

Hazen Union: A 'Cool Learning Community'



photo by Vanessa Fourtore

Hazen Union Viceprincipal Clara Lew-Smith, Salutatorian Evni Karabesin, and Principal John Craig

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — For 107th anniversary, Hazen Union celebrated its 107th anniversary. Principal John Craig, and Principal Jack McGrath, Saturday marked an end to a new beginning. It was a beautiful sunny day. The Hazen gym was packed with nearly 800 people, but the temperature remained cool and comfortable. The traditional Elgar professional, Pomp and Circumstances, played the traditional Elgar professional, Pomp and Circumstances. The School Chorus, led by Talan Bryant, sang the national anthem. Josiah Blake gave a lively and funny welcome, introducing the theme of Vermont heritage.

Introducing the graduates, Assistant Principal Craig said, "You should be all be terribly proud of yourselves today. You are at the end of your career here at Hazen. I entered into this wonderful and unique and weird and cool learning community of four years ago, just as you did as freshmen and during those four years, much like all of you, I've grown in many ways."

The senior speakers spoke of how their time at Hazen had changed them. Brian Hill said the graduates to remember their seventh-grade selves.

"We were unafraid, we were awkward, we were goofy, and we smelled bad. But we didn't care. We were having a good time... we have changed. We have grown into a strong, capable group of young adults, ready for anything life might throw our way. We never had to think outside the box because we never put ourselves in a box in the first place."

Hill closed out his speech with a quote: "The brave don't live forever, but the timid don't live at all." He urged his classmates: "Don't forget this place."

John DeRosa also spoke of how his years at Hazen changed him. "During my years at Hazen... I've learned as much from peers as my teachers."

DeRosa talked about the events of recent months, where students across the country stood up and found a voice in March for our Lives, which he helped organize at Hazen. He spoke of a year that has resulted in a new generation of leaders, better community and a new sense of friends who will remember the meaning of subjects that were not the most important subjects of all.

He closed out by saying "The choice we make will write the legacy of the Hazen Union class of 2018, and if we are true to ourselves and our values, these choices will be the legacy of a new generation, better community and a new sense of friends who will remember the meaning of subjects that were not the most important subjects of all."

phobia has made us question how far humanity has really come in its ability to learn from the past."

She referenced social movements that have risen to address injustice, inequality, intolerance, and violence, such as Black Lives Matter, the Women's March, and the March for our Lives, and she stressed that the young people have a voice, even if held by older people they don't.

"Even as young people, we are being asked to represent for our basic rights if we want any at all. It is important to remember that this is not the case. There has always been injustice, as young people are often put in positions of blame. Other people are making decisions."

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photo by Hector Fuller

Hazensboro Olympian Susan Dunklee, invited guest speaker at the Craftsbury Academy graduation ceremony, urged graduates to cultivate the habit of crafts.

Craftsbury Academy Graduates Fourteen

by Christopher Fuller

HARDWICK — Under a hot and cloudless sky on Friday evening, graduates and friends celebrated this year's class of 14 Craftsbury Academy graduates on Craftsbury Community.

After a welcome from Class President Esther DeLong, who encouraged all to seek future success on their own terms, the ceremony be-

gan with the gift of seven Seniors each took blooms from a basket as they came down from the stage to honor individuals in the audience who had been their stalwart mentors on the long journey to this evening.

Returning to their seats, the graduates heard from classmate Makenzie Blanton, who was accompanied by Lynn Brown, Walden. Blanton encouraged risk-taking. She spoke of her first day beyond her personal comfort zone — taking a philosophy course that was afraid she would fail. She ended up with a question for the discipline: "There's only one person you will spend the rest of your life with... the remainder of her classmates." I suggest you try to make that person an interesting and desirable as you can."

Brown spoke with affection about the group they had been describing each member of the class and highlighting the contributions each individual had made to the whole.

The class had invited two national Olympic biathletes, Susan Dunklee, who is also the reigning world champion in the sport, and the pursuit and the mass start disciplines. Dunklee reminded the graduates that the first thing anybody learns as a skier is how to fall and how to get up. "Failure is inevitable," she said. "Learn to pick yourself up right away and refocus your efforts."

Make it a habit, she said, and you'll be ready to meet the big failures that you can't avoid. She recalled a painful and powerful you were in what defines you, counseled. "Your past mistakes can be powerful reminders."

On behalf of his class, Jesse Gurnee presented Academy administrator and sometime school nurse, Principal Mark Money before the recognition of students in the personal awards category by asking students to stand up if he gave a shout out that applied to them. He has always found a category that could make someone stand.

"Who made the Honor Roll? Who made the Winooski Valley Music Festival? Played Soccer? Looked out for little brothers? Had art displayed in the Congressional Art Exhibit? Other categories included Precursorator Club (evangelist stood up), three-sport athletes (those who took early college courses at Norwich University, volunteer

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Town Saves Nearly \$500k on Water Projects

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — The town caught a big break from the state, saving taxpayers almost a half-million dollars via a forgiven bond for the Church Street water infrastructure upgrade which was installed last year.

The cost of the bond was approximately \$480,000 and the state has determined that there are enough unspent funds remaining in a state-wide program for this type of work that there is money available to pay the bond forgiveness.

Hardwick was a candidate for the bond forgiveness as the economic status of its residents is the criteria to qualify for certain help. The town did a census of its residents' median household income and found that the median household income is \$20,000 less than the median household income for the state.

"That allowed us to access negative 3 percent interest rate funding for the bond. So, when we went out to bond for our water projects, instead of it being a 6 percent or 10 percent interest for 30 years it was at negative 3 percent, which is really a grant," said Town Manager Jon DeWitt.

He explained that the median income survey, combined with the negative 3 percent rate, helped the state determine to forgive the bond altogether.

"They said, 'we have a lot of money left in our budget so we haven't allocated yet to low-income

communities and we would like to give them some money, generally without being asked to, but we do what they ask and we also look at the big picture and try to make improvements so that we have good quality water and good quality infrastructure," he said.

"Over the years, the TOWN, 3

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photo by Hilary Waters

Tessa Bombardieri delivers her valedictory speech at Winooski Union School's graduation exercise Saturday.

Salvatoreanna Sica Fischback presents it in sign language.

Grads Off to a Good Start

by Will Waters

MAIRSVILLE — Twenty six students marched into the Winooski Union School gymnasium Saturday collectively the class has earned \$256,142 in scholarships, grants and other financial aid.

Principal Mark Money began the recognition of students in the personal awards category by asking students to stand up if he gave a shout out that applied to them. He has always found a category that could make someone stand.

"Who made the Honor Roll? Who made the Winooski Valley Music Festival? Played Soccer? Looked out for little brothers? Had art displayed in the Congressional Art Exhibit? Other categories included Precursorator Club (evangelist stood up), three-sport athletes (those who took early college courses at Norwich University, volunteer

firefighters, those going to National Guard boot training in the summer, men who are graduating with their own cars, those who will study anatomy, electrical, culinary or emergency medical services."

In addition to the more formal "who went to Paris in the spring" and "who took a rennaisance project to study Koran", there were the traditional in-house categories including "who laughed at all my jokes" who stole candy from Assistant Principal Bob Grubbe's dish" and "who received a grant proposal."

Tessa Bombardieri gave her valedictory speech while salutatorian Sica Fischback signed it to the audience in sign language. Bombardieri congratulated the class members and said "thank you to all the people who created a community here for our class. The support that I've been given and the community that my class has become

is what gives me the confidence to give this speech."

Bombardieri reflected on how an kindergarten teacher had given a speech in front of a crowd of strangers, but was too scared and her mom read it for her. The same helped of eighth grade graduation. "I hoped my substance would make my teachers change their mind, but this was not the case." She said for this graduation she had a choice but due to the support of the school community, she was able to give her speech.

She said some of the class have been together since preschool and although Jewish, Evronen, transferred to Spaulding where he will graduate next week, he came back to speak and to show he is still part of "our memories and experiences and therefore our community within Winooski."

Community support, family and friends were also present. Many of the school are common reflections in small school Vermont graduation exercises, a tribute to the socializing process, a small school can do.

"We always find a way when it comes to the Winooski community. She recounted a canoe trip, which she said would be a "Winooski-class-fare. That part didn't hold. She said she would be a "Winooski-class-fare."

One of the moments that brought the class together was when they did pancake and Mrs. McLaughlin, "something the Precursorators Class wanted until the last minute when we had to make it."

"Despite our procrastination, we pulled together a fairly good performance for a group of high school seniors and although a handful of us

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Winton E. Walbridge left, class of 1944, who recognized as a graduate of Cabot School and presented with his diploma by Principal David Schilling (right) as Walbridge's son, Brian (center), watches.

Sixteen Graduates, One Late Diploma

by Will Waters

CABOT — As faculty and students entered the Cabot School gymnasium to Elgar's Pomp and Circumstances played by the school band, the Class of 2018 was joined by an alumnus who had 74 for years to receive a diploma.

Winton E. Walbridge joined the U.S. Navy in 1944, a few months before he was the graduate. Vermont Director of Veterans Affairs Bob Burke was on hand to present Walbridge with the Vermont Veterans Medal and the Vermont Distinguished Service Medal, given to Vermont veterans who served in combat. Principal Dave Schilling presented Walbridge with his Cabot school diploma.

"In recognition of his life of leadership, service and learning, it is a great honor to recognize him as a graduate who has made a significant contribution to our community."

a graduate of Cabot High School, and present Winton E. Walbridge with his official high school diploma. Schilling said:

Before introducing the graduate, Schilling noted that he will be moving on to Danville School, where he will have 400 new classmates to remember. He noted that "it is going to be Cabot's 150th anniversary of a better class graduate than this group."

Schilling first met this year's seniors when they were in fourth grade and he was assigned to Cabot from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps out of Harro Tech. Schilling then read a short biography of each of the 16 students. He noted that "the words that are about to follow are not my own. They are the collective voice of Cabot's small yet incredible community."

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Main Street Farmers' Market Planned

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — The June 7 Hardwick Select Board Meeting dealt with many topics, including plans for a Main Street Farmers' Market and a presentation on the new youth center.

Parsons and Farmers' Market Manager Carey Crozier said that the town is looking to open a Main Street stall off for safety reasons. The town is looking to open a Main Street stall off for safety reasons.

"We've met with a couple of folks that organized First Fridays in the past, and they weren't sure if they were going to do it every Friday, but they might do an event," said Crozier.

"She said the Farmers' Market is trying to host more events this year. They are trying to generate some enthusiasm that has been waning. They want to make sure that it's not just a one-time thing, but that it's automatically going to be a regular event."

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WILL NOT BE MAILED NEXT WEEK
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OPENS FOR SUMMER