

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Volume 134 Number 5



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Academy student Matthew Califano accepts the Presidential Scholar Award from Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French.



courtesy photo

Hazen Union student Haley Michaud accepts the Presidential Scholar Award from Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French.



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Academy student Alexander Califano accepts the Presidential Scholar Honorable Mention from Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French.

OSSU Students Receive Recognition as Vermont Presidential Scholars

HARDWICK – The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union has announced that Hazen Union student Haley Michaud has been named a 2023 Vermont Presidential Scholar for the Career Technical Education category; Craftsbury Academy student Matthew Califano has been named a 2023 Vermont Presidential Scholar for the Art Category; and Alexander Califano, fellow Craftsbury student and brother

to Matthew, earned an Arts Honorable Mention.

All three students were recognized at a ceremony on Monday, January 30, at the Vermont State House.

Commenting after the event, Matthew Califano stated, “I am humbled that the Vermont Department of Education has chosen to recognize my writing with this award, and I am extremely grateful to all of my teachers at

Craftsbury Academy and the Dorset Theatre, all of whom have spent a great deal of time helping me hone my craft over the last three years.”

Exhibiting a strong commitment to the arts, Matthew Califano was described by his teacher as having an intense drive to create that has never been seen before in a student

See SCHOLARS, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union players (from left): Sadie Skorstad (No. 15), Caitlyn Davison, water girls Kennidee Gouin and Chloe Moodie, Sarah Collier and Alexis Christensen walk off their home court after winning their 14th consecutive game.

Davison Powers Lady Cats to Fourteenth Straight

by Ken Brown

WELLS RIVER – The Hazen Union girls’ basketball team survived its toughest test in almost two months, grinding out a hard-fought road win over Division IV power Blue Mountain, before ending the week with an emphatic victory over visiting BFA-Fairfax to improve to 15-1 on the season.

See FOURTEENTH, 4

Select Board Authorizes New Police Contract

by Gazette Staff

HARDWICK – At its February 2 regular meeting, the Hardwick Select Board’s agenda included discussion of a proposed one-year contract with the Hardwick Police Department’s bargaining unit.

Town Manager David Upson’s report was the first presentation of the meeting. Upson reported that an agreement between Hardwick and Woodbury regarding West Woodbury has been finalized, under which the Hardwick road crew will plow the roads in West Woodbury and grade them twice a year. Woodbury will pay Hardwick \$6,000 per year under the agreement. Hardwick will take over the road maintenance now for a payment of \$3,000 for the rest of the year. Upson is also working to schedule a joint meeting between the Hardwick Select Board and the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) commissioners.

The Town of Hardwick has \$3,000 allocated for fireworks for Springfest. With the price increasing drastically, Upson proposed that the board donate the \$3,000 to Kiwanis and have them take the lead on organizing fireworks for the event.

Finally, Tracy Martin, the town’s Community Development Coordinator (CDC), submitted the Downtown Transportation

See CONTRACT, 2

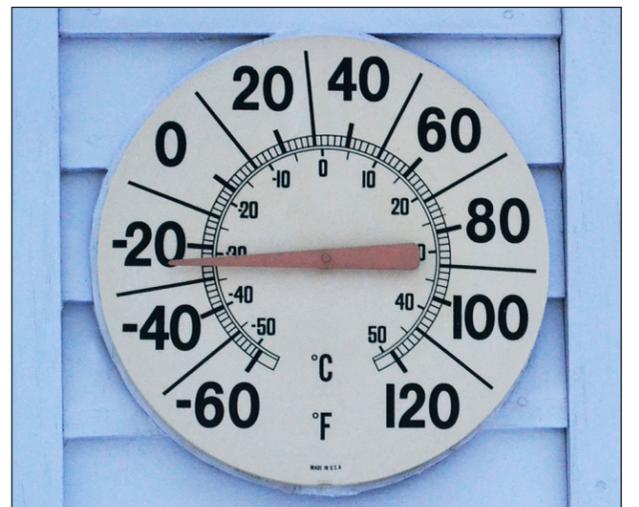


photo by Vanessa Fournier

Last weekend brought bitterly cold temperatures and dangerously frigid wind chills. This thermometer read minus 24 in Hardwick at 7 a.m. on February 4. The wind chill was around minus 43.

Select Board Reviews Town’s ARPA Spending

by Gazette Staff

WOLCOTT – At its February 1 regular meeting, the Wolcott Select Board addressed agenda items including the transfer station, the opening of the Rail Trail, and the current state of spending the town’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The first topic of the meeting was correspondence. Notice was received that the monthly cost for a porta-let has risen to \$190 per month. Inquiries will be made to determine if there is

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Contract

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application for an additional \$200,000 for the Pedestrian Bridge project. Upson also gave the road foreman report. The highway crew has been pushing back banks this week. They've had some minor equipment failures, but the breakdowns have all been replaced. Board vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane noted the good condition of the town's roads.

The Hardwick Police Department (HPD) report was given by Police Chief Mike Henry, who updated the board about some needed equipment repairs. He also mentioned that both of the batteries in the hybrid needed to be replaced recently. Galloway-Kane asked if there was a warranty, but the warranty has expired.

The police station now has two snowmobiles to patrol the VAST trails. Officers performed approximately 50 inspections on January 28 and 29. They will continue to monitor the trails.

Lastly, the senior citizen side of the police station has had a lot of use. Anyone who would like to schedule use of that space should contact HPD at (802) 472-5475.

The board then appointed Emily Hershberger to the Hardwick Energy Committee.

The next agenda item was working with Window Dresser to improve insulation of the town buildings. Window Dressers is a company that works in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to custom-build indoor insulating

window inserts. These inserts have clear polyolefin film with pine frames and a compressible foam gasket.

The board then approved a first-class and a third-class liquor license for The Cork & Fork, which is expected to open in mid-May.

The board approved a resolution in support of applying for a Better Connections grant.

Next, the business manager provided an update on revenues and expenses for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2023. Adjusting for the timing of payments, specifically payment of school taxes, the town is on budget for revenues and expenses.

The board then discussed a proposed one-year contract with HPD's New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) bargaining unit. Upson mentioned that the proposed contract included changes for the previous agreement, including changing the term of the contract, revamping the pay scale to be more competitive with other agencies, providing fitness pay and special duty pay, added June-teenth to the holiday schedule, and changes in health insurance employee contribution. Board chair Eric Remick asked why it was only a one-year contract. Upson replied that this would allow Hardwick to stay competitive. The board voted to authorize the town manager to sign the contract.

The board then approved a banner application for the Hardwick Farmers' Market to be hung on Wolcott Street from May 12 to October 6.

Scholars

Continued From Page One

his age. The review committee noted his strong love of the English language and the use of strong visuals in his writing. They were impressed by his humble talent in showcasing other young writers.

Prior to receiving the Presidential Scholar recognition, Michaud placed first at the Vermont State SkillsUSA competition and placed seventh in the national championships. Attending Hazen Union and Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, Haley carries a rigorous workload earning a 4.0 GPA in HVAC and academic classes, has obtained the universal EPA 608 certification, and is working toward NORA Bronze Oil Heat certification. She is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and has been accepted to the University of Northern Ohio in a two-year technical education HVAC program. After that, she has a serious interest

in becoming an engineer where she can turn her talents toward designing the HVAC equipment of the future.

Michaud, Matthew Califano and Alexander Califano join an outstanding class of 18 students (15 Scholars and three Honorable Mentions) from around Vermont, selected based on nominations from teachers, administrators, and fellow students. Among this year's scholars are technologists, writers, student leaders, advocates, mentors, and volunteers.

"Vermont's presidential scholar class of 2023 exemplifies the best of Vermont education," said Secretary of Education Dan French. "Each of these students have excelled academically, through either traditional or non-traditional learning experiences, and both in many cases. They are responsible citizens, committed to their community, demonstrating leadership in their schools and serving as an example for their peers. I congratulate the students and their families for this impressive achievement."



February 8 - February 14

Winter Sale - 30% Off Winter Boots, Coats & Jackets. Hats & Gloves - Select Styles Only		Valentine's Sale Starts February 10	
Poland Spring 24 Pk. .5 Liter Water \$3.98 405.6 oz.	Heinz Ketchup \$1.98 20 oz.	Spindrift 8 Pk. Sparkling Water \$4.99 96 oz.	
Starbucks Coffee \$8.99 12 oz.	G.M. Family Size Lucky Charms, Cheerios, Cinn. Toast Crunch \$3.99 18.8 oz.	Post Great Grains Cereal 2/\$7 13-16 oz.	
Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$4.99 15-30 oz.	Newman's Salsa 2/\$6 16 oz.	Old El Paso Refried Beans 2/\$3 16 oz.	
Campbell's Chunky Soups 2/\$4 18.6-19 oz.	Rotel Tomatoes 4/\$5 10 oz.	Newman's Pasta Sauce 2/\$6 24 oz.	
Prince Pasta 4/\$5 12-16 oz.	Nabisco Family Size Oreos 2/\$7 13.29-20 oz.	Keebler Town House Crackers 2/\$6 13.8 oz.	
Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/\$4 16 oz.	Kleenex Family Size Facial Tissue \$2.49 200 ct.	Cabot Bar or Cracker Cut Cheese \$2.99 6-8 oz.	
Cabot Dips \$1.99 12 oz.	Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream \$4.29 16 oz.	TGIF Appetizers \$3.99 8-11 oz.	

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Outstanding Arrest Warrant

On February 4 at approximately 2:40 p.m., Anissa Geno was arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant on North Main Street in Hardwick. Geno was released on a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on Monday, Feb. 6.

Vermont State Police Stolen Checks, Family Disturbance

On January 18, at 12:19 p.m., Troopers from the Berlin Barracks were notified of numerous stolen checks from a residence in Calais. The investigation revealed that Shaun Deschamps, of Berlin had stolen the checks from the Calais home that he had been subcontracted to work at. Subsequent investigation led to the discovery that Deschamps also stole a check from Lloyd Franks, of Plainfield who he had been living with at the time. Troopers located Deschamps at a residence in Barre and took him into custody without incident. Deschamps was transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing before being released on a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court Criminal Division on March 30.

Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the Berlin Barracks is seeking assistance from the public in reference to an ongoing criminal investigation. Investigators are looking to identify persons who attended or were employed by Flanders Early Learning Center at Goddard College in the town of Plainfield between 1996 and 1997. If you, or someone you know attended or were employed by Flanders early Learning Center at Goddard College in the town of Plainfield between 1996 and 1997, please contact Detective Trooper Mathew Nadeau at the Berlin Barracks at (802) 229-9191.

On February 1, at 10:40 a.m.,

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 25 people from January 29 through February 5. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes

Troopers from the Berlin Barracks were notified of a family disturbance on Vt. Rte. 14 in Woodbury. Trooper responded to the scene and learned that the victim had been assaulted by a family member. The victim and their partner then had a firearm pointed at them while they were leaving the residence in a vehicle. Throughout the course of the investigation, Troopers learned that Calvin Lamphere, of Woodbury had court ordered conditions of release that he was in violation of. It was also discovered that he operated a motor vehicle with a criminally suspended driver's license. Lamphere was arrested without incident and transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. Lamphere was issued court ordered conditions of release and released on a citation.

On February 4, at 10:06 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to a report of a vehicle parked at the end of a driveway with an unresponsive male in the driver seat. Upon arriving on scene, Troopers identified the operator of the vehicle as Daniel Mucherino, of Marshfield. While speaking with Troopers Mucherino showed signs of being under the influence of intoxicants. Mucherino was taken into custody for suspicion of DUI and transported to the Berlin Police Department for processing. Mucherino was later released with a citation to appear in Washington Superior Court Criminal Division for the charge of DUI.

and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

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

Spending

Continued From Page One

lower price available. A copy of the Lamoille County budget was received. The cost for Wolcott decreased because of a drop in population. Also, Black Dirt Farms informed the town that one of the totes was contaminated, resulting in a \$20 charge. Plastic bags are not to be thrown in with the compost. The project manager will check on the availability of one-gallon compost buckets for folks to purchase and use at home.

Finally, notice was received that Hardwick Electric has filed for a rate increase. The proposed start date is March 1, 2023.

Vice chair Kurt Klein then gave his project manager report. Klein reported that the road foreman approved the permit and map submitted by ComCast for work done on Richard Woolcutt Road and Walnut Lane. In the spring, the highway department will need to check the exact location of the trench work and record that in the highway book. ComCast has no other projects planned in town.

The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on conducting a brownfield study of the property along Vt. Rte 15. The parcel, owned by Champlain Oil, has been offered to the town for purchase.

Bids will go out for the mowing of town properties. The board discussed how best to maintain the ballfields in North Wolcott. The fields have not been used for a couple of years. Instead of regular mowing, the board agreed to clear the North Wolcott ball fields in the fall. If in the future there are plans to use the fields again, they can be mowed in the spring.

Of the properties listed for tax sale, two owners have applied for tax assistance with the state. The town cannot move forward with the sale of those properties until the applications have been approved or denied by the state.

The town has requested assistance from their legislators to determine the process for reclassifying the North Wolcott Road so that maintenance costs do not fall to the town to the extent they do now. The initial response received from VTrans was unfavorable. The town will continue with plans for a road study to be conducted in the spring. Board chair Linda Martin has been in communication with Craftsbury regarding plans for their section of the road. The board will consider next steps.

The board then discussed updates regarding the Rail Trail. The trail will be open through Wolcott

for an upcoming dog sled race, but then close for additional bridge repair work. The official opening of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail has been postponed to March. The board discussed future parking issues and possible signage. A parking plan will be needed, particularly if a café opens in the old schoolhouse.

Next, Martin reviewed a document outlining what ARPA funds have been committed so far, and what funds have been spent. The town received \$504,706.09 and has a current balance of \$314,241.02. Projects committed to by the select board include 911 signs and posts (\$30,000); schoolhouse engineering study (\$6,500); NEK Broadband (\$52,917); purchase land for Town Forest (\$25,000); scanning of surveys (\$4,000). Funds already spent include website/maintenance (\$15,947.45); hybrid meeting technology/equipment (\$13,795.34); and building improvements (\$12,308.28). ARPA funds could be used to purchase the parcel of land offered for sale by Champlain Oil. The board took comments from the public. Although ARPA spending decisions are up to the select board, townspeople have been asked several times to weigh in on how the funds can best be spent. A form for comments will be available at town meeting next month. Funds must be obligated by December 2024.

The next agenda item was town meeting planning. Town meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7, at the Wolcott Elementary School gym, starting at 9 a.m. The town report is still being printed. Voting for town officers and the school budget will be by Australian ballot. Votes may be cast between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. or an absentee ballot can be requested.

Martin reported that she has had a conversation with one of the property abutters about possibly purchasing the parcel on East Hill. She has also been in communication with the Fish & Wildlife Department to see if the state is interested in buying the land.

Regarding the shared assessor agreement, Martin reported that she has been meeting with LCPC and the towns of Johnson and Hyde Park regarding sharing an assessor. LCPC placed an ad for the position but received no response. Following discussion, the board determined that Wolcott is in a different position. The board does not see the shared assessor agreement working for Wolcott at this time, with this applicant. The board would like to withdraw from the plan.

The next regularly scheduled select board meeting is scheduled for February 15.

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Koehler Named Temporary Music Director at Church

by Eleanor Guare, Community Journalist

GREENSBORO – Beginning last month, Hal Parker, music director of Greensboro United Church of Christ, started a well-deserved three-month sabbatical; the congregation is now being treated to the musical talents of Andrew Koehler.

Koehler lives in Greensboro with his wife, Mavis MacNeil. Born in Chicago, Andrew listened to his grandfather Jim play the piano and by the age of four, Koehler learned to play by ear. He knew at some level that music would be his profession and he continued to learn and play throughout high

school (where he deepened his Jazz interests). He then attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where he met his wife Mavis, who performed with him in the orchestra. Their shared affections and musical talents eventually brought them to New York City where they were able to dive in to all the gigs possible, across many musical genres, all the while living in Astoria, Queens. Like so many young musicians, COVID drove them away from the metropolis and to the place they knew they would be at some point: Vermont. Here he has worked for Jasper Hill and is currently employed by Mac Nurse, where he enjoys applying his tech skills.



photo by Hal Gray

Andrew Koehler has been named temporary music director at Greensboro United Church of Christ.

Fourteenth

Continued From Page One

Junior Caitlyn Davison scored a game-high 18 points, including a pair of three-pointers to lead the Lady Cats to a pivotal Mountain League 47-42 road win over Blue Mountain last Thursday. The Lady Bucks came into the match-up on a twelve-game winning streak of their own, but Hazen quieted the crowd early by jumping out to a 26-18 advantage heading into the break. Davison, Tessa Luther (seven points), and senior Alexis Christensen (seven points) kept the pressure on in the third quarter as their lead swelled to 17, before the home team answered with a 13-0 run of their own. Blue Mountain made it a one-possession game with 60 seconds left behind Jordan Alley's 15 points and 10 rebounds, but the Lady Cat defense

stiffened the rest of the way. Felicity Sulham added 12 points and 11 rebounds for Blue Mountain before fouling out and Kyra Nelson chipped in with 10 in the loss. The Lady Bucks remain one of the top teams in Division IV with a 12-2 record and are looking to build off of their Final Four appearance at the Barre Auditorium a season ago. Hazen Union's win gives them complete control of the league standings heading into a juicy rematch with the Lady Bucks at home this coming weekend.

"Blue Mountain is definitely a high quality team that will help prepare our squad for the upcoming playoffs. I think that the biggest thing for us to work on as we hit the home stretch of the season, is staying committed and focused to playing solid defense for 32 minutes," said head coach Randy Lumsden.

Davison continued her hot hand over the weekend, pouring in 25 points on a trio of three-pointers to help Hazen cruise to a 73-19 home win over BFA-Fairfax. Freshman Julia des Groseilliers had a strong game inside with 12 points, Craftsbury Academy's Ella Gillespie added 11, and Christensen drained three triples for 11 of her own. The Lady Cats took a 34-19 advantage into the break and never let the visitors make a run, hitting 11 of their 14 foul shots. Taylor Duquette and Anna Villeneuve scored five points apiece for BFA-Fairfax in the loss. Davison shows no signs of slowing down during a stellar junior campaign as the Lady Cat point guard is averaging just north of 20 points per game. Coach Lumsden has brought an edge to the program in his first year on the sidelines, culminating in 14 straight wins (plus a forfeit from Twinfield-Cabot) since losing

their season opener to Enosburg on the road. Hazen is currently ranked second in the Division III standings, percentage points behind 14-2 Windsor.

"We are just going to keep working hard tweaking things here and there. Hopefully when playoffs roll around, we will be playing our best basketball. Right now we are focused on our next game at Northfield and what we are going to have to do to go there and get a win. I keep telling the girls they just have to stay focused on one game at a time," said Lumsden.

The Lady Cats traveled to Northfield on Tuesday and welcomed Stowe to town on Thursday. Blue Mountain comes to the Cat Den on Saturday afternoon for a pivotal Mountain League clash to wrap up a busy week. Hazen will finish up their regular season next Tuesday against Milton at home on Senior Night.

Hardwick Area

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 8AM-1PM
HAZEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Are you a business owner in the Hardwick area?
We want your input!

This event is FREE - Coffee & Snacks, Catered Lunch - RSVP Required

Meet with business resource professionals and funders

Network with other area business owners

Key updates about the community including:

- The Yellow Barn
- Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
- The Swinging Bridge
- Downtown Designation
- And More!

More Info and RSVP at:



www.hardwickareabusiness.squarespace.com



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union sophomore Baylie Christensen (No. 5) looks to pass by Faith Benjamin (right) of Bellows Free Academy during action in the Wildcat Den February 4. Following the play is referee Jason Kennedy.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Discussion Explores “The Most Costly Journey”

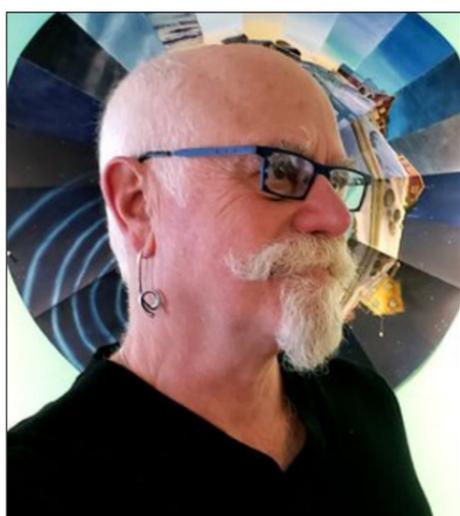
GREENSBORO – Greensboro Free Library will host a discussion of the current Vermont Reads selection, “The Most Costly Journey,” on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

The journey is one made by Vermont’s migrant farm workers who travel from southern Mexico and Central America to work on Vermont farms. Their stories were made into comics drawn by New England cartoonists, and originally produced as individual

Spanish-language comic books distributed to the farm workers. This anthology collects all of the comics in one volume to help English-language readers understand the workers’ lives.

Free copies of the book are now available at the library. The discussion will be held in-person and also on Zoom. All are welcome. For more information or for the Zoom link, e-mail the library at greensborofree@gmail.com.

Intro to Bookbinding on Feb. 16



Ken Leslie

HARDWICK – Four sessions that introduce the Coptic bookbinding stitch, led by Ken Leslie, will begin Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at GRACE, 59 Mill St. Succeeding sessions will be held on February 16 and 23, and

on March 2 and 9. The workshop is suitable for ages 16 and up.

Participants will make a Coptic-bound book and explore several other book-structures for making one-of-a-kind and limited edition books. Participants will discover the world of bookmaking and artists books, exploring examples and creating several books emphasizing images and/or writing.

Ken Leslie was born in 1952 in Peekskill, N.Y., and was in his last year at Amherst College (BA, 1975) when he took his first art course. He went on to study painting at New York, School of Visual Arts (BFA, 1977) and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. He earned his graduate degree in painting from the University of Pennsylvania (MFA, 1980).

Tips to Stay Safe When Working in Extreme Cold

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Department of Labor reminds employers and those working outside, to make sure they’re prepared for frigid temperatures in the region.

“It’s important for all of us to recognize the warning signs of things like frostbite and make sure we’re doing all we can to stay safe while on the job this winter,” Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington said. “We know there’s important work that needs to be done, regardless of the weather, and we need to make sure we’re doing it safely.”

Winter weather can expose outdoor workers to frostbite, hypothermia, and cold stress, all of which can be fatal. It is important

to monitor the wind chill temperature to better prepare and perform the work safely.

To stay safe in cold weather: know the symptoms of cold stress: reddening skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness, and blisters; dress properly; wear at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing, insulated gloves and boots, and cover the head; monitor physical condition and that of co-workers; stay dry and pack extra clothes; moisture can increase heat loss from the body; take frequent breaks in warm, dry areas and drink warm liquids.

For more safety tips, visit US-DOL’s Winter Weather page at [osha.gov/winter-weather](https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather) or Labor Vermont.gov.

Lamoille County Players Hold Auditions for “August: Osage County”

HYDE PARK – The Lamoille County Players will hold auditions for their spring drama “August: Osage County.” Auditions will be held on February 18 and 19 at 1 p.m., at the Hyde Park Opera House. Performance dates are May 5 to May 7 and May 12 to May 14.

When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes

in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Character descriptions and more information may be found at lplayers.com/august-osage-county. For potential performers under 18, this piece contains mature language and content; parental discretion is advised. Contact director Heather (Vize-Willey) Mandigo at heather.vize-willey@live.com with any questions.

No-Till and Cover Crop Conference on March 2

SOUTH BURLINGTON – The 2023 No-Till and Cover Crop Conference, set for March 2 in South Burlington, will provide information and research updates to farmers and field crop growers on cover crop and manure management.

The conference will be hosted by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension’s Northwest Crops and Soils Program and Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team at the Double Tree by Hilton (870 Williston Road). Invited speakers hail from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Aaron Ristrow, American Farmland Trust, will open the conference with a talk on the Genesee River Demonstration Farms Network in western New York and biomass productivity and decreased inputs from planting green. He is followed by Kirsten Workman, Cornell University, with a discussion on cover crop alternatives to winter rye, and Glen Arnold, Ohio State University Extension, on precision manure management. Arnold also will speak on manure management and sidedressing in corn in the afternoon.

Donn Branton, a New York

farmer and early adopter of reduced-till and no-till methods, is the luncheon speaker. He will share cover crop and no-till experiences and innovations on his 1,750-acre grain crops and vegetable farm in Le Roy, N.Y.

Afternoon speakers include Eric Severy of Matthew’s Trucking, a Vermont manure hauling and application business, on local manure management and Gerard Troisi, a Pennsylvania crop adviser, on no-till with cover crop practices in central Pennsylvania. UVM researchers will provide updates on cover crop and manure management research and projects being conducted at the university.

Registration is \$75 and \$50 for students, payable by February 24 at go.uvm.edu/2023ntcc. Registrations also can be made through the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at (802) 656-8407. For disability-related accommodation requests, contact UVM Student Accessibility Services at (802) 656-7753. Opportunities for conference sponsorships are available. If interested, contact Susan Brouillette at (802) 524-6501, ext. 432, or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu by February 10.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Human Potluck on Feb. 11

CABOT – The Cabot Public Library will host Salon Black Walnut to present The Human Potluck in celebration of Black History Month. This family-friendly event will take place Saturday, Feb. 11, from noon to 2 p.m., on the third floor of the Willey Building. Bring a dish to share, make

art, and listen to live music and poetry. Artists include Hip Hop Soul Artist/Filmmaker Daniel Laurent, musicians Emily Lanxner and Bill Delgaudo, and poets Farmer Ama and Mary Rogerson. For more information email cabotlibrary@gmail.com or call the library (802) 563-2721.

Organic Dairy Conference Planned for March 9

RANDOLPH CENTER – Farmers who register for the 2023 Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference will learn about strategies to manage high feed costs, satellite imagery for better pasture management and research on bedding and mastitis, among other topics.

The eleventh annual conference will be held March 9 in Judd Hall on the Vermont Technical College campus in Randolph Center. It is sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension's Northwest Crops and Soils Program.

The conference will open with a presentation by Dr. Greg Brickner, a staff veterinarian and grazing specialist for Organic Valley in Wisconsin. He will describe new satellite imagery technology that will allow graziers to predict pasture inventory weeks in advance and monitor plant health in paddocks.

Sarah Flack, a Vermont grazing consultant specializing in grass-based livestock farming systems, and Jen Miller, Farmer Services Director at NOFA-VT, will follow his talk with a discussion on key production and financial benchmarks. They will be joined by two organic dairy farmers, one organic and one grass-fed, who will discuss their experiences with the variables, considerations and management decisions that impact those benchmarks on their individual farms.

The morning program will conclude with updates on UVM research from Dr. Heather Darby, UVM Extension agronomist, and Sarah Ziegler, a UVM research specialist.

After lunch and time to visit with exhibitors, participants will

Blechner Calling at Feb. 18 Contra Dance

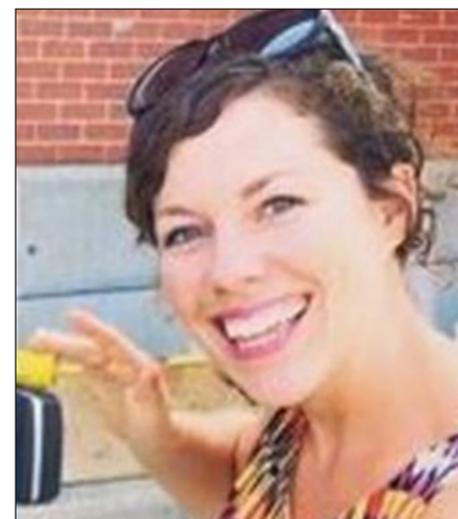
MONTPELIER – At the Montpelier Contra Dance on February 18, Julian Blechner will call with tunes by Dave Langford and Colin McCaffrey. All are welcome to the Capital City Grange, with newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m., gender-neutral role terms used, and all dances taught. Dances begin

at 8 p.m. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes and mask: surgical mask, N95 or KN95 required.

COVID Policy and info at capitalcitygrange.org/dancing/contradancing and Montpelier Contra Dance Facebook page. For information call (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com

Intuitive Paintings on Feb. 17

MORRISVILLE – Join a paint 'n sip group on Friday, Feb. 17, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at River Arts for an exploratory evening of creative expression. This class will be process-based and seek to explore the intuitive connection between music, mark-making, and the freedom found in creation, and led by Carolyn Crotty. Live music will accompany this experience to add creative energy. Every participant will go home with many pieces of art ready to hang on the wall or share as a gift. River Arts is located at 74 Pleasant St.



Carolyn Crotty

Digital Culture Class at Twin Valley Senior Center

EAST MONTPELIER – A free introductory digital culture class to learn skills to help use the internet to contact lawmakers, learn more about health-related topics, contact and stay in touch with friends, family and more will be presented during a five-week course at Twin Valley Senior Center. The classes are from February 13 through March 15, and will meet each Monday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

The program was developed

by Senior Planet from AARP-OATS and will be lead by Meredith Holch, CVCOA's community engaged technical specialist. Those with a laptop, phone or tablet and have basic knowledge of using should bring them to the class. The instructor will have extra iPads on hand to use. For more information and to register, call CVCOA, (802) 477-1364 or Twin Valley Senior Center (802)223-3322. The center is located at 4583 US Route 2.

Shrub and Tree Order Deadline March 10

CABOT – The 25th Annual Shrub and Tree Sale is underway, supporting the Cabot, Marshfield, and Plainfield Conservation Commissions. This is an opportunity to purchase garden and yard trees, fruits, and shrubs that have been selected for their benefits to wildlife and pollinators, including a wide variety of berries and fruits.

Orders may be placed by mail, or online at conservation-plant-sale.square.site/

There are plant sale flyers available in Cabot, Marshfield and Plainfield stores, libraries, and town offices. The plant sale flyer is also available on the Cabot town website: cabotvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Plant-Sale-Flyer_final_1-17-23.pdf

Supplies are limited so early orders are needed. The order deadline is March 10. Currently sold out are staghorn sumac plants, but check back on the website for availability.

Ski and Snowshoe Outing Set for Feb. 26

NEWPORT – The Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) will host a ski and snowshoe outing at the Bluffside farm in Newport, on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The outing event will meander through forestland and agricultural lands along the shores of Lake Memphremagog. Stops will be made during the outing to discuss such things as wildlife habitat the fields/agriculture use and managed forests, invasive species control and a wetland restoration project on the Bluffside Farm.

Memphremagog Trails (MST) groom ski trails suitable for all ages and abilities to allow for an outing through the farm and across Scott's Cove bridge to Prouty beach. Participants should

bring skis and/or snowshoes and dress for a winter day on the trails. If the snow is not cooperating, the group will walk.

Those interested should meet at the Sugarhouse parking lot at Bluffside Farm, 171 Scott Farm Road, at 10 a.m., for an hour and a half moderate-paced ski/snowshoe/walk and discussion. Refreshments will be provided on the return.

This is a free event sponsored by Memphremagog Watershed Association, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Woodlands Association, Associate sponsors: Memphremagog Trails, City of Newport.

To register go to mwavt.org events. For additional information, contact Mary Pat Goulding at marypat@mwavt.org, (802) 334-2444.

EDUCATION



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Edwin Owusu, a graduate teaching assistant and debate coach at the University of Vermont was the host of Sankofa! Building Community from Then to Now. The program, which included art, music and storytelling was about diversity, equity and inclusion. The event was held in the Hazen Union auditorium on February 4 and sponsored by the Rural Arts Collaborative.

Local Students on CCV Dean's List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) were named to the fall 2022 Dean's List. This honor recognizes full-time students with a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99. They are: Cabot, Alexa Gagne and E. Calais, Hannah Williams.

Local Students on CCV Honors List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) were named to the fall 2022 Student Honors List. This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average. They are: East Hardwick, Natasha Bisson and Alan Celley; Hardwick, Monica Billings and Madeleine Foster-Pudvah; Marshfield, Marie Barney and Wendy Koponen-Robotham; and Wolcott, Martha Machia.

Local Students on CCV President's List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) were named to the fall 2022 President's List. This honor recognizes full-time students with a 4.0 grade point average. They are: E. Hardwick, Maia Mencucci; East Calais, Jackie Taylor; and Hardwick, Natalie Geoffroy.

O'Donnell Named to Dean's List

BEVERLY, Mass. – Tegan O'Donnell of Calais, Vt., is among those named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the Fall 2022 semester. O'Donnell is majoring in Interior Architecture. O'Donnell is the daughter of Cristin O'Donnell and Patrick O'Donnell. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

Three Local Students are Winners in Essay Contest

BURLINGTON – August Howe, a junior from Twinfield Union School placed first, Keenan Wallace, a junior from Twinfield Union School placed third, and Alexander Califano a junior at Craftsbury Academy was a third-place finalist in the annual State of the Union Essay Contest for Vermont Students.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on February 2, announced the winners of his thirteenth annual State of the Union Essay Contest, which gives Vermont high school students of all backgrounds an opportunity to address a major issue facing the country and propose solutions. This year, 382 students from 31 Vermont high schools submitted essays. A panel of seven Vermont educators served as volunteer judges, ranking the essays and selecting 12 finalists and three winners.

Since Sanders started the contest, more than 5,700 students throughout Vermont – representing almost every high school in the state – have written essays about critically important issues, including climate change, access to mental health care, political polarization, gun safety, disability rights, racial justice, and more.

Sanders has invited the finalists to join him for a roundtable discussion, which will be held at the Vermont State House on Saturday, Feb. 11. Sanders will also enter the finalists' essays into the Congressional Record, the official archive of the U.S. Congress. The contest is timed to coincide with the President's annual address to a joint session of Congress, which took place on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

August Howe, from Twinfield Union School, won first-place with an essay on misinformation: "Social media platforms are essentially news sources at this point, yet

they are not held to the same legal standards. News sources are liable for the content they release, social media platforms, however, are exempt from such liability by Section 230...Originally created to protect internet user's speech, Section 230 now enables people to exercise their freedom of speech and introduce mis- and disinformation into the media stream without consequence. Equally as important as holding companies accountable is encouraging the education of the general public on media literacy and critical thinking skills to identify misinformation and fake news."

Keenan Wallace, the third-place winner from Twinfield Union School, wrote about unions and labor rights: "Recently there has been a slew of confrontations between workers and corporations, from Starbucks and Amazon to the threatened rail strikes earlier this year, 2022 has been tumultuous... The framework for the solution is already in place. The NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) is an agency that was created to enforce the NLRA (National Labor Rights Act). This agency is responsible for helping organize unions and they step in when corporations violate the NLRA...Increasing funding for the NLRB is a simple, low cost solution to a problem that has plagued the American working class for decades. A stronger NLRB would not only be a boon for workers, but also a valuable tool for the government to check the ever increasing power that corporations hold over our democracy."

To learn more about opportunities for Vermont students through Senator Sanders' office, visit sanders.senate.gov/vermont/students/.

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OBITUARIES

CLIFTON J. ROCK

BARTON – Clifton J. Rock, 95, of Walden, passed away on Friday, Feb. 3, at Maple Lane Nursing Home.

Clifton was born June 21, 1927, to John and Dorothy (Casswell) Rock in Hardwick and remained a local, lifelong resident. He farmed for years before taking a position with the Walden town

road crew where he worked for 23 more years until retirement.

In honor of Clifton's wishes, private services will be held in the summer. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home has the honor of Clifton's arrangements. Condolences and memories to share with the family are welcome at dgifunerals.com.

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Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m., on ZOOM. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by Diane (Lisa) Yokana and Blake Auchincloss to raze, relocate, and rebuild an existing single family cottage and garage at 168 Church Lane. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District; 3.8 Nonconformities; 8.10 Shoreland Protection District New Construction, Reconstruction, and Relocation.

There will be a site visit on Saturday, March 25, at 11 a.m. Both the virtual hearing and the site visit are 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, March 2, go to ZOOM and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 864 864 0504. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at (301) 715 8592 (this is not a toll free number).

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

Greensboro Development Review Board
Further instructions for joining a ZOOM meeting and finding the link are on the Greensboro Town website greenborovt.gov under town calendar.

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Events

Wednesday, February 8

DEATH CAFE, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. An informal conversation about death. Information: (802) 755-6107 or albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

MOVIES AT THE JAQUITH LIBRARY on the Big Screen, 7 p.m. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Thursday, February 9

TAI CHI CLASSES, Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi and remote options via Zoom), United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St., Greensboro. Sponsored by Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Classes taught by Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx, (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

GAME NIGHT, at the Village Restaurant, Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. Lynn is offering a limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Sarah Tewksbury. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.

GARDENING WORKSHOP, 6:30 p.m., Growing Seeds, Jaquith Public Library, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., room 2. A new workshop held the second Thursday of the month through May 11. Information: email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or see jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Friday, February 10

STORY TIME AND PLAYGROUP: Fridays, for kids birth to age 5, 10:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Rm. 2, Marshfield. Information: 802-426-3581.

ART AND AUTHOR NIGHT, 6 to 8 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., room 2. An invitational group art show opening at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Dan Chodorkoff will read from his new book, "Sugaring Down." Information: email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or see jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Saturday, February 11

HOW TO MAKE HERBAL SALVES, with Karen Brown of Dusty Swamp Provisions in Hardwick. Workshop is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the center for an Agricultural Economy conference room in Hardwick. A Grow Your Own event. Register at nourish-hardwick.org/grow-your-own by Feb. 8.

RADON AWARENESS, 3 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Led by the NEK medical reserve corps. Information: Becky

at (802) 777-7851 or email: rebecca.petelle@vermont.gov.

Tuesday, February 14

TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Qigong & Tai Chi Forms (some experience recommended), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Health & Fall Prevention (no experience needed, including seated Tai Chi), Hardwick Area Health Center, 4 Slapp Hill, Hardwick. Sponsored by Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Classes taught by Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx, (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

Thursday, February 16

COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick. Eat-in or Take-out. Call Sharyn Salls, 472-6566 to reserve your meal. Hosted by Hazen Union students and the Center for an Agricultural Economy. Donations are welcome and volunteers are always welcome.

Saturday, February 18

WINTER FESTIVAL, noon - 3 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., room 2. There will be snow sculpting and painting, singing and music around the fire pit, storywalk around the recreation trail, snowshoeing and sledding, free soup, bread, hot beverages and baked goods. From 1 to 2 p.m. Heidi Wilson will lead a group sing-a-long around the fire. Horse drawn sled rides free. Information: email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or see jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays, 8 - 11 p.m., Capitol City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. Information: 802-225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com.

LAMOILLE COUNTY PLAYERS Auditions for "August: Osage County", Feb. 18 and 19, 1 p.m., Hyde Park Opera House. Information: lcplayers.com/august-osage-county or heather.vize-willey@live.com

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Exhibits

VICTORIA MATHEISEN: Recent oil paintings of the Northeast Kingdom and Beyond, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Rd., West Glover, through February 28.

ROSS CONNELLY'S EXHIBIT: PROTEST, through February 10, Julian Scott Memorial Gallery, NVU-Johnson campus.



courtesy photo

Alan Doyle and His Beautiful, Beautiful Band Perform Feb. 17, at the Barre Opera House.

Alan Doyle and Band Entertain on Feb. 17

BARRE – Former Great Big Sea Frontman, Alan Doyle and His Beautiful, Beautiful Band perform at the Barre Opera House on February 17

Alan Doyle, actor, producer, best-selling author, and lead singer for Newfoundland's Great Big Sea, comes to the Barre Opera House with his Beautiful, Beautiful Band at 8 p.m. Singer-songwriter Chris Trapper opens the show.

There are few artists capable of appealing to music fans of all stripes, and Doyle is one of them. From the moment he burst onto the scene in the early 1990s with his band Great Big Sea, The pride of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, Doyle's charisma and sense of humor enhances his magnetic stage presence.

Doyle and his six-piece band

will be playing songs from his solo records along with Great Big Sea favorites and some unpredictable gems from far-flung places.

Chris Trapper is an American songwriter and musician, with his best known songs in several major studio films including "There's Something About Mary," "The Devil Wears Prada," "Some Kind Of Beautiful" and "August Rush." His songs have appeared on television shows such as "Pepper Dennis," "ER," and "Malcolm in the Middle."

Tickets may be ordered online at barreoperahouse.org or in person at the box office or call (802) 476-8188. Discounts are available to members, seniors and students. The Barre Opera House is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.

Farmers Night Concert Series Presents Barn Opera Feb. 15

MONTPELIER – The fifth performance of the 2023 Farmers Night concert series will feature the Barn Opera on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Showcasing some of Vermont's finest operatic artists, Brandon's Barn Opera will perform a pastiche concert of favorite solos, duets, and ensembles of the operatic and musical theatre genres.

The Farmers Night Concert Series is a longstanding State House tradition which goes back over 100 years to a time when lawmakers entertained themselves in the House Chamber mid-week while away from home. Artists from around the state, in genres ranging from classical music to

bluegrass to barbershop, perform in the well of the House Chamber each Wednesday night during the legislative session—and the concerts are free and open to the public.

The entire Farmer Night Concert Series is presented by the Vermont Legislature and returns to the State House for the first time since the pandemic interrupted the performances in March of 2020. This year's offerings include 12 weekly Wednesday performances, with the exception of a break for town meeting in early March. For additional questions, contact David Schutz, Vermont State Curator by email at david.schutz@vermont.gov or phone (802) 279-5558.



courtesy photo

Fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy perform at 7 p.m., on February 21, at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall.

MacMaster and Leahy Perform on Feb. 21

ST. JOHNSBURY – Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy will perform at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall, on February 21, at 7 p.m.

The Northeast Kingdom favorites return with their characteristic fast-paced jigs, reels, and Maritimes fiddle favorites. Two of Canada's stars, MacMaster and Leahy have been captivating audiences since they were children. Their high-energy shows include foot-tapping melodies, heartrending ballads, and world-class step dancing in a mesmerizing whirlwind of piano, bagpipes, guitar, accordion, and of course fiery fiddles played like the dickens.

Raised by musical families, MacMaster and Leahy were born into their musical careers. Hailing from Cape Breton Island, MacMaster received her first fiddle at the age of nine, launching a career that has lasted for more than 30

years. Her first recording was released when she was only 16 and she has never looked back. MacMaster's many projects include collaborations with Alison Krauss, Carlos Santana, the Chieftains, Paul Simon, Pavarotti, and Yo-Yo Ma. Her live performances are a testament to her incandescent musicianship and boundless energy, combining her virtuoso fiddle-playing and legendary step dancing.

Perfecting his talent since the age of three, Leahy has spent his entire life with a fiddle in his hand. His parents, a fiddle-playing father from Ontario and a step-dancing mother from Cape Breton, were his source of inspiration and guidance. His mesmerizingly exultant and high-energy performances have become Leahy's musical signature.

For tickets to see Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy visit keppresents.org.

Auditions for Spring Production Feb. 18-19

HARDWICK – The Civic Standard is producing a brand new and locally-created theatrical event this spring, "Mud Season Murder Mystery Dinner Theater.

All are welcome to audition to be part of this community production. No experience is necessary and there are roles for older teenagers and adults of all types. Auditions

will be held at the Civic Standard, 42 South Main St., on Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. to noon, and Sunday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

To sign up in advance or for details see thecivicstandard.org or docs.google.com/forms/d/1gK-jpXTeFwjPLwuLV-Sthaut-ViskCZYbMaEfsROdcAr8/edit



courtesy photo

Guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto will conduct a workshop and perform a solo show on February 18 in Lyndonville.

Guitarist Tsukamoto to Teach, Perform

LYNDONVILLE – Guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto, composer and songwriter, will teach an acoustic guitar workshop, Saturday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m., and will then perform a solo show, also on February 18, at 7 p.m. Both events will take place at the York Street Meeting House in Lyndonville. Each event requires its own ticket.

Hiroya Tsukamoto in concert will feature a musical journey as the guitarist and songwriter builds soundscapes to impart a mood of peace and tranquility. "(Tsukamoto's) finger-picking is delicate, fluid, and beautifully detailed," raves Acoustic Guitar.

The York Street Meeting House, a renovated venue (formerly a church) with magnificent acoustics, is a perfect location for Tsukamoto's captivating fusion of folk, jazz, and world music. Tickets are available now at the Cata-mount box office or online, or patrons can purchase tickets at the door on the day of the show.

At 4 p.m., guitar students ages 13 and up, and with a knowledge of basic chords, are invited to join Tsukamoto for a demonstration of finger-style techniques including chords and basic theory. Tsukamoto will discuss how to build a daily practice to steadily improve skills, and he will break down musical elements such as tone and rhythm to help students set goals and work efficiently to reach them.

Tsukamoto's Acoustic Guitar Workshop is limited to 10 people, so early registration is encouraged.

Originally from Kyoto, Japan, Hiroya Tsukamoto began playing the five-string banjo at the age of 13 and took up the guitar shortly thereafter. A Berklee College of Music scholarship brought him to the U.S., where he formed the multicontinental band Interoceanico, with whom he released three albums. To purchase tickets for his solo concert, or to register for his Acoustic Guitar Workshop, visit catamountarts.org or call (802) 748-2600.

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IN THE GARDEN

Saving Seeds from Heirloom Vegetables



courtesy photo

Heirloom tomatoes are often irregular in size and shape, but they are tasty and you can save seeds for next year.

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – As a boy in the 1950s I knew there were two kinds of tomatoes: deep red, plump and tasty ones my grandfather grew, and the kind that came four in a package wrapped in cellophane. The Cello-Wraps, as I think of them, had no flavor whatsoever. They were decorative. Sliced and added to our iceberg lettuce salads in winter, they added color. I suppose my mom thought they added some vitamins, too, but I doubt they contributed much.

My grandfather saved seeds from his tomatoes and started plants indoors in the early spring. He was not growing hybrid tomatoes like those sold in the supermarket. Hybrid tomatoes are carefully bred by crossing specific varieties of tomatoes so that they will have special characteristics such as surviving long trips in trucks, having a shelf life almost as long as a tennis ball, or resisting certain diseases. But those are not suitable for seed saving: most of their seeds will produce mongrels, not the variety you grew.

My grandfather grew what we now call heirloom tomatoes: time-tested varieties that breed true from seed, generation after generation. Tomatoes that had been grown for many decades, seed shared with family and friends. Tomatoes so tasty that they were often eaten right in the garden, warm from the sun.

Examples of well-known heirloom tomatoes include Brandywine (often touted as the best flavored tomato in existence), Cherokee Purple, Mortgage Lifter, Amish Paste and Black Krim. But

there are hundreds of varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Each unique and loved by someone. Many have now disappeared. Once a variety is lost, it cannot be brought back unless someone has saved the seeds so they can be grown again.

All heirloom vegetables are what are called “open pollinated” meaning that they will produce the same variety every year. Of course, in a packet of seeds some will produce better fruits than others. There is variety, but all Brandywines will take about the same length of time to reach maturity and taste about the same.

If you would like to start saving seeds, read the seed packet or catalog and make sure what you buy is labeled open-pollinated or heirloom, not hybrid. At the end of the season, save some seeds and store them in a cool, dry, dark place, perhaps in a sealed jar in a refrigerator. Then start them the following spring.

I called Sylvia Davatz, the now-retired founder of Solstice Seeds in Hartland, Vt., to talk about saving seeds. Solstice Seeds only grows and sells seeds from heirloom varieties including some varieties from Europe.

She gave me lots of good advice, starting with the names of two good books on seed saving: “*The Seed Garden*” by Lee Buttala and Sharyn Seigel, and “*The Manual of Seed Saving*” by Andrea Heisteringer. She recommends getting both books if you are going to be serious about saving seeds as even among experts there are differences of opinion. These books will tell you all you need to know.

One of the reasons for having good books about seed saving is



courtesy photo

Once lettuce bolts like this it will flower and produce seeds you can save.

that they will advise you about such things as isolation distances to prevent mixing genetic material by pollinators or wind.

I asked Sylvia what vegetable species are the easiest to save. She said tomatoes, lettuce, beans and peas are all easy. They are self-pollinated and annuals. No insects are needed, and seeds are ready by the end of their season.

Vine crops like squash, pumpkins and cucumbers are insect pollinated and more difficult. If you’ve ever let a “pumpkin” grow in your compost pile from last year’s crop, you know that sometimes you get weird things due to cross pollination: a pumpkin crossed with a summer squash by a bee, for example, may not be something you want to eat.

Most difficult in our climate are the biennials, things like carrots, beets, parsnips and parsley. These plants have to be kept alive all winter so they can flower and set seeds in their second year. You can dig up carrots and store them in soil in a bucket in a cold basement and re-plant them in the spring. But carrots, Sylvia explained to me, bloom about the same time as Queen Anne’s lace, a

biennial wild flower/weed that can be pollinated by them, that would not produce the carrots you want.

Sylvia pointed out that in the not-too-distant past, seed saving was the norm. Farmers and gardeners saved seeds from their best plants, knew how to do so, and how to store them. She explained that the seeds you save will usually be of better quality than seeds from a packet. They will have more vigor and a longer life span.

A good source for heirloom seeds is The Seed Savers Exchange. It has, since 1975, collected and stored seeds from gardeners and farmers. You can join their non-profit or just buy some seeds or books from them. According to their website, they now store some 20,000 varieties in their collection, although at any given time only a fraction of them are actually for sale.

So think about saving seeds this year – even if only a few from your favorite heirloom tomatoes. And go to solsticeseeds.org to see a wonderful eight-minute video of Sylvia Davatz explaining all the importance and benefits of seed saving.

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Water Boatmen: Foraging Beneath the Ice

by Declan McCabe

BURLINGTON – If you get a chance this winter, take a peek through the icy window of a pond surface. You may see water boatmen (order Hemiptera: Family Corixidae) clinging to the pond floor. Long oar-like hind legs propel these insects, inspiring their common name. Shorter, scoop-like front legs are used for feeding and singing.

This largest aquatic family of true bugs includes 128 North American species. Unlike their cousins the backswimmers, which swim upside down, water boatmen swim with their winged dorsal surfaces facing up. When not swimming, they cling to submerged objects with their clawed middle legs.

They cling, because otherwise they bob up like corks, and it takes precious energy to swim back down. Buoyancy is a side effect of breathing: beneath their wings and abdomens, water boatmen carry bubbles, which act like tiny scuba tanks.

Fresh bubbles from the water's surface contain 21 percent oxygen, the same as the air you and I breathe. Over time, the insect uses up the oxygen, and the concentration drops. But oxygen from surrounding water continues to diffuse into the bubble, which functions like a gill. Absent ice, the insects surface for fresh bubbles. But in winter, they can remain submerged for extended periods, as colder water holds more oxygen than warm water. Surprisingly, one



Water Boatmen

North American species (*Cymatia americana*) can survive encased within solid ice.

Many water boatmen in small ponds and shallow wetlands, however, spread their wings and migrate before ice entombs them. Stephen Srayko from the University of Saskatchewan and colleagues have documented enormous corixid migrations from wetlands to larger rivers. After migration, researchers found more than 200 water

boatmen per square foot in slow-water locations. The scientists estimated that throughout the Prairie Pothole Region, spanning three Canadian provinces and five U.S. states, 13,000 tons of water boatman biomass moves from wetlands to rivers. Srayko and his collaborators found that most fish sampled in these rivers dined on corixids, which accounted for up to 97 percent of food consumed.

After overwintering in rivers, water boatmen returned to wetlands to feed and reproduce. Most water boatmen consume aquatic vegetation, but as many as a quarter of the North American species prey on invertebrates, including other water boatmen.

Some corixids generate sound announcing their presence to potential mates and rivals by rubbing file-like foreleg structures against a ridge called a “plectrum” on their cheeks. The sounds resonate through their air bubbles, and the size of the insect and its corresponding breathing bubble affects pitch; bigger bubbles produce deeper songs. The sound of one European corixid in particular has attracted the attention of the folks at the Guinness World Records. The species measures 1/10 of an inch long and generates a 99-decibel sound that’s as loud as a passing freight train. Curiously, this species generates sound by rubbing a ridge on its penis against its abdomen, earning it the record for the loudest penis on the planet; nature is stranger

than fiction.

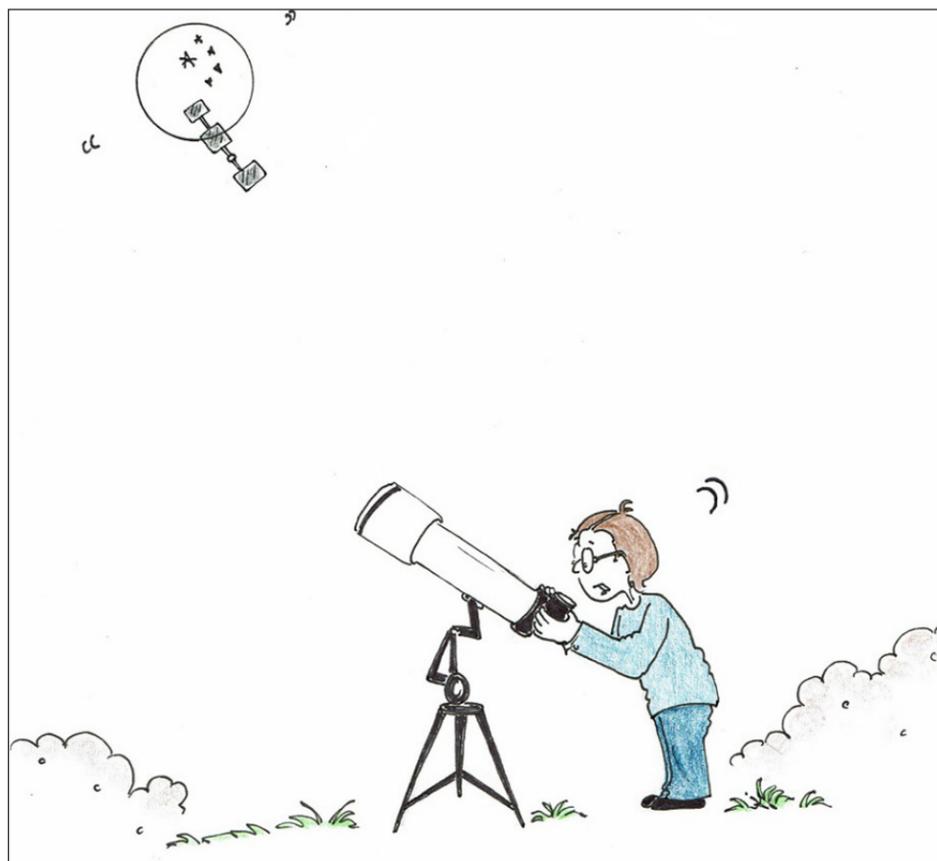
I was curious if corixid migrations to rivers happen in Vermont, so in January I grabbed a net and headed to the Winooski River. If vast swarms of water boatmen exist in the Winooski, they certainly eluded me. Despite several net sweeps from the bank, not a single water boatman revealed itself. I contacted Aaron Moore, who monitors river macroinvertebrate each fall for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. He told me that they occasionally get water boatmen in samples, but not in numbers to suggest mass migration.

I had more luck locating corixids in a nearby wetland. After breaking through ice, my first net dip captured a water boatman. With or without a net, the best way to see water boatmen in winter is to approach a pond or wetland edge and look for movement as these insects go about the business of foraging beneath the ice. I find that tapping the ice surface encourages a bit of swimming.

Whether you knock on the icy door or not, I hope that you are lucky enough to see water boatmen in a pond near you. If you do, give a listen; they might even sing for you.

[Declan McCabe teaches biology at Saint Michael’s College. His courses include Aquatic Biology, and a new course taught in the Dingle Peninsula called Coastal Biology of Ireland. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“IT’S DEFINITELY NOT A GENDER REVEAL!”

IN THE GARDEN

Some Houseplants are Toxic for Pets

by Jodi Larison, Extension Master Gardener Intern, University of Vermont

WEST DOVER – In their book, “How to be your Dog’s Best Friend,” the Monks of New Skete suggest that for many people, dogs and houseplants are the only readily available touchstones with the natural world. They also say that owners must reflect on their canine’s environment and make it as healthy as possible.

I recently brought a new member into my pack, Betty, a nine-week-old French bulldog. I knew bringing Betty home meant that I needed to puppy-proof my condo as many plants are toxic to pets including puppies, kittens, dogs and cats. So part of preparing for Betty’s homecoming was determining which of my houseplants might need to be relocated.

Since I live in a small condo, I do not have many houseplants, just chives, oregano, philodendron, rosemary and spider plants. Of these, chives, oregano and philodendron are toxic for both dogs and cats while rosemary and spider plants are not. So I relocated my toxic houseplants to places where Betty cannot access them.

How did I determine which plants were safe for my puppy?

I did some online research and found information on plants that are poisonous and non-poisonous to pets on the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website. You can check out //go.uvm.edu/toxic-plants to determine if your plants are safe for your pets. Plants are listed both by common and scientific names.

While many types of plants are toxic to both dogs and cats, the toxicity level often varies by animal species as well as by plant. One of the most common symptoms of plant poisoning in both dogs and cats is vomiting.

However, many plants are not toxic to dogs and cats. So before I add any new plants, I will make sure that they won’t harm my fur baby if eaten, especially if they are indoor plants.

Whether bringing home a puppy or kitten or already living with a dog or cat, research your houseplants and determine whether they might be toxic. If they might be, move them to a place where your pet will not have access to them. This advice applies even if your dog or cat does not normally eat plants.

Before Betty, I had a mammoth bulldog, Lola Brooke aka B, who liked to eat grass when outside but did not munch on other plants, indoors or out. One time, I brought a potted hot pepper plant inside in October before the first frost. That plant remained untouched until April when B decided she would try some hot peppers.

I did not see her eat them, but I knew there was a problem when she started racing around and vomited numerous times. Luckily, after a call to an emergency veterinary practice, I learned that water mixed with milk, along with a side of bread, would resolve this issue.

Bottom line, as a pet owner, it is your responsibility to create a safe environment for your pet, young or old. Should you have an issue with your pet ingesting a plant, look up information on the plant to see if it is potentially



photo by Jodi Larison

Philodendrons and other houseplants are toxic to puppies, so need to be placed out of reach with a gentle reminder not to touch.

toxic.

If it is, contact your local vet, emergency vet or a poison hotline for animals, such as the ASPCA’s Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435. Note

that pet poison hotlines probably will charge a consultation fee for handling your call.

[Jodi Larison is a UVM Extension Master Gardener Intern from West Dover.]



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lakeview students (from left): Nicolas Ingram, Abby Williams, Amelia Rodriguez, Topanga Rich and Alizabeth Chernovertz perform during a Taiko drumming concert under the direction of Stuart Paton of Burlington Taiko January 27.

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 134-year coverage of your home town.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Another New Experience

by Willem Lange

BERLIN – This piece will be perforce much shorter than my usual exhalation. I’m writing it flat on my back in a hospital in Berlin, Vermont. My lovely daughter Martha is typing this as I attempt to pull together the events of the last four weeks.

In my never-ending quest to have new experiences I think I have won the lottery. The month of January this year has featured four falls, each more damaging than the previous.

I started off the new year on January first by tripping over an area rug and bashing my right knee on a hardwood floor. The good news is that the tablecloth I grabbed involuntarily as I fell did not pull the platter of cookies off the table. Once I got up, the pain wasn’t bad, and I nursed it quietly in the corner of the living room in an easy chair.

The second fall you’ve heard all about. My spikes caught on a chunk of ice in Hubbard Park while I was multi-thinking. Passersby picked me up, put me in the car with Kiki and appeared skeptical that I’d make it home as I drove away. That evening in the emergency room x-rays revealed a broken elbow. The PA wrapped it up beautifully and scheduled orthopedic surgery.

The takeaway from the surgery, besides a repaired elbow, was half a dozen oxycodone tablets. After having trouble one night sleeping with the injured elbow, I took an oxy the next night. I got up at three in the morning to go to the john and discovered that I had no sense of equilibrium at all. When I hit the bedroom floor like a ton of bricks, I peeled a patch of skin off my till-then good elbow and badly bruised much repaired left leg. I called out to Siri, hoping he was awake and, sure enough,

he called my daughter. She and her husband were there within 15 minutes; amazing! They got me to the john which was the purpose of my getting up in the first place. Cleaned around the bed, let out Kiki, deployed Herschel, my walker, beside the bed, made me promise to be careful, and left. The pain was intense and occasionally my quadriceps would go into spasm.

I hobbled around like that for a few days with anxious visits from protective progeny who brought the mail and food as excuses to check in. My girlfriend Bea came to visit for the weekend. Sunday morning, we headed for church. Kiki always goes, too. I should’ve taken one look at the church parking lot and said, “This does not look good.” But I did not. Halfway across the lot Kiki saw something interesting, pulled on her leash and down I went on my posterior on the ice. Bea ran into church and found some help. They stood me up in the parking lot. They asked me if I could get back in my car. I knew I couldn’t. They brought me a chair from inside and asked me if I could sit down. I knew I couldn’t. So, somebody called an ambulance. The fire station was only a block away, so they rolled up in no time. (Later, Montpelier being a small town where everyone knows each other, they texted and messaged my daughter and husband with the news and where I was headed.) Arriving at the emergency room, I wheeled into the x-ray room, where (you cannot believe the pain!) four strong young women slid me onto a backboard on the x-ray table. Then to my cubicle in the ER to await results and a decision.

So here I lie in a lovely hospital room surrounded by pleasant people, slowly regaining my health. I may go to rehab in a day or two, and that’ll be new, too. Meantime, I’m googling brain enhancement machines to see if I can’t make February a little better than the first month of 2023.

OUR E-MAILS

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MEETING MEMO

- Wednesday, February 8**
 - Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.
 - Walden Select Board, every other Monday.
 - Hardwick Energy Committee, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: 802-249-6004.
 - Twinfield Union School Regular Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Twinfield Union School Library and remote access also available.
 - Wolcott Select Board, third Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.
 - Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, February 16**
 - Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
- Friday, February 21**
 - Cabot Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.
 - Craftsbury Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.
 - Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.
 - Danville School District Special Informational Meeting on Budget, 7 p.m., Danville Town Hall Conference Room (36 Rte. 2, West Danville.
- 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

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc., Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843

Tel. (802) 472-6521, Fax. (802) 472-6522. E-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com
Publication (ISSN 0744-5512).

The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
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Lamoille Housing Partnership (LHP) and Lamoille Community House (LCH) request construction management firms to submit proposals for renovations to one building and creation of a permanent, year-round shelter space in Hyde Park, Vt. Qualified applicants will have comparable experience and a bonding capacity of at least \$2MM.

To obtain a proposal response form and specific project information, contact Sue Cobb of RBIC at scobb@redbirdconsulting.net. Response forms must be submitted and received by February 24, at 4 p.m. Davis Bacon residential wages may apply. Minority-owned, women-owned, Section 3 businesses and locally-owned businesses are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Hardwick Gazette



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Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under [PUC Rule 3.600](#) pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. Sign up to receive written notification from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2023 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. Watch and listen for public service announcements in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. Check with your local electric utility regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. You have the right to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are transmission lines or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2023.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name	Town/City of Affected Property		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? (circle one)	Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you	
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other (Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification: Utility Initials		Pole Numbers	

Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023

SPORTS

Rivard Sets Rebound Record in Split Week for Wildcats

by Ken Brown

RANDOLPH – Senior center Tyler Rivard became the all-time rebound leader in school history last week as the Hazen Union boys' basketball team dominated Randolph before falling to Division II power Spaulding, putting their record at 11-2 on the season.

Rivard continued to add on to an already amazing senior campaign last Monday night, pouring in 23 points and snagging 21 rebounds to lead the Wildcats to a 62-35 road win over Randolph. Senior teammate Jadon Baker drained a trio from long range to add 11 points and five steals as Hazen raced out to a 14-5 lead after one quarter and took a 30-15 advantage into the break. Xavier Hill chipped in with seven points and Gabe Michaud and Ryan Morrison rounded out the scoring with 6 apiece to help fuel an 18-7 run to start the second half. Ethan Davignon led the Galloping Ghosts with 13 points (three 3-pointers) in the loss as they fell to 6-7 on the season. The Wildcats swept the season series with their defense holding Randolph to a combined 68 points.

"This was a good game for us to try some new things that we have been working on and we are looking forward to the challenges we have ahead in the Capital Division to get us more playoff ready," said head coach Aaron Hill.

Spaulding defended their home court and

remained undefeated on the season with a big second half last Wednesday behind Tavarius Vance's 16 points in a hard-fought 55-43 win over the Wildcats. Brendan Moodie led Hazen with 13 points and put the visitors up by as much as seven, on their way to a 23-20 lead at the break. Cooper Diego (13 points), Cole McAllister (9), and six straight points by 6 foot 7 big man Isaac Davis fueled a 16-7 Crimson Tide run to start the second half to reclaim the lead for good.

"This was a great opportunity for us to face a very strong opponent on the road and for two and a half quarters we had the lead and were in control of the game. When they switched to zone it changed the game and it was a great learning experience for us. I am proud of the effort the boys gave against that team and our effort and execution was awesome. It was a game with playoff intensity and will definitely help us in the future. This is the reason we joined the Capital . . . we may lose a couple of tough games, but we will be playoff ready at the end of the regular season," said Hill.

Rivard added 12 points and 11 rebounds in the loss, giving him a Hazen Union school record 800 rebounds for his career. He surpasses Tim Shedd's record of 793 rebounds that stood for over two decades. Shedd is also the career points leader for the Wildcats with 1,695. Rivard is having a senior season for the ages, averaging over 23 points and 15 rebounds per game,

including a record breaking 50 point night in a win over Enosburg back in December.

"I am very happy for Tyler getting the rebound record. He has the physical gifts needed to be such a dominant rebounder and he is so strong it's very difficult to move him, but that is only part of it. He also has an incredible instinct or ability to read where the ball is going to go off the rim and the desire and determination to fight for every single rebound. He never stops, he goes after everything all the time. His rebounding is a huge part of our success by not only scoring off of his offensive rebounding and allowing us to get out in transition more quickly, but by finishing off stops with a big defensive rebound. Tyler does that better than anyone," said Hill.

The Wildcats currently sit at the second spot in the division III standings behind undefeated Winooski. They embark on a pivotal stretch within the Capital this week, starting with a trip to archrival Peoples Academy on Wednesday night. They welcome a 9-3 Montpelier team to the 'Cat Den' on Friday night and look to avenge a January loss to Thetford Academy next Monday at home.

"It's a fantastic stretch against good teams and it's much better than racking up a bunch of easy wins. Our players need to face adversity and tough challenges in preparation for dealing with playoff intensity," said Hill.



courtesy photo

Starting on their Tour de Greensboro on February 4, were (left to right) Mary Heller Osgood, Trina Hosmer, Chris Osgood, Pascal Chang and Kort Longenbach.



courtesy photo

Hot cider and warm donuts were given to skiers by (left to right) Jim Kelly, Jennifer White, Andy Kindig and Ann Bushey.

Tour de Greensboro Hosts 100 Cross-country Skiers

GREENSBORO – One hundred cross-country skiers showed up for the first annual Tour de Greensboro on February 5. This event consisted of a 25 km non-competitive ski tour on the public trail network of Greensboro and private trails that are not usually open to the public.

The event, which was

originally scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, was postponed for a day to take advantage of the 50-degree rise in temperature. With a start and finish at the Highland Lodge, participants had the option of skiing either 25km loop or opting out for the 15km cutoff loop.

Representing seven states and Quebec, skiers were treated to scenic

terrain with trail grooming for this classic-only technique event. Many enjoyed hot cider and donuts at the halfway mark along with the hot chili and cornbread at the finish of their trek. All participants received a Tour de Greensboro ski hat.

Over 60% of participants were women and 89% were over the age of 40. Representation included

everyone from past Olympians to first-year skiers,

The event was organized by Jim Fredericks was a fundraiser for the Greensboro Association, a nonprofit organization with the mission to conceive, advance, and support village initiatives and organizations that enhance the community, and to protect Caspian Lake and its surrounding environment.

SPORTS

Hazen JV Girls Three Games Away from Perfection

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union High School girls' basketball teams have won a combined 27 games in a row this winter and with a dominating 13-0 start to the season for the junior varsity team, the future looks bright for Lady Cat basketball.

Hardwick is abuzz once again this hardwood season with an 11-2 boys' team on a quest to defend their Division III state title, but also with a varsity girls' team that has one of the best players in the state in junior guard Caitlyn Davison and a fourteen-game winning streak under first year head coach Randy Lumsden.

What can't be lost however, is a Lady Cat junior varsity team that could dominate opponents in the Cat Den for years to come. They have started the season with 13 straight wins, all in blowout fashion. There are familiar names and "Six degrees of Kevin Bacon" woven all throughout this team, starting with their head coach Alison Blaney from Craftsbury Academy (CA). Mackenzie Blaney (Alison's daughter) graduated from CA, but played for the 2017 Hazen

Union team that reached the Division IV semifinals at the Barre Auditorium. The Lady Cat junior varsity roster includes Mya Lumsden, who is Randy's daughter and Kelsey Rivard, the younger sister of Tyler, who will go down as one of, if not the best multi-sport athletes in school history. Ella Renaud, Sadie Gann, Brianna Holbrook, Emma Rowell, Carrie Gonyaw, Elizabeth Hess, and Madeline Kaiser round out Blaney's talented hoopers. Eighth graders Taylor Thompson and Autumn Dailley play on Hazen's middle school team, but have also attended almost every JV practice to get extra gym time. Before the season started, coach Lumsden spoke highly of Blaney's basketball mind, her ability to develop this young and talented group, and forge the necessary relationships to strengthen the girls' basketball program at Hazen Union long term.

"I was asked to coach just a week or so before the season started and I am very fortunate to have this group of ladies for my first year coaching at Hazen. My team has some very skilled players and the entire group has been well coached since elementary school. The girls



courtesy photo
No. 15 Kelsie Rivard, Ella Renaud (back), Brianna Holbrook (front left) of the Hazen Union girls' junior varsity team have helped the team to a fourteen-game winning streak.

all work hard at improving as individuals and as teammates. We are very focused on team success and every single player has scored in our last eight games. The Hazen girls' basketball program is strong and I'm very excited Randy asked me to be a part of it!" said Blaney.

The Lady Cats were on the road at Northfield on Tuesday, before welcoming Blue Mountain to town on Saturday morning. If they win those two games, they will have a chance to complete their perfect season at the Cat Den against Milton next Tuesday night.

Charger Bowlers Position Themselves for State Tournament

by Ken Brown

RANDOLPH – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) bowling team didn't get the result they wanted over the weekend against some of the top teams in the state at the Valley Bowl, but still have bowlers in good position for the Individual State Championship in Rutland at the end of the month.

Illness and weather left the Chargers shorthanded on Saturday as they finished in third place behind Brattleboro and host team Randolph at the Valley Bowl. Randolph swept CA in the opening round of the team competition 193-174 and 181-162, snapping their streak of three straight runner-up finishes. Matt Wilcox led the Chargers with a career-high game of 201 and Will Patnoe continued his strong play with a 212 after

setting the school record a week ago. Joe Wilcox added a high game of 182 and Cyrus Reed added a 163, his career high. Brattleboro kept its stranglehold as the top team in the state by sweeping Randolph in the championship match. CA dropped to seventh in the overall state rankings, but is only three points behind sixth-place South Burlington with two weeks left in the regular season. Thirty-two bowlers qualify for the State Championship in Rutland on February 25 and CA currently has four bowlers inside those rankings, led by Patnoe, who is currently ranked fourth in the state.

"It's frustrating for another non-first place finish, but there's a lot of improvement that I'm seeing as a team," said head coach Connor Bean. "We need to get over the hump and know that we can compete with these bigger teams.

We were down a few kids for various reasons this week, but we had some kids step up, primarily Cyrus. He stepped up with a career-high game, marking three out of four frames in his varsity baker series debut. I'm not shocked that Will is near the top of the individual standings. He's the heart and soul of this team and the train that keeps us moving forward. There's still some time left to regain some ground in the team standings. We have some favorable matchups coming up and if we continue to persevere and work hard, we will inch closer towards our goals come State Championship time," added Bean.

The Chargers will travel back to the Valley Bowl in Randolph one final time this season on Saturday to face the host team, Hartford, and White River Valley, with a chance to move up the standings.



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SPORTS

SKI REPORT

BY ERIC HANSON



photo by Eric Hanson

Craftsbury and Albany middle school skiers are (left to right) Aemelia Terrone, Ada Allan, Maeda Urie, Stig Link, Jenner Brooks, and Oryon Hart.

Middle School Skiers Show Their Stuff at PA Relays

MORRISVILLE – After a series of decent snowfalls, People's Academy hosted two-person mixed gender relays around their fields and nearby woods. Twenty-six middle school teams took off in a mix of speed and controlled chaos where each racer skied two legs. Genevieve Graves and Luke Slesar (Stowe) had the fastest time of the day in 21:12. Hazen's Ava Stratman teamed up with Tillie Lange (Sutton) to place third in 23:16. Stig Link and Aemelia Terrone (Craftsbury) finished fifth, James Kehler and Amalia Pratt (Bishop Marshall) eighth,



photo by Eric Hanson

Ada Allan (Craftsbury) is shown in her second-ever middle school race skiing next to Hannah Larsen (Harwood).



photo by Eric Hanson

Maeda Urie (Albany) powers up the hill.

Oryon Hart and Maeda Urie (Craftsbury/Albany) ninth, and Jenner Brooks and Ada Allan (Craftsbury) 12th. Kehler is from Greensboro. In the varsity race, Harwood's Julie Thurston and Atticus Ellis came in first where each person skied three legs. Montpelier and Lamoyille teams came in second and third. Craftsbury's Alan Moody and Sadie Skorstad were 10th.

Circosta and Young Win at Eastern Cup Ski Races

WATERVILLE, Me. – In the third of four weekends of regional Eastern Cup ski racing, Amelia Circosta from Greensboro and the Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) won both Under 16 (U16) classic and skate 5 km races. Both races were moved to Sunday due to the frigid temperatures on Friday and Saturday. The Eastern Cup series will decide which skiers will represent the Northeast team at U.S. Junior Nationals in Fairbanks, Alaska, adding up the top four of eight races from the winter season.

Charlie Kehler, also from Greensboro, had a strong weekend placing fourth and fifth in the two 5 km U16 races. Kehler was in the lead pack with five to six other skiers and they all finished within 5-10 seconds of each other.

CSC skier Anika Leahy had an eighth and 11th for the weekend, while Ruth Krebs had two 10th place finishes. In the 7.5 km mass start men's classic race, former CSC skier, Jack Young (Jay, Vt./Colby College) edged out several Colby teammates for the win in 19:30. Leo Circosta (CSC) finished a very strong 20th place and was the sixth overall U18 skier in the morning classic race. Circosta was the 15th U18 skier in the afternoon 7.5 km skate race. Krebs moved up to 40th in the skate race.

On the women's side, former Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) skier and World Cup veteran, Caitlin Patterson, showed that retirement does not slow her down by winning both 7.5 km classic and skate races. Current



courtesy photo

Alex Lawson with her first win (10 skate race) in the SuperTour back in Dec. 2022 in Sun Valley, Idaho. Fellow Craftsbury GRPer Margie Freed on the left and Hailey Swirbul (Alaska) in the middle.

GRPer Michaela Keller-Miller had a fourth and fifth. Maggie McGee (Hyde Park/Colby College) had a super fast classic race finishing sixth.

Craftsbury Green Racing Project's Alex Lawson Skis the World Cup

Alex Lawson, originally from West Burke, won a few state high school titles at St. Johnsbury and then attended Middlebury College and skied her way to All-American status. She continued to train with the crew at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center throughout this time. After a win and many top fives on the domestic SuperTour circuit earlier this season, the U.S. Ski Team brought her up to the big league recently. In her debut in Les Rousses, France, Lawson had a 35th and 39th in the 10 km skate and 20 km classic races, respectively. This past weekend in Toblach, Italy, Lawson skied to 40th in the 10 km skate race while three of her teammates were in the top 10 (Jessie Diggins 2, Rosie Brennan 5, and Julia Kern 10). She then helped USA team II to a seventh place finish in the women's relay. In comments to FasterSkier, Alex Lawson said, "The biggest thing I took into and out of Toblach is to be confident in myself! [The World Cup] is a different scene, field, and venue but it is still a ski race and something that I have spent years training for." Dreams can come true.

Three GRP athletes were named the U.S. Biathlon World Championship team in Oberhof, Germany including Jake Brown, Kelsey Dickinson, and Tara Garaghty-Moats. This will be Brown's fourth World Championship; he had a 12th place finish in the 2021 championships. For Dickinson and Garaghty-Moats, this will be their first time shooting and skiing at a world championship event. GRP biathletes Jacquelyn Garso, Luke Brown, and Margie Freed are skiing in the IBU circuit (level below World Cup) currently. Brown placed 33rd in the 12.5 km pursuit hitting 15/20 in Lenzerheide, Austria. In the 7.5 km sprint, Garaghty-Moats was 28th, Freed 76th and Garso 82.



photo by Eric Hanson

Alex Lawson (West Burke) in 2016 was racing at U.S. Junior Nationals for the Northeast team in Cable, Wis.

Chargers Drop Three on the Week

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' basketball team lost a nailbiter to Christ Covenant last week before struggling in a pair of home and home matchups against Division III Oxbow, falling to 1-12 on the season.

Simon, Nathan, and Patrick Mulligan all scored in double figures to help Christ Covenant hold off the Chargers on the road last Monday 52-50. Freshman Landon Miller's 15 points gave CA a four point edge at the break, but the Saints would flip it to a two point lead in their advantage after three quarters. The two teams went back and forth the last eight minutes, but Christ Covenant was efficient at the free throw line and took care of the basketball down the stretch to earn the win. Dylan Washer added 14 points for the Chargers in the loss.

"That was a tough loss for sure and it is hard when you're right there and can't quite get it done, but you learn valuable lessons in close

games like this," said head coach Sean Ryan. "We had some good stretches, but just turned the ball over way too many times in crucial situations and those are killers. Landon is still young and streaky, but he is starting to develop more and giving us more of a balance to compliment Dylan," added Ryan.

Ethan Davis scored 21 points and senior Chase Lund added 18 to lead Oxbow to a convincing 76-37 home win over the Chargers last Wednesday. Dylan Washer was the only hot hand for CA, pouring in a game-high 23 in the loss. Seventeen first-half turnovers by CA, put them in an early hole that they could not dig out of. The Olympians came to the Common over the weekend for the rematch and were led by 13 points from Braxton Adams for a 57-33 win and a season series sweep. Dylan Washer led the Chargers with 14 points in a spirited first half that only saw them down just seven. Miller added eight, but with only seven players dressed, the Olympians would wear them down

in the second half to break the game open for their third win of the season.

"The guys did a great job of matching up with Lund in the second game, holding him to just four points. We took care of the ball better in that first half, breaking their press and getting some easy buckets. They have twice as many players on their roster, so eventually we just ran out of gas, but I liked the adjustments we executed and the way the guys competed. We have some tough teams ahead of us this week, but I want to see some improvement in ball movement and cutting down our turnovers. If we can do those things, we'll be much more competitive against the better teams in this league the second time around," said Ryan.

The Chargers traveled to Twinfield-Cabot on Monday and will stay on the road against Division IV defending champion Blue Mountain on Wednesday night. They are scheduled to wrap up their week with a home date against Danville on Friday.

Thirty Attend Nordic Ski Lessons on End of January



courtesy photo

Maxfield English (far left) demonstrates how to glide and increase skiing efficiency.

by Helen Beattie, Community Journalist

HARDWICK – Thirty skiers attended the second Saturday of the Loan and Lesson at Hazen Union for the Nordic ski program hosted by the Hardwick Trails and Recreation

Committees. While Emily Willems demonstrated how to efficiently recover from a fall with those new to skiing, Maxfield English was out in the field demonstrating how to glide and increase skiing efficiency. Adrienne Remick, an accomplished competitive skier, joined the instructor team and guided some of the more accomplished participants on to the woodland trails for a more challenging experience.

The Saturday morning program this past weekend was canceled due to subzero temperatures, but will be back up and running this coming Saturday. Equipment loans and lessons allow anyone (often families) the opportunity to try out nordic skiing free of cost. Sounds of laughter, and the number of equipment loans that were extended through the



courtesy photo

Emily Willems shows how to efficiently recover from a fall.

weekend provided ample evidence of the shared enjoyment of the morning.

SPORTS CALENDAR

(Sport schedules are posted by athletic departments of area schools. Times and dates may change.)

Wednesday, Feb. 8

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Grades 3-4 Girls' Basketball vs. St. Johnsbury at Cabot.

6 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Grades 3-4 Boys' Basketball vs. St. Johnsbury at Cabot.

7 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball at Blue Mountain.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball at Peoples.

Thursday, Feb. 9

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School Boys' Basketball at Danville.

6 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School Girls' Basketball at Danville.

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union Girls' Varsity Basketball vs. Stowe at Hazen Union.

7:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Varsity Girls' Basketball at Danville.

Friday, Feb. 10

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Danville at Craftsbury.

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Montpelier, at Hazen Union.

Saturday, Feb. 11

9 a.m., Twinfield-Cabot Bowling at Sparetime, Colchester, Burlington Open.

11 a.m., Hazen Union Girls' Varsity Basketball vs. Blue Mountain at Hazen Union.

Noon, Craftsbury Academy Bowling vs. White River Valley, at Valley Bowl.

Monday, Feb. 13

5 p.m., Hazen Union Eighth-Grade Girls' Basketball at North Country.

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Trinity Baptist at Craftsbury (Senior Day).

5 p.m., Hazen Union Eighth-Grade Boys' Basketball at North Country.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union Girls' Varsity Basketball vs. Milton at Hazen Union. Senior Night.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Lamoyille at Hazen Union.

Thursday, Feb. 16

6 p.m., Hazen Union Girls' Varsity Basketball at Craftsbury.

Friday, Feb. 17

7 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball at Winooski.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball at Lake Region.

Saturday, Feb. 18

10 a.m., Twinfield-Cabot Bowling vs. Craftsbury Academy, Twin City Lanes, Berlin, Craftsbury Open.

Monday, Feb. 20

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Stowe at Craftsbury. 7 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball at Williamstown.

Thursday, Feb. 23

7 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Boys' Varsity Basketball at Fairfax.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Randolph at Hazen Union (Senior Night).