THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 Volume 133 Number 45

Pedestrian Bridge Planning Continues as Resident Input Survey Closes

by Gazette Staff

HARDWICK – At its Nov. 17 regular meeting, the Hardwick Select Board covered topics ranging from the wastewater plant project to Hardwick Electric Department finances and next steps in the Pedestrian Bridge reconstruction project.

Town Manager David Upson reported that a new lagoon liner has been installed at the wastewater treatment plant, and that the project is on schedule. Upson said that the town purchased four mobile homes at a recent tax sale. Owners have a year and a day to settle their tax bills. Otherwise, ownership transfers to the town.

The Pedestrian Bridge survey closed this Monday; more than 70 responses have been received. Once the survey responses are compiled, a final design will be selected, after which permitting work will begin.

Upson also reported that Community Development Coordinator Tracy Martin will complete an application for a grant under the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Community Recovery and Revitalization Program. The grant would cover additional items for the wastewater treatment project for which the town does not have funding. The program has a total $40 million available, and Hardwick will apply for approximately $700,000.

The town has received a second opioid settlement payment in the amount of $2,786. With the first payment, Hardwick received $5,400. Town Manager Upson would like to use some of the money to revitalize the senior side of the public safety building so that it can be used as a community center. See attachments for the full report. Interim Police Chief Mike Henry gave the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) report. The new Explorer is outfitted and on the road. The older sedan is stripped and is for sale. Anyone interested in purchasing the vehicle can call HPD at 472-5475. HPD plant to list the car on Facebook Marketplace, as well. Henry reported that Officer Steven Mitchell completed the Taser Instructor course, so HPD now has an in-house trainer. Officers need to retrain for tasers annually, so this will be very helpful to the department, as they have relied on other departments for the training

See SURVEY, 2

photo by Vanessa Fournier

The early season snow made for a Hallmark picture scene in Hardwick November 16. Lisa Sammet (left) heads for downtown as Judith Ruskin (center) stops to enjoy the view.

E. Calais Store Renovations Begin

by Denise Wheeler
Community Journalist

EAST CALAIS – The renovation of the East Calais Store building has begun. Efforts of volunteers, consultants, architect, local and statewide donors have resulted in the remodeling project with the three apartments above.

E. F. Wall serves as the construction manager and is on-site overseeing initial demolition. The first phase of renovation will be the removal of the non-historic garage on the front of the building. The entire interior of the building, store and apartments, will be gutted with new plumbing and electrical. The exterior of the building when complete will maintain its historical appearance with the addition of an ADA ramp for store access. Jessica Conrad Quinn, who formerly operated

See RENOVATIONS, 2

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Will Miller of East Hardwick was one of eight volunteers to help fill the 127 Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving food boxes November 20. On Monday families picked up their food boxes.

Library to Receive Solar Energy System and Backup

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Energy Committee is partnering with the Craftsbury Public Library and several funding groups to provide the library with a solar electric and battery back-up system.

The energy committee is providing their professional expertise in the designing and installation of the renewable energy and back-up power system that will ensure uninterrupted access to communications and library resources in the event of power outages.

The system includes roof mounted solar panels, a 20 kWh back-up battery and other components that will provide renewable and reliable power rain or shine.

The project will ensure a safe and reliable work space and access to resources to carry out essential internet-dependent work when power outages make work at home impossible. With this resilient system in place local citizens will

See SOLAR, 2

photo by Vanessa Fournier

There were 20 volunteers for this year's Family Pies Project. Pictured peeling 139 pounds of applies (from left to right): Deborah Hartt, Larry Fliegelman, Roger LeBlanc, Mary Mitchell and Jodi Lew-Smith. The apples were donated by Burtt's Apple Orchard in Cabot. Fifty-two apple pies were delivered to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry for Thanksgiving food boxes.

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November 23 - November 29

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Cabot Cheese Bars 2/$5 6-8 oz.

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Police Report

Hardwick Police

Single Vehicle Crash

On November 17 at approximately 7:20 a.m., Hardwick Police was dispatched to a single vehicle crash on Rte. 15, a half mile from Brown Farm Road. The vehicle was found on its side in a ditch. The operator did not sustain any injuries.

Vermont State Police

Theft

On November 17, at 6:44 p.m., State Police were notified of a theft from a residence on Danville Hill Road in Cabot. Upon arriving on scene, Troopers determined that Cesare Beyerle's landlord, Shelley Corliss, let herself inside his residence and she left the residence with cash belonging to Beyerle. Corliss was issued a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on December 15 at 8 a.m. to answer to the offense of petit larceny.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 13 people from November 13 through November 20. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

Survey

Continued From Page One

recently. Henry also shared that a couple of the part-time officers went to a drug detection course to learn how to detect impaired drivers. Chief Henry wanted to thank the Hazen staff who have worked with struggling students. There have been some challenging situations and that were handled with grace. There are high school and middle schoolers using the community center regularly now as a safe space. This is all a part of the relationship that the Police department has formed with the schools to assist them with students who are struggling. Commissioner Roger Prevot gave the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) report. HED has been depleting its cash reserves at a rate of about $50,000 a month due to the increased cost of purchased power. The cash reserves are largely proceeds from the embezzlement settlement from a lawsuit that was concluded several years ago. HED is working on a rate increase to help mitigate the drawdown and is exploring battery storage to offset peak demand.

Prevot shared that HED continues to look at Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI), which provides automated meter reading and automated outage reporting. HED is partnering with other Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) utilities, as the project is too large for HED to undertake on its own.

Solar

Continued From Page One

be able to access communication and vital information sites as they cope with the challenges of power outages.

The solar generation will also eliminate most of the electric utility costs for the library as well as contribute to Vermont's goals for renewable energy and resilience. In addition to being directly useful to the library the project will serve as an aspirational example of a resilient energy system that similar organizations can replicate.

The project is made possible through grants from the Association of Rural and Small Libraries, the AKC Foundation, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, municipal American Rescue Plan Act funding, and the donation of many hours of design and installation by members of the Craftsbury Energy Committee. Planning and permitting has begun, with an anticipated completion date in 2023.

For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683, director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org

Renovations

Continued From Page One

a store and café in a small town in Maine, will operate the East Calais General Store once it is renovated and re-opened in summer 2023.

The community group still accepts donations toward this project online at eastcalaiscommunity-trust.org/.../support-ecct or mail a check to P.O. Box 14, E. Calais, VT 05650.

photo by Hal Gray

Eric Hanson gave an illustrated talk November 17 at the Greensboro Free Library on Chinese-American relations.

Hanson Talk Gives Insights into China-U.S. Relations

by Hal Gray,
Community Journalist

GREENSBORO – Financial analyst and Greensboro resident Eric Hanson (no relation to Eric Hanson, the loon expert) gave an illustrated talk November 17 at the Greensboro Free Library on China and future relations with the U.S.

The framework for his presentation was "Thucydides' Trap" – the tendency towards war when a rising power threatens to displace an existing one. Is war likely between a rising China and an immovable United States?

Hanson explained that 2019 military spending by the U.S. was $732 billion and by China was $261 billion, with Russian spending at $65 billion, fourth behind India at $71 billion. By this measurement, the U.S. and China were the two leading powers by a significant margin. In 2001, China's share of global exports of goods was 4.6%, whereas the figure for the U.S. was 11.3%. By 2020, their positions had reversed, and China's share was at 14.7% while the U.S. was 8.1%. China is experiencing rising nationalism and patriotism and sees itself as an equal to the U.S.

China has achieved this status beginning with Deng Xiaoping (1978-1989) and his socialism with Chinese characteristics. He lifted 800 million Chinese out of poverty, but his rule also led to Tiananmen Square in 1989. Xi Jinping has shifted China to the right, with greater emphasis on state-owned enterprises and a reduction in focus on the private sector, leading to questions about the sustainability of the private sector.

Hanson described how the U.S. and China are entwined: China needs our food, energy, high tech, and our large domestic market; we need China's cheap consumer goods, electronics, rare earth elements, lithium batteries, solar panels, and their large domestic market.

Of particular current interest is China's regard for Taiwan as one of its provinces. Hanson noted there is universal mainland Chinese opposition to Taiwanese independence, and that there is no question in his mind there would be war if we declared Taiwan independent.

Vermont Public (former VPR) broadcast the show "Fresh Air" on November 17 with a New Yorker magazine writer who said access to Taiwan by amphibious forces is difficult for geographic reasons and, therefore, the most likely military action by mainland China would be a naval blockade.

Building on a point made during Hanson's talk, an article on the Internet notes that the "Thucydides' Trap" should not predict the future but serve to prevent a war. The Internet cites author Graham Allison, who notes that in three cases in the 20th century imaginative statecraft averted war.

Local Youth Attends Event on Bovine-related Information

SOUTH BURLINGTON – Ryan Holbrook of Hardwick, was among the 4-Hers attending the Bovine Bonanza, Nov. 5. The event was open to youths, ages 8-18, enrolled in the 4-H beef, dairy and working steer projects. It was designed to share information on a number of bovine-related topics in a fun, non-competitive way.

Seventy-three 4-Hers gathered at the Paul R. Miller Research and Educational Center at the University of Vermont (UVM) to learn about biosecurity and zoonotic diseases; bovine nutrition and fistulated cows; breeding, lineages and genetics; calving and calf care; and milking parlors. Participants were divided into age groups, and rotated through the five sessions, which were taught by students in the UVM Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department's Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management (CREAM) program.

The event was organized by Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator, with assistance from Dr. Stephen Wadsworth, a Franklin County dairy veterinary practitioner and CREAM advisor.

To learn about 4-H livestock programs in Vermont, contact Sorrell at (802) 651-8343, ext. 513, or wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.

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Our Communities

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lisa Graham (left) of Arefel Crafts in Marshfield visits with customer Kim Quick (right) of Morrisville at the Justice for Dogs Craft Show held at Hazen Union School in Hardwick November 12. Graham was one of 50 vendors participating in the fundraiser.

courtesy photo

Catholic Financial Life Chapter St. Jean co-sponsored AWARE's Lantern Raffle at AWARE's Fall Craft Fair. Jeannine Young, President of Chapter St. Jean, presented the $1,000 match fund check to Paulette Brochu-Colburn, Jerry Schneider, and Sharon Fialco, AWARE board members for AWARE's Lantern Raffle.

Contra Dance on Dec. 3

MONTPELIER – A Contra dance will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., at Capital City Grange. Will Mentor is calling, with music by Sam Bartlett, Stuart Kenney, Julie Metcalf and Max Newman. Newcomers lesson is held at 7:40 p.m., and dancing is from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. All dances are taught. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes and surgical mask (N95 or KN95 required). Dances are held every first, third and fifth Saturday. COVID policy and most up to date info at capitalcitygrange.org/dancing/contradancing and Montpelier Contra Dance Facebook page. Information at (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com.

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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Filling the pie crusts with apples and ingredients are Sarah Remick (front left) and Jennifer Fliegelman (front right). Fliegelman started the Family Pies Project in 2017. Michael Lew-Smith (back center) and Manny Fliegelman (second from right) wrap and label the finished pies. Twenty volunteers whipped up 52 pies that were donated to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving boxes. The labels for the pies were made by the Hardwick Elementary Art Club. Other pie donations included 30 from Sterling College and 88 by home bakers.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Family Pies Project volunteers Mosie Hill (left), Clara Lew-Smith (center) and Madelyn Emers (right), roll out dough for the pie crusts. They were joined by 17 other volunteers who together made 52 pies in the United Church dining room Sunday. They were then brought to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving food boxes. The dough was made and donated by Charlie Emers of Patchwork Farm and Bakery.

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Obituaries

RAOUL JOSEPH MCALLISTER

Raoul Joseph McAllister

BERLIN – Raoul Joseph McAllister, aka "Gunman," passed away on November 16. Raoul was an avid outdoorsman and always in his element when surrounded by woods, water, animals, birds, and a family so large that people sometimes disagree on how many family members there are. Raoul grew up on the McAllister farm in Lowell, with his siblings Leon Sr., Wilfred Sr., Conrad, Russell, and Gloria. His parents were Stanley Eugene and Solange McAllister.

Raoul was hunting and fishing from the time he could pick up a rifle and a fishing pole. The fish, partridge, turkey, deer, and bear he and his brothers brought home were essential to feeding their large family. They moved to the Hardwick area where most still live and in the surrounding towns, except his mother and sister who later moved to New York. Visits home were filled with big suppers, pies, chocolate chip cookies, fudge, and crocheted socks for everyone.

Raoul was a surveyor for New Town Surveyors under Moose Richards, and he also poured foundations before starting a logging business with his brothers, which Raoul's sons and grandsons have continued. Many relatives and friends also contribute to the business. Moose often said Raoul could hit anything he could see, and his keen eyes were as good as a surveyor's transit. A transit, like a builder's level, measures elevations but also adjusts for vertical angles for supreme accuracy when surveying boundary lines. Moose called Raoul "Eagle Eyes." He was also called "Gunman," his CB call sign, and was an expert skeet shooter, large and small game hunter, houndsman, fisherman, and all-around outdoorsman. He was often called upon by other hunters to help track game with his hounds and flush them out. His whole extended family often hunted together in groups, men and women joining in.

In his 77 years on this Earth, there were so many stories told by Raoul and those that knew him, that he became something of a legend. He often sang a song titled, "16 Tons" by Merle Travis which speaks to his larger-than-life, wild nature and unique sense of humor. His son Matthew spoke with Raoul on the Monday before his death and told Raoul that because it was deer season, he would get a deer for him. Raoul had seen deer from his window and told Matt he would get his own, "just get me close, Matt." Raoul Joseph McAllister, beloved son, brother, father, grand and great grandfather, you will live on forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Raoul is survived by his children; Angela, Matthew, Frank, Shawn, Adam, and Katie and grandchildren; Holly, Robert, Walker Joseph, Taylor Steele, Dylan, Luke, Sarah, Emma, Malea, Alivia, Adrian, Andrew, and Bryce and his great-granddaughter Zoey, as well as many more added each year by relationship or marriage. Calling hours will be held on Saturday, November 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the des Groseilliers Funeral Home, 97 Church Street, Hardwick. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at dgfunerals.com.

Births

Lily Jane Holbrook

A daughter, Lily Jane Holbrook was born to Caleb and Kirsten (Smith) Holbrook, of Hardwick, on November 4, at Copley Hospital.

Alaina Lou Lumsden-Berry

A daughter, Alaina Lou Lumsden-Berry, was born to Brittany Lumsden and Joshua Berry, of Wolcott, at Copley Hospital on November 6.

Blake Carter Thomas Martin

Travis and Arianna (Patten) Daigle, of Hardwick, are the parents of a son, Blake Carter Thomas Martin, born November 6, at Copley Hospital.

Twin Valley Senior Center Receives Community Grant

MONTPELIER – Twin Valley Senior Center in East Montpelier was among the grant recipients from Hunger Mountain Co-op. The co-op awarded $15,200 to 15 local grant recipients working on projects addressing food access and local food systems.

Other grant recipients included Barre Senior Center, Bethany Church, Enough Ministries, Good Samaritan Haven, Greater Northfield Seniors, Green Acres Affordable Housing, Ishtar Collective, Khelcom Farm, Maquam Bay of Missisquoi Inc., Milk With Dignity Standards Council, Montpelier Senior Activity Center, Onion River Food Shelf, Schoolhouse Farm and The Flying Buffalo LLC.

Hunger Mountain Co-op's purpose is rooted in the belief that access to good food helps to create healthy communities and sustainable local food systems. Each year, the co-op encourages central Vermont businesses, organizations, and initiatives aligned with its mission to apply for grants from the Hunger Mountain Cooperative Community Fund. The focus of funding is on smaller proposals for one-time expenditures, capital infrastructure needs, food access projects, and proposals from historically and currently marginalized groups.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Hardwick Area Food Pantry director Heather Davis (left) and volunteers Terry Tuthill (front right), John Tuthill (center) and Joyce Mandeville (back right) helped to fill 127 Thanksgiving food boxes Sunday. Eight volunteers worked on the project. Families picked up their Thanksgiving food boxes on Monday.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

New faculty and staff at Twinfield Union School, front row (left to right): Ella King, support-executive assistant; Elisha Hersey, paraeducator; Carol Mangan, special educator; Gayle McFarland, Spanish teacher. Back row (left to right): Barry Wyman, elementary math interventionist; Will Hicks, literacy interventionist; Morgan Amador, French teacher; Jennifer Stein, literacy interventionist; Deb Rossell, middle school language arts teacher. Missing from the photo: Katelyn Foster, paraeducator; Isaac French, paraeducator; Shelby Gonzales, paraeducator; Nichole Auerbach, paraeducator; Beret Halverson, physical education teacher; Abdelkrim Hayab, Arabic teacher; Luke Lampugnale, behavior specialist; Kathleen Wheelock, high school math teacher; David Conover, Twinfield-Cabot athletic director.

courtesy photo

Jane Brown (left) and Patty Conley (middle), authors of a history of West Danville, receive awards from Steve Perkins, executive director of the Vermont Historical Society.

Historical Society Book Receives Award

DANVILLE – A group gathered at the Danville Historical Society (DHS) on Hill Street, on Thursday, Nov. 17, to witness the presentation of two awards for the recently-published book, "West Danville, Vermont Then and Now, 1781-2021," published by the Danville Historical Society.

Steve Perkins, executive director of the Vermont Historical Society presented the Richard O. Hathaway Award, and Eileen Corcoran, director of programs and outreach for the Vermont Historical Society, presented the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums award to the co-authors, Patty Houghton Conly and Jane Bolton Brown. Both awards are given annually to recognize outstanding contributions to Vermont History by individuals or organizations for collecting, preserving and sharing Vermont history. The Hathaway Award included a check for the historical society.

Accepting the awards, Conly paid tribute to two deceased members of the original committee formed in 2013: Jane Hastings Larrabee, local historian, and fellow author Dorothy Ayer Larrabee. Both women died before the book was published. Conly explained that this was a joint effort that took eight years of research and writing, and it would not have been possible without the efforts and support of many people, including family, friends and individuals who were interviewed or who gave information or donated news clippings or photos for use in the book.

Jane Brown credited their editor, Linda Bishop; DHS staff member Randee Leightcap for cleaning and restoring old photographs; Howard and Peggy Tuttle of Foster Design Collaborative for their design of the book; and Nate Somers for creating the aerial view cover photo.

Copies of the award-winning book are available through the Danville Historical Society by emailing book@danvillevthistorical.org, or at Hastings Store, Joe's Pond Craft Shop, or at Stop Inn Shop at Walden Four Corners.

Contact the Hardwick Gazette during these hours:

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Events

Wednesday, November 23

BONE BUILDERS/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

Thursday, November 24

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick dining room. Hosted by the United Church Missions Team and other volunteers. Eat-in or Take-out. Call 802-472-6800 to reserve a meal. Leave your name and phone number and how many meals you want and if you need them delivered. Donations appreciated.

Friday, November 25

BONE BUILDERS/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

Monday, November 28

CHAIR YOGA, at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mondays at 3 p.m. Call (802) 223-3322 for information.

BONE BUILDERS/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

Tuesday, November 29

SUN STYLE TAI CHI, at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Call (802) 223-3322 for information.

Wednesday, November 30

BONE BUILDERS/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

Saturday, December 3

AGING WELL, 3 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Discuss the basics of how lifstyle choices like nutritious foods and physical activity promote healthy aging. All welcome. Information: 802-755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Exhibits

VERMONT SUPREME COURT GALLERY, 111 State St., Montpelier. Exhibition: through Dec. 20. Gallery Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri. Additional Montpelier Art Walk: Friday, Dec. 2, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Artist's Website: Axel Stohlberg.

FRESH PAINT, New Work by Anne Davis, The Gallery at Central Vermont Medical Center, until December 9. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. every day. Information or to purchase her work: anne@annemadecards.com.

ELLY BARKSDALE: The Beauty of Horses, Nov. 16 to Dec. 27. Paintings at the Parker Pie Gallery, County Road, W. Glover.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union Drama Club performers Rebekah Cloutier (center), Lucille DiMarco (left) and Gracie Cloutier (right) sing and dance during the school's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" held November 17-19 at the Highland Center for the Arts. The musical was directed by Marc Considine, the musical director was Mavis MacNeil, and the choreography was by Joni Calgagni.

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courtesy photo

The Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa performs December 8 at Fuller Hall on the St. Johnsbury Academy campus.

Soweto Gospel Choir Unveils All-New Show

ST. JOHNSBURY -- Direct from South Africa, the Soweto Gospel Choir returns to North America this fall with an all-new concert celebrating the holiday season and commemorating the freedom movement in South Africa, as well as the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

Produced by Andrew Kay and under the direction of Choir Master Shimmy Jiyane and Musical Director Diniloxolo Ndlakuse, Soweto Gospel Choir will perform at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall, on December 8, at 7 p.m.

The new show, titled "Hope – It's Been a Long Time Coming," will feature gospel music, holiday favorites, and a series of South African freedom songs, along with music of the Civil Rights era including selections by legendary artists James Brown, Otis Redding, Curtis Mayfield, and Aretha Franklin.

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a town outside of Johannesburg, home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, the Soweto Gospel Choir inspires audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international classics. Formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to democracy, the Soweto Gospel Choir performed many times for former President Nelson Mandela, including at his state funeral in South Africa and subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey. In January of this year, they performed in Cape Town at the funeral service of Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For tickets to see Soweto Gospel Choir at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall, visit kcppresents.org or catamountarts.org.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union Drama students Megan Gifford (left) and Ethan Gann (right) perform a dance routine during the school's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" held at the Highland Center for the Arts November 17-19.

courtesy photo

Rainbows Edge Farm's horse drawn wagon rides will take place along Railroad Street during the St. J Holiday Weekend

St. J Holiday Weekend Activities to be Held Dec. 8-10

ST. JOHNSBURY – St. Johnsbury's holiday tradition is back with St. J Sparkles! Holiday Weekend, December 8, 9 and 10.

"Our experience with St. J Sparkles! last year was so positive, it created a number of traditions that we look forward to bringing back, chief among them the Northstar Fireworks display over downtown St. Johnsbury on Friday night," said Gillian Sewake, director of Discover St. Johnsbury.

New this year, two KCP Presents performances include the Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir kicking off the weekend on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., and the Trio Mediæval performing on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 9, the event will bring a nightlife feel to the downtown shopping district, with activities at the Welcome Center, and many businesses staying open late until the Northstar Fireworks display at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, December 10, family activities start at 9 a.m., and run all day long, all throughout town.

A full event will include free horse-drawn wagon rides from Rainbow's Edge Farm; a farm animal petting zoo from Morrison's Feed Bag; a variety of free childrens' crafts and activities all around town; shopping incentives and dining promotions; free warm beverages and fire pits along Railroad Street; live music from United Community Handbell Ensemble; free admission and holiday-themed crafts at the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium; story time and a holiday concert at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum; food and toy drives; holiday bazaars; new business opening celebrations; and much more. All event times, locations, and details will be available online at DiscoverSt-Johnsbury.com/StJSparkles and at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center (51 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury,, phone (802) 748-8575).

Businesses and organizations who want to host activities during the event still have time to contact the organizers.

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The board will consider a request by the Highland Center for the Arts for Temporary Relief of Condition #5 in HCA's Conditional Use permit of 2014. Condition #5 states: "Performances and events on the site will not utilize sound outside of the structure." The hearing is open to the public.

To join the ZOOM hearing, sign up for a free ZOOM account anytime (zoom.us), then at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 8, go to ZOOM and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: 646 931 3860 (this is not a toll free number).

The written request is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.org. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may attend the hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.org) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk's office to comment on the proposed plan.

Greensboro Development Review Board

"La Traviata" in Hardwick Comes with Special Treat

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – "And now, for something completely different" in Hardwick, to quote from Monty Python. Friday evening at the American Legion, the-recently founded Civic Standard hosted a spaghetti dinner combined with a broadcast of the San Francisco Opera Company's current production of Verdi's tragic opera, "La Traviata." Black tie and/or upscale apparel was suggested and the sizable audience that assembled seemed to enjoy the opportunity of dressing up for this unique occasion; we do not often see top hats, fur stoles and tuxedos around town.

The evening's festivities were introduced by Rose Friedman who explained that the Civic Standard was initiated by Tara Reese, Erica Heilman and Friedman to build community in Hardwick by presenting a variety of regular events that will bring people together in shared experiences that are both fun and meaningful. She also alerted us to the fact that, thanks to her personal friendship with the opera's director and the magic of the internet, we would be enjoying a special treat during the intermission.

Giuseppi Verdi wrote some of the most compelling dramatic opera in the whole repertoire, with characters we can identify with and scenes that engage the full range of our emotions. His skill in blending voices and his superb orchestration create many transcendental musical moments; his beautiful melodies stay with us long after a performance.

In this fine production the heroine, Violetta, was sung by Pretty Yende whose soprano voice was exquisite in phrasing and warm in color, while her acting was powerfully convincing, especially in the tragic final act. Up and coming tenor, Jonathan Tetelman was excellent as Alfredo, her lover, with a commanding presence on stage and complete assurance on every note. Alfredo's father, the Count Germont, sung by bass Simone Piazzola, displayed great vocal skill but somewhat limited acting, making virtually no expressive use of his face or body, the production's only small weakness. Another young singer of note was Adam Lau playing the doctor, a secondary but memorable role. The entire show was sumptuously and inventively staged by Shawna Lucey with musical direction by Eun Sun Kim, who ably conducted.

One of the highlights of the evening was a live Zoom interview with the director, between the first and second acts. Ms. Lucey was delightful to listen to. She shared stories about preparations for this production and was very candid and amusing in her answers to questions from the Hardwick audience, all of which was entirely refreshing and helped break the ice for those who might feel intimidated by classical music in general and have always assumed that they wouldn't enjoy opera in particular.

From the delicious Italian meal to the final spectacular aria, the entire evening was a triumph; we look forward to future events hosted by this group. The Civic Standard is planning future attractions and would welcome any imaginative ideas. They can be contacted at their physical location in the old Gazette building on Main Street, or through their website, thecivicstandard.org

photo by Vanessa Fournier

The first snowfall of the season was Wednesday and dropped around three inches of snow mixed with rain, causing slippery conditions.

The Outside Story

Asiatic Bittersweet is Festive, but Invasive

by Olivia Box

PORTLAND, Me. – My daily walk around my city this fall has been dominated by one plant. It is abundant and leafy with red berries and orange or yellow foliage. It seems to fit in perfectly with a New England autumn in its color and exuberance. Despite its festive appearance however, this plant – Celastrus orbiculatus, more commonly known as Asiatic bittersweet, is an exotic invasive that has wreaked havoc in both urban and forested environments.

Asiatic bittersweet is native to China, Japan, and Korea and arrived in the United States in the 19th century as an ornamental plant. It has spread widely, and its sale and distribution are now banned in many states, including New Hampshire and Vermont. Asiatic bittersweet thrives in many different environments: forests, forest edges, urban streets, gardens, and beaches. This woody vine, which may reach 60 feet in length and 10 inches in diameter, can devastate native flora by growing over plants to block sunlight, and twining around the stems and trunks of vegetation to essentially strangle growth.

"Its rate of spread is a bit like a Jack and the Beanstalk fairy tale," said Rebecca Finneran from Michigan State Extension. "It has been observed covering half-acre wood lots in just seven to 10 years."

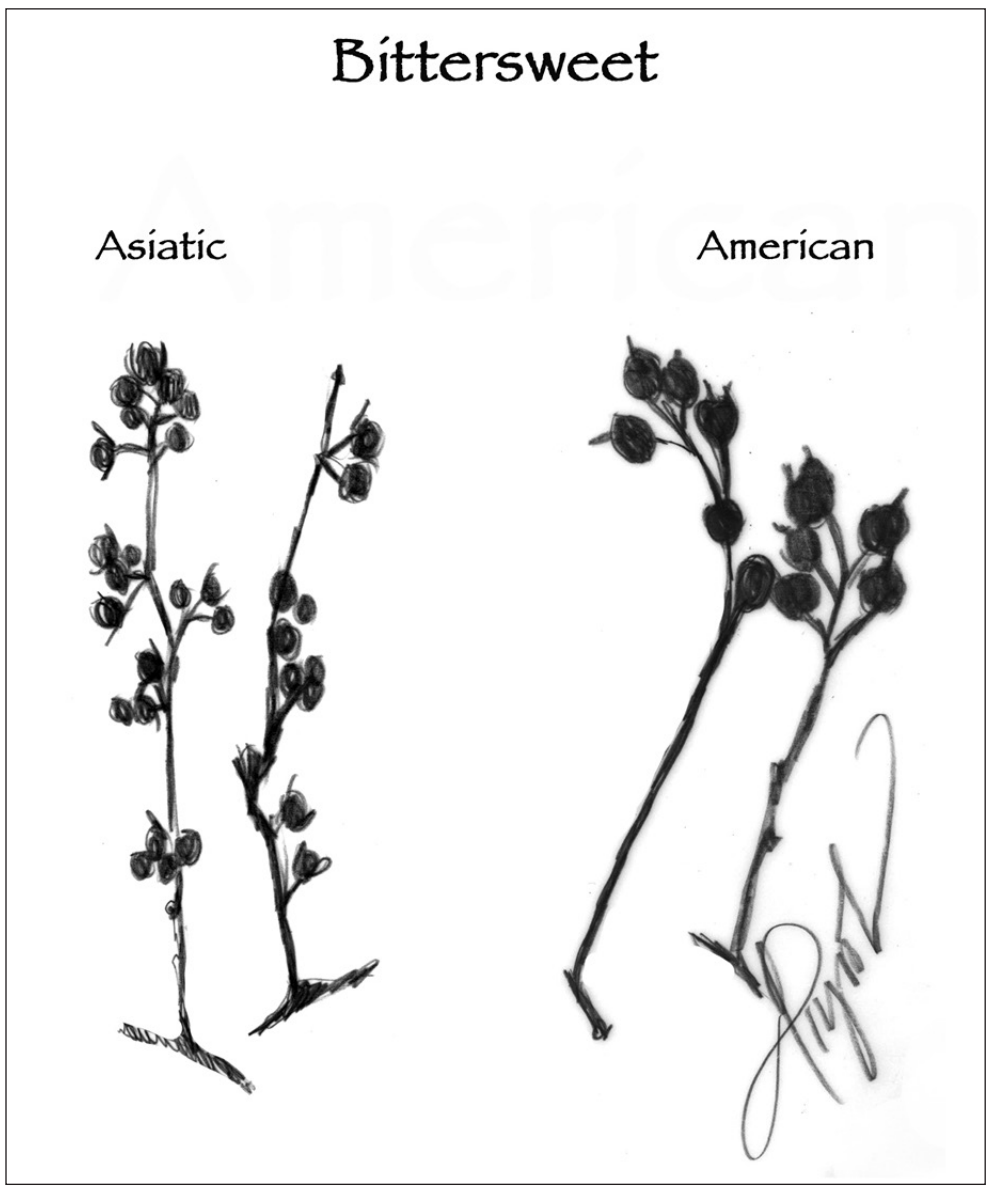
Found from Maine to Wisconsin, Asiatic bittersweet has glossy, round leaves measuring two to four inches long. Small, yellow-green flowers emerge in spring, leading to yellow-skinned fruit, which splits in the autumn to reveal a scarlet aril – a fleshy covering resembling a berry – containing yellow seeds. These red arils last tenaciously into winter – and attract birds who eat them and humans who clip bittersweet vines to use in decorations, aiding in the spread of this invasive.

Its adaptability and reproducibility make Asiatic bittersweet the perfect storm of an invasive species. Its seeds can disperse over long distances, often aided by the birds and other wildlife that eat them and deposit them elsewhere as waste. The seeds continue to be viable when they are dry, and since this invasive is commonly used for seasonal décor, discarded wreaths and other adornments often lead to new germination. For this reason, wildlife experts encourage people to avoid using Asiatic bittersweet to decorate. The species also spreads through its fast-growing roots; dozens of stems may grow from a mature root system.

Bittersweet is notoriously difficult to eliminate once established. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends considering the extent of an infestation and possibly combining mechanical and chemical treatments for best results.

Experts consider cutting the vine down and applying an herbicide to the remaining stems to be one of the most effective combination methods. Cutting may be done at any time of year. Another method is to cut the stems and treat new sprouts with a herbicide. Pulling roots by hand is another tactic for tackling bittersweet. However, the plant roots deeply into the soil, and even tiny root fragments left in the soilcan resprout. Plants, including roots, runners, and vines, pulled from the ground should be disposed of in plastic bags. (For help addressing specific invasive infestations, contact your local Extension office.)

One victim of Asiatic bittersweet's spread is American bittersweet (Celastrus scandens), a native look-alike that is being displaced by its invasive counterpart. The fruit and flowers of American bittersweet grow in terminal clusters, while Asiatic bittersweets fruits grow along the stem in the axils of leaves. While American bittersweet also grows easily and vigorously, this vine does not grow as large as the invasive species and will not push out other plants, as Asiatic bittersweet does.



The native and invasive species can hybridize, and conservation biologists worry hybridization may lead to further decline of American bittersweet. The native plant was once common throughout the Northeast, but is now listed as uncommon, rare, or endangered in most areas of the region.

[Olivia Box is an ecologist and writer based in Maine. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Mary Piper (left) of Hardwick helps Gloria White (right) sell her homemade baked goods, candy and crafts at the Greensboro Thanksgiving Market November 18. The market, organized by Carol Fairbank of Broadfork Farmstead, included nine different vendors who were set up in the Greensboro United Church Fellowship Hall.

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In the Garden

Include Some Homegrown (or Local) Vegetables in You Holiday Feasts

courtesy photo

Cure potatoes for a few days before storing.

courtesy photo

Cranberries do not require a swamp or bog. you can grow them in your garden.

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I personally think that the Canadians have the right idea: they have their Thanksgiving feast the second Monday in October, right after the harvest. By the time our Thanksgiving rolls around, many gardeners have eaten all their home-grown veggies. It need not be so, of course, if they are properly stored.

Not all of you have the time, the space and the desire to grow veggies. I think everyone appreciates that having local farmers is important, and many of you have signed up with a farm CSA to get a box of vegetables each week during the summer. Even now many CSAs have fall or winter programs to supply you with root crops and spinach or brassicas like Brussels sprouts or kale. If you can't get into a CSA program, think about buying local vegetables at your local food coop.

Why are local vegetables important? I have read that the average vegetable in a big grocery store travels over 2,000 miles at some times of the year. That's right, we in New England get veggies from California, Florida, Texas and other warmer places. I am interested in reducing my carbon footprint by reducing the use of fossil fuels. Those big 18-wheelers crossing the country use a lot of diesel fuel. And fruits from Mexico and South America? I avoid them. I can (mostly) live without fruit that travels long distances.

I am not claiming I have given up citrus fruit to save the atmosphere. But instead of getting a case of oranges, I can buy a few and get my citrus fix from orange juice which is much more concentrated than fresh fruit, and easier to transport. Local apples are available pretty much year-round, store well and are tasty and nutritious.

So what will I have on my table for holiday feasts, both now and in December? Potatoes, for sure. They are easy to grow, very productive and store well. In a bed 50 feet long and three feet wide in full sun I can grow 50 pounds of potatoes – unless the blight that starved the Irish long ago comes along.

I keep a large spare refrigerator in the basement dedicated to storing potatoes and other garden vegetables. Potatoes, carrots, celeriac and rutabagas store well at 33 to 50 degrees, and do best with high humidity. A modern fridge takes a lot of the humidity out, though the drawers are better at keeping in humidity. On the shelves of the fridge I store potatoes in heavy paper bags to reduce moisture loss: in plastic bags they might rot, as they need to breathe.

Brussels sprouts are very cold resistant and will be fine outdoors until late December, if the deer don't find them. That's right, deer love Brussels sprouts, kale, broccoli and will munch them unless protected. I had no problem with deer this summer because of our dog, Rowan, who leaves scents around the property and advertises himself as a wolf. But deer are hungry now. There are very few nuts this year so they have moved in to my late fall plantings, and are even eating the tops of my rutabagas.

If you want to eat directly from the garden in November and December, some fencing is probably a good idea. I recently spread an old bedspread over my kale plants to keep deer away until I had time to pick and freeze them. But if you just have a few plants and like to pick fresh veggies from the garden now and in the weeks to come, think about some chicken wire fencing.

Although fencing an entire garden requires an eight-foot fence to keep deer from getting in, a small space with six kale or Brussels sprouts plants can easily be surrounded with three- or four-foot wire. Tie it onto stakes with string or zip ties. They can't get in, and I doubt they will lean over and grab food.

I freeze a lot of vegetables each year as it is easier than canning them. Tomatoes are the easiest. I freeze them whole, skins and all. In past years I have put them in zipper bags, but we are now trying to lead a plastic-free life.

Plastic can potentially leach chemicals onto food, particularly if the food is hot. Even food-grade plastic may not be 100% safe. So this year we started storing frozen foods in wide-mouth jars. Next summer I will cut large tomatoes into chunks to fit into jars for freezing. I use frozen tomatoes for stews and soups.

I remember that many years ago there was a recall of fresh cranberries at Thanksgiving time due to some chemical that had been sprayed on them. Afterwards we all went back to eating cranberries and forgot about the scare. Now I try to get organic fruits and vegetables whenever possible, and grow my own organically – without the use of any chemicals.

I got some cranberry plants from a friend this summer and hope to be able to supply our needs within a few years. They do not require a swamp to grow, although they are found in wet places in the wild. They do require acidic soils, but that is easily provided with elemental sulfur or soil acidifier. They do best in full sun, though my friend who grows them has them in part sun/part shade and they do well for her. She uses pine needles to mulch them. Some plant nurseries sell potted cranberry plants so might try some next year.

courtesy photo

Celeriac with carrots, leeks and Brussels sprouts. All store well in the fridge.

In the Garden

Thanksgiving and Christmas Cactus Can Rebloom Yearly

by Andrea Knepper, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

BURLINGTON – My grandmother had a green thumb. A self-taught gardener, she cultivated a bountiful garden every summer, tended a large variety of indoor plants and was always ready to experiment with and learn about new varieties. One of my favorite memories of her as a gardener relates to a small, green, succulent-like leaf she found on the sidewalk near her apartment.

We had just arrived for a visit when she found this small leaf. Her excitement seemed excessive as she described how she had found a piece of a Christmas cactus. I watched as she carefully put the leaf in some moist potting soil. I forgot about this incident until some time later when Grandma showed me a lush green plant, which she proudly reported had grown from that small leaf she picked up from the sidewalk.

Christmas cactus (Schlumgera bridgesii), and its close relative, the Thanksgiving cactus (Schlumgera truncata), appear for sale in garden centers at this time of year. They make wonderful gifts as they are easy to care for and, with a bit of knowledge, can be coaxed to rebloom with modest effort.

Identification of these cacti can be made by examining their leaf segments. Both types have projections along the edge. The Thanksgiving cactus leaf projections are pointed while those of the Christmas cactus are more rounded. Both types bloom in a variety of colors, most commonly red, pink, purple and white.

They are native to the rainforests of Brazil where their roots anchor them to tree branches or rocky outcrops. Because of this heritage, their needs are different than other popular succulents.

A succulent potting mix is the best choice for these cacti. Water when the surface of the soil is dry. Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti also prefer a humid environment.

This can be simulated by placing a drip tray of small stones under the plant pot. Keep a small amount of water in the tray to evaporate. The pot should not be submerged in the water but sitting atop the stones. These plants prefer bright light, but not direct sunlight.

Both the Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus are short-day plants. To encourage them to bloom, they must have a minimum of 12 hours of darkness and cooler temperatures, ideally in the 50-60 degree Fahrenheit range, for about six weeks. Once buds begin to appear, you can return the cactus to its usual location. Do not fertilize your cactus while it is in bloom.

These beginner-friendly cacti are relatively disease-free. The most common problem is stem or root rot, caused by excessive moisture. This easily can be avoided by using well-draining soil, such as a succulent potting mix, and allowing the soil to dry between waterings. There are reports of lovingly cared-for Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus living for decades.

photo by Sabine Schwoaze

The Christmas cactus with its showy flowers that bloom in winter is a popular, easy-to-grow holiday plant.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti prefer to have their roots fit snugly in their pot, so replanting is only necessary every three to five years.

In addition to being easy to care for, both are excellent candidates for propagating from cuttings. Take a cutting of one or more leaf segments and simply allow to dry out for a couple of days. Once dry, place the cutting in moist soil. After roots have developed, which takes a few weeks, transplant into succulent potting mix and water as you would for an established plant.

Letters From Readers

Bell Restoration Misidentified

To the editor:

In your November 16 issue, Aaron Hill was quoted as giving credit to Finn Rooney's vision for the restoration of the Hardwick Academy bell. It should have said the Greensboro High School bell, not the Hardwick Academy bell.

Jeannie A. Young
Craftsbury Common

ORLEANS SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

Request for Qualifications

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union is seeking applications from qualified contractors for energy performance contracting services pursuant to **16 V.S.A. § 3448f.**

To receive the complete RFQ and submission guidelines contact:

Joe Houston, Facilities Director
PO BOX 338, 157 Daniels Road
Hardwick, VT 05843
jhouston@ossu.org
(802) 472-2934

We're alive and well in Greensboro!

Although we no longer have a location in Hardwick, we continue to cover the ten towns in our coverage area, in fact, our readership has increased.

Thanks to the high-speed digital connections in the Spark spaces in Greensboro, we continue to produce a weekly electronic newspaper. We are located in the Spark space in the Greensboro Town Hall and look forward to continue our 133-year coverage of your home town.

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Yankee Notebook

They're Coming

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Living alone as I do, with relatively few opportunities for conversation (I couldn't help but notice, for instance, how little my life changed during the early COVID lockdown), I tend to chat with my household appliances and cars. They rarely answer. I also take note of phenomena that to others might seem trivial: how many seconds it takes my microwave to perform one rotation (eleven seconds, which means that if I put in a cup of coffee to warm up and push a double number, like 77, the handle of the cup will end up in its original position); the percentage of times my clothes dryer leaves my undershorts inside out, and the possible relation of that figure to the phase of the moon (results so far inconclusive); and whether watching the Patriots play has an effect on their performance (they're on their own this year. I've stopped watching).

This sort of apparent obsessive-compulsive attention to trivia might be considered a precursor to insanity (as no doubt it was not long ago), but it does populate my personal space quite pleasantly. The week just past, leading up to the national, state, and local elections, produced a phenomenon that I chose to think of as a good omen: the first four eggs in my current box of jumbos (I get them because it takes only one to make an omelet that, by the time I finish adding to the mix, is justifiably called "Would You Like Egg with That?") were all double-yolked. Could this mean, I wondered as I listened to the television pundits going on and on about the impending tsunami of red votes and the end of democracy, that they're wrong?

Whether the eggs portended anything or not, the chattering class was wrong. The red tide fizzled, and, among my acquaintances and friends, at least, there were broad smiles of relief. Alternatives to the two presumptive presidential candidates have emerged. The eggs may have been right, but here we go again.

The most encouraging thing to me – beyond the relief that the ship of state is probably good for another two years and that the voters in large numbers, apparently, have "spoken" – is the arrival on the scene of the first so-called Generation Z member. Maxwell Alejandro Frost – Afro-Cuban and of the minimum age (25) to serve in Congress – was elected to represent the Tenth Congressional District of Florida. Fittingly, he campaigned on issues most important to his similarly youthful constituents: climate change, abortion rights, gun violence, and Medicare for everyone. At the moment he's only a chip washed up on the shore and not at all a threat to the ponderous institution of the House of Representatives. But how I wish I could whisper in the poobahs' ears, "Here they come!" I suspect, however, they know that already.

Just as many military officers, directing operations, appear to be fighting their last war instead of the one in front of them, so, too, do many members of Congress seem to fail to accommodate the prodigious changes in American society triggered by the Vietnam War, the collapse of faith in government authority, and the availability of modern birth control. People once without voices have become vocal in their demands for the rights and privileges currently available to the wealthy and connected. An old white guy like me can only imagine the outrage a young woman, for example, must feel when a bunch of old (usually all white) guys in dark suits soberly declares what she considers her right to bodily autonomy an illegal abomination. It must be intense, and I doubt it'll go away. Don't those old guys see it coming?

In response to the "youth" turnout in the election still being counted or run off, current legislators at both ends of the spectrum have suggested lowering the legal voting age to sixteen or raising it to pick-a-number. One argues that, since young people have such an increasingly large stake in new legislation, they should have a voice in its creation. The other suggests that young folks are too green, too innocent of the important lessons of adult life, and can't be trusted with such a sacred thing as the franchise – as if those who've had it for decades have done such a wonderful job with it.

The notion that "the younger generation" will be the ruin of civilization is as old as at least the ancient Greeks. It's still alive and well in the entries on Facebook. Many of the (thankfully brief) statements claiming the kids can't be trusted are written in English that would flunk any kid in fourth grade. They ignore the fact that the Generation Zers have dodged semi-automatic weapons fire in their classrooms and wept over the maimed bodies of their classmates. Or if they're as naughty as their parents or grandparents once were, there may be no legal way out of their predicament – unless, apparently, you're a congressperson.

One elderly woman on Facebook took pleasure in that she could "read a clock with hands and add a column of figures." (She was, of course, implicitly putting down the cellphone generation.) Very nice, I thought. I can do it, too. But who does that anymore? Each generation learns and does what it must to get along in its own time. The coming generation of lawmakers will be, I earnestly hope, less focused on their own reelections than solving problems complicated by powerful lobbying interests. They might even do the unthinkable, and enact at least part of my list: term limits, guaranteed annual income, Medicare for everyone (like our civilized neighbor countries, and including themselves), congressional pension reform, and control or elimination of personal weapons designed primarily to kill and maim human beings. I could go on, but they'll have enough on their agenda for a few years, just cleaning the cobwebs out of the closets.

I wish them all the luck in the world. They'll need it. We oldsters can help that luck happen by not only getting out of the way, but by welcoming the fresh energy they'll bring. Be assured of one thing: They're coming! I often remind people who post nasty things about them on the internet to be kinder to them; to remember how short are the years of our active adulthood; to consider that the kids we're refusing to rescue from the fear of death will in hardly any time at all be wheeling us around and changing our diapers.

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EDITOR
Ray Small

SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS
Dave Morse

PHOTOGRAPHER
Vanessa Fournier

CIRCULATION
Dawn Gustafson

PRODUCTION
Sandy Atkins
Dawn Gustafson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Sandy Atkins, Ken Brown, Elizabeth Dow, Jim Flint, Hal Gray, Eric Hanson, Henry Homeyer, Pat Hussey, David Kelley, Willem Lange, Daniel Métraux, Cheryl Luther Michaels, Joyce Slayton Mitchell, UVM Community Journalists, Thorolf van Walsum

ADVERTISING SALES
Erica Baker

CARTOONIST
Julie Atwood

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Meeting Memo

Monday, November 28

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

Tuesday, November 29

•**Danville School District Board of Directors Special Meeting**, 6 p.m., Danville School Auditorium and remote access also available.

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us
Calais: calaisvermont.gov
Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
Greensboro: greensborovt.org
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: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. waldenvt.gov. waldentc@pivot.net
Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood

"MAMA, WHAT DOES 'CULL' MEAN?"

The Bookshelf

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, Old Schoolhouse Common, Marshfield, (802) 426-3581), jaquithpubliclibrary.org, Tues. - Fri., 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sundays. Winter Storytime and Playgroup, Friday 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for the weather.

WOODBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Woodbury School (802) 472-5710, woodburycommunitylibrary.wordpress.com, Mon. and Wed. 1 to 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BROWN LIBRARY, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711), sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

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Another Opinion

The Vermont Republican Party

by Joe Benning, State Senator, Caledonia District

LYNDONVILLE – In the early 1990s I joined the Vermont Republican Party. I did so because the VTGOP recognized five core principles: a free market economy; a local and efficient government that kept taxes within reason; an educational system that enabled our graduates to compete in a global marketplace; individual liberty and personal responsibility. Those five core principles were wrapped together by a glue that bound us together as a society: the Vermont Constitution. Coupled with Vermont's proud history of rugged individualism, these things defined our party.

There was no application process when I joined. There was no litmus test. I wasn't asked whether I followed a particular religion or even if I was religious. I wasn't asked whether I was pro-life or pro-choice. It was never demanded of me that I swear allegiance to any particular candidate or to every plank in the party's platform. Nobody in their right mind would have insisted upon blind allegiance to an idealogue. Civility, integrity and an assumption that our election process was trustworthy were orders of the day.

The only reason a political party organization exists is to elect candidates. The VTGOP's sole objective is supposed to be targeted at recruiting and electing those who can get elected. Even George Aiken, perhaps the most frugal VTGOP member, recognized one of government's chief responsibilities is to help those in need. I've now participated in nine elections, the last being my first statewide. Successful in six and unsuccessful in three, I flatter myself in thinking I understand what it takes to get elected.

So where is the VTGOP today? A minor contingent still firmly believes the January 6th assault on the nation's capitol was a patriotic event. A few display large flags on their homes and vehicles that say "F**CK Biden." The loudest voices on social media (thankfully still few in number) spew vitriol and hatred against the highest vote recipients in the VTGOP and those who've spent the most time trying to hold the party together. They continue a narrative designed to undermine faith in our electoral process, label those legitimately in need as leeches on society, and adhere to every Q-anon conspiracy imaginable as if it is established fact.

Like it or not, that is an image problem we VTGOP candidates deal with on the campaign trail. Sure, everybody has a right to free speech. But these immature, sometimes dangerous and often bullying techniques will never attract electable candidates or Vermont voters to the VTGOP. Nobody marching to this drumbeat has a chance of ever getting elected in Vermont.

Some will argue Donald Trump's vote tally in the 2020 election (112,704) is something to build upon. Mathematically that is not possible. Vermont's voting demographic has twice soundly rejected his candidacy, giving Biden 242,820 votes in that same election. Vermonters want civility, integrity and trust in the people they vote for. The vast majority long ago decided Trump does not provide those things. No argument will change that. If the VTGOP is to survive and thrive, we'd best be moving on.

VTGOP leaders must recognize the largest voting block in Vermont is not Republicans or Democrats or Progressives. It is those who consider themselves Independents. If VTGOP leaders move to rigid right-wing idealogues for comfort, we lose that block. The VTGOP course must remain center/right. As idealogues in the Democrat/Progressive super-majority drive policy that runs counter to Vermont traditions and fiscal capacity, Independents will be alienated. This provides an opportunity for VTGOP candidates who stay true to, and can articulate, our five core principles and the glue that binds them together.

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The Town of Greensboro is looking to Contract a Town Assessor for annual grand list maintenance. This would be a part-time position.

Please contact Kim Greaves, Town Clerk, Town of Greensboro at 802-533-2911 or greensborovermont@gmail.com for complete RFP Request.

Bids are due by Thursday, December 8, to be opened at the December 14 select board meeting.

The Greensboro Selectboard reserves the right to accept or deny any and all bids.

HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing of the Hardwick Development Review Board will be held on the third floor of the Memorial Building on Wednesday, Dec. 14, beginning at 7 p.m. to discuss the following:

7:00 p.m.: Conditional Use Review regarding the change of use of an existing Mixed Use structure to Mixed Use with Restaurant, Retail Sales, Office and Single Family Dwelling in the Central Business zoning district. Application #2022-069 (Quickfox Hamilton RE) is located at 39 South Main Street in Hardwick, VT.

7:30 p.m.: Conditional Use Review regarding the change of use of an existing Motor Vehicle Service structure to Restaurant in the Central Business zoning district. The applicant is also seeking to expand the structure including minor incursion into the 75 feet setback from Surface Waters. Application #2022-068 (Bombastic Industries, LLC – Blue Donkey) is located at 47 Mill Street in Hardwick, VT.

A virtual option is available through Zoom. To join the hearing with Zoom, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (zoom.us), then at 7 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Dec. 14, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number for either hearing is 833 9146 1549. The passcode is 640628. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 301-715-8592 (this is not a toll free number).

To join the Zoom Meeting:
ttps://us06web.zoom.us/j/83391461549?pwd=OEtDamEyUG-JTY05OSGV4bVhrQ0trQT09

The application is available for inspection in the Hardwick Memorial Building or on the Hardwick website:
ttps://hardwickvt.org/government/committees-commissions/development-review-board/ Pursuant to 24 V.S.A.§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Persons wishing to be heard may join the hearing virtually or in person or be represented by an authorized agent or attorney at the hearing.

Communications regarding the above applications may be filed in writing with the Hardwick Development Review Board at the Zoning Administrator's Office in the Hardwick Memorial Building or by email at zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov. Communications must be received prior to the scheduled hearing.

Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator

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SPORTS

Jim Flint's Runners' Roundup

High School Harriers Fly at Fallen Leaves

MONTPELIER – A course change added some extra twists and turns to the 2022 Fallen Leaves Series finale on November 19. The 5k race began with two loops around the Montpelier High School track, half covered with an inch or two of snow. Most of the course was on clear pavement on the bike path and around the Department of Labor building.

Temperatures were in the upper 20s with a light breeze and bright sunshine. The event drew 35 athletes, including cross country runners from Twinfield Union High School, U-32 High School, Montpelier High School, and Montpelier Middle School. Five women and seven men completed the mostly flat course in under 22 minutes.

Charlie Kehler, from Greensboro, and Amy Felice, from Calais, entered the race a week after the New England Cross Country Championships. Kehler is a Craftsbury Academy sophomore. Felice is a junior at U-32. The runners saw an opportunity to achieve personal best 5k times at Fallen Leaves. Two 180-degree turnarounds on the course added to the challenge.

Andrew Mongiat was back in the running after easily winning the first two Fallen Leaves races, in 16:31 and 16:52. The 2019 Assumption College graduate ran a personal best 5k of 16:12 while in college. Charlie Kehler's personal best 5k of 16:38 was set October 8, at the Ponaganset Covered Bridge Classic.

Kehler, 15, broke into the lead on the first two laps around the track, which was slippery on the shaded back side. Moving onto the bike path, he pushed the gradual uphill section to try and drop Mongiat, but could still feel him close behind. Kehler upped the pace after the second turnaround and headed for the finish line.

"With about 380 meters to go, I entered the track," said Kehler. "The clock read 15:08 and I realized that my PR goal was within reach. I tried to push even though I was slipping like crazy. Finished with 16:29 and am super happy with my result."

Mongiat, 25, placed a close second, in 16:43, followed by Paul Murphy, 53, in 18:22. Ethan Parrish, 17, from Adamant, placed fourth. The Twinfield senior's time of 18:47 was 12 seconds shy of his personal best 5k at the NVAC Mountain Division Championship on October 22.

Amy Felice went into the Fallen Leaves race with a personal best 5k time of 20:00. The U-32 junior set the mark at the Vermont High School Meet of Champions on November 5. Felice had modest expectations given the cool weather and snow on the track. Knowing half the people running, she was ready for some fun and a great start to the day.

"I knew the course was wicked flat, so I had the thought of a PR in the back of my head, but kind of dismissed it when I saw '28 degrees' on the weather app," said Felice. "The race was good though! I remember coming around the track and looking down at my watch when it said "19:17," and thinking well, maybe today isn't the day for sub-twenty. Guess the snow wasn't as slow as I thought!"

Felice, 17, crossed the finish line in 19:54 to win the women's division and break the 20-minute barrier for the first time. Her prize was a pumpkin pie baked by race director, Donna Smyers.

Kristen Munson, 41, and Dylan Broderick, 32, followed Felice in 20:29 and 20:35.

Mack Gardener-Morse, 61, from Calais, completed a three-week sweep of the M60-69 age group. He placed tenth overall in 21:13. During the three races, his 5k times varied by only four seconds.

Carrie Felice, 51, from Calais won the F50-59 age group in 23:12. Felice, whose daughter Amy won the women's division, is a veteran of the 2016 New York City Marathon. "It had been years since I'd run the Fallen Leaves race, so it was nice to get out there again," she said.

Bess Powers, 61, from Marshfield, won the F60-69 age group. She averaged 7:50 per mile to finish in 24:19. Cathy DuPont, 57, placed second in the F50-59 age group. Her time was 26:05.

DuPont, from Marshfield, coaches the Twinfield cross country team. She encouraged her team members to participate in the race. Hanna Holzl (28:36) and Eline Paikin (29:03), both from Plainfield, placed second and third in the F20-29 age group. They each set a new personal best 5k time.

"Our team likes the Fallen Leaves 5k series because it's a great way for us to extend the season," said DuPont. "It's a fairly flat, fast course and there is the benefit of being able to interact with a community of runners covering a wide range of ages, a nice switch from the regular season. Up until now, the fall has been fairly mild so this was the first time our team has had to deal with running on sections of snow and ice. We appreciate Central Vermont Runners organizing and hosting this series and we look forward to participating again next year."

Thornton-Sherman Brothers Qualify for National Championships

NORTH BERWICK, Me. – Joel Thornton-Sherman and Andrew Thornton-Sherman, from Waterford, raced Sunday at the USATF Region One Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships. The event was a qualifier for the National Junior Olympic Championships at Texas A&M University. The top five teams, by age group, and other individuals finishing in the top 30 of their region became eligible to compete at College Station, Texas, on December 10.

Joel Thornton-Sherman ran with the Granite State Flash team in the boys 13-14 age group. The St. Johnsbury middle schooler placed sixth of 95 athletes in the 4k race. His time was 14:20. He led the Granite State Flash to a third-place finish among ten teams, punching the Flash's ticket to the national championships.

Andrew Thornton-Sherman raced with the Green Mountain Athletic Association team in the boys 15-18 age group. The St. Johnsbury Academy sophomore placed third of 67 athletes in the 5k race. His 16:49 effort led the GMAA team to a second-place finish among seven teams, helping the Vermont boys win a trip to nationals.

Local Runners Win CVR Age Group Awards

Five local athletes were among the top finishers in the Central Vermont Runners 2022 Race Series. The race series resumed this year after a pandemic pause during 2020 and 2021. The annual series includes 14 different race events. Participants are rated against other CVR members in their age group. Each participant's best six races count for their overall point score.

Donna Smyers, from Adamant, and Mack Gardner-Morse, from Calais, were the female and male winners in the 60-69 age group. Elizabeth McCarthy, from Walden, placed second of 11 participants in the hotly contested F60-69 age group.

Smyers won her age group in seven CVR races over the course of the year. With one race dropped, the she had a perfect score of 600 points. Gardner-Morse was near perfect with five age group wins in seven races. He scored 599.1315 points to win the age group. McCarthy won three of the nine CVR races she competed in. Her 568.808 points placed second to Smyers.

Tim Hogeboom, from Walden, and Dot Helling, from Adamant, were the respective winners in the 70-79 age group. Hogeboom competed in ten of 14 races, winning his age group in eight of the ten events to score a perfect 600 points. Helling, who spent a chunk of the summer in Alaska, scored 400 points to win all four CVR races she competed in.

SPORTS

Ultramarathoners Reach the Century Mark

by Jim Flint

WILLISTON – Ultramarathons are unique, typically with a laidback vibe. Community tends to be valued over competition. Participants conserve their energy to achieve incredible feats of distance. Athletes encourage one another, especially when the going becomes tough.

The second annual RUTFest (Richmond Ultra Trail Festival) was held from 6 a.m. on November 5 to 6 p.m. on November 6. The 36-hour event at the Catamount Outdoor Family Center attracted 102 entries. Some came for a few hours, while others stayed overnight. Participants brought food to share. Each volunteered for an hour at an aid station.

Two different three-to four-mile trail loops were used, with views of Camel's Hump and Mansfield. The loops were run and/or walked on repeat, whenever participants wanted to. The race website set the challenge for the event: "This is the weekend to run (or walk) further than you ever have before."

Curiosity motivated Kaitlynn Miller, of Craftsbury Common, to sign up for RUTFest. While working at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, she coordinated the Tuesday Night Trail Races for five years. In June, the 2018 Winter Olympian retired from competitive Nordic skiing.

"The Richmond Trail Running Club created and organized a festive community event that was welcoming of runners and hikers of all experience levels," said Miller. "It was fun to meet new folks and spend time with friends both out on the loop and back at the aid station. Witnessing other people pushing their limits and working towards their respective goals was inspiring."

Miller, 31, completed 102 miles in 36 hours at RUTFest. While this was not a race per se, Miller walked and ran further than any other woman at the event. The distance was a leap up from the 50km ultramarathons that Miller had previously participated in.

"The most challenging part was achy feet and sore quads, which made descending rather painful towards the end," she said. "I was pleasantly surprised with how my body and my stomach held up, and I did take a six-hour break halfway through and slept for a couple of hours. I would say the people and the support of the community at the event are what kept me going. I went into the Festival interested to see how far I could go, and while I'm not currently entered in any other ultras at the moment, I am pondering what to tackle next."

Colton Francis, 31, is a 2016 Sterling College grad. He works in the mentoring program at Crow's Path, a Burlington-based nonprofit organization that provides hands-on opportunities for people of all ages to connect to the natural world. This was his second year participating in RUTFest. He completed 63 miles at the 2021 event.

"My work allows time for training," said Francis. "I did the Infinitus 88k ultra in May. I also like to combine biking and camping adventures that seek community."

Francis completed 101 miles in 32 hours at the 2022 RUTFest. He slept for 2-1/2 hours. He placed sixth of 102 participants.

"The weather was humid with temperatures in the 70s," Francis said. "I ran slow and walked a lot, including two laps with my mom. I kept moving the entire time. I wasn't sure that I would get to 100 miles. Curiosity and gentle encouragement kept me going."

Finishing the last mile wasn't as monumental as Francis anticipated, but the race was an emotional experience. The momentum of the ultramarathon community kept him going.

"The experience changed parts of me, brought up different parts of myself that I could grow with," he reflected. "The idea now is to integrate this into everyday life and my mentoring with kids. I help them to share empathy for the Earth and for others -- how to communicate needs in a way that people can hear them."

Ira Wheeler, 44, from Danville, and April Farnham, 55, from Plainfield, did RUTFest together. They each completed 100 miles. The Catamount event was Farnham's sixth ultra of 2022 and Wheeler's fourth long-distance event of the year. In July, they ran the Notchview 72-hour Ultramarathon, with Farnham completing 100.7 miles and Wheeler covering 152 miles.

"You have 36 hours to complete whatever your goal wants to be, as little or as much as you want to run," Farnham posted on Facebook after the RUTFest event. "No expectations, no pressure. I was fortunate enough to run with old friends and make some new ones along the way, which made the miles fly by! Still tired and sore but it's the good kind of sore, the earned kind."

courtesy photo

April Farnham, from Plainfield; Darrel Lassell, from Williamstown; and Ira Wheeler, from Danville, ran and walked together at the RUTFest ultramarathon. Lassell set out to run 65 miles to celebrate his 65th birthday. The super senior ended up covering 74 miles. Farnham and Wheeler each completed 100 miles during the 36-hour event.

"It was absolutely perfect weather, the course was beautiful, and my running partners were fabulous," said Farnham. "I had no intention of running a hundred miles, but everything just fell into place, it was the best I'd felt on any run, ever. I just kept running and BAM! 100 miles!"

photo by April Farnham

Weather conditions were summerlike for the RUTFest ultramarathon on November 5-6. The second annual event drew more than a hundred participants to the Catamount Outdoor Family Center in Williston.

SPORTS

Ski Report

BY ERIC HANSON

Looking for Snow: the Ski Season Begins

CRAFTSBURY – Jack Young seeks out snow in November, but not just any snow. Jack, from Jay, is a second-year student at Colby College and has a shot to be one of the top 20 cross country skiers in the Northeast. Finding smooth trails to ski on is important for training at this time of year. It's also fun.

Hundreds of skiers came to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center for opening weekend from skiers like Young

photo by Eric Hanson

Eric Remick from Hardwick is all smiles with the chance to ski again.

to local residents Elinor Osborn (Albany) and Eric Remick (Hardwick). Feeling the sensation of gliding on the snow through the trees is addictive and refreshing. Alpine skiers, snowboarders, and snowmobilers all know that feel and it is why so many people look forward to winter. Despite having September weather in early November, the switch to winter arrived quickly. The region was blessed with a good, heavy wet natural snowfall allowing for several miles of trails to be packed for skiing.

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center, however, tries to provide some skiing by Thanksgiving, even if mother nature does not cooperate, by storing snow all summer in a pit covered by nearly two feet of wood chips. This is the fourth year of trying this "old school" method of storing snow. Think of the icehouses of old, which allowed people to have refrigeration during the summer months. It's the same concept. There is enough stored snow to cover about a mile of trail and, by this past weekend, skiers could ski out and back on the Lemon's Haunt trail for some early season skiing on a 20 foot wide, one-foot thick swath of snow. Many ski teams stayed in the area to take advantage of the early snow including those from Middlebury College, UVM, Bowdoin College, the Dublin School, and Mansfield Nordic Ski Club. More teams arrive this week for the Thanksgiving break.

photo by Eric Hanson

Part of the Bowdoin ski team strides past truckloads of snow ready to be spread out on the main teaching hill in Craftsbury.

The Craftsbury Green Racing Project, our local professional ski team, is getting in a week of on-snow training before heading out to Silver-Star Mountain Resort in British Columbia for the first SuperTour races of season. The top finishers in this series move on to the U.S. Ski Team. But it's not just racers out there skiing. People like Elinor and Eric are just happy for the change of pace and putting those skis back on.

Young, who grew up skiing in Craftsbury with the local ski club, is putting in his ski hours now in hope of skiing really fast come January, when the college races begin. More importantly, he gets to enjoy a weekend at home skiing with friends and family.

photo by Eric Hanson

Jack Young (Jay) trains for the upcoming college ski racing season.

Gouge, Alexander, and Stratman Lead Mountain League Honors for Twinfield-Cabot

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – Twinfield-Cabot head coach Peter Stratman and both of his star offensive and defensive catalysts capped off another sensational soccer season with the highest of Mountain League honors last week.

Meles Gouge finished off his junior campaign with Trojans this past fall by leading the team in scoring for a second consecutive season. He was rewarded with First Team honors for a second straight year. An effective striker a season ago, Gouge was asked to anchor the midfield this season and take on more of a leadership role with the talented group of freshman and sophomores around him. It led to a potent balanced scoring attack that found the back of the net 60 times against its opponents.

Joining Gouge as a First Team selection is junior goalkeeper Neil Alexander for Twinfield-Cabot. Alexander posted nine shutouts on the season for the Trojan defense and helped keep the ship afloat over a three week stretch where injuries decimated Stratman's roster. Alexander and Gouge's return for a senior campaign makes Twinfield-Cabot contenders for the Division IV title once again as they eye a third straight trip to the Final Four.

Rounding out the First Team Roster was Hussein Abdulaziz, Nuru Mami, Janvier Mufaume, and Emmanuel Omar of state champion Winooski, Landon Paulson, Danny Antillon, Peter Stiebris, and Silas Kane of Enosburg, BFA-Fairfax's Braden Mathieu and Luca Chayer, Blue Mountain's Cedric Schaefer and Cameron Roy, Andrew Barrett (Oxbow), Jonas Lagasse (Richford), and Danville's Nate Despathy.

Juniors Cooper Bernatchy and Silas Robbins led Second Team selections for Twinfield-Cabot and will once again anchor a stingy Trojan defense in 2023. Danville's Cooper Calkins, Caiden Hill, and Andrew Joncas were also Second Team selections after strong seasons for the Bears. Freshman Tej Stewart and sophomore Darshan Eddleman were Honorable Mentions after breakout seasons upfront for Twinfield-Cabot and will make their offense tough to defend once again next fall.

Stratman was named Mountain League Coach of the Year after leading the Trojans to a second consecutive trip to the Division IV Final Four and tying the school record set just last year, with an 11 win season. Stratman has navigated his squad through the Division III-heavy Mountain League successfully the past two seasons and will undoubtedly be one of the favorites next fall with a returning young core with even more varsity and postseason experience. Stratman has also helped nurture a true cooperative between Twinfield Union and Cabot in his four years at the helm, with players from both schools being major contributors to an impressive 39-17-1 record over that span.

Winooski took home honors for winning the highly competitive Mountain League and Emmanuel Omar was crowned Player of the Year after a sensational senior season for the Spartans.

SPORTS

Gouge and Rivard earn All-State Soccer Honors

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Hazen's Tyler Rivard and Twinfield-Cabot's Meles Gouge earned Vermont Soccer Coaches Association (VSCA) All-State selections last week after their outstanding seasons on the pitch this past fall.

Gouge followed up a breakout sophomore campaign for the Trojans in 2021 with his second straight All-State selection. Gouge scored 20 goals for Twinfield-Cabot last season and was even better this year, while fighting through injuries and moving from striker to anchoring the midfield for head coach Peter Stratman. Gouge's assist totals ticked up this season as he fed his young and up and coming teammates in Tej Stewart and Darshan Eddleman, but still managed to lead the team in goals scored. The Trojan offense scored an eye-popping 60 goals this past fall, on their way to their second consecutive 11 win season and trip to the Division IV Final Four. They will be one of the favorites next season to get Stratman to the state title match that has eluded him and possibly bring Twinfield-Cabot its first state championship in over three decades.

Rivard only played two seasons in goal for Hazen, but became one of the best in the state in a hurry. He kept the Wildcats within striking distance this past fall with countless acrobatic saves in seven one-score matches throughout the season that could have gone either way. His booming punt became a counterattack weapon throughout the season, assisting on three scores and scoring two of his own as a part-time field player. Rivard will be tough to replace next season in a high powered Capital League that features two reigning state champions (Montpelier and Peoples Academy) and six teams that combined for 81 wins on the season.

Joining Gouge and Rivard as the best boys' soccer players in the state of Vermont were: Corbin Schreindorfer (BFA-St. Albans), Paul McGillion and Ozzie VanHendrick (Brattleboro), Joey Manley (Burlington), Jacques Alfani, Henry Bacon, and Ethan Gamelin (Colchester), Eli Marden, Diego Robinson, and Zach Spitznagle (CVU), Cooper Biederbeck and Rowan Jensen (Essex), Peter McKenna and Silas Rella-Neill (Mount Anthony), Eric Bissell, and Evan Chicoine (MMU), Eli Rosi(Rutland), Gerardo Fernandez and Jorge Trade (SJU), Hammad Ali, Andrew Chandler, Oliver Clifford, Nathaniel Hasenecz, and Evan Richardson (S. Burlington), Joey Beggs, Nolan McMahon, and Joel Roberts (Hartford), Adin Combs, Cole Hill, Adam Porterfield, and Jordan Shullenberger (Harwood), Oliver Anderson, Trey Bosworth, Owen Lawton, and Zach Wilkerson (Middlebury), Aidan Garrow (Milton), Judah Jackson (Mount Abraham), Clayton Foster, Ronnie Riby-Williams, Noah Samuelsen, and Tyler Thomas (Montpelier), Cooper Brueck (North Country), Owen Thomas (Otter Valley), Cade Bretton and Jackson Strong (Rice), Dylan Hinchliffe, Phinn Lowe, and Finn O'Donnell (U-32), Luca Chayer and Braden Mathieu (BFA-Fairfax), Danny Antillion, Silas Kane, and Landon Paulson (Enosburg), Noah Beayon (Fair Haven), Eben Mosher and Ben Munukka (Green Mtn.), Sawyer Beck, Chandler Follensbee, Rowan McClain, and Nahan Nolan (PA), TJ Guffey, Carson Matckie, Ben Nissenbaum, Woody Reichelt, and Henry Riley (Stowe), Jake Gilman (Thetford), Elijah Duprey, Oakley Francis, Shamus Rooney, and Jack Wyman (Vergennes), Declan McCullough (Woodstock), Brayden Wilkins, Cooper Jennings, Joseph McCray, and Hunter McDermott (Arlington), Parker Richardson and Trevor Stillwagon (Leland & Gray), Luca Goff and Kia Lamothe (Long Trail), Dominic Valente and Brian Pierce (MSJ), Joel Denton and Matthew Nop (Proctor), Josiah Welch (Rivendell Academy), Garrett Cunningham, Cody Magnant, and Liam Wendel (Twin Valley), Tristan Rocke (West Rutland), Hussein Abdulaziz, Janvier Mufaume, Emmanuel Omar, and Nuru Mami (Stowe).

Rivard Leads Capital League Honors for Wildcats

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Hazen Union's Tyler Rivard finished off a sensational senior season in net for the Wildcats with a Capital League First Team selection last week.

Rivard anchored the Hazen defense all season, compiling a highlight reel of acrobatic saves that earned him First Team honors. In only his second season in goal, Rivard posted only one shutout on the season, but his high level play kept his squad in several matches in a Capital League littered with Division II and III title contenders. Rivard also scored two goals of his own on the season and assisted on three others with a majestic punt in his arsenal that stretched from penalty box to penalty box.

Joining Rivard as First Team selections were: Adin Combs, Cole Hill, Eamon Langlais, Adam Porterfield, and Jordan Shullenberger of Harwood, Clayton Foster, Brio Levitt, Ronnie Riby-Williams, Noah Samuelsen, and Tyler Thomas of Montpelier, T.J. Guffey, Aaron Lepikko, Ben Nissenbaum, and Woody Reichelt of Stowe, Dylan Hinchcliffe, Phinn Low, and Finn O'Donnell of U-32, Peoples Academy's Chandler Follensbee and Nathan Nolan, North Country's Cooper Brueck and Noah Fortin, Ian MacDonald (Spaulding), Jake Gilman (Thetford), Benjamin Hanford (Randolph), and Charlie Thompson (Lake Region).

Hazen's Cody Trudeau earned Second Team honors after leading the team in scoring in his senior season. He was joined on the Second Team by: Matt Fiashetti, Cooper Olney, and Zach Smith of Harwood, Cameron Cooke, Olin Duggan, and Maclay Ericson of Montpelier, Jacob Inkel and Colby Lafleur of Lake Region, Sebastian Kreuger and Samuel Rossi of Lamoille, Alex Giroux and Gavin Rondeau of North Country, Sawyer Beck and Rowan McClain of Peoples Academy, Andrew Best and Henry Rosalbo of Randolph, Boone Fahey and Justin Robinson of Thetford, Stowe's Carson Matckie and Henry Riley, U-32's Ben Clark and Shiloh Weiss, Spaulding's Cole Baitz and Matt Redmond, and Paine Mountain's Tucker Hall.

Wildcat seniors Jadon Baker and Lincoln Michaud were Honorable Mention selections after stellar seasons on the offensive and defensive end. Rivard, Trudeau, Baker, and Michaud will be tough to replace for Hazen Union in 2023 in a Capital League that has become a juggernaut. Division II Montpelier and Harwood combined for 32 wins on the pitch this past fall and met in the state title game. Montpelier completed a storybook undefeated season with a 1-0 win over the Highlanders to claim the state championship. Peoples Academy won 13 matches in 2022 and capped it off with a 3-2 win over Woodstock to claim the division III state title. Stowe won 14 matches this past fall and made it to the Division III Final Four and Enosburg was also formidable in the division with 11 wins. U-32 won 13 matches and advanced to the Division II Final Four and North Country was no pushover, posting nine wins in a loaded division.

Head coach Eric Bagley earned Coach of the Year honors for Montpelier and Jordan Shullenberger of Harwood was crowned Player of the Year after a historic senior season that saw him break the all-time school scoring record with 72 career goals.

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