

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Volume 134 Number 9

## Wildcats Reach Century Mark, Punch Ticket to Barre

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The defending Division III state champion Hazen Union boys' basketball team took care of business in a big way last week, racing past Stowe and White River Valley in the Cat Den to advance to the Final Four at the Barre Auditorium for the fifth time in six seasons.

Senior Tyler Rivard scored 21 points, hauled in 11 rebounds, and added five steals to his stat sheet last Tuesday to lead the Wildcats to a 91-27 first-round victory over fifteenth-seeded Stowe. Fellow senior Jadon Baker connected on five three-pointers on his way to a 17-point night to help the Wildcats take a 47-16 advantage into the break. Brendan Moodie also

connected on five 3s and scored 17 for the Wildcats, Lincoln Michaud added eight points and nine boards, and Sully Laflam chipped in with 10 in the win. Dylan Saulter led the Raiders with five points before fouling out as their season ended at 3-18. The 91 points was a season high for the Wildcat offense, but it wouldn't stand long.

Sophomore Brendan Moodie poured in a career-high 33 points, connecting on nine 3-pointers to lead Hazen Union to an emphatic 101-62 win over White River Valley (WRV) in the quarterfinal round last Friday night. Junior point guard Xavier Hill's career-high 24 points (19 in the first half) kept the Wildcats afloat in what looked to be a dogfight early on as WRV

**See WILDCATS, 4**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union players (from left): Gavin Stratton, Damien Morrison, Liam Jurkiewicz and water boys Jeter Demers and Kobe Smith show their excitement after their Division III quarter-final win against White River Valley March 3. Hazen will play at the Barre Aud. March 9 against Thetford at 8:15 p.m.

## Board Discusses Next Steps for Road Reclassification

by Gazette Staff

WOLCOTT – At its March 1 meeting, the Wolcott Select Board addressed the town website, Rail Trail signage, and efforts to change the classification of North Wolcott Road.

Laura Williams, on behalf of Division On Addiction, emailed the town clerk to request that a link to their organization appear on the town's website. The organization helps locate local rehabilitation centers. Following discussion, the board agreed the organization's link can be added to the Resources tab on the website.

The Forest Committee's request for payment of \$250 for a logo they had made for letterhead and eventually signage was accepted. Until the committee's budget goes into effect July 1, the committee has been asked to notify the select board if they wish to spend any money.

**See ROAD, 4**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union head coach Randy Lumsden (center) talks to his team during a time out against Thetford at the Barre Auditorium March 2. Pictured standing (from left): Ella Gillespie, Sarah Collier, Baylie Christensen, assistant coach Alison Blaney, team manager Mya Lumsden, Tessa Luther, assistant coach Dorothy Hill. Seated (from left): Isabelle Gouin, Alexis Christensen, Haley Michaud.

## Thetford Ends Lady Cats' Run

by Ken Brown

BARRE – Thetford Academy (TA) used a relentless defense to force the Hazen Union girls' basketball team into their worst offensive performance of the season last week at the Barre Auditorium, ending their 19-game win streak and their season at 20-2.

Charlize Brown poured in a game-high 22 points to lead the Lady Panthers to a 60-32 win over the Lady Cats last Thursday in the Division IV semifinals. Junior star point guard Caitlyn Davison was held to a season-low 11 points for Hazen, as they struggled to solve TA's zone press and trapping defense, forcing them

**See RUN, 3**

## Board Discusses Rail Trail Speeding, EV Chargers

by Gazette Staff

HARDWICK – At the March 2 meeting, the select board discussed speeding on the Rail Trail, electric vehicles (EV) chargers in town, and the Yellow Barn project.

The first topic for discussion came for the audience. There was a question about whether handouts and discussion regarding the proposed bond vote at town meeting are allowed since it is on the ballot. Orise Ainsworth clarified that the bond can be discussed at town meeting because it is a "money matter." Candidates on the ballot cannot be discussed during the business portion of the meeting.

Next, Chief Mike Henry gave the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) report. Henry reported that HPD has been receiving complaints about snowmobiles speeding on the Rail

**See SPEEDING, 2**



photo by Eric Hanson

The third- and fourth-graders head off in the two-person relay event at the Bill Koch Ski Festival held at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center last weekend. More photos and story on Sports.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Snowbanks keep getting higher since Friday night's snowstorm brought another eight inches to the Hardwick area.

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**Speeding**

**Continued From Page One**

Trail. Officers have been out on speed patrol but have not seen many speeders. They are finding 95% of the riders are completely legal. Henry wanted to remind everyone that the Rail Trail is closed for snowmobiles from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Board member Danny Hale noted that if a person is standing on the Rail Trail and a snowmobile goes by them at 25 or 35 mph (posted speed limits), it is normal that it would seem as if they were traveling at a much higher speed.

Henry shared that recently HPD has received a large amount of expungement requests. "Expungement" is the process by which a record of criminal conviction is erased or sealed from a state or federal record. An expungement order directs the court to treat the criminal conviction as if it had never occurred, essentially removing it from a defendant's criminal record as well as, ideally, the public record. HPD has received 64 expungement cases in just the last two weeks. This creates a lot of administrative work and can be very time consuming.

Henry also wanted to give a shout out to Officer Paul Barnard who has been very helpful to the department. He was hired last April. He is tech-savvy and has taken on a lot of HPD's IT and computer work. Henry said that Barnard is doing a great job and is an asset to the department. Hale commented that he is impressed to see all the patrolling in town. He regularly sees the officers out and about.

The board then voted to appoint Geoff Fehrs to the Hardwick Conservation Commission, and approved the following liquor and tobacco licenses: First Class license for American Legion Post #7; Second Class Licenses for Global Montello Group, Corp doing business as (d/b/a) Jiffy Mart #457; Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC; GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli; Third Class License for: American Legion Post #7; Outside Consumption Permit for American Legion Post #7; Tobacco Licenses for Global Montello Group, Corp d/b/a Jiffy Mart #457; Tops Market, LLC; DG Retail, LLC d/b/a Dollar General; Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC; GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli; Tobacco Substitute Endorsement for Global

Montello Group, Corp d/b/a Jiffy Mart #457; Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC ; GSB, LLC d/b/a D&L Beverage & Deli

Next, the select board voted unanimously to certify the Annual Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards, and voted to approve a banner application for an AWARE banner to be hung on Wolcott Street from September 20, 2023, through October 7, 2023.

The board then voted to certify the Agency of Transportation annual mileage certificate.

Next, board chair Eric Remick reported that he spoke to a friend who serves on the Stowe Electric Board about how Stowe has implemented EV chargers. Remick said that under Stowe's approach, there is no private developer. Under that approach, the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) would install a charger at a designated spot of town property in cooperation with the town. Remick suggested discussing the topic at the upcoming select board meeting with HED commissioners.

Under Select Board Reports, board member Shari Cornish shared that the Town House will open very soon. The first event is a George Woodard film showing for "The Farm Boy," which was filmed mostly in Waterbury. It is scheduled for March 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Board Vice Chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane reported that the Equity Committee had an "equity listening" session at Front Seat Coffee. The next one is at Buffalo Mountain Market on March 19. This event provides a chance for people to share stories and what is working and not working in town. Board member Elizabeth Dow shared that in 1863 the town voted to tax properties on the grand list at 25%. This is compared to about 1.4% today, an interesting history fact that she wanted to share.

Remick said that the Yellow Barn is proceeding. There is a draft contract with Wright & Morrissey, which is being reviewed by legal counsel. Groundbreaking is expected this spring.

SE Group will have a display at town meeting about the two different park concepts for the Daniels Building side of the pedestrian bridge. Residents are encouraged to stop in the lobby to comment on the boards or go online to give feedback.



**March 8 - March 14**

<b>New Spring Women's Clothing. Royal Robbins, Carve and Toad</b>		<b>Get Ready for Spring! Seeds are Here.</b>	
<b>Quaker Instant Oatmeal</b> \$2.28 9.8-12.1 oz.	<b>Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies</b> \$1.98 9.5-13 oz.	<b>Tropicana Orange Juice</b> \$2.48 52 oz.	
<b>Poland Spring 8 Pk. Sparkling Water</b> \$2.99 135.2 oz.	<b>Bigelow Tea</b> \$2.99 18-20 ct.	<b>Post Shredded Wheat Cereal</b> \$3.99 15-18 oz.	
<b>Kellogg's Pop Tarts</b> 2/\$5 13.5 oz.	<b>Prince Pasta</b> 4/\$5 12-16 oz.	<b>Ben's Ready Rice</b> 2/\$4 8.5-8.8 oz.	
<b>Shake 'N Bake Coating Mix</b> 2/\$7 4.5-6 oz.	<b>Progresso Vegetable Classic Soups</b> 2/\$4 18-19 oz.	<b>Bar Harbor Chowders</b> 2/\$5 10.5-15 oz.	
<b>Kraft Salad Dressing</b> 2/\$6 16 oz.	<b>Heinz Ketchup</b> \$3.99 38 oz.	<b>Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter</b> 2/\$7 16 oz.	
<b>Simply Done 6 = 11 Roll Paper Towels</b> \$5.99 302.4 s.f.	<b>Cabot Sliced Cheese</b> \$3.29 8 oz.	<b>Cabot Cheese Bars</b> \$2.99 6-8 oz.	
<b>Cabot Shredded Cheese</b> \$2.99 8 oz.	<b>Stonyfield Yogurt</b> 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	<b>Wyman's Frozen Berries</b> \$3.49 12-15 oz.	

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Stolen Drugs, Vandalism, Accident

On February 22, at 8:35 p.m., a 49-year-old female reported her prescription of Buprenorphine was stolen from her residence while she was away from home. Person of interest identified. Investigation open.

On February 22, Hardwick Police received a report of a work truck that was parked in a fenced in yard on Charlevoix Street had been vandalized at an unknown date and time. The windshield had been shot at with a BB gun and the gas caps were left open. If you have any information in regard to this incident, please contact Hardwick Police.

On February 22, Hardwick Police received a report of a vehicle that was parked at Mackville Pond, had been hit by another

vehicle. There was damage to the driver's side rear. The vehicle that hit the Nissan did not make any attempt to contact the owner. This occurred on February 22 at approximately 1:30 a.m. If you have any information in regard to this accident, please contact Hardwick Police.

On February 28, at approximately 9:40 a.m., Hardwick Police responded to a report of a single vehicle off the road in Vt. Rte. 15. The operator, Felicia Flint, stated she had lost control of the vehicle due to applying brakes during a sharp bend in the snow and slid off the road. She was unharmed and the vehicle suffered minor damage to the driver side rear bumper. The vehicle was pulled out of the deep snow.

## Vermont State Police Violating Conditions of Release, Vehicle Crash, Wood Not Delivered

On March 2, at 7:34 a.m., Troopers out of the Berlin Barracks were notified of a conditions of release violation at a residence on Old Quarry Road in Woodbury. Subsequent investigation led to the discovery that Dorothea Wrobel, of Woodbury, had violated active court ordered conditions of release by being at the residence. Wrobel was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. Wrobel was later released with a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court Criminal Division on April 20 and released.

On March 2 at approximately 6:38 p.m., Troopers from the Vermont State Police, St. Johnsbury Barracks, received reports of a two-car motor vehicle crash involving a passenger vehicle and a large tractor in the area of 705 US 2, Danville. Investigation revealed Keith Burtt, of Cabot, was traveling east along US 2 and attempted to make a left turn across westbound lanes of travel. Simultaneously, Alexandra Milne, of Danville was traveling west along US 2 and approached the intersection where Burtt was turning. All westbound lanes of travel were

blocked by Burtt's John Deere 5100E tractor and the associated trailer. As such, Milne's vehicle, a 2008 BMW struck the rear portion of Burtt's trailer. Both Burtt and Milne were uninjured, however Milne's vehicle was towed from the scene due to extensive damage. The Vermont State Police were assisted by the Danville Fire Department.

On January 29 at 3:15 p.m., the Vermont State Police received a call from Jennifer Phair, of Charleston, reporting she had paid for two cord of firewood but the firewood was never delivered. Through the trooper's investigation, it was determined Joel Sargent, of Woodbury, had taken the money and did not deliver the firewood. Sargent is due in Orleans County Court on March 28.

On February 2 at 12:57 p.m., the Vermont State Police received a call from Robert Whlidal, of Albany, reporting he had paid for two cord of firewood but the firewood was never delivered. Through the trooper's investigation, it was determined Joel Sargent, of Woodbury, had taken the money and did not deliver the firewood. Sargent is due in Orleans County Court on March 28.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 22 people from February 19 through February 26. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes

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

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

## Run

Continued From Page One

into 34 turnovers on the night.

"Thetford came prepared and executed their game plan," said head coach Randy Lumsden. "Their defense was the best we had encountered this year. They trapped us well and at times, triple teamed Caitlyn. Their zone and length across their roster made it challenging to get in the paint and we struggled to box out and secure rebounds," added Lumsden.

Thetford raced out to a 9-0 run to start the game before Craftsbury Academy's Ella Gillespie drilled a three from the top of the circle midway through the first quarter. Senior Alexis Christensen connected on a pair of long-range jumpers to keep the Lady Cats within striking distance after one period 20-11. Davison came alive to start the second quarter with five straight points to make it 20-16, but several Lady Cat turnovers fueled a 12-0 run by TA and they entered the break up 32-18. Addison Cadwell (16 points) and Madison Mousley (10) helped the Lady Panthers open the second half on a 12-3 run and the rout was on. Davison went 1-2 from the free throw line with 90 seconds left in the third quarter to end her impressive streak of 21 straight makes. Christensen finished the night with nine points on a trio of threes, Gillespie finished with three points, and fellow senior Haley Michaud also finished with three. Christensen started her playoff career with Hazen Union as just a freshman, pouring in a career-high 22 points in a first-round win over Rivendell Academy in 2020. The senior sharpshooter has been a double-digit scorer for Hazen ever since and ends her high school career along with Gillespie and Michaud with the programs first trip to the Final Four since 2018.

"I was really excited and nervous to finally play in the Barre Auditorium. We really came together as a team this year. Because we are so close, we have been able to work together to come this far. As a

team, we grew a lot offensively and defensively throughout the season. We always encouraged each other and picked each other up when we were down," said Christensen.

Coach Lumsden's first year on the sidelines for Hazen included a 19-game win streak, a Mountain League title, and elevated 2022 Vermont Dream Dozen selection Davison's game to a new level at over 20 points per game. He will miss the leadership from the trio of his graduating senior starters, but is excited to usher in and develop the talent coming in from a junior varsity team that just completed a 16-0 season in dominant fashion.

"Regardless of the outcome of that game, we had a phenomenal year. The work ethic and dedication this team had is immeasurable. Alexis, Haley, and Ella are three seniors that will not be easy to replace, but we have an extremely talented group coming up through the pipeline all the way down to the six-grade level. Currently we have a group of eighth graders and underclassmen who play year-round in different travel leagues that show promise in adding speed and agility to accompany Caitlyn, Tessa Luther, Sarah Collier, and Sadie Skorstad in their senior year. We won't be big, but we'll be able to run. Hopefully having this group play AAU and summer league together will ease the growing pains before the start of next season," said Lumsden.

Top seeded Windsor edged Thetford 44-40 on Saturday to capture their second consecutive Division III state championship. Windsor ended the season on an 18-game winning streak.



# Calderwood

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## Road

### Continued From Page One

The next agenda item was the North Wolcott Road classification. Craftsbury Select board co-chairs Bruce Urie and Jim Jones attended the meeting to join in the discussion on the classification of North Wolcott Road in Wolcott, and Wild Branch Road in Craftsbury. The consensus was that the cost of road maintenance to the towns is extreme, and that it is not fair for the towns to be responsible for maintenance given the heavy tractor trailer traffic between Vt. Rte 14 and Vt. Rte 15, which are state highways. In addition to road maintenance costs, there are safety issues.

The initial correspondence between Wolcott's state legislators and VTrans indicated that the agency does not currently have a budget that would allow for reclassifying the road. Routes 15A and 15C were town roads before being taken over by the state. The Wolcott Select Board is interested in cooperating with Craftsbury and to keep the issue of reclassification before VTrans. The Wolcott board has brought up the possibility of an ordinance that would close North Wolcott Road to heavy tractor trailer trucks. Urie stated that a VTrans representative will be meeting with the Craftsbury Select Board in April to discuss preserving the road. Urie and Jones indicated they can address the reclassification of the Wild Branch Road with VTrans. The Wolcott board has arranged for Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to conduct a road study on North Wolcott Road this spring. The study will provide statistics on the amount of vehicle traffic, specifically tractor trailers. Urie and Jones will discuss conducting a similar study of the Wild Branch Road this spring with their board. The Craftsbury board can also discuss the issue with their legislators. Legislators could introduce a bill that would go to the General Assembly. The two boards will stay in touch regarding traffic studies.

In the Project Manager Report, vice chair Kurt Klein stated that a request for bids for the mowing of town properties has been placed in the News & Citizen. Klein is working with UniFirst to schedule pickup of uniforms for the road crew. The road foreman is seeking guardrail quotes. Bids will be sought for North Wolcott Road patch paving. Repairs have been needed for one of the plow trucks. As a result, plowing has not been as efficient as it could be. Viking has been the only vendor to supply

truck parts. Plow blades through Viking cost about double compared to last year. The road foreman is seeking an alternate supplier in New Hampshire.

The owner of the property located at 74 School Street had applied for property tax relief through the state despite the fact that he lives in California. Following the town's protest, the request was denied. The understanding is that the property will now default to the tax sale purchaser. Klein is in communication with an individual who can refresh the physical layout of the screens on the town's website and improve the overall user experience.

Bradley Horstman, of Simmons Road, was interviewed as an alternate delegate to the board by Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD). The board voted to accept Horstman as an alternate delegate for Wolcott.

Next, Jackie Cassino, Rail Trails program manager from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, requested input from the board on signage for the Rail Trail. Cassino proposed VTrans install a vertical directional sign on School Street that would direct folks to the trailhead. If installed, the town would need to agree to maintain the sign. After reviewing a map and sign summary sheets provided by Cassino, the board agreed to installation of the sign. The state will not pay for a sign directing snowmobiles to park by the ballfield, because that would be seasonal.

A bid was received from Safety Home Address for green, reflective 911 signs. For 950 signs, the cost would be \$15,510. Safety Home Address would not issue a quote for posts, stating that posts are too difficult to obtain. The quote from Work Safe for 911 signs is \$14,078. Work Safe indicates they can provide posts. The board voted to accept the bid from Work Safe for signs and posts for \$29,173.69, using ARPA funds.

Joe Houston, facilities director for Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU), contacted the board to request financial support for the purchase of a standby power generator at Wolcott Elementary School. OSSU will be using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to install generators at schools that do not have one, including Wolcott. It is estimated that a generator for the site would be in the range of \$60,000 to \$90,000. Having a generator would keep computers powered for communication and keep the venti-

lation system running. The school could be used as an emergency shelter or meeting place in the event of a wide-spread power outage. The school would provide more space than the town office. The request to the town is for \$10,000 or \$15,000 in ARPA funds. Otherwise, the funds will come from the school's budget. Craftsbury approved \$15,000. Hardwick also contributed. The board voted to allocate \$15,000 of ARPA funds to OSSU.

There will be a request for bids for brush hogging the North Wolcott ballfields and the transfer station.

The request to the town for permission to conduct a coin drop on Vt. Rte 15 for Justice for Dogs was withdrawn. The insurance requirement imposed by the state was cost prohibitive. Justice for Dogs is hoping to raise funds to help establish an alternative to the facility that has been used throughout the county as a pound. That facility will soon be closing.

The town had taken out a \$400,000 loan to pay the upfront cost of the Brook Road box culvert project. The loan amount, with interest, is now \$402,164.32. The treasurer recently received \$373,221.30 as a partial reimbursement for expenses from FEMA. The treasurer stated that additional funds have been received from FEMA that, together, would cover the loan amount. The town can pay the interest of \$2,164.32 using money from the General Fund. That can go back to the General Fund once the town receives full payment on the Brook Road culvert. Paying off the loan now will save on additional interest charges.

Next, the board discussed costs associated with the replacement of the School Street bridge. Final construction costs, including moving utilities, will be covered 100% by the state. Costs that do not qualify for the program will be covered 80% by federal funds, 15% by state funds, with the town responsible for 5%. The bridge grant agreement is under select board review. Following discussion, board chair Linda Martin was given permission to sign the agreement.

The proposed town budget for 2023-2024 included over \$11,000 for the shared cost of an assessor per an agreement with Hyde Park and Johnson. Since the board had voted to withdraw from the agreement with the other two towns, those funds are no longer needed. The board will amend the budget from the floor at town meeting, deleting this line item.

## Wildcats

### Continued From Page One

matched the favored hosts 20-20 after the first quarter and went into the break only down seven. Hill, a 2022 VT Dream Dozen selection, connected from long range five times in the first half and added 8 assists to his impressive night. Moodie took it to another level in the final 16 minutes, draining 7 more three-pointers to help fuel a 27-9 run to start the second half and blow the game wide open. Rivard was a force inside once again, adding 17 points and securing a game-high 28 rebounds, including his third thunderous dunk of the season. Tatlin Griffin led WRV with 24 in the loss as their season ended

at 13-9. Hazen is getting hot at the right time, connecting on 28 three-pointers in their two wins on the week. Their 101 points is a school record and Moodie also tied the all-time single-game school record for a sophomore set by Brad Ferland with his 33-point performance. His nine 3-pointers in a game is surprisingly not a school record as Dan Judkins drilled 11 threes for Hazen against Richford in 2005. Rivard continued to put his school rebounding record out of reach. His 39 boards on the week put him at an eye-popping 996 for his already legendary career.

"White River Valley had just beaten BFA-Fairfax by 30 in the first round and were

peaking as a team. They were a very dangerous match-up and that was a huge win for us," said head coach Aaron Hill. "Brendan is a Wolcott kid and has been in our camps and grew up with a lot of our players and he got a lot of work in with us this past summer. We were excited to have him come over from Peoples Academy to start the year, he's very smooth, and he has added another real offensive threat for us from the outside. Tyler's career rebound total is just . . . insane," added Hill.

Next up for the Wildcat's title defense is a familiar foe in Thetford Academy. The Panthers handed Hazen Union their only Division III loss of the season in January 47-42. The Wildcats

returned the favor in the Cat Den last month 74-55 in what was a historic game that saw Rivard reach the 1,000-point career mark with a monster 40-point effort. The Panthers have 16 wins on the season and Hill expects a battle in their third go-around.

"I don't feel like we made too many adjustments in our second match-up with them, we just executed better. They are a very strong defensive team, so it will be a big challenge," said Hill.

Hazen Union and Thetford Academy will play the rubber match on Thursday night at the Barre Auditorium, with the winner advancing to the Division III state title game.



photo by Hal Gray

A large display at Willey's Store shows 20 representative women who played a part in 20th-century Greensboro history.



photo by Hal Gray

A display at Willey's Store celebrates Women's History Month with local Greensboro women.

## Greater Greensboro Celebrates Women's History Month

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – A new exhibit in Willey's Store recognizes local Greensboro women (now deceased) as part of Women's History Month. Prepared by the Greensboro Historical Society and employees at Willey's, it is set on a table just inside the front of the store. A large display contains the photos, with explanatory captions, of 20 representative women who played a part in Twentieth-century Greensboro history with a smaller display showing four women who played a big part in the history of Willey's Store.

Selection of the women was subjective and is likely to have missed someone's favorite historical women, and a notebook is included in the display for viewers to note these women. The focus is on local women and the list would have been much longer if summer residents "from away" had been included.

Another part of the exhibit is a listing of the 60 women who were the first to vote in Greensboro. They took the Freeman's Oath to vote in the Presidential election after the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920.

The women portrayed in the

exhibit are Cleora Collier, Dorothy Ling, Carol Smith, Alice Hill, Beatrice White, Esther Kesselman, Helen Lyles, Minnie Speir, Harriette Wilson, Ida Perron, Rosie Oates, Dorothy Davis, Hazel Gile, Bronwyn Potter, Catherine Houle, Annie Bartel, Mary Merrill, Laura Drown, Madeline Gebbie, Anne Harbison. The women of Willey's Store are Edla Locklin Willey, Hattie Willey, Gertrude Willey and Phyllis Willey Hurst.

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society

and reflects on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. The celebration grew out of a 1978 celebration by a California school district. A few years later the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation for a National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, and in 1987 the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned the Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.



photo by Hal Gray

Four women who played a part in the history of Willey's Store are on display in the store to celebrate Women's History Month.

## Walden Fire Department Request ARPA Funds

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met on February 27. Lori Augustyniak discussed the ongoing signage issues along the Lamaille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) She said most signs should be in place by summer and there will be an informational table at town meeting about LVRT. The possible future rescue efforts along the LVRT were discussed with the fire department investigating possible equipment upgrades to address this concern.

Jason Larabee brought an ARPA funds request from the Walden Fire Department. The board unanimously approved a total of \$84,122.50 for equipment and turn-out gear. The remainder of ARPA funds were unanimously allocated to the town's Capital Reserve Fund.

Seth O'Brien was appointed as Walden's representative to the Northeast Kingdom Broadband Governing Board.

Northern Vermont Development Association Executive Director David Snedeker discussed the financial advantages obtained

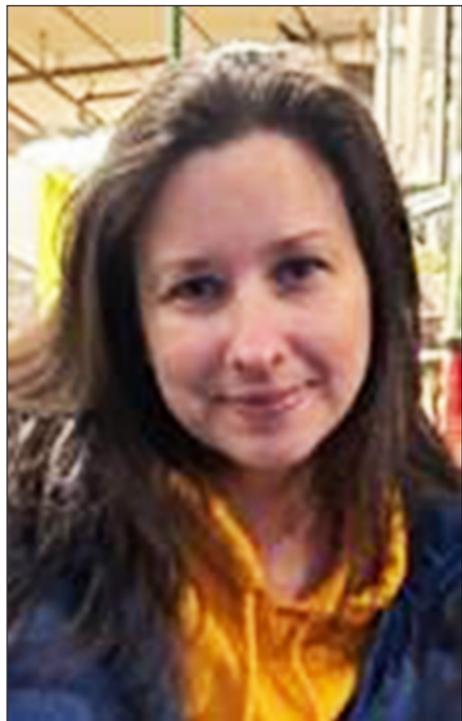
through a town plan. He said there are grant opportunities that Walden does not qualify for without a plan, such as land and building purchase where available monies are tied to a plan. Town plans do not have to include zoning, offer the ability to address issues of growth and the ability to map out future capital projects for everyone to understand.

Town Clerk, Debbie Messier, reported that the town report is now available and is available on the website, Walden.gov. The town office had a state ADA inspection and passed with only minor issues noted with additional signage to be ordered. She also noted that our county taxes are lower than was projected in the budget.

Bills, five overweight permits, and the Roads and Bridges Compliance Standards were signed.

Present at the meeting were Robert Hath, Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, Deborah Messier, Jason Larabee, David Snedeker, Seth O'Brien, and Lori Augustyniak.

# LeRiche-Forkey Named Girl Scout Volunteer of Month



Danielle LeRiche-Forkey

WOLCOTT – When looking for a way to involve her kindergarten in social activities during the pandemic, Danielle LeRiche-Forkey found that Girl Scouts was just the answer. Not only has she joined Girl Scouts, she is now the leader of Troop 61654 in Wolcott, and this year has provided space to be the Girl Scout Cookie cupboard for her community. LeRiche-Forkey has been named the Volunteer of the Month by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains for all she has provided to the organization.

LeRiche-Forkey, 39, of Wolcott, said the new troop first met outdoors and on Zoom, and she had to learn just what it meant to lead a Girl Scout troop, having never been a Girl Scout herself. Now that things are starting to get back to normal, her Girl Scouts have been eager to earn badges and help their community.

“We have very ambitious girls!” she said, showing her daughter’s Brownie vest, already quite full of badges and fun patches denoting all the activities they’ve done.

Emily Weaver, a co-leader of the troop along with Gina Spiritoso and Crista Peck, nominated LeRiche-Forkey for the honor, saying “Danni is the head leader of this troop and works hard to provide opportunities for the Scouts. She facilitates meetings and outings, provides supplies and directions all while making sure it is a truly girl-led experience. She realizes the impor-

tance of Girl Scouts for shaping our future leaders!”

Troop 61654 contains eight active Girl Scouts in grades K-12 with more ready to join, and LeRiche-Forkey gives credit to her co-leaders and parent volunteers for all their help.

“Crista and Gina right now are cookie ladies,” she said, “so they’re the ones managing all the booths, all the organization, the dates, the calling...and that’s amazing!”

Her husband was also able to help, making space in his storage facility available for the hundreds of cookie cases being distributed to Girl Scouts in the area.

The leaders meet weekly, planning and prepping, and make sure everyone is up to speed on how each troop meeting will go.

“We all have that good communication so that the plan is established in the event something happens,” said LeRiche-Forkey.

The troop has gone backyard camping, made a trip to the Get Air trampoline park, gone horseback riding, participated in Girl Scouts Love State Parks and Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors, marched in the local Fourth of July parade, and love learning about STEM and space science. Of course, they learn goal-setting and financial skills through the Girl Scout Cookie program, which has funded some of their activities and trips.

One unique service project they took on was to organize books when their community library moved.

“So now the library is the building next to our town meeting building,” she said, “where we hold our meetings. All of the books kind of came in boxes, but nothing was organized. So the children’s, young adult and picture book areas - our girls went and sorted all of them. The little ones helped sort by the letter, and then we had the next group sorting within that, alphabetizing that, and then the next group carrying them up. They all seemed to really enjoy it and have fun.”

Now that they have given service to the town with projects like this and Green Up Day, they are often asked if they would like to help with a town effort.



photo by Hilary Paquet

Competing in the 8- and 9-year-olds division at the 2023 Northeast Region 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, February 25 in Orleans, were (left to right) Eli Lidback, Westmore; Patrick Paquet and Ella Purchase, both from East Montpelier; Ryan Holbrook, Hardwick; and Deegan Michaud, Greensboro.

# Local 4-Hers Compete in Regional Dairy Quiz Bowl

ORLEANS – Saturday, February 25, was a day of friendly competition for 32 members of Northeast Kingdom 4-H clubs. The occasion was the 2023 Northeast Region 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, the venue, the Orleans Elementary School in Orleans. At stake, a chance to place in the top six in their age group to earn a ribbon.

The competition gave the 4-H’ers an opportunity to showcase their dairy knowledge through participation in a written test and fast-paced buzzer rounds. They scored points for knowing the answers to questions about the dairy industry from ruminant nutrition, milk production and anatomy to calf health and marketing of dairy products, among other topics.

Local competitors were, 8- and 9-year-olds: Deegan Michaud, Greensboro (fourth); Ryan Holbrook, Hardwick (fifth); 10- and 11-year-olds: Trevor Smith, Hardwick (sixth); 12- and 13-year-olds: Talon Michaud, Greensboro (second); Dawson Michaud, East Hardwick (third); 14-year-olds and older: Morgan Michaud, East Hardwick (first);

Natalie Michaud, Greensboro (second).

Quiz bowl was coordinated by University of Vermont Extension 4-H educators Lindy Birch and Holly Ferris with milk provided by Orleans County Dairy Promotion.

Room moderators included adult volunteers Jared Birch, Wheelock; Leslie Michaud, East Hardwick; and Maddie Nadeau, Derby. 4-H teen Liviya Russo, Lunenburg, assisted by reading questions for the buzzer rounds. She was ineligible to compete at this event because she was a member of the Vermont 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl team last year.

Scorekeepers were Brooke Bury, Peggy Kelley and 4-H teen Grace Patenaude, all from Derby, and Clara Nadeau, Holland. Hilary Paquet, Melissa Purchase and Jodi Sibley, all from East Montpelier, scored the tests. Sarah Birch, Derby, tabulated the overall results.

For information on the Vermont 4-H dairy program in the Northeast region, contact Lindy Birch at melinda.birch@uvm.edu.

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# 110 Diners Enjoy Hot Chili on a Cold Night

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Free Library (GFL) held a chili dinner fundraiser Friday, March 3, in person this year before the snowstorm of Saturday. GFL trustees and their friends fed 110 people with various donated chilis, cornbread and dessert. Dinner was followed by musical and theatrical entertainment from local youth including singer-songwriter Piper Hall and folk musicians Maia and Kellon Mencucci, the Skillet Lickers.



Folk musicians Maia and Kellon Mencucci, the Skillet Lickers, entertain during the chili dinner fundraiser.

Photos  
by  
Hal Gray



Greensboro Free Library Director Paula Davidson serves up cornbread at the chili dinner fundraiser.



Jennifer Lucas, librarian trustee and treasurer, accepts donations from diners.



Many diners in Greensboro's Fellowship Hall contributed to the chili dinner fundraiser on March 3.



Virginia Lapierre (board of trustees chair), Beth Meacham (trustee) and Mary Metcalf (former librarian) supervise the chili dinner from the kitchen, with pots of chili in the foreground.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Vermont-inspired Landscapes on March 10

MORRISVILLE – A paint-and-sip class devoted to Vermont-inspired landscapes with Carolyn Crotty will be presented on Friday, March 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at River Arts.

The evening of creative expression will encourage participants to mix colors and touch paint to canvas in this paint-and-sip class. Every participant will go home with a piece of art ready to hang on the wall. Each paint and sip will look at the painting style of a different master painter. Go step by step with an instructor to complete a piece or feel free to go out of the box to compose a piece that is totally unique and in your own style. This month's paint-and-sip will celebrate

Vermont-inspired landscapes and the works of Daryl Storrs.

Carolyn Crotty, ATR, LCMHC is an artist, art therapist, mental health counselor and founder of Whirled Tree Arts and Whirled Tree Designs. Crotty's artwork is inspired by relationships with an emphasis on themes of identity, home and our sense of place, belonging, and connection in the world. She often incorporates a variety of materials into her artwork, frequently combining elements of painting, drawing and mixed media collage.

River Arts is located at 74 Pleasant Street. For more information, call (802) 888-1261, or email [info@RiverArtsVt.org](mailto:info@RiverArtsVt.org).

## Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop March 11

CRAFTSBURY – The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) and the Craftsbury Public Library will offer a do-it-yourself beeswax food wrap workshop on Saturday, March 11, at 10 a.m. Beeswax food wraps are a reusable, breathable and antimicrobial alternative to single-use plastics and aluminum foil for food storage. The wraps can be reused hundreds of times.

There will be a supply of fabric available or participants may bring their own fabric scraps. Fabric must be 100% cotton (if it isn't, the wax won't stick). Because of hot irons and beeswax, participants must be age 14 and up unless accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited to the first 12 people to sign up. Contact the library at (802) 586-9683 or [director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org) to reserve a spot.

## Family Story Time Around the Fire on March 11

PLAINFIELD – The Cutler Memorial Library will hold a special Saturday story-time around the fire on Saturday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to noon. The reading will be "Snow Dancer" by Addie Boswell and have fun in the snow. Snacks and hot chocolate will be

provided.

Story-time is geared toward children from birth through age 7, but all ages are welcome. The library is located at 151 High Street. For more information, visit [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), call (802) 454-8504 or email [info@cutlerlibrary.org](mailto:info@cutlerlibrary.org)

## Book Club and Outdoor Exploration Program on March 16

CABOT – A book club and outdoor exploration program for ages 7 to 11) will begin on Thursday, March 16 and meet every Thursday through May 18, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cabot Library's Amanda Otto will lead outdoor adventures with a good book

on the Cabot trails. Participants will also make crafts using natural materials and learn how to identify local flora and fauna. Snacks are provided.

The library is located at 3084 Main St. For more information call (802) 563-2721.

## Brain Injury Conversation March 21

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital will host an informational session on brain injury, a free community conversation with Copley's Certified Brain Injury Specialist, Megan McCartney, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at the Copley Hospital Rehabilitation Center.

Information presented will cover the different types of brain injury and its effects, how symptoms can be managed with treatment and how family and friends can help in the healing process.

Many brain injuries are not permanent and significantly improve with therapy. For those who are living with or have recently suffered a brain injury this is an informational session. The evening talk

will also address how symptoms of brain injury can be managed with treatment to improve one's quality of life.

McCartney has her Master's in Occupational Therapy from New York University. While working as an occupational therapist at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota she knew she wanted to return to her New England roots. She was hired at Copley and with a growing demand, the brain injury program at Copley has added additional occupational therapists to meet the needs of the community.

McCartney encourages family and friends to attend this free discussion. To register, call (802) 888-8133.

## Creating Clay Cookware Class on March 23

MORRISVILLE – Pottery a la Potluck, a clay cookware class, will begin on Thursday, March 23, at 2 p.m., at River Arts, and be held every Thursday through April 6.

Allyson Howell will guide students through the world of hand-building clay to create cookware with creative color, form and textures. Students will learn the balance of form and function as their creative minds work to make kitchen-ready pottery. This class will also utilize the River Arts commercial kitchen, designed to invite a whole class into the cooking space for a potluck and a celebration and utilization of the clay kitchen creations!

Ally Howell is a maker living and working in the Northeast Kingdom. She enjoys making functional pottery for the table that celebrates use. Some of her influences



*Ally Howell*

include Delft Pottery, potlucks, maximalist patterns, rural living, interior design, and more. She holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Maine College of Art (Ceramics) and works for the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Hardwick.

River Arts is located at 74 Pleasant Street. For more information, call (802) 888-1261, or email [info@RiverArtsVt.org](mailto:info@RiverArtsVt.org).

## NEK College Fair April 3

LYNDONVILLE – The annual Northeast Kingdom College Fair for high school students and parents will be held on Monday, April 3, on the Northern Vermont University – Lyndon campus. This is the first time that this event has been held since 2019.

This free college fair is sponsored by the Lyndon Institute and Northern Vermont University Upward Bound programs. It runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Stannard Gym at NVU – Lyndon. High school juniors, sophomores, and their parents are particularly encouraged to attend to meet admissions

representatives from more than 60 colleges and universities from New England and across the U.S. offering liberal arts as well as technical and business-oriented studies.

The Northeast Kingdom College fair is an opportunity to research and get immediate feedback from the most highly-attended colleges for local students. This event brings together multiple colleges and universities under one roof, so families can attend this event.

For more information, please contact Rick Williams at 802-626-5000.

### Twinfield School District Kindergarten Registration

Twinfield Union School would like to register and welcome kindergarten students for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Registration will be held March 20-24, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come to the main office to pick up and complete registration packets. Your child's immunization record and a copy of his/her birth certificate are mandatory at the time of registration. No appointment is necessary.

**In order to be eligible for kindergarten, your child MUST be five (5) years old on or BEFORE September 1, 2023.**

# EDUCATION

## Ithaca College Students Named to Dean's List

ITHACA, N.Y. – Ithaca College has named the following local students to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester:

## Local Students Named to President's List

JOHNSON/LYNDON – The following students at Northern Vermont University in Vermont were named to the President's List for the fall 2022 semester. Students who achieve a 4.00 semester average are placed on the President's List. Those students are East Hardwick, Silas Lowenthal; Hardwick, Emily Kimball and Macy Vogan; Wolcott, Hope Reeve.

## NVU Names Local Students to Dean's List

JOHNSON/LYNDON – The following students at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean's List: East Hardwick, Lincoln Michaud and Katherine Howe; Hardwick, Sam Avery and Kate Voganschneider; Wolcott, Alexandra Olsen, Stephanie Allen and Olivia Larow.

## Carlson Named to Dean's List

CANTON, N.Y. – Sofie Carlson from Wolcott has been named to St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2022 semester. Carlson is a member of the Class of 2023 and is majoring in environmental studies-economics. Carlson attended Peoples Academy. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

## Purchase College Names Local Students to Dean's List

PURCHASE, N.Y. – Purchase College announced that more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and taken a minimum of 12 credits. For BA and BS programs, a semester GPA of 3.50 is required. For BFA and MusB programs, a semester GPA of 3.75 is required. Local students named to the list were Lydia Wright of East Hardwick and Nicholas Trevits of Craftsbury Common.

## Area Students Named to VTC Dean's List

RANDOLPH CENTER – Vermont Technical College has named the following students for achieving Dean's List Honors for the fall semester of 2022. These are degree students carrying 12 or more letter-graded credit hours who achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. They are: Colby Masse, Craftsbury, a student in the Certificate in Paramedicine program; Adrian Berry, Hardwick, a student in the Associate Of Applied Science in Diesel Power Technology program; Gabriel Mulligan, Marshfield, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Professional Pilot Technology program; Ryan Fish, Wolcott, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Renewable Energy program; Nicholas Holbrook, Wolcott, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Renewable Energy program; Matthew Bader, Hardwick, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Computer Information Technology program; Julie Phoenix, Marshfield, a student in the Associate Of Science in Nursing program; Kalyn Briggs, West Danville, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Dental Hygiene program; Gabriel Hill, Greensboro Bend, a student in the Bachelor Of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology program.

## Easter Season Services at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church

by Jessica Noyes, Community Journalist

HARDWICK – Lent 2023 began on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The Lenten season continues with regular Sunday services followed by a special series of discussions of the lives of saintly Christians. All are welcome to attend the services and/or the talks, which take place during the post-service coffee hour.

March services include March 12, 10 a.m. Morning Prayer (led by Alana Miller), followed by Wendy Besett on Christian mysticism and

Meister Eckhardt; March 19, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by Nina Church on Celtic saints; March 26, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by Ellen Halperin on St. Francis and a Franciscan Benediction.

Holy Week Services include: April 2, 10 a.m., Palm Sunday, Holy Eucharist; April 7, Noon, Good Friday service; April 8, 7 p.m., Easter Vigil; April 9, 10 a.m., Easter, Holy Eucharist.

Most services will feature organ music by Music Director Rip Keller. For more information, contact the church office at 802-472-5979.

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# Events

## Thursday, March 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.

## Friday, March 10

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

## Saturday, March 11

**MODEL RAILROAD SHOW**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, Route 104, St. Albans. Sponsored by NWV Model Railroad Association. Information: nwwrailroad.org. Reserve a table at (802) 598-0905 or ronpiro@aol.com.

**CHERISH THE LADIES**, an Irish

music ensemble, 7:30 p.m., The Barre Opera House. Tickets at 476-8188 or barreoperahouse.org.

## Tuesday, March 14

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Hardwick Area Health Center, 4 Slapp Hill. 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., Qi-gong & 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). 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, March 16

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, noon, United Church of Hardwick. Hosted by the Center for an Agricultural Economy and The Civic Standard. Call Sharyn Salls at 472-6566 to reserve your meal. Leave your name and phone number and how many meals you want and if you need them delivered. Take-out or eat-in. Donations appreciated.

## Exhibits

**CHUCK TROTSKY: VOCABULARY**, paintings at Parker Pie, 161 County Road, West Glover, March 8 to May 9. Information: parkerpie.com.

To get your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com).

## Young Composers Featured at Family Concert

BARRE – The Vermont Philharmonic and Green Mountain Youth Symphony will present “Awakenings: Music of Young Composers,” in its annual Family Concert on Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m., at the Barre Opera House. Titled “Awakenings,” the program will feature music by well-known composers when they were still very young, and will also include new music by two Vermont student composers.

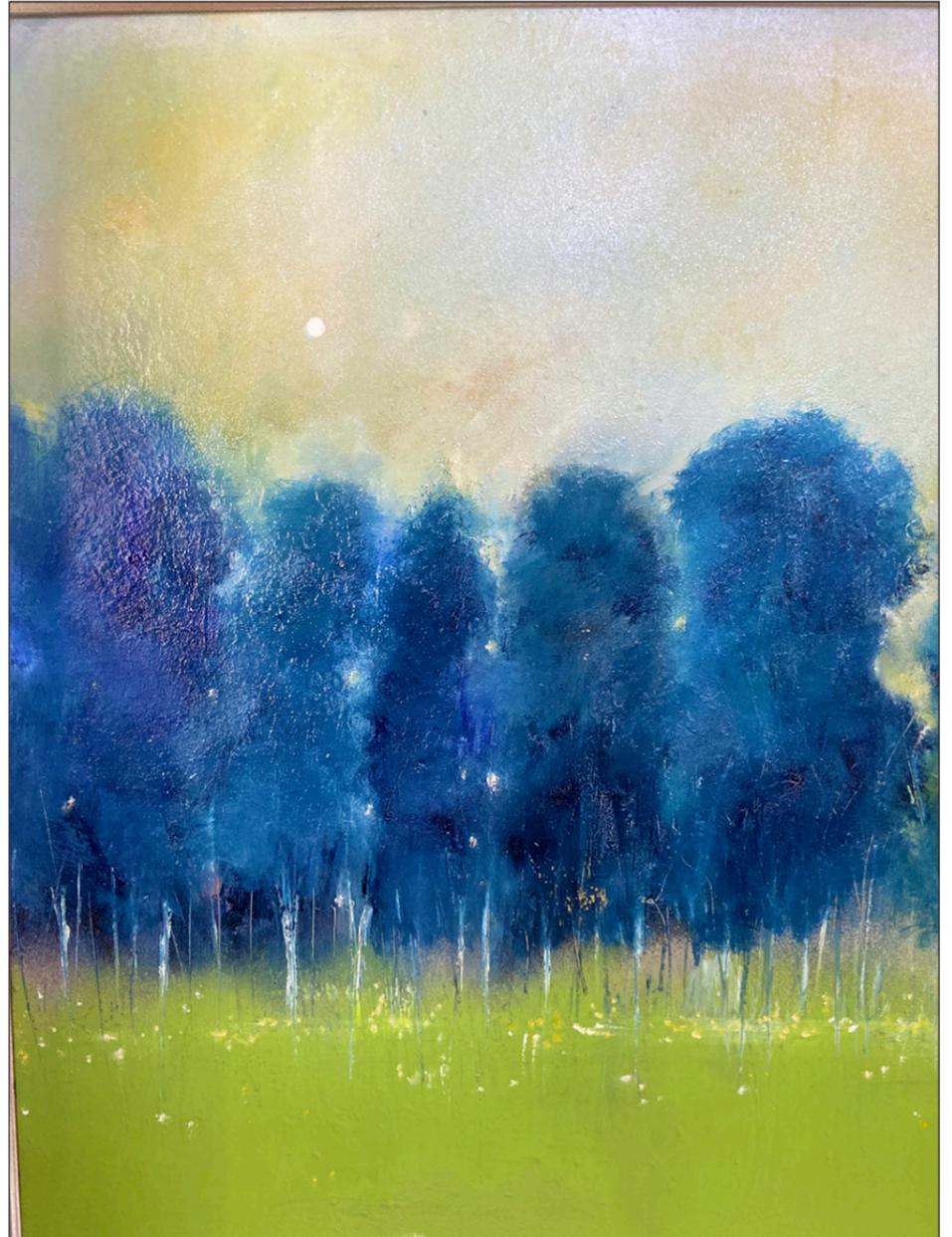
Handel was 19 when he wrote his first opera, “Almira,” as was Sousa when he wrote his first march, “Review.” Mendelssohn was 15 when he published his first symphony, and Mozart published his eighth symphony when he was only 12. George Bizet was the old man of the group, aged 25 when he wrote his opera “The Pearl Fishers.”

The program will also put the spotlight on two teen-aged

Vermont composers in the Music-Comp program at Montpelier High School. The Vermont Philharmonic will perform Callum Robeck’s “And in a Moment” and Chase Ehrlich’s “Spirit of the Sky”. Robeck’s “Morning Fog” was on the program at the 2020 Family Concert, and Ehrlich won the Masterclef Competition in November 2021.

In addition, the program will feature young performers, as the Green Mountain Youth Symphony will come on stage to perform music of Gustav Holst. Under the artistic direction of Robert Blais, the GMYS is a community of young musicians. Founded in 2001, it now serves over 100 student musicians from central and northern Vermont and New Hampshire.

Tickets are available at the door or online at [vermontphilharmonic.com](http://vermontphilharmonic.com).



Patty Corcoran “Dawn at Richmond Woods,” Oil Painting

## Two Exhibits Open March 25 at Gallery

MONTPELIER – T.W. Wood Gallery will hold a champagne reception for two exhibitions on March 25, from noon to 3 p.m.

The exhibitions, “Shared Spaces, Patty Corcoran and Mason Young” and “The Vermont Pastel Society” will feature an artist talk from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on March 25.

Patty Corcoran’s multimedia paintings and Mason Young’s abstract wood sculptures share spaces together: her colors complement the tones of his wood carvings, and both evoke nature in their subjects and their use of materials. Long-time friends, this is their first-time collaboration.

Patty Corcoran landscape paintings are created using oil and acrylic paint, cold wax, and other mediums to create additional depth and texture. Inspired by the coastal landscape of Northeast Harbor, Maine, and the trails of Hinesburg, they commemorate and honor spirits of loved ones who have passed on.

Mason Young has always been interested in making things. As a young boy, he made toy boats, stools, simple objects and sometimes imaginary things. As he grew older, he started making furniture but found it limiting. He became fascinated by mythology as an expression of the meeting of science and art and uses that interest to



Mason Young, “Sinew,” Cherry wood, 2022, 14”h x 9”w x 3”

bring out the relationships in his sculptures. “Sculpture allows me to combine the use of hand and mind in directions that are not possible in normal objects. I love the process of working with wood because the wood and I work together to reach an agreement on its final form.”

In T.W. Wood’s Community Hall Gallery, “Let It Snow: The Vermont Pastel Society,” an exhibit by central Vermont artists through March 25. An artist reception will be held Saturday, March 25, noon to 3 p.m.

The exhibit features the range of techniques that many different artists have used to create pastels and features work by Wendy Soliday, John Landy, Linda Kiniry, Cindy Griffith, Joyce Kahn, and more.

# Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



“DON'T LAND IN CENTRAL PARK. OUR LAST SHIP ENDED UP IN A CHOP SHOP!”



*photo by Tonya West*

*Snow clings to the content face of a squirrel in East Hardwick as it sits in an igloo full of sunflower seeds on February 25.*



*photo by Rachel Kane*

*Roy and Mavis MacNeil show some of their favorite musical instruments.*

## HCA Mobilizes Musicians to Battle Cancer

**by David Kelley, Community Journalist**

GREENSBORO – On Saturday, March 11, at 7 p.m., the Highland Center for the Arts will be hosting what is perhaps the greatest gathering of musical talent, all in one place, in the history of Northeastern Vermont. The musicians are gathering to raise money for the Lamoille Area Cancer Network (LACN). The initiative began with Roy MacNeil, an accomplished violinist, and his sister Mavis. Mavis MacNeil is an accomplished musician in her own right. With a degree in music and a masters in music composition Mavis is now a full-time music teacher at Hazen Union. Together with Greensboro’s Highland Center for the Arts they have reached out to Vermont’s family of talented musicians to assist fellow Vermonters fighting cancer.

The MacNeils and the Local Folk Orchestra are bringing together some of the top musical talent in Vermont, covering every genre, but with deep roots in American folk and classical music and with no boundaries on age or musical background. The lineup of talent for this concert will include: Roy MacNeil on violin, viola and guitar; Mavis MacNeil on flute, tenor sax, and banjo; Andrew Kohler on piano, Andrea Brightenbach on oboe and English horn; Jeff Reinhardt on clarinet and baritone sax; Estile Kitchen on alto sax; Irene Nagle on violin; Fiona Bock on violin; Jo Lander on violin; Mary Fowler on viola; Thurmond Knight on cello; Justin Lander on bass and lap steel; Kyle Woolard on guitar and banjo; Perry Heller on drums; Maura Gahan Dance, Alice Perron

on guitar and clogging; Nicholas Ingram on electric bass.

St. Johnsbury’s professional singers, the Halcyon Chorale will round out this outstanding musical ensemble. The MacNeils and the Local Folk Orchestra will be performing, in addition to well known compositions, an original composition of Mavis MacNeil’s.

This effort began with a 2016 concert when Roy MacNeil was in the midst of a seven-year battle with cancer, and LACN was his staunch ally. MacNeil has said, “I will be forever grateful for the support they showed me, and what they continue to do for our community.” According to MacNeil, “Fighting a seven-year battle against cancer, including clinical trials and stem cell therapy, is plainly a life changing experience.” Despite all of its difficulties and challenges, he points to surprising silver linings: “Cancer has brought our family closer together.” He adds that cancer has heightened his own appreciation “for the gift of life and the value of music in connecting people.” The hope of MacNeil and all of the musicians participating in this remarkable event is that it will share the gift of music with our community and use that gift to further the fight against cancer.

The Lamoille Area Cancer Network is a nonprofit organization that is proud to provide monetary grants to people undergoing cancer treatment in our community. They are entirely funded by the generous donations of people who care about the health and well being of their neighbors and their families.

Tickets are by a \$15 suggested donation at [highlandartsvt.org/calendar/](http://highlandartsvt.org/calendar/)

**The Hardwick Gazette**



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*courtesy photo*  
At the Boston Grand Prix Ballet Competition are (left to right) Flora Esteban-Hollister, Ballet Wolcott teacher Steffi Thomas Seibeir, and Valerie Grivalsky. In the junior division, Flora Esteban-Hollister placed 24th while Valerie Grivalsky, placed in the top-12 and was invited to the finals in Tampa, Fla.



*courtesy photo*  
Ballet Wolcott dancers (left to right) Eliana Carlson, Valerie Grivalsky, Elly Budliger, Flora Esteban-Holliser and Amanda Gurley went to Boston in February to compete in a ballet Grand Prix.

## Ballet Wolcott Dancers Compete in Grand Prix

WOLCOTT – Five Ballet Wolcott dancers, ages 13 to 16, each completed two solos at the Youth America Grand Prix semi-finals in Boston on February 10 to February 12. They were Eliana Carlson, Valerie Grivalsky, Elly Budliger, Flora Esteban-Holliser and Amanda Gurley. In the junior division, Flora Esteban-Hollister placed 24th while Valerie Grivalsky, placed in the top-12 and was invited to the finals in Tampa, Fla.

According to Ballet Wolcott artistic director Joanne Whitehill, weekly rehearsals started in

late September with ballet instructor Steffi Thomas Seibeir. Whitehill said the rehearsals were added on top of the dancers training, and finished as late as 9 p.m. on school nights and weekends.

Whitehill said the grand prix is the world's largest nonprofit international student ballet competition and scholarship program, open to dance students, ages 9 to 19. More than 10,000 dancers compete each year at roughly 25 locations over the world. Around 1,200 dancers are invited to the finals at Tampa in April.

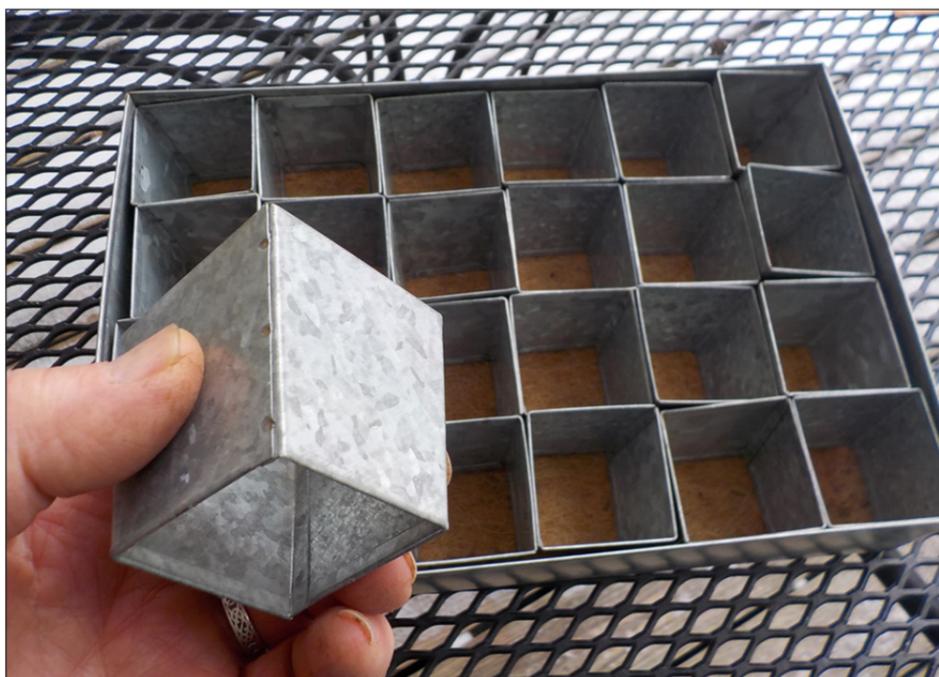


*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Winter Festival at the Jaquith Public Library was held at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield, February 18.

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# IN THE GARDEN



*Metal planting cells from Gardeners Supply.*



*Making soil blocks with a simple press.*

**by Henry Homeyer**

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Starting seeds indoors under lights is a good treatment for the winter blues. It connects me to my upcoming garden and all its benefits. Early March is when I start onions and peppers, though April is the month for most everything else.

My wife, Cindy Heath, and I are making a commitment to reduce and eliminate the use of plastics in our life, so we are transitioning away from those handy, dandy flimsy plastic six-packs for starting seeds. You can, too.

Gardeners Supply Company has been offering ways of reducing single-use plastics like those six-packs sold everywhere. They have sturdy reusable plastic trays for seed starting which have been available for a few years. This year they came out with metal seed starting trays.

These galvanized steel growing cells are pricey, but should last a lifetime. For about \$50 you get 24 individual, tapered cells and a leak-

proof tray to hold them. The cells are a nice big size. The kit is self-watering: it comes with a wire grid and moisture-retaining mat that keeps seedlings hydrated from the bottom of the tray which you fill with water once a week or so. I got one of these kits and looks like a winner.

Renee's Garden is now selling seed starting cell trays made of silicone that are sturdy and reusable, and dishwasher safe. They do not get brittle, they say. I am ordering some to try them.

If you don't mind extra work and lots of mess, you can make soil blocks using a little metal press that produces two-inch soil blocks. The mixture includes peat humus, compost, soil, blood meal and minerals. E-mail me for more info about the process.

So what else do you need? Lights, growing medium and seeds. Let's start with lights. To keep your light bill low, I recommend using LED lights. I have some old-fashioned four-foot fluorescent lights, but have been replacing them with the LED equivalent. These look about the same, but have no ballast (transformer) inside the fixture and use much less electricity.

If you replace your old fixtures, don't just throw the old tubes into the trash as they contain mercury, which is toxic waste. Some recycling centers will accept them, or bring them to an electrical supply company for proper disposal. And if you want to use an LED tube in an old fluorescent fixture, you should remove the ballast. Unless it says "No PCB's on it, it needs to be sent to a hazardous waste collection site also.

Hang your fixture about six inches over the planting trays. Use jack chain, a small-link chain sold at hardware stores. It allows you to

raise the lights as your plants grow. Give your seedlings 12 to 14 hours of light per day: they need a good night's sleep as much as you do.

Most seeds will wake up and grow more readily if you place them on a warm base. Electrical seed-starting mats are great for that, but not really necessary. I use them for things that specify warmer temperatures, like the flower Lisianthus, and for hot peppers.

I recommend buying seed starting mix instead of potting soil to put in your planting cells. Why? Seed starting mix is a finer blend and works better. It is made from peat moss, vermiculite, perlite and fertilizer. You can make your own, of course, and I often do. I start 10 flats (trays) or more each year. I also mix in some high quality compost, about 50% of the final product. I also add a little Pro-Gro, a slow-release organic bagged fertilizer.

Peat moss is coming under criticism now by the eco-minded community. It is harvested from bogs and is centuries in the making.

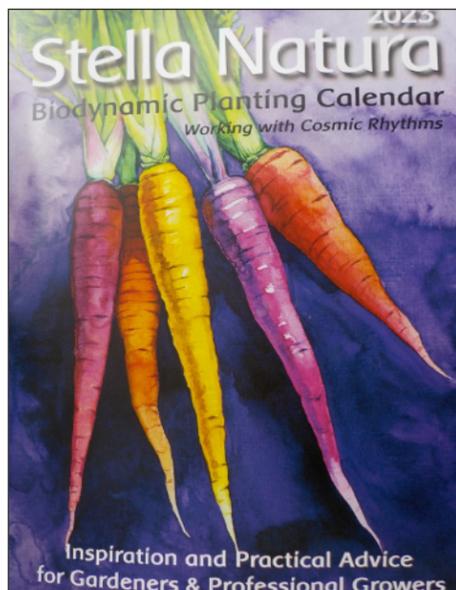
Coir, a palm fiber, is becoming more available, but I haven't found it yet in big bags like peat moss.

Moisture is key for starting seeds. If the soil mix dries out before they get well established, they can quickly perish. That's okay with me. I need a reason to get out of bed on gray days in mud season. Gotta check my seedlings and give 'em a drink after I have my coffee!

You can contain moisture by buying and using clear plastic covers for your flats of seedlings. They are inexpensive and reusable. Take them off after everything has germinated, or most things.

A biodynamic calendar called Stella Natura is available for gardeners who want to plant seeds by the phase of the moon, stars and planets. I consult it when planting, and although not foolproof, I think it helps. Available at stellanatura.com.

So if you want another hobby, grow your own plants from seed. It takes a little practice, but it may make you happy. It works for me!



*courtesy photo*

*The Stella Natura calendar gives planting times based on celestial rhythms.*



*Plastic caps keep seeds from drying out.*

*courtesy photo*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Winter Survival Means Keeping the Heat

by Doug Facey

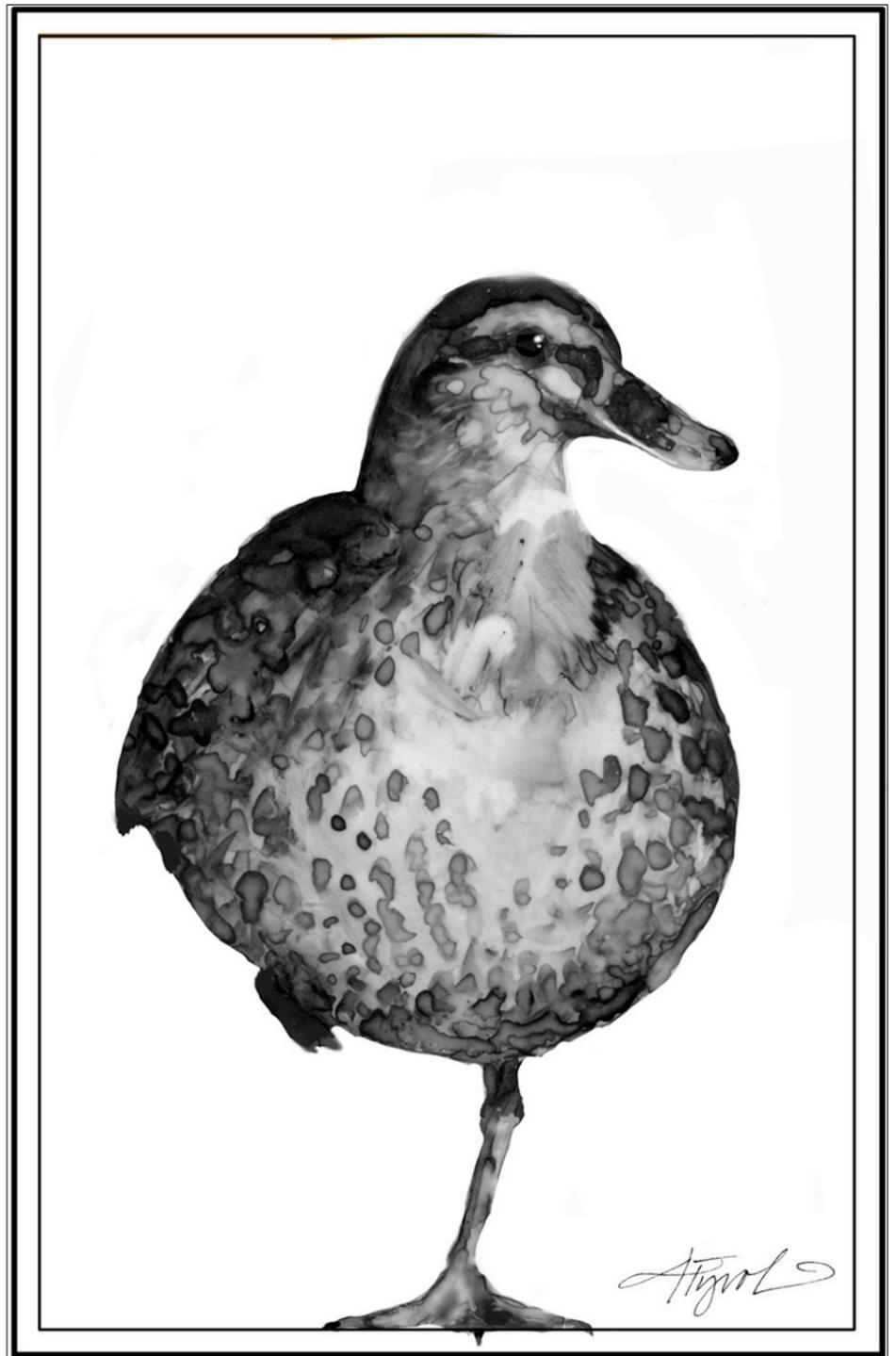
BURLINGTON – To survive the cold of winter, some animals take advantage of protected habitats, such as wooded areas or under a blanket of insulating snow. Ruffed grouse, for example, fly into piles of loose snow and create roosting cavities to rest in when not foraging. Mice and other small mammals remain active in tunnels under the snow. Foxes, coyotes, and deer often bed down in snow, sometimes with additional shelter from overhanging trees. Birds and mammals also develop thicker layers of insulation such as feathers or fur in preparation for winter, and muscles in the skin can elevate the hair or feathers to further increase insulation. (This is the reason we get “goose bumps” when cold.)

An animal’s circulatory system, which includes the heart and blood vessels, can also help reduce heat loss and thus contribute to winter survival. Blood flow to extremities such as limbs, ears, and skin changes in response to body temperature. More blood flowing to the surface results in more heat loss. This is why our faces get redder when we exercise: our bodies are moving more of our warm blood to the surface, where it can dissipate heat. In winter, birds and mammals living outdoors need to retain body heat, and they do so by reducing blood flow to the extremities, thus keeping more warm blood in the body core to maintain the function of vital organs. If an animal’s body temperature gets a bit high due to activity, such as chasing prey or being pursued by a predator, the circulatory system adjusts by sending more blood to the skin

and extremities, thereby shedding heat. Rabbits, for example, limit blood flow to their ears to prevent heat loss in winter, but can increase blood flow to the ears to release heat when needed.

To further aid heat retention, some blood vessels act as heat exchangers. This is especially important in extremities, whose relatively large surface areas can dissipate more heat. Blood vessels carrying warm blood away from the body core run alongside vessels carrying cooler blood flowing back to the core. This allows the outgoing blood to warm the incoming blood so that the body core stays warm, while the extremities – such as paws, feet, or hooves of animals standing in snow or on ice – remain relatively cold. Blood flows through the extremities quickly enough to prevent too much heat loss, while enough warm blood gets to the limbs and extremities to prevent them from freezing. This is critical, because if the fluid within the cells freezes, the ice crystals can tear through cell membranes and kill the cells, resulting in frostbite.

The lower legs and feet of birds are mostly bone, tendons, and skin – the muscles are in the upper part of the limb, near the body core. This allows birds to maintain heat close to their core, while the lower legs and feet remain relatively cold. There is, however, some blood flow through the legs and feet, and heat exchange between outgoing and returning blood limits additional heat loss. In addition, roosting birds can hunker down, covering their legs and feet with their feathers. Temperature receptors in birds are also less sensitive to cold than similar receptors in



Heat Retention Duck

mammals. These adaptations allow birds to withstand the cold when perched at a feeder or on a tree branch.

The hooves of deer and moose are composed of keratin and are, essentially, like very thick toenails, which means they keep the blood supply of the lower legs away from contact with the frozen ground. The paws of foxes, coyotes, and wolves contain fatty pads which don’t freeze easily. The fatty pads also have blood vessel heat exchangers, so heat is transferred from blood reaching the pads to blood returning to the body core. This is particularly well developed in those members of the dog family

adapted to the cold, such as the Arctic fox, and is also present in breeds of domestic dogs that are closely related to their cold-climate cousins.

The next time you see ducks or geese standing on ice or paddling about in very cold water, or if you catch a glimpse of a coyote on the prowl or deer foraging while standing in snow, consider how their circulatory systems are reducing heat loss so that these animals can survive our New England winters.

[Doug Facey is an emeritus professor of biology at Saint Michael’s College and lives in Burlington, Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

## MEETING MEMO

### Wednesday, March 8

•Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.

### Monday, March 13

•Walden Select Board, every other Monday.

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

### Tuesday, March 14

•Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: Bill at (802) 249-6004, Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.

### Wednesday, March 15

•Wolcott Select Board, third Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, March 16

•Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

### Town Clerks

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 Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)  
 Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)  
 Greensboro: [greensborovt.org](http://greensborovt.org)  
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 Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://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](http://waldenvt.gov). waldentc@pivot.net  
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# IN THE GARDEN

## Propagating Plants and Intellectual Property

by Nadie VanZandt, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

PANTON – As you plan for the new growing season have you thought to check if the seeds and plants you plan to propagate are protected as intellectual property?

For thousands of years, people have freely propagated plants to share with others. A gratifying and economical way to multiply favorite plants, plant propagation became controversial in the United States when horticulturists began to develop novel cultivars with unique properties.

On May 23, 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed into law a bill called the Plant Patent Act. This bill was created to encourage private investment in plant breeding while protecting growers who spent extensive time (sometimes years) and money perfecting a cultivar only to have their invention freely reproduced and sold by others for profit.

Granted through the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the law, codified as Title 35 United States Code, Section 161, gives growers legal rights to exclude others from reproducing, using, selling or offering for sale their invention for a non-renewable period of 20 years.

A plant patent specifically protects the vegetative or asexual reproduction of a newly invented plant cultivar. Asexual reproduction refers to the propagation of a plant without using its sexually fertilized seeds.

Because vegetative reproduction results in an exact genetic replica of the parent plant, various methods are protected by the plant patent. According to the USPTO,

this includes “root cuttings, grafting, budding, apomictic seeds, bulbs, division, slips, layering, rhizomes, runners, corms, tissue culture” and more.

In addition, the USPTO issues another form of intellectual property protection called a utility patent that protects specific attributes of a plant such as disease-resistance and seeds, among others.

What’s more, the Plant Variety Protection Act of 1970 is a federal law that preserves reproduction rights of new sexually and asexually reproduced plants, seeds and tubers for 20 years while trees and vines are protected for 25 years. Growers obtain Plant Variety Protection (PVP) certificates through the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. PVP-certified seeds or tubers cannot be saved for subsequent planting and must be bought new each year.

Applying for a plant patent is a lengthy and expensive process, often requiring the assistance of a licensed patent attorney. Growers can spend thousands of dollars to apply for a single patent. Nurseries purchasing the rights to propagate and sell patented cultivars must pay fees to patent owners. These significant costs translate into higher prices for consumers.

How do these laws apply to the home gardener?

Although litigation against individuals is rare, it is illegal to reproduce patented plants. Home gardeners should take time to know the laws.

How can you tell if a plant is patented?

When you buy a plant, check its tag or container. Patented plants are clearly marked with a patent ID, the letters PP followed by a number, or the initials PPAF



photo by Nadie VanZandt

Before propagating plants to share with others, gardeners should ensure that doing so will not violate growers’ legal rights as defined through the Plant Patent Act and Plant Variety Protection Act of 1970.

(Plant Patent Applied For). If you buy your plants or seeds from catalogs, you will find the patent ID listed next to the cultivar’s name. PVP-certified seeds packets also are clearly labeled.

Many horticulturists consider cultivars developed before 1951 as heirloom. For this reason, heirlooms may be safe to propagate without violating the law, but the term is often loosely defined. Once a patent has expired, after 20 to 25 years, you can freely reproduce the plant.

Heirloom or not, it is a good

idea to do your homework. This is especially important when donating or purchasing plants at community plant sales.

You can access the USPTO website at //go.uvm.edu/plant-patents for detailed information on plant patents or to search for specific patent. For more information on PVP certificates, consult the PVPO website at //go.uvm.edu/plant-protection.

[Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Panton.]

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Its Joys are Indescribable

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The one crucial item for a stay in a nursing home is (and I’m sure this will surprise you) a back-scratcher. That may sound weird, but think about it. When you’re lying on your back for unaccustomed long periods of time, it itches. Seriously itches. And if, like me, you have a broken arm, you can’t get at it. Hence the back-scratcher. It’s a simple thing found in any hardware store or at the supermarket, but its joys are indescribable.

In addition, it extends your feeble reach by almost two feet. Cell phone power cord hanging from a wall plug four feet away? No problem. Reading light pull chain also out of reach? Not anymore. Likewise stuff dropped on the floor and unreachable, drag it within reach with your trusty back-scratcher. I’m amazed people don’t know this.

This is probably the last piece I will be writing here in the nursing home/rehab center. “Probably” because I’ve learned in the last month to count on almost nothing. There have been so many ups and downs in this process that it’s hard to believe this will be a sustained and unreversed up. Thus my daughter Martha is typing this column by the light at the end of the tunnel. Whether that light is daylight or an onrushing train we should know by this coming

weekend. In either case, it’s been a hell of a ride.

I’m often amazed at the organizational ability required to operate systems that you and I take for granted: large airports, for example; airline schedules, supermarkets, and hospitals. This place astounds me in its ability to care for dozens and dozens of people of various ages and abilities and attitudes. From elderly folks like myself working toward returning to our homes, to the lovely 85-year-old woman I talked to today whose kids don’t want to take care of her (and who actually got a marriage proposal from a fellow resident recently – she turned him down), to others far gone in dementia whose lives I can barely imagine, they take care of ‘em all.

The RNs on each wing sort the prescriptions and dispense them to the proper patients 24 hours a day, the licensed nursing assistants bring meal trays, often individualized, take them away, make beds, change diapers, and redirect “wanderers” back to the rooms they’re looking for. The organization it must take boggles my mind.

Meantime, on the rehabilitation front, my cheerful physical therapist shows up twice a day to put me through my paces. My first day here I had to be physically swung out of bed, lowered into a wheelchair, and lifted to my feet to grasp the handles of a



courtesy photo

Visiting dogs Kiki and Maui help with cheering-up and healing.

walker, in which I covered 17 feet in two painful spasms of eight and nine. Today I walked briskly around the building behind Herschel and then up and down the cellar stairs. With my body’s great progress, a release date of this weekend seems likely. Notice I said “likely.”

Visitors have been a big boost to my morale. They bring goodies, books, the mail and newspapers (thank you, Martha and Todd!), and cheerful presences. The folks at the coffee shop sent me a very funny get-well card that’s posted on the bulletin board next to the menu and wi-fi password. My friend Bea brought a box of her special scones and 24 packets of Italian instant coffee that brighten the beginning of each day.

To see the rolling racks of meal trays coming down the hall three times a day is a mystery to me: I don’t know how they keep all that straight and moving. To see huge rolling carts of laundry going the opposite way down the hallway is equally impressive. They must run those machines day and night. Somebody must have to sort and

fold all that laundry. All day long old people walk past my door, which I keep open on purpose, pushing walkers and followed by physical therapists pushing wheelchairs to catch them if they tire. I have nothing but admiration for those people, both those trying to walk and those helping and encouraging them.

I can’t see behind the scenes, but what I do see is a place of cheerfulness, acceptance, and healing. It’ll be a relief to be on my own, but I’ll miss this place. It was an oasis when I dearly needed one. It’d be difficult to express adequate appreciation for the cheerful LNAs who bring the meals, the RNs who bring me my meds and a glass of cold water, and the therapists who walk behind me uttering encouraging words. Then there’s the lovely nursing assistant whom I call Santa Maria who periodically runs me into the shower room and hoses me down with hot soapy water. It’ll be nice to shower on my own again, but I’ll tell you: This has been nice. And the back-scratcher’s going home with me!

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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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# SPORTS

## KEN BROWN'S HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



courtesy photo

Top senior bowlers in Vermont were ranked after the state bowling competition over the weekend. They are (left to right) Will Hughes (S. Burlington), Josh Kennedy (Fair Haven), Will Patnoe (Craftsbury Academy), Orion Casavant (Essex) and Blake Bliss (Randolph).



courtesy photo

Five freshmen bowlers in the state were ranked after the state bowling competition over the weekend. They were (left to right) Connor Fredholm (Hartford), Jordan Tucker (Essex), Leah Rodgers (Randolph), Jacob Marquis (Craftsbury Academy) and Jayden Blake (Essex).

### Chargers Fall in Quarterfinals at States

COLCHESTER – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) bowling team wrapped up their impressive inaugural varsity season with a nail-biter of a loss to third-ranked Windsor in the quarterfinal round of the Vermont High School Bowling State Championships over the weekend.

Weather moved Saturday's scheduled matches at Twin City Lanes in Barre to Spare-time Lanes in Colchester this past Sunday. The sixth-seeded Chargers received a bye in the first round and lost to Windsor 39-29 in a bowl-off after both teams tied after the fourth game. Top-seeded Brattleboro and second-seeded Essex squared off in the championship match, with Brattleboro claiming the state title with a dominating performance. Their head coach, Will Bassett, was also named Coach of the Year. Charger head Coach

Connor Bean, who is also the VPA co-director of high school bowling, will become the sole VPA director going forward with George Rooney of South Burlington stepping down. Bean is also the athletic director at CA and helped create the 12-team high school bowling division in Vermont that included the Charger team. CA had four runner-up finishes throughout the season and finally got over the hump with the program's first title last month. CA's Will Patnoe set the single-game school record earlier this season and finished with an 181 average as one of the top five seniors in the state. Jacob Marquis finished with a 163 average for the Chargers as one of the top five freshman in the state.

The high school bowling season will officially wrap up this coming weekend as Patnoe and his Vermont teammates square off against the top seniors from New Hampshire in the Senior Classic at Maple Lanes in Claremont, N.H.

### Strong Leads Rice to Division I Finals

SOUTH BURLINGTON – Jackson Strong and his Rice Green Knights boys' hockey team are headed to the Division I state championship game after a thrilling 3-2 overtime win over fourth-seeded South Burlington over the weekend.

Strong, a senior, is the son of Hazen Union alum Jeff Strong and grandson of legendary Wildcat coach Jack Strong. Strong is a

multi-sport athlete at Rice Memorial, being named to the Vermont All-State soccer team this past fall and was also named the Division I boys' hockey Player of The Year this past week by the coaches. Rice and second-seeded Essex will square off for the state championship on Wednesday night at 7 p.m., at Gutterson Fieldhouse. Rice is the top-ranked team in Division I with a 13-4-3 record and split their two games against Essex in the regular season.

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# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Brayden Cushing of Twinfield-Cabot (No. 33) has his eyes on the basket as Proctor's Carter Crossman follows the play during play-down action March 1 at Twinfield. The home team won 64-56.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield-Cabot's Tej Stewart (No. 24) heads toward the basket followed by Matt Nop of Proctor during play-down action March 1. Twinfield-Cabot prevailed 64-56.

## Danville Denies Trojans Trip to Barre

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team protected their home court with a win over Proctor in the opening round of the Division IV playoffs last week, but couldn't solve a red-hot Danville team in the quarterfinals, ending their season at 11-10.

Freshman Tej Stewart poured in 25 points to lead the Trojans to a 64-56 win at home over Proctor last Wednesday in the opening round of the tournament. Meles Gouge (15 points) and Sam Russell (13) helped Twinfield-Cabot build a 47-26 lead late in the third quarter before the Phantoms mounted a furious comeback in the last eight minutes. Carter Crossman's 17 points and Aaron Brock's 13, combined with some untimely Trojan turnovers, made it a two-possession game late in the fourth quarter. Russell calmly knocked down a pair of free throws late to quell the rally and help the Trojans advance. Twinfield-Cabot swept the season series with Proctor, dropping them to 8-13.

"We played a really good three quarters of basketball and then things got very chaotic," said head coach Chris Hudson. "Give them credit, they sped up the game, hit some threes, caused

some turnovers, and made it more interesting than it should have been down the stretch. We're young and inexperienced and we just didn't slow down when it got chaotic out there. We're asking a lot from 14- and 15-year-olds and in the end they got it done and I'm proud of them for finding a way," added Hudson.

Third seeded Danville denied the Trojans of any hopes of a Final Four berth early, as senior Christian Young led the way with 18 points (three 3-pointers) in an emphatic 72-33 quarterfinal home win over the weekend. After a tight first quarter, the Bears ended the second half on a 21-8 run and the rout was on. Arius Andrews was stout inside for Danville with 15 points and Andrew Joncas knocked down a pair of three-pointers for 12 points on the night in the win. Tej Stewart led Twinfield-Cabot with nine points and Brayden Cushing and Sam McLane combined for four 3-pointers and 14 points in the loss. It was the third win in three weeks for the Bears over their cross-town rivals as they won their tenth game in 11 tries. Danville improved to 16-6, with their only loss the last five weeks coming to undefeated Division III power Winooski to end the regular season.

"You can try to explain the environment and

the intensity of a road quarterfinal game like this to a young team, but unfortunately they have to experience it for themselves and hopefully learn from it going forward. Give Danville credit, they out-rebounded us, out-hustled us, and flew to every loose ball. We got rattled and made some mistakes and just didn't respond to their runs. The belief and the toughness to win games like this at this time of year has to come from them and I believe our young guys will go back to work this summer and develop that mindset. We have seven freshmen on this team and I'm proud of what we accomplished this year. Kris Bador is doing a great job of developing our young talent at the JV level and I think we'll come back next year a more physical and experienced team. I've enjoyed coaching this young group and watching them develop throughout the season. We'll miss TJ Bernatchy's leadership next season and he did everything you could ask from a lone senior on a young team and more. I'm excited for the future of our program, I'm proud of these kids, and I look forward to watching their growth," said Hudson.

Danville punched their ticket to the Barre Auditorium and will square off with second seeded Rivendell Academy in the Division IV semifinals on Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m.



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# SKI REPORT

BY ERIC HANSON



photo by Eric Hanson

Bea Johnson, a second-grader from Craftsbury, starts her race with the chief skunk telling the skiers when to go.

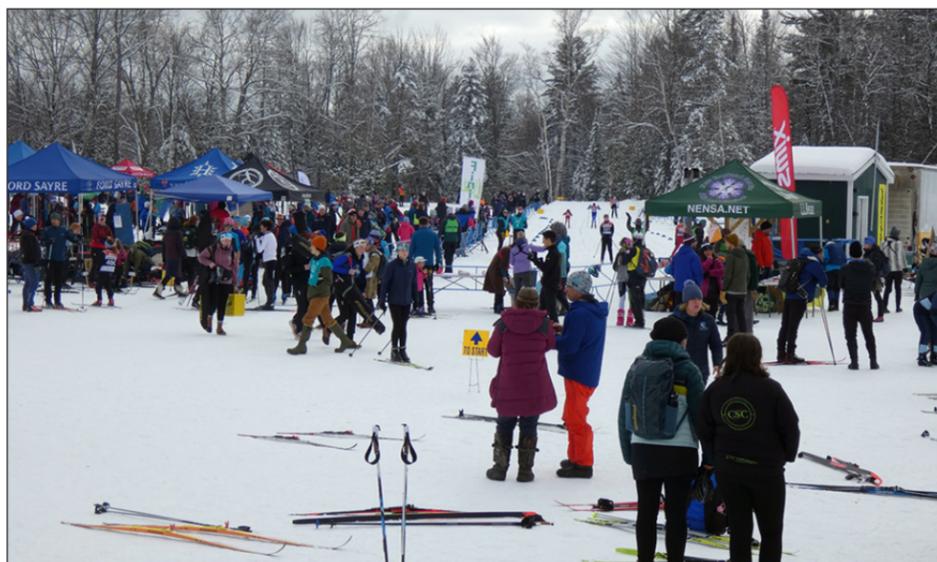


photo by Eric Hanson

The finish lanes (middle right) and all the surrounding activity at the BKL Festival at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

## 650 Youth Skiers Attend Bill Koch Festival

CRAFTSBURY – It is the biggest annual kids ski gathering in the Northeast, the Bill Koch Ski Festival. The event rotates from state to state and this year, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center hosted the two-day event for the first time. With well over 1,500 people, including parents and coaches, the scene was busy both on the roads and on the trails. The Craftsbury Town road crew made sure the new snowfall was plowed off the roads Saturday morning allowing the event to start on time. The two-person relays took place on Saturday with the four age classes: first- and second-grade, third- and fourth- grade, fifth- and sixth- grade, and seventh- and eighth- grade. But the Bill Koch League festival is much more than racing with ski speed trap timing, maple sugaring, horse sleigh rides, a mini-marathon, dodge ball games, terrain parks and jumps,

scavenger hunts, food trucks, and more. All the various regions from northern Maine to upstate New York set up a tent city to base their regional skiers. Over 85 kids from Northeast Vermont were out there playing and racing.

On day two, the skiers put on their classic skis for the individual races and more fun and games. Dozens of volunteers helped direct cars, assist parent skiers, time the events, and everything else to make sure the event ran smoothly. Who is Bill Koch? He was a silver medalist at the 1976 Olympic games and lives in southern Vermont. A youth ski league was named after him and Bill has continued to be a mentor of these programs throughout the Northeast, and was at the event handing out medals and signing autographs.

## Day-2 State High School Ski Championships

RIPTON – Day two of the high school state championships turned snowy and blustery for the

classic ski events. Amelia Circosta (Hazen Union) and Anika Leahy (Craftsbury, CA) led the local girls with fourth and seventh-place finishes, respectively, in the Division 2 race. Clare Serrano (U-32) had the fastest time of the day at 17:10. In the boys' race, Leo Circosta (Hazen Union) placed fifth and Cormac Leahy (CA) was seventh. Other Craftsbury finishers included Silas Hunt 20th, Alan Moody, and Lenny Stelma-Leonard 57th. Max Demaine (Lake Region) placed 42nd. Middlebury skiers took the top two spots in Division 2. Craftsbury's top skier, Charlie Kelher, came down with a bad cold so could not race and Alan Moody was only recently better from COVID, so between these illnesses, the boys did not field a four-person relay team eliminating them from overall team scoring.

Combining the two days of freestyle and classic ski racing and four events with the individual races and relays, Middlebury took home the boys D2 team title followed by Montpelier and Woodstock. The Craftsbury boys were finishing fourth and fifth in the races where they did have four skiers. In the girls' team events, Middlebury also won the team title with Montpelier and U-32 in second and third.

## Jessie Diggins Wins Gold at World Championships

PLIANCA, Slovenia – The U.S. Ski Team all-star, Jessie Diggins, won her first individual gold medal at a World Championship event in the 10 km freestyle ahead of Ebba Anderson and Frida Karlsson of Sweden. Diggins is the most decorated U.S. skier, having won an Olympic gold medal in 2018 in

the team sprint. This marks a big milestone for the U.S. Ski Team, which has a very small program compared to countries like Norway and Sweden. This is the first gold medal in an individual event for the U.S. at a World Championship or Olympic event. Jessie grew up in Minnesota but now lives in southern Vermont. She will be skiing at the Super Tour Spring Series and U.S. Distance and Sprint National Championships at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center at the end of the month.



photo by Eric Hanson

Max Demaine from Lake Region skis in the snowy high school state meet at the Rikert Touring Center last week.



photo by Eric Hanson

Aemelia Terrone, a sixth-grader from Craftsbury, leads a pack of skiers in girls relay.

# Chargers Fall to Raptors in Playoff Opener

by Ken Brown

ORFORD, N.H. – Second seeded Rivendell Academy flexed its muscles against the Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' basketball team last week, ending their season in the first round of the Division IV playoffs.

Finn O'Donnell scored 14 points and dished out six assists to lead the Raptors to a dominant 81-12 home win over the Chargers last Wednesday. Harry Molesworth added 12 points and 12 rebounds to help fuel a 26-5 run to start the game. Parker Piper chipped in with seven points and eight boards for Rivendell as they reeled off their tenth straight win. The Raptors defeated seventh-seeded Leland and Gray 65-45 in the quarterfinals over the weekend to advance to the Division IV Final Four.

Head coach Sean Ryan struggled with numbers and inexperience in his second season on the sidelines for CA. He will lose Dalton Gravel and Will Patnoe to graduation, but will return a more experienced core next winter, with some

talented youth coming up through the pipeline. Dylan Washer led CA in scoring for the second straight season and will have a chance to become the next Charger to reach the 1,000 career scoring mark in his senior campaign. Freshman Landon Miller and Grayson McNaughten showed flashes of potential throughout the second half of the season with an inside-out combination that could develop into something fun to watch in the coming years. Ryan's young squad showed improvement throughout the season and got their signature win against Division III Stowe late last month. He hopes to continue to develop the youth basketball program in Craftsbury and continue to draw interest in the sport from other Chargers multi-sport athletes to keep building the program.

"We should return a solid core next season that now has some invaluable varsity experience. We have some players coming up from junior high that show some promise and we hope to combine our practices to increase numbers, which should allow us to work on developing

some better game situation habits. It should create some continuity within the program as our younger players transition to the varsity level. Dylan should continue to lead us offensively and as we develop the skills of the players around him, I look forward to watching him grow as a player and develop as a leader in his senior season. Grayson is tall and athletic and probably still has some growing to do. He's still pretty new to the game, but he has a lot of potential and wants to put in the work to be a good basketball player. Landon showed some promise as a shooter this season, he has a great attitude, and we'll continue to build his confidence to round out his game. We play in a tough league and we'll keep working at balancing out our schedule to help us develop and be more competitive. Winning is the outcome of hard work and we still have a lot of work ahead of us. We look forward to keep building this program," said Ryan.

Rivendell Academy will face off against third-seeded Danville in Wednesday's semifinal at the Barre Auditorium.

## Championship Spotlight: Dean Switser Jr. and Street Stocks

BARRE – The 63rd season of stock car racing at Barre Thunder Road International Speedbowl was one for the record books with three deserving drivers each winning their first track championship. Each of these three drivers had a unique way of earning their first championship at The Road, stories worth sharing to better understand their respective triumphs. Over the last decade, Dean Switser Jr. has worked his way to the top of one of the most competitive four-cylinder weekly racing divisions in the country.

His racing career started off on the dirt at Bradford's Bear Ridge Speedway where he found success through the early 2000s. Switser would later make the move to asphalt at Groveton, N.H.'s Riverside Speedway in the late part of the same decade.

In 2007 the Waterford native found his first success at Thunder Road by claiming The People's Race, the annual 200 lap enduro against over 100 other folks. Switser would continue to campaign at Riverside before coming to Thunder Road full time in 2012 where he took his first win on June 21, and dug deep to take the Rookie of the Year honors to boot.

Since then, Switser has been capitalizing on Street Stock racing both at Thunder Road and the Groveton oval, taking multiple wins and the 2019 Street Stock championship during the Speedway 51 period that saw Riverside under the ownership of the Laquerre family. A venerable competitor at Thunder Road, he has taken six Street Stock feature wins over the past decade all while seeing the ups and downs of weekly racing but continuing



photo by Alan Ward

Waterford's Dean Switser Jr. has seen it all at Thunder Road, even upside down.



photo by Alan Ward

After a decade of four-cylinder racing that started with the 2012 Rookie of the Year honors, Dean Switser Jr. has racked up six wins and the 2022 Street Stock track championship.

to persevere through it all. After winning the first two events in 2022, Switser kept the momentum going enough to earn the Street Stock championship last season by 45 points over Kyler Davis and closed out his first decade at Thunder Road on the highest of notes.

Out of his Waterford stable, Switser is going to be a busy man in 2023. Set to defend his track championship at Thunder Road, Dean is also preparing Strictly Stock Mini rides for his sons Kristian and Patrick to campaign at White Mountain Motorsports Park.

Dean Switser Jr. is set to defend his 2022 Street Stock track

championship, and 2022 opening day win, with the 25th annual Community Bank N.A. 150 on Sunday, May 7. The opening weekend will feature the Pro All Stars Series Super Late Models, Modifieds and Street Stocks on Saturday, May 6, after the annual Thunder Road car show. Sunday, May 7, will feature the American-Canadian Tour, Flying Tigers, Street Stocks and Road Warriors.

For more information, contact the Thunder Road offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@thunderroadvt.com](mailto:media@thunderroadvt.com), or visit [thunderroadvt.com](http://thunderroadvt.com) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @ThunderRoadVT.

# Recent Lady Cats and Wildcats Basketball Action



Hazen Union coaches (left) and team members (right) stand united for the singing of the National Anthem by Paul Plante (center front) at the Barre Aud. March 2. Assistant coaches (from left): Dorothy Hill, Alison Blaney and head coach Randy Lumsden. Team members (left to right): Baylie Christensen, Sadie Skorstad, Sarah Collier, Isabelle Gouin, Julia des Groseilliers, Tessa Luther, Alexis Christensen, Caitlyn Davison, Ella Gillespie and Haley Michaud. Water girls Chloe Moodie and Kennidee Gouin and team managers Mya Lumsden and Kelsey Rivard.

**Photos by Vanessa Fournier**



Hazen Union junior Caitlyn Davison (No. 10) drives the ball up the court past Kelsey Bogie (No. 3) during Division III semi-final action at the Barre Aud. March 2. Hazen lost 32-60.



Hazen Union Lady Cat Ella Gillespie (No. 23) looks to pass the ball during play at the Barre Aud. Thursday. At right is Addison Cadwell (No. 15) of Thetford. Hazen fell to Thetford 32-60.



Karen and Steve Collier of Hardwick have held a long tradition at the Hazen Union scorers table for all of the varsity boys and girls games. Karen has been the official bookkeeper for 43 years and Steve has been the time keeper for 25 years.



Hazen Union's Ryan Morrison (No. 23) looks to the basket guarded by Dylan Sautter of Stowe February 28 at Hazen. The Wildcats defeated their opponents in play-down action 91-27.



Jadon Baker of Hazen Union races the ball up the court as Wyatt Cadwell of White River Valley tries to block him during Division III quarterfinal action March 3. In the back are Wildcats Tyler Rivard and Lincoln Michaud. Hazen outscored White River Valley 101-62.