Hackett provided some insight into the ensemble's history as well as hopes and plans for the future.

Beginning with some reflection, it was at first difficult for Hackett and Martin to pick a favorite performance, "There's been so many different ones that were so nice," Martin said. "At Jenna's Promise, it's a part of many groups, it really was a very nice concert, and we really were happy there. They really partic-

ipated with us. That was really nice."

Hackett agreed, "They were just very responsive. It's really fun to play anyway, but it's more fun when the audience is responsive to what you're doing, and singing along or whatever. That's been a really fun place to play."

The music selection can make all the difference, according to Martin, "Some types of music isn't what they recognize, but when you play "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," everybody knows it. So it helps a lot to have them know the song."

Hackett says every year up until the global pandemic, the ensemble participated in the Spring Ring, an annual event that took place in different parts of Vermont with over three hundred bell ringers in attendance. Bell choirs from around the New England region and Canada would receive music selections in advance, each individual choir

practicing ahead of time, culminating in a group performance. The onset of the pandemic halted the Spring Ring, which has yet to return, much to the chagrin of the local bell ringers.

Another highlight is the annual Christmas tree lighting, "That's always nice too, because the little kids can join in," Martin says, "they join in and of course we play Christmas carols and everything for them."

Hackett was in agreement, "That's been a fun event over the years, for sure."

Both Hackett and Martin say the make-up of the choir has changed over the years, as participation has waxed and waned. The two noted that Martin is the singular Catholic bell ringer of its performing members, and just three Hardwick residents continue the tradition.

Now a multi-community choir, some members travel from Greensboro, Elmore, Wolcott, Johnson as well as Cabot. "They're scattered," Hackett said with a laugh. The varied membership has expanded their reach, however, "We probably wouldn't have ended up going to Jenna's Promise, for example, if those people hadn't been here, because the other ones that made that connection."

The ensemble is experimenting with contemporary arrangements, in addition to their traditional carols for Christmas performances, Hackett says, "We're expanding, 'The Lion Sings Tonight' has been a favorite for us to play. We play some popular songs, 'Mamma Mia' . . . "That's really hard," Martin added with a laugh.

She continued, "Genre speaking, I think we're spread out quite a bit. We try to do different

things,"

They cater their selections to the crowd as best they can, said Hackett.

They mentioned Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" as a work in development, "We really made progress on that Tuesday night," she noted. "I love that song," Martin said, "Everybody recognizes it, but it was written really tricky."

For those interested in joining, the group gathers on Tuesday evenings in the Julian room of St. Norbert's church. A musical background is not a requisite, according to Hackett and Martin, "All you need to be able to do is count." They recall former director Bev Hutchins saying this often, having founded the bell choir after attending a Spring Ring event.

"She said, wow, this is really something," Hackett reflected, "and I'm glad it did, because this has been a really good experience."

The group practices and performs for most of the year, taking a recess in the summer.

This year, the ensemble will end their usual schedule slightly earlier for a notable reason. The bells, purchased by St. Norbert's Church in 2000, will be sent for maintenance and cleaning for the first time since the group was established, "We have three octaves of bells, and three octaves of chimes . . . we'll be getting them back to where we bought them in Pennsylvania, in mid-May," said Hackett.

The bells will be out of state from four to six weeks, departing on May 18. The choir's spring performance at the Civic Standard, May 6, will be their last until the bells return; refurbished and ready to ring.



Bell ringers Lisa Washburn, Amy Papineau, Sheila Rysz, Diana Frederick, Melissa Rose and Laurie Thorpe stand with bells raised waiting for their cue. photo by Diana Frederick

THE OUTSIDE STORY

The lengthening days of spring

by Maggie Weng

STANFORD, Calif. – Light in the evening brings the first sign of spring’s arrival. Before the snow has fully melted or any scraps of green start to appear, those lengthening days are a promise. Just when I’ve forgotten the world was ever anything except cold and gray, I’ll step outside into a mauve six o’clock sunset and remind myself to be patient. Soon the salamanders will be stirring in the leaf litter, the fiddleheads will poke their sleepy heads above the ground, and color will return. But how does the forest know when spring has truly arrived?

You may have heard that trees are triggered to shed their leaves by the shortening days of autumn. The opposite effect is also true. Day length, or photoperiod, is an important way for plants and animals to tell time, tracking the changing seasons regardless of variations in temperature. This seasonal clock is especially important for animals arriving from far away, such as migratory birds, which must anticipate when to embark on their journey. Longer days are a reliable indicator that their summer homes will soon be filled with plentiful food. Plants and insects use photoperiod to help avoid the tricks of “false springs,” periods of unusually warm winter weather.

But how do plants and animals sense day length? The answer involves both the ability to sense light and the regulation of internal biological cycles. Daily clocks, also known as circadian rhythms, govern the fluctuations of hormones, proteins, and other cellular machinery across a twenty-four-hour period, leading to changes in energy level and behavior. In humans and other mammals, circadian rhythms influence when we feel sleepy, hungry and alert. A small region of the brain known as the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN, presides over these rhythms like the conductor of an orchestra. Using the light-sensing information

from our eyes, the SCN keeps our internal clocks in sync with the exterior environment. When sudden changes disrupt this cycle, such as international travel, the SCN scrambles to react, leading to symptoms like jet lag. As days lengthen in the spring, circadian rhythms adjust accordingly. This can often be accompanied by increased energy, activity and restlessness, sometimes called “spring fever.”

For hibernating animals, telling time with internal biological clocks is even more complicated. The peaks and valleys of daily circadian rhythms, although still present, are blunted as they slip into metabolic torpor. Instead, these animals depend on longer-term circannual rhythms to govern their emergence from dormancy. Since many hibernators burrow out of the sun’s reach, it is not the light that directly summons them, but their changing hormones which trigger an internal recognition of spring.

Temperature and other environmental factors also play major roles, and different animals have varying degrees of sensitivity to these cues. For example, groundhogs use a combination of warming temperature and internal hormonal cycles to determine when to end their hibernation. This usually occurs around Groundhog Day in early February. Therefore, whether the groundhogs emerge as expected can be indicative of warm weather on the way, though it’s a heavy burden for poor Punxsutawney Phil to represent his entire species.

The degree to which each forest dweller relies on photoperiod can also lead to mismatches in timing, particularly as the seasons become more unpredictable due to climate change. Leaf emergence is heavily influenced by temperature, and despite photoperiod helping to keep plants on schedule, decades of historical observation and citizen science show that “budburst,” when leaves and flowers start to grow, has shifted earlier by about two weeks in the Northeast. Yet



Salamander

late snows and unexpected below-freezing nights haven’t changed the same way, leading to more intense “false spring” episodes and dieback. The crossed wires between photoperiod and temperature can also lead to differing rhythms between animals and their food sources, such as insects hatching out and developing before migratory birds arrive. While day length will always reliably indicate the return of spring, these changing patterns can disrupt long-standing evolutionary expectations about what

spring looks like.

Next time you’re outside, close your eyes and count to one hundred and twenty. Each day in March gains about two minutes of light. This may not seem like much, but it carries a wake-up message for the whole world, one that reads: together, we have made it through another dark season.

Maggie Weng is a writer and scientist currently working as a NASA postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. Illustration by Adelaide Murphree Tyrol.

Hardwick: Enjoy furnished third floor bedroom in spacious in-town home shared with welcoming family. Shared bath, no smoking, hypoallergenic dog considered, no other pets. \$600 plus utilities. (802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

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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!

Organic Aloe Vera Gel Badger, 4 oz \$6.99	Organic Gravy Mix Simply Organic, varieties, 1 oz \$1.99	Organic Freezer Pops Goodpops, varieties, 20 ct \$8.99	Scented Hand Soaps South of France, varieties \$3.29
Mexican Casserole Bowl Amy's, 9.5 oz \$5.99	Gluten Free Burrito Amy's, varieties, 5.5 oz 2/\$7	Organic Pasta & Sauce Annie's, varieties, 15 oz 2/\$7	Gluten Free Potato Starch Bob's Red Mill, 22 oz \$4.29
Butter Quarters Land O' Lakes, varieties, 16 oz \$2.99	Ice Cream Hood, varieties, 48 oz \$3.49	Cream Cheese Philadelphia, varieties, 8 oz 2/\$5	Mayonnaise Hellmann's, varieties, 30 oz \$5.49
Organic Frozen Cherries Cascadian Farm, 32 oz \$12.99	Greek Yogurt Chobani, varieties, 5.3 oz 4/\$5	Plant-based Ice Cream Cosmic Bliss, varieties, 14 oz \$5.99	Mushroom Sodas GTS Alive, varieties, 16 oz 2/\$6

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

Fussie Cat Canned Food Fussie Cat, varieties, 2.82 oz 15% off	Organ Nuts Organ, varieties, 8 oz 10% off	Zoup Varieties Zoup, varieties, 16 oz 15% off	Real Pickles Real Pickles, varieties, 26 oz 10% off
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IN THE GARDEN



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be implemented with both indoor and outdoor plants at any scale. Here, a sticky trap is being used to monitor the presence of fungus gnats in houseplants. photo by Debra Heleba



Floating row covers are examples of tools that gardeners and farmers alike can use to practice IPM for vegetable crops to exclude insect pests. photo by Rebecca Maden.

IPM is key to safe, sustainable gardening

by Debra Heleba

BURLINGTON – Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a holistic approach that gardeners can use to reduce pesticides when managing insects, diseases and weeds.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines IPM as “a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.” For gardeners, this means using multiple strategies to either avoid pests or keep their numbers below damaging levels. IPM also recognizes the need for some tolerance. Because they are living things that adapt, it is rarely possible (or advisable) to eliminate pests entirely.

Here are some ways gardeners can incorporate IPM practices into the garden.

IPM begins with proper site selection and soil health. The goal is to give plants the best conditions for optimal growth and development. A healthy plant will be more resilient to insect pests and diseases. Choose the right plant for the right location and select plants that are suited to Vermont’s growing conditions. Also consider disease-resistant varieties to avoid common diseases like powdery mildew.

Make sure soil nutrients are in the optimal range for plant needs. A soil test can help determine this. Visit go.uvm.edu/soiltest for soil testing information.

Become a plant sleuth. Before taking action, it is important to determine what pests (and beneficials) are present. Knowing what pests look like at each stage of their development can help determine when your management strategies will be most effective.

Regularly monitor plants, especially the undersides of leaves, for signs of pests or damage. Early identification can often help prevent the need for chemicals later. You can practice sleuthing, also called scouting, for both indoor and outdoor plants. A hand lens can help, as can monitoring tools like insect traps. For example, yellow sticky traps can be used to detect fungus gnats in houseplants.

If you plan to garden every year, consider keeping a journal that details when and where pests are spotted. Over time, these notes can help you predict recurring pest problems.

Once pests are detected (or anticipated), gardeners have many tools to choose from. These include hand-picking eggs and young caterpillars of pests. Gardeners can use floating row covers to exclude pests from the garden. Space plants and prune them to allow for plenty of

air flow and sun to dry leaves to minimize disease problems. Timing your annual plantings to avoid peak pest pressure can also be effective.

Some pests can be managed by trapping them, while some diseases can be managed with timely pruning of infected parts.

Gardeners can also encourage beneficial insects or good bugs like lady beetles that feed on pests. Installing plants that provide habitat can support these natural predators. Allowing small pest populations to exist can actually help maintain the natural predators that keep the pests in check. Accepting minor cosmetic damage can save time, reduce pesticide use, and support a healthier garden ecosystem.

Pesticides should only be considered as the very last resort. Always read and follow the

product label to avoid harm to the plant, beneficial organisms and humans. When selecting these products, compare active ingredients and choose the least toxic option. Soaps, oils, clays, microbials, and repellents are all examples of pesticides that tend to be less-toxic choices.

IPM recognizes that pests are a natural part of garden ecosystems. By combining prevention, monitoring, and thoughtful intervention, gardeners can protect their plants while supporting healthier landscapes for people, pollinators, and the planet.

Debra Heleba is the statewide outreach and education program manager for the UVM Extension Community Horticulture Program and leads the Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter programs.



CUSTODIAN WANTED HARDWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union seeks an individual to join the custodial/maintenance team with primary placement at Hardwick Elementary School. Attention to detail, a positive attitude, and a background in building maintenance are a plus. This is a full-time, year-round position with afternoon/evening hours during the school year. **Starting salary \$21.76/hr or higher**, plus shift differential, excellent benefits, and paid time off. Interested applicants can apply via schoolspring.com (Job ID: 5575049) or <https://bit.ly/hardwick-custodian> or contact:



JOE HOUSTON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
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SCAN TO APPLY!



Craftsbury Care Center is looking for a full-time (34 hr) med tech, no experience required!

Help with medications, take vital signs, and support residents day-to-day. We especially need evening (2–10:30pm) and overnight (10pm–6:30am) shifts. \$19.50/hr. plus extra for evening/night/weekend shifts. Email Kelly at kpeters@craftsburycarecenter.org or call (802) 586-2414. More information on this and other openings at craftsburycarecenter.org/employment

OUR COMMUNITIES

Jackson Dam study presentation, March 26

HARDWICK - The report of a Jackson Dam Feasibility Study will be presented by Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District and SLR International at a special meeting of the Hardwick Select Board, who will be joined by the Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, March 26 at 5 p.m., in the Hardwick Memorial Building, 3rd Floor, 20 Church Street, and via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84596418221> or phone by

calling (646) 558 - 8656. There will be a discussion of next steps for the dam. Additional discussion is planned for use of the town-owned Caspian Lake Beach in Greensboro's, community expectations and coordination with Hardwick Electric Department. Public comment will be taken at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting will be recorded by HCTV and available online at hctv.us within five business days.



Youth Librarian Emily Purdy (left) shows Wayne Young the Greensboro Free Library's Library of Things, March 14. A wide range of useful items are available to check out that include snowshoes, binoculars, educational kits and learning tools, telescope and activity kits, a ukulele, a microphone and portable USB speaker. photo by Paul Fixx

Bluebird nesting box workshop, March 28

CABOT - Build bluebird nesting boxes for the Cabot Trails at a hands-on workshop at the Cabot Public Library, Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon. Completed houses will be added to trails throughout the town. All

materials and tools will be provided. Registration is required by emailing Amanda Otto at amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com to sign up. The library is located in the Willey Building on Main Street.

Book discussion, March 28

WOODBURY - Woodbury Community Library will host a discussion of "The Light Pirate," by Lily Brooks-Dalton, Saturday,

March 28. The discussion will be facilitated by Rachel Cohen from Vermont Humanities.

No Kings, March 28

by Indivisible Hardwick
HARDWICK - Indivisible Hardwick is holding the third No Kings event, Saturday, March 28. Participants will gather on Creamery Road at 11 a.m. for speakers

and music before a march down Church Street, looping back to the depot for more festivities. This is a family friendly event, all are welcome. To register, visit mobilize.us/s/b8IaVc.

Brainstorming session, March 29

HARDWICK - Join the Civic Standard on Sunday, March 29, from

10 a.m. to noon, to brainstorm ideas for the next Civic Theater project.

Dungeons and Dragons, Tuesdays

by Cabot Public Library staff
CABOT - Losada Stoddard serves as Dungeon Master at the Cabot Public Library for Dungeons and Dragons, Tuesdays from 3:30

to 5 p.m. Learn how to build a character and then embark on an adventure. Snacks are provided. Ages 11 and up welcome. The library is located in the Willey Building on Main Street.

Story time, Wednesday's

by Cabot Public Library staff
CABOT - Amanda Otto leads stories, songs, crafts and open

play, Wednesday's, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in the third floor of the Willey building. (Birth to ages 5 and up.)

April Fools trivia night, April 1

HARDWICK - Come by the American Legion on April 1 at 5:30 p.m., for a special edition community

supper and trivia extravaganza, in support of Hazen Scholar's Bowl Team. Hosted by the Civic Standard.

Egg dyeing, April 4

GREENSBORO - Immediately following the annual Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) egg hunt and brunch, April 4, around 10:30 to 11:30 p.m., the Greensboro Free Library will be set up for all to

experiment with dyeing eggs using onion skins and other edible botanicals. All materials are provided, however please bring extra white eggs for those who want to dye more than a few eggs per family.

Theater camp, sign up now

HARDWICK - Spots are still available for the Civic Theater Project day camp, running from July 27 to August 8. Participants will practice

acting technique, circus skills with Circus Smirkus, and rehearse and perform an original show. Sign up now at thecivicstandard.org

Healing with Chinese medicine, April 2

by Cabot Public Library Staff
CABOT - Acupuncturist Christina Ducharme leads a discussion about Chinese medicine, the wood element and how to use these energies to build resiliency and healthy growth this spring, Thursday, April 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. She will explore how to work with the energy of growth, visioning for the future and the importance of

flexibility during rapidly changing times. Participants will learn acupressure points to use at home for help with irritability, feeling stuck, anger, resiliency and decision making. Participants will discuss the Chinese five element system, the correlation with the seasons, organs, and our emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The library is located in the Willey Building on Main Street.

Reading with Rudy, April 9

by Cabot Public Library staff
CABOT - Read to a furry friend through a Read to a Therapy Dog program (ages 5 and up), Thursday, April 9, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. By reading aloud to a gentle, attentive dog, young readers can gain fluency and enjoy a

supportive experience. Rudy is a specially-trained therapy dog who has years of experience with children and the Cabot community. Bring a book, or borrow one from the library. Space is limited. To sign up for a 10 minute slot, email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com

Poetry walk, April 11

HARDWICK - On April 11 any and all can meet in front of Hardwick Elementary School to then walk with Janet Slayton and others

for a live reading and living history. Participants will view and read the VerseVillage poems as well as hear about how Hardwick used to be.

Wolcott: Semi-separate quarters in rural, rustic, hand-built home, perfect for dog lover and gardener. Two rooms, half bath an 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.

EDUCATION

Hazen's FY27 staff cuts prompt current departure

by Will Helms

HARDWICK— Cuts to teaching positions at Hardwick's Hazen Union School are planned for the next school year due to budget constraints and Vermont's efforts to enlarge class sizes at small schools. The cuts include one position from each department and several staff members who do not belong to a specific department.

As community members brace for changes, staff members being cut are figuring out what's next, with two already having left before the end of the current school year.

Andrew Koehler, the now former Tech Integrationist at Hazen, left after learning his position at the school would not continue into next school year.

"I was certainly caught off-guard by the news," he said. "In 2024, I left my previous job to become Hazen Union's Technology Integrationist, and the school seemed very motivated to get somebody to fill that role. I feel strongly that the technology integrationist role is vital for a school to function efficiently, especially in this age of AI and evolving technology. Not only do I teach middle school technology classes, but I assist all of the faculty with their classroom technology, learning management

systems and various other online platforms. Many of my colleagues have commented on the value of this role in supporting their work as teachers, and I do hope Hazen is able to bring back a Tech Integrationist in the future."

Koehler explained his aspirations for the role he filled. "In addition to serving as a Schoolology {learning management system} coach and member of the Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) Committee, I collaborated with the Hazen Music Department to set up and configure an audio recording studio, and have been working hard to help establish a video recording studio (although that is still a work in progress). I implemented new systems to help improve student Chromebook tracking transparency (to reduce lost and stolen devices), helped with A.V. setup in the auditorium and gymnasium, designed custom spreadsheets to assist the registrar with eligibility, managed the Adaptive Scheduler support block system and sent weekly tech tips to the staff to keep them up-to-date on the latest developments."

Hazen's Principal, Dr. Jason Di Giulio, talked about budgeting and cut positions, saying, "At Hazen, our approach to staffing changes is grounded in a commitment to maintaining student



Former Technology Integrationist Andrew Koehler (standing) gives a presentation at a Hazen Union School faculty meeting with (from left) Corey Maskell (Global Citizenship) and Arne Hagman (Science). *courtesy photo*

access to high-quality learning experiences," he said. "While reductions are never easy, especially when bound to class size minimum standards, we are working intentionally to mitigate their impact through thoughtful scheduling, strategic use of our existing staff and continued alignment with our Multi-Tiered System of Supports and Community Schools framework. This includes prioritizing core instructional areas, preserving student supports where possible and leveraging partnerships and flexible programming to ensure students continue to have meaningful opportunities both in and beyond the classroom."

Koehler said "it's true that the school board tasked Dr. Di Giulio with reducing the budget while simultaneously moving Hazen towards larger class sizes."

Part of the reason to cut staff is because of the pressure on schools to increase class sizes, as well as increase student to teacher ratios, said Koehler. "Class size minimums were likely a contributing factor for eliminating the other five teaching positions, but my position being cut was purely for budget related reasons; in an effort to reduce the burden on taxpayers."

"While I am a fully licensed teacher, the technology integrationist job description does not have a teaching requirement; my classes could be eliminated from the school schedule without it impacting my value or other responsibilities to the school."

The classes he was teaching are important because of the digital literacy skills students learn in them, said Koehler.

Online learning, usually

through the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC), the Community College of Vermont (CCV), or Eduscere, is becoming increasingly common at Hazen. "...we do not anticipate a significant shift toward fully online classes as a primary solution," Di Giulio said.

"Our goal remains to provide in-person, relationship-based learning as the foundation of the Hazen experience. That said, we may continue to use virtual or blended options selectively (particularly for specialized or hard-to-staff courses, or for those students who prefer to learn in this modality) to expand access without compromising quality."

Di Giulio said, "Looking ahead, I would say that these changes represent both a challenge and an opportunity. Like many schools across Vermont, we are navigating declining enrollment and fiscal pressures (as well as a state law mandating class sizes). At the same time, this moment invites us to be more intentional about how we deliver education. We will continue to focus on what matters most for student engagement, belonging, and success."

"I would also add that our strength lies in our community. Our faculty, staff, students, and families continue to show resilience, creativity, and care for one another. Even in times of constraint, that foundation allows us to move forward in a way that keeps students at the center of our decisions," Di Giulio added.

Koehler said he will be taking the position of membership coordinator at the Vermont National Education Association.

Will Helms is a Hazen Union High School student intern this semester for the Hardwick Gazette.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Peace protest, March 31

HARDWICK – A student-run protest for peace will take place in Hardwick on Tuesday, March 31, beginning at 11:45 a.m. This is an

entirely student-run effort started by students at Craftsbury Academy. Students from Hazen Union have been invited to join.

Book group, Thursdays

by Cabot Public Library

CABOT – March's book group selection is "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. Join the discussion Thursday's from 2 to 3 p.m..

The author of "The Marriage Portrait" delivers a novel about the

death of Shakespeare's eleven-year-old son, Hamnet, and the years leading up to the production of his great play. Copies of this book will be available in the library for readers to borrow. Email cabotlibrary@yahoo.com for more info and to be added to the book group email list.

Verse Village 2026 begins April 1

HARDWICK – Once again the town will be participating in Verse Village this April, with fifty poems posted in the windows of Hardwick businesses. An open mic event

at Front Seat Coffee, April 1 at 6 p.m., will kick off Poetry Month. Twenty-four towns are represented, with the majority of poets being from Hardwick.

Poetry event, April 3

by Woodbury Community Library

WOODBURY – The bi-monthly poetry and prose

sharing group meets Friday, April 3. There will be a light meal from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by readings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

EDUCATION

Harple proposes CESA map, voluntary consolidation

by **Corey McDonald, VTDigger**

MONTPELIER – Back in January, virtually no one imagined that lawmakers responsible for consolidating school districts would go anywhere near last fall’s disparaged recommendations from the school redistricting task force.

Recall that lawmakers last year had punted the responsibility of drawing consolidated school district maps to the task force. But in November, when that body endorsed a proposal that incentivized voluntary rather than mandatory mergers of the state’s 119 school districts, it bucked one of Act 73’s key directives.

At that point, Gov. Phil Scott described the task force’s work as a failure, and lawmakers looked hesitant to consider much of the panel’s proposals.

Now? Well, things have shifted. We’re in the “spitballing” phase of the process, as Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, the House Education Committee chair, put it Tuesday.

House lawmakers have put on the back burner Conlon’s more ambitious proposal to merge the state’s 119 districts into 27, and are instead working on a proposal that uses cooperative education service agencies, or CESAs, as the key organizing principle for a consolidation proposal.

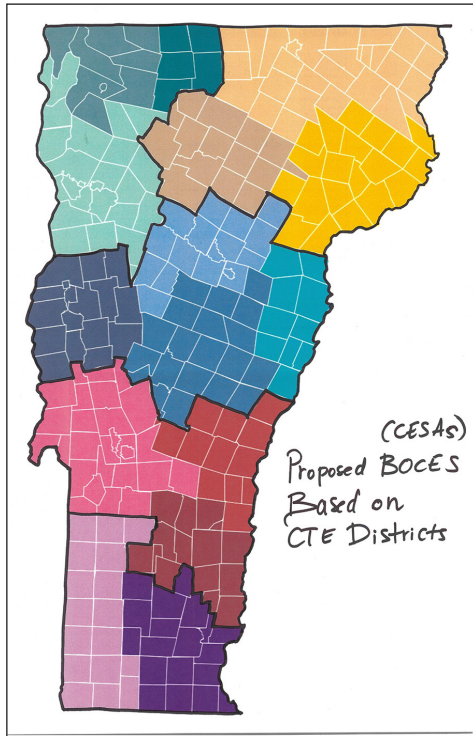
Those regional entities, already in use in southeast Vermont, facilitate the sharing of services in special education, professional development, human resources and more and is a key recommendation of the task force.

A map presented by Rep. Leanne Harple, D-Glover, March 18 would overlay five CESAs atop the state’s existing governance units.

The idea would be to save some money in the short term by allowing districts to regionalize, while giving each CESA the power to facilitate mergers of school districts under their umbrella before the proposed new education funding formula kicks in.

Both chambers of the Legislature are considering proposals that would allow for a period of voluntary mergers (another recommendation of the redistricting task force). A proposal in the Senate Education Committee would create a two-year on-ramp period for school districts to voluntarily merge.

“Maybe it’s not the path that



A map presented by Rep. Leanne Harple to the House Education Committee Wednesday, March 18 divides the state into five regional cooperative education service agencies as the key organizing principal for a consolidation proposal that would create savings in the near-term which delaying forced consolidation.

map courtesy VTDigger

folks sort of envisioned when we started this process, but it’s also not nothing,” House Education Committee member Rep. Jana Brown, D-Richmond, said Wednesday. “I think it’s a significant opportunity. It maybe isn’t what we envisioned when we started with Act 73, but I think it is substantive.”

Lawmakers in the House Education Committee have set a rough goal of trying to get the proposal out by next week’s end.

Many details are still being worked out. But it’s a significant pivot for lawmakers in the House Education Committee.

“I’m trying to find something that can generate enough votes to move out of this committee,” Conlon said Thursday morning. “Up until now, I haven’t been able to do that. That’s why we’re on the track that we’re on.”

For some lawmakers, the pivot back to the task force’s recommendations was a frustrating endeavor.

“We called for there to be a redistricting task force. The task force did their job. They came back with recommendations. We basically ignored those recommendations for the first half of the session. And now we’re back to looking at their recommendations,” Rep. Kate McCann, D-Montpelier, said on Wednesday. “I mean, it just floors me. I just want to drop it all and be like, ‘I can’t stand this.’”

Gascoyne selected as Wolcott Elementary Principal

WOLCOTT – The Wolcott Town School Board has unanimously selected Kate Gascoyne as the next principal, effective July 1, citing her strong alignment with the values and priorities of the Wolcott community.

“We are excited to welcome Kate back to Wolcott Elementary in this new role,” the board said in a statement. “Her knowledge of what we do at Wolcott and the direction we are heading, along with her existing relationships with both staff and students, was a big factor in her selection. The board is excited for the community to see what we have seen in Kate and for us all to work together in making Wolcott the exceptional educational opportunity it is for all our learners.”

Gascoyne, a former Wolcott resident, began her career in education as a parent volunteer at Wolcott Elementary School in 2002. She has since served in a variety of roles at local schools, including one-to-one assistant, music teacher, preschool teacher and school counselor. She is currently the assistant principal at Hardwick Elementary School.

She will succeed Dennis Hill, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

“I am excited to work on the challenge of providing an excellent and holistic education on a tight budget at Wolcott,” Gascoyne said.

Being fiscally responsible is going to take a lot of creativity and



Kate Gascoyne

community collaboration. I believe Wolcott residents are committed to quality education for our children, while we all want lower taxes. It will be an honor to work together to find solutions without compromising the high standards Wolcott is known for.”

Gascoyne holds a Master’s Degree in Counseling and an advanced endorsement in Educational Leadership from Vermont State University. A mother of three grown children raised in Wolcott, she says she values strong elementary education in rural communities and is committed to fostering both academic success and personal growth in students.

She has also played a role in launching several Wolcott school and town initiatives, including Restorative Practices, the School Garden, the Community Forest, Running Club, Bike Busters, and Farm to School programs.

Cabot School hires new principal

by **Paul Fixx**

CABOT – Darin Carney was unanimously approved as the new principal of Cabot School by the Cabot School Board at its March 12 meeting.

Carney will begin work as Cabot School’s new principal starting July 1.

Both finalists for the position were veteran teachers and administrators who have worked at both large and small schools.

During the first week in March the finalists spent a full day at the school meeting with students and staff. That visit followed a Zoom interview in February with a search committee

composed of teachers, students, community members and a school board member.

“Originally from Colorado, Carney has served as school principal in his home state and also in Minnesota. More recently, he organized and led schools in Singapore and Panama. During his visit here he expressed strong interest in guiding our small community school while building strong relationships with teachers, families and students,” said Cabot School Board Chair Chris Tormey in a recent statement.

“We look forward to Mr. Carney’s arrival this summer, and to the skills and experience he’ll bring to Cabot School.”

OBITUARIES

Alice Jeannette (Davis) Nelson

BOSCAWEN, N.H. – Alice Jeannette (Davis) Nelson, 88, formerly of Lyndonville, Vt., passed away on Friday, March 13, at Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen with her loving daughter at her side.

Alice was born on August 10, 1937, in Lyndonville, Vt., to Percy and Violet (Smith) Davis. Alice was the oldest of seven children and was raised and educated in the Hardwick-Montpelier area and graduated from Montpelier High School, class of 1956.

Alice worked as a custodian at Vermont College in Montpelier, Vt., until she moved to Pasadena, Calif. There she continued to work as a custodian at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif., until she retired in 1998.

Upon retirement, Alice moved back to Vermont to be closer to family.

While in California, Alice found an interest in square dancing and continued to square dance with the Country Corners Square Dance Club of Lyndonville, Vt.. Alice also enjoyed gardening, walking, snowmobiling, the occasional motorcycle ride, sewing, card games and cherished family time. Alice was active with her hobbies until her health declined and she went to live with her daughter in Alton, N.H., in 2023.

Alice was pre-deceased by her parents, Percy and Violet Davis; sister Elizabeth (Davis) Hayward and brother-in-law David Hayward; brothers, Lawrence (Larry) Davis, James (Jim) Davis and Clayton (Butch)



Alice Jeannette (Davis) Nelson

Davis; son, William Nelson Jr., and ex-husband William Nelson.

Survivors include her daughter Diana (Nelson) Bailey (Elroy), Alton, N.H.; daughter-in-law Sai Nelson, Pasadena, Calif.; sister, Charlotte Tucker (Donald) Burlington, Vt.; brother, Raymond (Lee) Davis (Bonnie) Barre, Vt.; sister-in-law Georgiann Davis, Clackamas, Oregon; sister-in-law Tammy Davis, Berlin, Vt.; grandson, Joshua Durivage (Ristina), Erie, Pa.; and granddaughter Ashley Andrews (Daniel), Weare, N.H.; six great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews and treasured friends.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., on Sunday, March 29, at the Guibord-Pearsons Funeral Home, 15 Main Street, Lyndonville, Vt., and will conclude with a brief prayer service.

Private interment will take place at a later date at the Lyndon Center Cemetery.

Memories and condolences can be shared online at caledonialifeservices.com

Stevens Barclay

HARDWICK – Stevens Barclay, 84, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 20, at his home in Hardwick with loving family by his side. He was the husband of Susan (Prescott) Barclay, whom he married on September 11, 1964, and shared with her 61 devoted years.

He was born on November 17, 1941, in Calais, to Pearly and Doris Barclay. Stevens attended Montpelier High School and later went on to work at Rouleau Granite for over thirty years until retirement.

Stevens was a member of the American Legion Post No. 7 in Hardwick. He enjoyed hunting with the boys, going gambling with his wife and taking his dog for walks. He will be remembered for his unwavering convictions, loyalty, devotions to his family, steadfast nature and love for his wife.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Barclay; his children, Kevin (Kathy) Barclay and Karen Barclay; his grandchildren, Melissa Thayer, Brittany Thayer, Kory Barclay and Kolin Barclay, as well as four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Robert “Bobby” Barclay and his beloved dog, Cooper. Stevens was predeceased by his parents and twelve siblings.



Stevens Barclay

In honor of his wishes, no services will be held. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home is in care of arrangements. To share condolences and memories of Stevens with his family please visit dgfunerals.com.

He was a great man who was loved and cherished and though his presence will be missed by many, we will keep his spirit alive in our hearts and home.

EDUCATION

Lakeview Early Education Center becomes 5-STAR program

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – The Lakeview Early Education Center became a 5 STAR (Step Ahead Recognition System) program on March 10, wrote the center’s Director Bethany “Beth” Parker in the Mid-March Lakeview Newsletter.

“Over the February break I spent a couple of days gathering all the evidence to apply for 5

STARS (we previously had 3 STARS due to the newness of our program). During this process I

was able to collect data from each classroom to support our application.”

STARS is Vermont’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) for child-care, preschool and afterschool programs. Head Start programs are automatically 5 STAR programs due to their federal monitoring guidelines.

“Even with our collaboration, we still needed to go through the application process,” said Parker.

The 5 STAR rating “is the highest rating given by the [Vermont] Child Development Division for day care and preschool centers. Lakeview began last school year with a basic provisional 3 STAR rating because we met all the required criteria and regulations.”

The rating system is based upon goal setting, delivery of instruction and evidence-based practices used in tandem with documentation and assessment of children’s growth and development while enrolled in the program.

“The area Head Start program has had a 5 STAR rating for the last several years as a quality program. Because of the Head Start and Lakeview partnership, we have been able to achieve this distinction,” said Parker.

The Lakeview Early Education program was granted Universal pre-K status last fall, allowing children to access programming there from other towns for which the district will receive tuition.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Family dance session, April 4

WOODBURY – A family Community Library, Saturday, dance session with Karen Mueller will be hosted at the Woodbury April 4.

All are welcome.

Japanese fish printing, April 15

CABOT – Join the Lake Champlain Basin Project to learn about Gyotaku, also known as Japanese Fish printing, at the Cabot Public Library, Wednesday, April 15 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Gyotaku printing is a well-practiced art form and way of documenting notable characteristics of different fish species. Using rubber versions of largemouth bass, yellow perch and bluegill, participants can make their own prints of fish found in local waterways (ages 5+). The library is located in the Willey Building on Main Street.

Parsons Dance brings modern movement to Lyndon Institute



Dance company performs March 28 at Lyndon Institute. *courtesy photo*

LYNDON – Parsons Dance performs at the Lyndon Institute, March 28, at 7 p.m. Known for their athleticism and ensemble work, they fuse the gestures and movements that comprise modern dance with the discipline and precision of a classical dance company.

Artistic Director and founder

David Parsons had a career as a performer with Momix and Paul Taylor Dance Company before creating over 70 works for his own company. He has received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey, Jacob's Pillow, Spoleto Festival and others. In 2007, he became the first contemporary choreographer ever to stage work at the centuries-old Arena di Verona in Italy.

Tickets for Parsons Dance are on sale now at catamountarts.org, kcppresents.org, by calling (802) 748-2600 or visiting the Catamount Arts box office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury. Student admission is free.



The couple at the table on the left, Garrett Sisk (left) and Ursa Goldenrose, celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary while the couple on the right, Chloe Cloutier (left) and Daniel Pougner, discuss their impending divorce in the Hazen Union School Drama Club production of "Three Tables" that advanced to the State Drama Festival after its performance at a regional high school drama festival, March 14. *courtesy photo*

Hazen Drama Club advances to state festival

by OSSU staff

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union Drama Club has earned a major honor, advancing to the State Drama Festival, following its performance of "Three Tables" at a regional high school drama festival at Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon, March 14.

Hazen was selected as one of only two participating schools to advance to the State Drama Festival.

Several Hazen students received individual recognition for their contributions. Chloe Cloutier, Will Helms and Ursa Goldenrose were honored for their

acting performances, while Lucian Berry was commended for his improvisational music.

The Hazen Drama Club is planning additional showings during the first week of April at the Hazen Auditorium. performance dates and times will be shared soon.

"Three Tables" explores the dynamics of three couples at different stages of their relationships, all dining in the same restaurant.

The club will perform the play at the State Festival April 10 to 11 at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans. Performance times will be announced in the coming weeks.



Amelia Crank helps make brownie batter bites with maple syrup at the Jeudevine Memorial Library Cooking Club last week.

photo by Rachel Funk



Juniper Bandit helps prepare maple granola at the Cooking Club, March 18. The club meets in Jeudevine Memorial Library the third Wednesday of each month, with its next meeting April 15 at 3 p.m.

photo by Rachel Funk

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EVENTS

Wednesday, March 25

Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., the Old Firehouse, 59 Mill St., Hardwick, youth writing 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. Hardwick Rescue Squad, for ages 5 and under. Information jeudevineyouth-librarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

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

Study presentation, 5 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 3rd Floor, 20 Church St. and via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84596418221> or by calling (646) 558-8656, Jackson Dam.

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

Film, 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. About android human-like robotics. Information jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Friday, March 27

Discussion, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Supporting the unhoused, a discussion with representatives from Good Samaritan Haven. Refreshments served. RSVP and information: (802) 426-3581 or email marshfieldrh@gmail.com.

Film series, 7 p.m., Parker Ladd Community Room, Friday night murder mystery, Jeudevine Memorial Library. Hosted by the Friends of the Jeudevine Library.

Saturday, March 28

Bluebird nesting box workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, Cabot Public Library, Willey Building, Main St. Build boxes for the Cabot Trails. Register by emailing amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com.

No Kings 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stand up for our rights. Assemble on Depot Road behind the Hardwick Town House. March at noon, then return for food, games and festivities. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

Book discussion, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library. "The Light Pirate," by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Facilitated by Rachel Cohen from Vermont Humanities.

Sunday, March 29

Brainstorming session, 10 a.m.

to noon, Civic Standard, Main St., Hardwick. Brainstorm ideas for the next Civic Theater project.

Tuesday, March 31

Peace protest, 11:45 a.m., Hardwick. A student-run effort started by students at Craftsbury Academy. Students from Hazen Union have been invited to join.

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

Wednesday, April 1

Trivia night, 5:30 p.m., American Legion, Hardwick. Special community supper and trivia in support of Hazen Union Scholar's Bowl Team, hosted by the Civic Standard.

VerseVillage, 6 p.m., Front Seat Coffee, Main St., Hardwick. Open mic event at and fifty poems posted in the windows of Hardwick businesses with twenty-four towns represented.

Thursday, April 2

Healing with Chinese medicine, with Acupuncturist Christina Ducharme, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Cabot Public Library, Willey Building, Main St.

Friday, April 3

Poetry and prose, light meal from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by readings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., sharing group meets, Woodbury Community Library. All are welcome.

Ongoing Wednesdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

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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. ea 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, jeudevineyouthlibrary@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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing Fridays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongoing Saturdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Craftfit, 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., Capi-

See EVENTS, Next Page



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EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

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

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

Ongoing Sundays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Service, 10 a.m., the Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, Pastors, : Marlin Wadel and Stephen Groff.

Information, (802) 888-9113, (802) 888-5277.

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

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

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St., Greensboro, (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, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

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

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

Service, 11 a.m., First Congregational Church (NACCC), 123 E. Church St., East Hardwick, worship led by Jim Casavant, interim Pastor. **See EVENTS, Next Page**

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Current 2025 Schedule

as of Nov 2025

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	12 AM	
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond	The Kinetic Playground	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM	
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine			The Sonic Cafe		2 AM	
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix							3 AM	
4 AM	Music Directors							4 AM	
5 AM	Softpower/Fulstories Prison Pipeline	Thom Hartmann Program					Oldies Time Machine	5 AM	
6 AM	Counterspin Green St. News	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Woodsongs Radio Hour	6 AM	
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Maggie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	Portal Levi	Writer's Voice	Bike Talk	The Secret Sisters	7 AM	
8 AM	Democracy Now!							The Country Jamboree	8 AM
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	Alternative Radio	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etner	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)	9 AM	
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see below)	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see below)	10 AM	
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	Shortwave Report & Food Sleuth		11 AM	
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat	The Rubber Room Dan Towner	Unshelved J Kramer	Modern Jet Set	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM	
1 PM						Now Playing DJ Liu		1 PM	
2 PM	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	David Rogers Music Mix Hour	Straight Up Soul	Adiogo	UpFront Soul		Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM	
3 PM			Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder	Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		3 PM	
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland	Economic Update Rumble Strip	Tectonic	Big Picture Science	The Friday Drive at 5 Corey Flynn	Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	4 PM	
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Project Censored		Stranger Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see below)			5 PM	
6 PM	The Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	6 PM	
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAhH	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see below)	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see below)					7 PM	
8 PM		Deep Blues Les Mawson	Kozie Korner	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	8 PM	
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Blues Edge Les Mawson						9 PM	
10 PM			Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	The Beatdown Z-Point	10 PM	
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville						11 PM	

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Indigenous Music
2nd & 4th Sun: The Immanent Grove Conni Mags

#2: Sun 4-5 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances with Savannah

#3: Sun 9-11 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: The Show of Life
2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm
1st Mon: Blluminations
Stefanie Lingenfelter
2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneiform Radio
Kyle Schlesinger
3rd Mon: Biketalk

#5: Mon 7-9 pm
1st Mon: Future Reflections
DJ Syd
2nd Mon: In Common Sounds
Brother B
3rd Mon: Gilded Splinters
Kevin Titterton
4th Mon: Borderlands
DJ Tenderman

#6: Tue 7-9 pm
Biweekly rotation:
Still Life with Club Soda
Serena Matt
Still Life with Orange Peel
Ada Bowman

#7: Thu 6-7 pm
1st Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents... Khonsu X and Titan
2nd Thu: The Hyper Local Dispatch
Natascha and DJ Syd
3rd Thu: Democracy Now
4th Thu: Into the Issues Steve Pappas

#8: Sat 9-10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace Joseph Gainza
2nd Sat: Projected Censored
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report Emily Lanxner
4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture
Rebecca Beidler

#9: Sat 10-11 am
1st Sat: Sex Fly Bengé
2nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio Pat Kantner
3rd Sat: Under the Covers
DJ Rhizosphere
4th Sat: Full Moon Hacksaw



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[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/WGDRWGDHVT) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WGDRWGDHVT) @WGDRWGDHVT

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

Closed in winter. Information, (414) 856-1620.

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

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

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

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

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

Pickleball, noon, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information, Sara at 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 Pub-

lic Library, early literacy for children ages 0 - 5. Information at childrenlibrarian@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@

See EVENTS, Next Page

THIS PLACE MATTERS

c.1850 - 42 S. Main Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Originally a "Tin Shop" (hardware store), this building later served as headquarters for the Hardwick Gazette newspaper for more than 100 years! It became the home of THE CIVIC STANDARD in 2023. THE CIVIC has now moved across the street allowing for local advocates to form the FOCUS 42 Restoration Team. We are dedicated to finding a way forward for the restoration and preservation of the historic asset for the next 100+ years.



This anchor historic property is eligible to apply for State and Federal Historic Tax Credits for work to achieve:

- restoration and preservation
- accessibility improvements
- façade improvements
- code compliance renovations

Non-profit property ownership in our Designated Downtown offers automatic eligibility to receive priority consideration when applying for State Historic Preservation Grants, subsidies, loans, other state grants and resources.

HOW TO HELP~

JOIN OUR "FOCUS 42 RESTORATION TEAM"

Contact: Shari
iph: 802-274-9858
E: shari@hardwickdowntown.org

DONATE TO SUPPORT THIS WORK: Online ----->

Or Mail: HDP, PO Box 523, Hardwick, VT 05843

How could this place serve us once floodproofing is achieved...

- The Hardwick Gazette could return to operations in Hardwick.
- It could be a retail store front and have offices on the upper floor.
- What do you see happening here?

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page 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 11 and up. Learn how to build a character and then embark on an adventure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibits

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

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

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

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

Community Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Food shelf, vtfoodbank.org/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, craftsburypubli-

library.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 Willson 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, jw-simpsonmemorial.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.

THE
Hardwick Gazette

WE ARE
HIRING

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Hardwick Gazette is seeking qualified interns and experienced sales representatives to join our team selling ads and sponsorships for our digital publication and website.

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We offer generous commissions paid bi-weekly with mileage reimbursement. The position may be full or part-time depending on the candidate's experience and ability to commit time to the position.

The Gazette sales territory is primarily in Hardwick and extends across the eleven towns we cover, then west to Morrisville, Johnson and Stowe; north to Newport and Derby; south to Barre and Montpelier, and east to the Interstate 91 corridor north and south of St. Johnsbury. One or more sales reps may be offered all or part of the territory.

This is an exciting opportunity to use your communication skills getting to know the businesses and civic organizations in our communities while helping to build a solid financial foundation for the community-owned, nonprofit Hardwick Gazette.

Some sales experience preferred. Must have own vehicle.

Send letter of interest to ads@hardwickgazette.org

Local Seniors shine at VBCA All-Star Weekend

by Ken Brown

WINDSOR – The Vermont Basketball Coaches Association (VBCA) showcased its annual celebration of high school basketball at Windsor High School over the weekend, with several local seniors getting the opportunity to lace them up one more time for the Northern All-Stars.

The top seniors in the state took the court for the last time on Saturday, with both Division III/IV boys and girls North teams completing a clean sweep over the Southern All-Stars.



Seniors on the Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team included (from left) Twinfield student Eli Russell, Cabot student Samuel Churchill, Twinfield students Thomas Gouge, Tej Stewart and Sam McLane, Cabot student Ben Monaco and Twinfield students Zepherin Hebert and Wyatt Bickford.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Sebastian Eldred and Williamstown's Nick Mascitti each finished with 13 points apiece in the win. Oxbow's Jayden Huntoon led the South with 14 points. Hazen Union's Morgan Michaud and Sully Laflam, Twinfield-Cabot's Eli Russel and Sam McLane and Danville's Kohl Guinard, Alijah Andrews and Landen Fournier rounded out the Northern all-star roster.

Morgan and Laflam leave Hazen as champions and finished their careers for the Wildcats, having never played a season when they didn't make it to the division III state title game.

Stewart, Russell and McLane led a veteran Trojan program back to Barre for the second consecutive season



Hazen Union senior Lady Cat Julia des Groseilliers pivots away from Vergennes players at the Barre Aud during semi-final play, March 5. Hazen defeated Vergennes 55-39.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Seniors on the Hazen Union championship girls basketball team are (from left) Isabelle Gouin, Ella Renaud, Julia des Groseilliers, Sadie Gann and Ari Nichols.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

earlier this month, coming up just short against Division IV state champion Williamstown in the title game. They have won over 50 games at Twinfield-Cabot the last three years and will graduate with a historic senior class in the spring that brought nothing but winning to both communities in both soccer and basketball.

Guinard, Eldred, Andrews and Fournier will be the latest

group of seniors to leave Danville as champions in the spring.

Lafayette certainly left his mark on PA's program in his two short years since transferring from Burlington. He brought the Wolves' program back to relevancy with a 12-win season in his senior campaign. He led all high schoolers in the state with a trio of 40-point performances, including a 49-point outburst against Stowe in February.



Twinfield student Tegan Trader was the only senior on the Twinfield-Cabot girls basketball team.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Danville's Lynsey Lavelly had a team-high 7 points to lead the North to a 46-42 victory. Hazen Union's Isabelle Gouin, Danville's Myah Morgan and Ashtin Stearns of Vergennes each chipped in with five points apiece in the win. West Rutland's Hayley Raiche paced the South with 10 points. Hazen's Julia des Groseilliers, Peoples Academy's (PA) Sophie Beck and Danville's Phoebe Crocker and Lauren Joncas rounded out the local seniors who made the North all-star roster.

Gouin and des Groseilliers finished off their stellar high school careers at Hazen with two Division III state championships, four consecutive 20-win seasons, while never suffering a home loss.

Peoples Academy's Jack Lafayette (14 points) and Twinfield-Cabot's Tej Stewart (12) powered the Northern all-stars to a 90-83 win over the South in the boys Division III/IV senior all-star game. Danville's



Three Hazen Union seniors on the championship boys basketball team this year are (from left) Sully Laflam, Ethan Gann and Morgan Michaud.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield senior Eli Russell comes to a halt as he aims for the basket with a Williamstown player ready for the action during the Division IV Championship game, March 14, at the Barre Aud. Williamstown prevailed 71-64.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield-Cabot head coach Kris Bador (left), assistant coaches Jordan Moore, Anthony Golden, players Thomas Gouge, Azeem Stewart, Ben Monaco, managers Jaxson North and John Thompson look on during the Division IV Championship game.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier

Russell's Player of the Year highlights Mountain League honors

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – Twinfield Cabot point guard Eli Russell was named the Mountain League's Player of Year last week, capping off a dreamlike senior season for the multi-sport star.

Russell led the Trojan boys basketball team in scoring for a second straight season, averaging nearly 20 points per game over that span. He reached 1,000 career points in Twinfield-Cabot's regular-season home finale, joining senior teammate Tej Stewart in reaching the career

milestone on the same night. The dynamic duo led the Trojans to a 22-2 record, the top seed in the Division IV state tournament, and a state runner-up finish against Williamstown at the Barre Auditorium. Russell also took home Mountain League Player of the Year honors for the Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) soccer team last fall. He led the team in scoring for a second straight season with a program record 30 goals, leading Cal United to a 16-1 record and a state-runner-up finish to Twin Valley in the Finals.

Stewart joined Russell as a Mountain League First Team selection for a third consecutive year. The versatile big man has battled through injuries the last couple of years but remained one of the league's best players. He'll graduate in the spring as a 1,000-point scorer for the Trojans and was a Vermont Basketball Coaches Association (VBCA) Outstanding Underclassmen selection three times. Rounding out First Team selections were Williamstown's Nick Mascitti, Danville's Sebastian Eldred and Kai Von Sitas of BFA-Fairfax.

Danville's Kohl Guinard wrapped up an outstanding high school career with the Bears, earning a Second Team selection. Sophomore sensation Omar Miksic-Knibb earned an Honorable Mention selection for the Trojans in a Mountain League that was loaded with talent this past season. Alijah Andrews and Landen Fournier also earned Honorable Mentions honors for Danville, along with Northfield's Damian Morrison, who had a breakout season for the Marauders after transferring from Hazen Union before the season.

Twinfield-Cabot head coach Kris Bador was named the Mountain League Coach of the Year for a second consecutive year, sharing the award with Richford's Aidan Kelly. The Trojans



Tej Stewart (No. 2) of Twinfield-Cabot races past Blue Mountain's Landon Houle (No. 4) at Twinfield, January 8. Twinfield-Cabot outscored their opponents 76-30.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

were regular-season Mountain League Champions with a dominating 15-1 record. Bador led the Trojan program to a 22-2 record this past season and back to the Division IV state title game for the first time in nearly a decade. The Trojans are 51-18 since Bador took over the program three years ago. Bador and his coaching staff helped develop a special group of seniors that will graduate in the spring, including Russell, Stewart, Sam McLane, Zepherin Hebert, Thomas Gouge, Sam Churchill, Ben Monaco and Wyatt Bickford.



Twinfield-Cabot head coach Kris Bador collects his State Runners-Up Medal from VPA's Jay Nichols.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



The top skier in the world, Johannes Klaebo (leader bib – Norway) chases down Craftsbury's Brian Bushey (63) in the individual start 10 km classic race. Klaebo started 30 seconds back.

courtesy photo

Jack Young 13th in Final World Cup Sprint of the Season

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. – The cross country ski world came to the United State for only the third time since the Olympics in Utah in 2002. Much of the Vermont ski community joined the 10,000 plus fans to cheer on local heroes Ben Ogden (Landgrove, Vt.), Jessie Diggins (Stratton, Vt.), Julia Kern (Burlington, Vt.), and Jack Young (Jay, Vt.). Spectators lined the course hours before racing action began cheering on every athlete that passed by. Jessie Diggins, Gus Schumacher or Ben Ogden were nearby hearing the screams and clapping from a half mile away.

The Craftsbury Green Racing Project had three athletes in the mix: Jack Young (Jay, Vt.), Brian Bushey (Montpelier, Vt.), and John Schwinghamer (Mora, Minn.). They and the other two dozen U.S. athletes received nearly the same attention as the Olympic medalists. And the crowd cheered and supported everyone, not just the Americans and Canadians. During the sprint warm-up, Benjamin Moser from Austria, stopped in the middle of the course smiling. He lifted his arms a half dozen time to encourage more cheering and then gave a bow of thanks with hands clasped together. Swedes, Czechs, Japanese and Italians were giving high fives to the crowds as they skied by soaking up the energy.

And there were some races too. First off was the 10 km classic individual start where skiers head out on course every 30 seconds for two laps around one of the most challenging courses in the North



John Schwinghamer of the Craftsbury GRP skis in his second World Cup start.

courtesy photo

America. The course has multiple major climbs and six screaming downhills similar to Elinor's Hill in Craftsbury. It makes the Craftsbury 5 km race course seem like beginner green trail. Brian Bushey in his second-ever World Cup, started 30 seconds ahead of possibly the best cross country skier in history, Johannes Klaebo from Norway. Klaebo took six gold medals at this year's Olympics. Bushey held him off until the 2.5 km mark. Klaebo went on to win the race in 26:44 followed by Norwegian teammates Andreas Fjorden and Mattis Stenshagen. U.S.'s Gus Schumacher skied to a really strong 7th, and Ben Ogden had possibly his best distance race of the year placing 11th. Bushey finished a respectable 50th. In the women's 10 km, Linn Svahn and Frida Karlson went one-two for Sweden 1.4 seconds apart with Norway's Heidi Weng 3rd. Jessie Diggins finished 5th, and Waterbury's Ava Thurston had a really good race placing 33rd. Thurston is a senior at Dartmouth College.



Craftsbury Green Racing Project's Jack Young (15) at the top of Grindhouse Hill in his quarterfinal. Jaume Pueyo (15 – Spain), George Ersson (26 – Sweden) and Ansgar Evenson (18 – Norway) battle for position before the downhill back to the stadium.

courtesy photo

The second day of racing was super exciting with the 1.5 km freestyle sprint. All the skiers raced in the qualifier in the morning going out every 15 seconds. The top 30 men and women moved on to the five quarterfinal heats. Craftsbury's Jack Young fed off all the cheering from friends and family placing 6th in the qualifier. In his quarterfinal he made his way up to 2nd place at the top of the biggest climb but Ansgar Evenson rode his tails on the downhill taking advantage of the draft and was able to sneak ahead of Young in the final sprint leaving Young in 3rd just out of reach of making the semifinals. The top 12 skiers move on to the semis. Young would end up 13th overall, pretty amazing for a recent college graduate who played football at North Country Union as a main sport in high school only six years ago. GRPer John Schwinghamer skied to 54th in the qualifier. Italy's Frederico Pelligrino stole the fans hearts and cheers by skiing the most spectacular and daring finish in the six-person final by blowing away his competitors on the final climb and holding the lead over the final downhill of the course. Chants of "Pelligrino" echoed on and off the remainder

of the day especially at the awards ceremony. Pelligrino is retiring at the end of this season along with U.S. legend Jessie Diggins. Diggins would end up 9th in the sprint with three Swedes taking the top spots, and Linn Svahn winning her 2nd race of the weekend.

The final day was the mass start 30 km freestyle. The men's race stayed packed together until about the midway point when five Norwegians and one Italian started making a gap. Klaebo would take the win in 41:57 securing the overall World Cup title. Schumacher held with the lead group for the first two-thirds of the race before fading to 20th. Brian Bushey kept pace with a group of fellow Americans and finished 47th. Jonna Sundling bested Swedish teammate Linn Svahn in the final stretch skiing 20 km in 48:17. Diggins was just behind the lead pack on the final downhill when she caught an edge and crashed. She got up quickly and held on for 12th. Diggins won her 4th overall World Cup title and crystal globe. Her retirement party then began among her thousands of fans and fellow racers from across the globe. For Young, Bushey, and Schwinghamer, their young ski careers are just beginning.



Over 10,000 spectators lined the 1.5 km sprint course at the Lake Placid World Cup.

courtesy photo

Local athletes and coaches honored at VBCA weekend

by Ken Brown

WINDSOR – The best of the best were honored at Windsor High School over the weekend by the Vermont Coaches' Association (VBCA), as several local athletes and coaches were recognized for their outstanding high school basketball seasons this past winter.

Hazen Union juniors Kelsie Rivard and Mya Lumsden, along with Peoples Academy's (PA) Daisy Berg led local selections on the girls side for VBCA Outstanding Underclassmen honors. It was the third straight selection for Rivard, who averaged over 20 points per game this past season and has led the Lady Cats in scoring the past two years. Junior teammate Mya Lumsden received her second straight selection after enjoying her best season. The talented tandem led Hazen to their second Division III state title in three years earlier this month. Berg secured her second straight selection after the freshman guided PA to another impressive playoff run under head coach and Hazen alum Rick Welcome. Lamoille's Maddex Percy also earned Outstanding Underclassmen honors after leading the Lady Lancers to the Division II state title game.

On the boys side, Hazen's Jameson Lamarre (19.9 points per game) and Lincoln Hill (14.8) earned Outstanding Underclassmen selections after breakout junior seasons. The back-court tandem helped deliver the knockout blow to top-seeded Randolph in the Division III state championship game. Twinfield-Cabot's Omar Miksic-Knibb and Azeem Stewart also earned selections after outstanding sophomore seasons on a veteran-laden Trojans team that won 22 games. The speedy back-court duo will be a handful for Mountain League defenders the next two seasons. Sophomore big man James Wallace also earned a selection after leading Lamoille's program to their first Division II state title in 63 years.

Hazen's Kelsie Rivard (1,188 career points), Twinfield-Cabot's Eli Russell (1,077) and Tej Stewart (1,056) and PA's Jack Lafayette (1,228) were honored as 1,000-point career scorers.

Hazen head coach Aaron Hill took home Division III Coach of the Year honors after guiding the Wildcats to their seventh state championship in his 27th season on the sidelines. Twinfield-Cabot's Kris Bador earned his second consecutive Division IV Coach of



Mya Lumsden of Hazen Union breaks away for a lay-up against U-32 January 28. She was the second top scorer in the game for Hazen with 16 points. Hazen outscored U-32, 55-30.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

the Year honors. Bador's Trojan program has won 51 games the past two seasons, including back-to-back trips to Barre and a trip to the state title game earlier this month. Former Cabot multi-sport legend Billy Waller was named Division III Coach of the Year after guiding his Vergennes' girls team back to Barre for the first time in six years. Lamoille's Greg Davis was named Division II Coach of the Year after his Lady Lancer program (22-1) didn't suffer their first loss of the season until they met Hartford in the state championship game.

Hartford's Charlotte Jasmin was named VBCA Player of the Year and finished her incredible career with 2,025 career points. Pascal Munezero of Rice was named VBCA Player of the Year on the boys side. Legendary head coach and former VBCA Executive Director Dave Fredrickson received the Lifetime Achievement Award. The New England Basketball, Vermont Sports and VBCA Hall of Famer amassed 505 career coaching victories and eight state championships at Mount. Anthony and Arlington. This was the first VBCA All-Star Weekend under newly appointed Executive Director Eric Berry.

Danville's Kohl Guinard received the Robert "Stretch" Gilliam Memorial Award in honor

of the legendary coach and New England Basketball and VBCA Hall of Famer. The \$750 scholarship is awarded to a male student-athlete who loves the game, values defense and exemplifies teamwork and sportsmanship.

Lamoille's Alana Crittenden received the Tristan Southworth Memorial Scholarship, honoring the former Hazen Union three-sport star, who gave his life for his country serving for the Vermont National Guard in Afghanistan. A Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient, Southworth was known for his character, leadership and selflessness. The \$750 scholarship is awarded to a student-athlete who represents their school and community with distinction.

Missisquoi Valley Union and Richford were given the Mona Garone Sportsmanship Award. Gabrielle Cicio and Devonte Jackson earned Officials of the Year honors. Barry Aldinger of Vergennes was inducted into the VBCA Hall of Fame, Alex Stradling of FACT TV received the Media Person of the Year and Lake Region's Mark Tinker was given the Tommy Finnell Outstanding Service Award.

The VBCA is committed to promoting the game of basketball across the state while supporting student-athletes, coaches and communities in its mission of making basketball better in Vermont.



Jameson Lamarre of Hazen Union pulls down a rebound as Peoples Academy defenders Jake Brink (left) and Rupeni Mara (right) try to steal it during action in Hardwick, January 29. In the back at right, following the play, are Wildcat Morgan Michaud and Blair Whitney of the Wolves. Hazen outscored Peoples 67-53.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Omar Miksic-Knibb (No. 13) of Twinfield-Cabot scores with a left handed layup as teammate Eli Russell (No. 3) follows the play during Division IV semi-final action, Monday, at the Barre Auditorium. At left is Landon Brown (No. 2) and at right is Benny Gerding of Twin Valley. Twinfield-Cabot took the victory 77-57.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hardwick's extraordinary championship duet

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – For the first time in Hazen Union's history, both the girls and boys basketball teams brought state championships back home to Hardwick in the same season. March Madness is alive and well.

After the Lady Cats halted the dynastic run of Windsor in the Division III Finals for a second time in three seasons on March 7, the boys completed Hardwick's extraordinary championship duet with a takedown of top-seeded Randolph a week later. This rare event has only happened a handful of times to a handful of schools in the history of Vermont high school basketball. With plenty of talent returning for both teams and two of the best coaches in the state (Aaron Hill and Randy Lumsden) roaming the sidelines, don't expect the winning in Hardwick to end any time soon.

Head coach Aaron Hill just

finished his 27th season as the Hazen boys coach. His career stats (7 Division III state championships and 450 career wins) would suggest a man entering the twilight of his coaching career. He's still in his early 50s, however, and he's not going anywhere anytime soon. His now-storied Wildcat program made it to the state finals at the Barre Auditorium for a fifth consecutive time, book-ending that incredible run with a pair of championships ('22 and '26). He has more career wins than any active coach in the state and is now seventh on the all-time list. The late great Dan Gandin retired from coaching with 632 career wins. This was Hill's first state title as Hazen Union athletic director. His main focus was on the kids but spoke about the challenges of navigating both responsibilities during a hectic basketball season and the pride he felt for Hazen and the Hardwick community with both basketball programs having so much success.



Head coach Randy Lumsden wears the net, while assistant coach Sue Rivard holds the trophy and Alison Blaney holds the game ball after the Hazen Union girls 2026 Division III championship win in Barre March 7.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

"Both programs had such a great season, and getting to see those seniors end their careers on such a high note was just special. My first one as the A.D., I'm not going to lie, there was a lot going on responsibility-wise for a bit there, but seeing both programs win it all in the same season was special, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I'm so proud of the kids and just so happy for the community. To watch a player you coached in Randy win his own state championship and then go on and elevate Hazen's girls program the way he has is just amazing to watch. We feel like Hardwick is the capital of Vermont basketball right now," said Hill.

Lumsden won his own title under Hill in '99, completing the three-headed monster that was Tim Shedd and Billy Welcome. After many years coaching at the youth level, he took over the Lady Cat program four years ago, and the rest, as they say, is history. Lumsden's career stats as a head coach (81-7, 4 Final Fours and two state championships) don't seem real but

are indeed factual. His graduating senior class will leave Hazen in the spring, having never lost a home game at the Cat Den. Like Hill, he is thankful for the journey and being able to share success with the community and family.

"The last four years have been amazing and special. A lot of the foundation of my coaching philosophies stems from my experiences with Aaron and Steve Pratt. I'm also lucky to have Alison Blaney and Sue Rivard on the coaching staff, being able to develop and communicate with our players at such a high level. Alison has had phenomenal success herself with our junior varsity program. I love that they are not afraid to push me and bring new ideas. I'm not always right. I've admired watching Aaron get to enjoy all that success within his program with family. Getting that same chance to watch my daughter (Mya Lumsden) and niece (Caitlyn Davison) achieve their goals with their teammates and friends has made it all that more special," said Lumsden.

Outdoor Center hosts US Ski National Championships, March 27- 29

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY -- The fastest skiers in North America come to the Northeast Kingdom March 27 to 29, to wrap up the nordic race season at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (CoC). Three national championships hosted by the Craftsbury Nordic Ski Club are on the line, with the classic sprint on Friday, club relay on Saturday and freestyle mass start Sunday.

"Whether you want to compete or just watch the power and grace as some of the world's best athletes tackle the challenging race trails at the Center, we hope you will join

us," said the CoC's announcement.

Racing begins at the CoC Friday with the 1.5km Classic Sprint National Championship men's qualifier at noon (10 a.m. if the weather is warm), a day with no school for Craftsbury students. The men's final is scheduled at 3:50 p.m. (1:20 p.m. in warm weather), followed by the women's final.

Vermont's Olympic silver medalist Ben Ogden will be racing in the discipline in which he won his silver medal at the Olympics, along with many other international stars. On February 10, Ogden took home Olympic silver in the classic sprint, the first Olympic medal won by an American man since Bill Koch in 1976, 50 years ago.

Saturday's racing begins at 10 a.m. with the Freestyle 4x5km Mixed Relay N.E. Club Championship, followed by the Freestyle Mass Start 40km National Club Championship at 2 p.m.

Sunday features the women's mass start 40km and Junior girls 20km race at 10 a.m. (9 a.m. in warm weather) and the men's 40km and junior boys 20km at noon (11 a.m. in warm weather).

A complete schedule is available on the CoC event page at craftsbury.com/events/2026-us-ski-amp-snowboard-supertour-finals

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Twinfield-Cabot team captains (from left) Eli Russell, Wyatt Bickford, Tej Stewart and Sam Churchill accept the Division IV State Runner Ups trophy the team was presented on March 14 at the Barre Auditorium.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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