

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Volume 134 Number 10



Hardwick Town Meeting

Moderator Orise Ainsworth addresses the crowd who gathered for the Hardwick Town Meeting March 7 in the Elementary School gymnasium.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Winooski Denies Wildcat Champ Repeat



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union students and Wildcat mascot cheer during the championship game Saturday.

by Ken Brown

BARRE – The Hazen Union boys' basketball team's quest for a second consecutive Division III state championship ended in a foul-ridden first half over the weekend at the Barre Auditorium, as Winooski held off a furious comeback to finish off a 22-0 perfect season.

Hassan Hassan led all scorers with 20 points to power Winooski to a dominant first half and fend off a late Wildcat comeback bid to capture the Division III state title on Saturday 57-52. The Spartans came into the title rematch with a chip on their shoulder after their title run was halted by a stifling Wildcat defense a season ago 37-34. Spartan head coach Sam

Jackson deployed a risky strategy in the first eight minutes of the game, pressuring every dribble and every pass, leading to 12 fouls, but forcing six Hazen turnovers.

Winooski came out of the first quarter break with an 11-6 advantage, limiting the Wildcats to six made free throws. Senior point guard Trevon Bradley (15 points) scored five straight, including a three-pointer from the logo to increase their lead to double digits 90 seconds in. Junior Xavier Hill led Hazen with 19 points and would answer with five straight of his own to keep them within striking distance. Senior center Daniel Surma (nine points) had seven blocks on the night and frustrated Hazen

See REPEAT, 3

Budgets Get Green Light; Vacancies Filled For Town Officers

by Tyler Molleur, Community Journalist

STANNARD – A cloudy March 7 brought just over 20 voters to the Stannard Town Hall, to gather for the first time in three years on the first floor of the building to discuss the

See OFFICERS, 4



photo by Hal Gray

Willie Smith and Sandy Gebbie, ski talk speakers, hold an early downhill ski (held on by only a single leather strap).

Historical Society Presents Program on Skiing in Greensboro

by Nancy Hill, Community Journalist

GREENSBORO – Unlike most small Vermont towns, Greensboro has been fortunate to have both Nordic and downhill skiing available within its borders for many years. Nearly 50 people were at the Greensboro Historical Society

See SKIING, 2

Select Board Discusses CCCC Budget, Hazard Mitigation Plan

by Gazette Staff

CRAFTSBURY – At its February 28 regular meeting, the Craftsbury Select Board agenda included a review of the revised CCCC budget, local hazard mitigation, and a proposed flood plain buyout.

Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) board members Penelope Doherty and Steve Pitkin presented an overview of the revised CCCC budget, which reflected a \$500K enhancement to the existing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award of \$500,000. They also submitted a draft letter of support prepared for the select board to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development - Vermont Community Development Program. The CDBG \$500,000 Implementation Grant had been awarded in November 2021 as a subgrant to renovate the air handling system at the 24-unit senior living facility. The CDBG

See PLAN, 3



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Woodbury residents listen attentively as Town Moderator Stephen Murphy speaks during Town Meeting held at the Woodbury Elementary School gymnasium March 7.

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photo by Kyle Gray

The Greensboro Historical Society (GHS) presentation on early skiing in Greensboro included (left to right) B.J. Gray, GHS president, holding early ski (fastened with a single leather strap); Sandy Gebbie, speaker; Wayne Young, presenter Willie Smith, speaker and David Smith, holding early cross country skis.

Skiing

Continued From Page One

annual winter meeting at Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 5, to hear Sandy Gebbie and Wilhelmina Smith tell the history of skiing in Greensboro. Many of those present had learned to ski right at home, either at the Gebbie Ski Tow or the Highland Lodge trails.

Gebbie described the Gebbie Farm Community Ski Tow in North Greensboro. In the early 1960s Donald and Madeline Gebbie wanted their family to have a local place to ski, so they outfitted their farm tractor to power a rope tow on a hill near their home, and the lift was born. Their son Peter began to operate the tow and by the early 1980s he and his wife, Sandy, were in charge and the operation became well-known. Some winter days as many as 50 avid skiers were waiting in line for a turn to be pulled up the hill, though at other times, only the five members of the Gebbie family used it. Many adults today remember skiing as children, and now their children are learning to ski the same way. The regular skiers became a community and still gather as friends, Gebbie relates. The tow is still operating, free to all.

The Gebbie tow operation was not the first in Greensboro. On a neighboring farm, the Hank Merrill family had a similar tractor-powered tow for a short period in the mid-1950s. Gebbie showed home movies of that first tow, and went on to show clips of the Gebbie tow in a documentary about New England home tows by T-Bar Films. She also showed a WCAX-TV film featuring the Gebbie tow. The films brought back happy memories as the crowd reminisced.

Willie Smith then described the X-C (Nordic) skiing operation at Highland Lodge. It began in the early 1970s when the proprietors, Dave and Carol Smith, decided that the Lodge, which until that time was primarily a summer resort, could become a winter resort as well. Their son David,

Jr. and his wife Willie took over the operation. David Smith Jr. and Jed Guerten from Johnson laid out trails around the Lodge and Smith Jr. asked many abutting landowners for permission to cut trails across their land. He and a crew of trail packers packed the trails each day with a heavy-duty snowmobile, and lodge workers Sig Lonegren or Scott Irwin led ski tours, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. (Eventually Smith Sr. bought a Bombi, an enclosed cabin trail packer.) They cut and maintained a trail from the lodge to Craftsbury village which connected with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center trail. Willie Smith described the Point-to-Point Ski Marathon that started at the lodge several years and ended at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. The lodge served coffee and muffins to hundreds of skiers before they started the race. She said, "For one morning a year Highland Lodge was the center of the X-C ski universe!"

The summer play house at the lodge became the winter ski shop where they rented skis, boots with three-pin bindings, and bamboo poles. Willie Smith recalled pine-tarring wooden skis and mounting bindings. It was the place to pick up a trail map, sign-in, and get warm after a day of skiing. There was a small cost for out-of-town skiers; local Greensboro folks were invited to ski free.

Wayne Young related how he had spent many long hours packing the 40 miles of lodge trails. Some in the audience recalled helping David Smith keep the trails open each fall for many years by clipping the bushes that inevitably grew there. Willie Smith thanked the group of clippers with a lunch each day. The incomparable beauty of the scenery from the lodge trails was once pictured on a Visa card. Craftsbury Outdoor Center took over the maintenance of the trails after David and Willie Smith retired and sold the Lodge in 2016; the trails are kept in prime condition for skiing today.



March 15 - March 21

Food Club Point Cut Corned Beef Brisket \$2.99 lb.	New Shipment of Carhartts is in	
Quaker Granola Bars \$1.98 6.5-6.7 oz.	G.M. Lucky Charm Cereal \$1.98 10.5 oz	Food Club Frozen Ravioli or Tortellini \$1.48 19-24 oz.
Barry's Tea \$5.99 80 ct.	G.M. Assorted Cereals 2/\$7 10.4-12 oz.	G.M. Cheerios or Honey Nut Cheerios 2/\$7 8.9-10.8 oz.
Prego Pasta Sauce 2/\$5 23.75-24 oz.	Kraft Deluxe or Velveeta Mac & Cheese Dinners 2/\$6 12-14 oz.	Betty Crocker Hamburger Helpers 2/\$3 6.6-6.9 oz.
Campbell's Tomato or Chicken Noodle Soup 4/\$5 10.75 oz.	Full Circle Bone Broth \$4.29 32 oz.	Chicken of the Sea Solid White Tuna 2/\$3 5 oz.
Progresso Beans 2/\$3 19 oz.	Nabisco Family Size Oreos 2/\$7 17.2 oz.	Nabisco Saltine or Oyster Crackers 2/\$6 9-16 oz.
Bounty Essential 6 Big Roll Paper Towels \$5.99 224 s.f.	Stonyfield Yogurt \$4.49 32 oz.	Mission Flour Tortillas \$3.29 8-10 ct.
Food Club Frozen Vegetables 99¢ 12 oz.	Cravn Flour Pizzas \$5.49 19.2-32.7 oz.	Hot Pocket Sandwiches 2/\$5 9 oz.

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Intoxication

Hardwick Police responded to Hazen Union School to investigate a report of an intoxicated male who showed up to see his grandchildren. The male had driven to the high school and school staff were concerned the male would

take off in his vehicle. Hardwick Police arrested the male, identified as Shawn Tardif, of Stannard, for DWI, DLS Criminal and Resisting Arrest. The male was cited to appear at the Caledonia Court on March 27.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 16 people from March 5 through March 12. 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.

Repeat

Continued From Page One

big man Tyler Rivard with a pair of early rejections. A floater by Bradley, two more blocks by Surma, and a deep three by Hassan to end the half, had the Wildcats shell-shocked down 36-18 heading into the break.

Multiple players from both teams entered the half in foul trouble, but it was mission accomplished for Jackson's squad as they traded foul trouble for double digit turnovers by Hazen. Hazen head coach Aaron Hill had never seen a first half approached that aggressively by a team defensively and knew his team had to shift gears to cut into their lead in the second half.

"We knew they were coming into this game motivated after last season's title game, but our guys wanted this game and we were just as motivated. Their length, athleticism, and explosiveness is similar to some of the Division II schools we play in the Capital, but there is nothing close to what they possess physicality-wise in our division. There was literally contact on every basketball play and it was a very challenging game to officiate and I felt for the refs out having to navigate such a physical game. Honestly I just tried to settle the guys down a little bit at halftime and get them to accept the physicality they were going to have to fight through over the next two quarters. We wanted to attack more in the second half and add some zone traps to get them a little less comfortable offensively. The guys did a great job of battling and executing in the second half and Xavier and Brendan Moodie were awesome," said Hill.

Rivard was still held without a field goal through three quarters of play, but Hill and Moodie led the Wildcats on an 18-7 run to cut the lead to seven with eight minutes to go. The Spartans lead would swell back to double digits before Gabe Michaud (eight points) finished a layup in traffic and Rivard secured

an offensive rebound and a put-back to pull Hazen Union within seven with four minutes to play. Michaud would foul out seconds later and senior Lincoln Michaud would commit his fifth foul less than a minute later. Hill continued his hot second half with five straight to pull the Wildcats within two with 90 seconds left. Hassan would answer with two free throws of his own and Rivard missed all four of his free throws in the last minute to give the Spartans the breathing room they were looking for. Moodie finished with 14 points, Rivard added 10 points and 18 boards, and senior Jadon Baker chipped in with six in the loss.

"I am so proud of our team's character, class, and how much determination and grit they showed in that second half. Our kids not only played with heart, but with composure and sportsmanship. Our seniors are great kids who set a wonderful example for our program through hard work and selflessness to the team. We love them and will miss them greatly, but they will always remain part of our program," said Hill.

Rivard added to his storied career and season by pulling down his 1,000-career rebound. He set several school records during a senior campaign for the ages that included a 50-point night against Enosburg and a 40-point outburst against Thetford to reach 1,000 points for his career.

"Tyler has given so much and done so much for this team this season, that I just wanted to congratulate him for having such a phenomenal career and everything that he did for this program. I know he didn't have the kind of games he's used to the last two match-ups, but the amount of focus other teams have to put on him opened things up for Brendan and Xavier and you can see what they are capable of doing for us next season. We have some good young talent coming up and the future is bright for Wildcat basketball," said Hill.

Plan

Continued From Page One

awards committee approached the CCCC board to advise that it had arranged for an increase of \$500,000 for the HVAC project to increase the grant amount to \$1 million. The board voted to endorse the letter of support.

The next agenda item was a proposal that the board meet with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) review group by March 1, 2023, and charge them with: contacting individuals and entities tasked with carrying out mitigation actions to review progress and needs; meeting with the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) review team to review their findings and consider adjustments to strategies; and setting a date to discuss results with the select board at a warned meeting prior to May 1, the LEMP due date. After discussion, the board voted to task the LMHP review group with the listed tasks.

Another agenda item came from local resident Devin Small, who raised the issue of a flood plain buyout. Small is concerned about the floodplain situation near his home (built in the 1860s) and the huge increase in their flood insurance cost. Small asked the board to consider taking part in the Vermont Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF), which is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to buy the property. Established by the Vermont Legislature under Act 74, the FRCF, a voluntary program, focuses on improving landscape and community resilience and reducing the future public safety and water quality impacts of climate-related flood hazards in Vermont through buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties. After discussion, the board asked Mr. Small to provide more details before a decision is made.

The next topic for discussion considered a memorial contribution for Nancy Rooney. Rooney was the Craftsbury Select Board clerk for many years. After discussion, the board voted to make a

\$50 memorial contribution to the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (which was noted in the obituary) in honor of her many years as select board clerk.

The board then voted to approve spending \$15,000 in American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support the school's purchase of a generator.

Under Committee Reports, Craftsbury Planning Commission Chair Farley Brown said the group was thrilled that more than 50 people were in attendance at the Craftsbury Village Visioning public meeting. The commission received a lot of feedback and continues to receive citizen comments via letters.

Consultants DuBois & King will draft a report for the March meeting and submit a final report in April. D&K concepts will be narrowed to the one that is most viable and a cost estimate for that option will be generated. Ongoing commission work includes completing the Village Master Plan and focusing on Act 171 Forest Block work.

The Conservation Commission needs more members.

The Energy Committee reported that there has been a harvest in the Academy woodlot. Part of that wood that has been harvested has been given to the Academy trustees and will be given to the Energy Committee for the firewood project.

The Antiques & Uniques Committee has sent applications to past vendors and, so far, 24 have committed to participate.



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Officers

Continued From Page One
operations of the municipality and the schools.

COVID-19 guidance steered the meeting to the parking lot in 2021 and 2022, with both meetings being pushed forward to May, to allow for such an opportunity under a warmer sun.

This day, however, the warmth could be felt in the lively discussion among neighbors and the coffee brewing just as Moderator Tom Gilbert gavelled the assembly in for 2023.

As the municipal warning came before the voters, Gilbert encouraged new residents to step up to the plate and serve in public offices.

"This small town is built on the lifeblood of volunteerism and community service," he said. He encouraged anyone willing to serve in a position to nominate themselves.

Katy Knuth volunteered for two positions, one as auditor, the other as grand juror and was unanimously elected to both. Joseph Gresser, who was a long-standing auditor prior to Knuth's election, offered to vacate the seat if someone else was interested in serving.

The town's municipal budget passed by floor vote at a total of \$262,491.43, a slight decrease from the \$263,861.42 requested last year.

Selectperson Ben Hewitt briefed

those in attendance on work that has been done on grants to improve trout habitat and flood resilience at two locations in town that will coincide with bridge replacement. The first is on the Hutchins Farm Road, which is anticipated to be completed in fall 2023, with road closures in effect at that time.

The other is a larger bridge replacement project at the intersection of Stannard Mountain Road and Lazy Mill Road, which will require a temporary bridge to be constructed and a long-term projection on timeline. When completed, that bridge will remain a one-way bridge.

A passing school budget for the Orleans Southwest Union Elementary District (348-116) made it through Australian ballot with approximately 75 percent of voters in favor. The town school district budget also passed with a unanimous vote from the floor.

The \$272,048 Stannard budget for students in grades 7 to 12 brought a slight decrease to the homestead tax rate. The \$7,415,157 OSUED budget brought a slight increase to Stannard's share of the homestead tax rate, with a net decrease in the homestead tax by two cents when both budgets were combined and pro-rated.

The other topic of discussion brought up by the town school board were drafts of bills S.56 and H.258, which in review of the proposed legislation by the board, had the potential

to limit options for secondary school students and their families to have choice in where to attend school for grades 7 to 12 to as few as three schools.

"Personally, I don't feel like it's my responsibility to tell you where to send your kids to school," said Diane Janukajtis of the Stannard School Board. Janukajtis said what confounded the situation further is the "seventh and eighth grade hole", which means that schools that do not have a middle-level would not be good options to designate on the limited list of schools, as Stannard also tuitions those students as well.

Last year, Stannard had nine tuition students attending four schools: Hazen, Craftsbury, Thaddeus Stevens, and East Burke. Janukajtis said many factors influence how families decide which school is appropriate for them, including options for transportation and student fit.

John Miller described his experience in deciding on schools as a parent 30 years ago.

"Each school we interviewed had something about it that made it a great place," he said, describing school choice as a treasure of the town. "It's certainly something worth cherishing and defending."

State Representative Chip Troiano discussed this matter as part of his update from the legislature and reported recent discussion related to the proposed legislation in the education committee did not include discussion regarding limitation to school choice.

The town will continue to review the condition of the backhoe to determine

a timeline for repair or replacement. The current machine has logged more than 10,000 hours and expenses to repair the backhoe are approaching the trade-in value. A replacement will run somewhere around \$107,000 after trade of the existing equipment.

Although the purchase could not be brought to a vote at this meeting, the select board made residents aware this may be warned for a special town meeting, as the capital equipment fund will not cover the full value of the replacement backhoe. Many residents were concerned that not taking prompt action on the matter may result in further depreciation of the equipment.

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Orleans Unit Docket No. 23-PR-00455
In re Estate of: G. Dales

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: G. Anders Dales, late of Greensboro, Vermont

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 3-9-2023
Signature of Fiduciary: G. Cameron Dales and Christopher A. Dales
Executor: G. Cameron Dales and Christopher A. Dales

c/o Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, Attention: Wilhelmina Dingemans Miller
67 Etna Road, Suite 300
Lebanon, NH 03766-1461
(603) 448-2211

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The Mary Jane Dexter Scholarship will be offered to students planning to attend a two-year or a four-year college program. Three qualifications must be met by students who wish to apply. First, they must have attended Wolcott Elementary School for three years or more; second, they must be maintaining a B (GPA of 2.5) average in their studies; and third, they must clearly demonstrate a financial need. No scholarships are available for graduate studies. The deadline for receipt of each application is April 28, 2023. Applications may be completed online at google.com/view/mjdexterscholarshipfundcorp OR by contacting your school's guidance counselor.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Pie Breakfast March 25

WOODBURY – The Woodbury Community Library 20th Annual Pie Breakfast will take place on Saturday, March 25 at the Woodbury Elementary School. This annual tradition features homemade pies, live music, a silent auction and book sale.

The breakfast is fueled by volunteers: pie bakers and recruiters, pie servers and cutters, kitchen help, beverage hosts, musicians, set-up and breakdown teams, auction donors, and more.

For pie donations, contact Katherine Scoville at (802)

224-6748 or email kcole5678@gmail.com. Pies may be delivered to Woodbury Elementary School on Friday, March 24, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pie recipes may be included for possible publication or see woodburycommunitylibrary.wordpress.com/2023/02/25/submit-yourrecipe/.

Silent auction donations may be delivered to the library during library hours.

To help on the day of the event, sign up at the library or send an email to woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com or svanhof23@gmail.com.

Dumpling Making Workshop March 25

HARDWICK – The Grow Your Own Program is offering a free (pre-registration required) workshop on dumpling making on Saturday, March 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dumplings show up in different forms and styles throughout many different regions around the globe. They are a nourishing way to utilize a variety of protein sources and vegetables on hand, and can be a way to use up leftovers or stretch a food budget. Join self-taught dumpling maker Captolia Santamore in the kitchen, to learn how to create a combinations of flavors. Learn the techniques of filling and folding, and about the different ways to cook dumplings. After making a variety of dumplings, the workshop

will end with a dipping party, exploring the possibilities of dipping sauces. Children are welcome to accompany adults: very young children will need an on-site activity in the hallway to keep them occupied. Grow Your Own is a project of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and the Center for an Agricultural Economy. Register by March 22. Space is limited in this workshop. Donations can be made online for those who wish to contribute, but workshops are always free for participants.

The workshop will be held at the Center for an Agricultural Economy at 140 Junction Road.

To register, nourishhardwick.org/grow-your-own or call the HAFP if you cannot register online.

Hand-building Clay Classes begin March 29

MORRISVILLE – A hand-building clay class will be held on Wednesday, March 29, at 6 p.m. through Wednesday, May 10, at River Arts.

This six-week series will cover the basics of hand-building, exploring textures, glazing, underglazing techniques and much more. Hand-building offers a unique opportunity for creative expression and is a class for first-time or experienced clay workers. This series explores slab building: hand-building useful things like mugs, pitchers, vases and storage containers all using the slab technique.

Chiara No will teach the series, and she has been an exhibiting artist for over 10 years. She has shown with EXILE, Berlin, Germany; Bible and Field Projects, in New York City, Vox Populi in Philadelphia, Pa.; H18 Gallery in Brussels, Belgium; The

Institute for American Art, Portland, Me.; Johalla Projects, Chicago, Ill. TranzModern and Current Space, Baltimore, Md. Her work is in the collection of the Whitney's Special Collection and The Chicago Institute of Art's Joan Flasch Artists' Book Library. No studied art and theory at the Glasgow School of Art, American University in Rome, Towson University, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and received her MFA at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 2015. She has been on faculty at SAIC and an instructor at University of Pennsylvania and has advised LowRes MFA students at Maine College of Art in Portland, Me. No lives and has her studio in Johnson.

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

Coffee, Canvas Event March 25

ALBANY – Local painter Connie Beaudry will lead a paint and sip (with tea and coffee) in the Albany Town Hall Saturday, March 25, 3 p.m. All materials provided.

This program is for adults. It is free but space is limited, so register early. Save a spot by emailing albanypubliclibraryvt@gmail.com or call (802) 755-6107.

Storytelling Workshop April 1

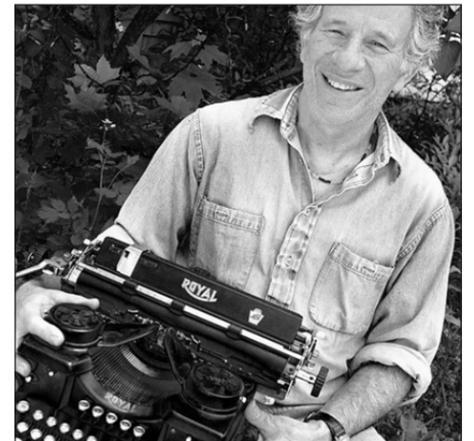
HARDWICK – Peter Gould will lead a storytelling workshop on Saturday, April 1, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hardwick Memorial Building.

WonderArts sponsors this storytelling event as **Gould shows how he takes personal experiences and makes them into stories that are fun to write, share and hear.**

At 6 p.m., the afternoon workshopping closes with a performance, inviting friends and neighbors to sit and listen to stories.

Peter Gould moved to Vermont to join the back-to-the-land generation in the 1970's, an experience he wrote about in his first novel, "Burnt Toast." Since then, he has been a writer and a theater worker. His most recent book, "Horse-Drawn Yogurt" tells true life tales about those commune years. For more than 20 years, as half of the duo Gould & Stearns, Gould performed physical comedy and story theater and taught residencies with young students, more than 3,000 times in nearly every state in the USA. He continues this work solo today.

Gould founded the youth Shakespeare program, "Get Thee to the Funnery," in 1998, and continues to direct the summer camp to this day. He has directed nearly 100 youth theater productions of all kinds in many places, including



Peter Gould

England and India. In 2002, Peter earned his PhD from Brandeis University and in 2009, he went on to write "Write Naked," a Young-Adult novel that won the National Green Earth Book Award, a prize given each year to a book that inspires environmental activism in youthful readers. In 2016, Peter was the recipient of the Vermont Arts Council/Governor's Award for Arts Educator of the Year.

Gould lives in Brattleboro with his wife, Vermont State Representative, and visual artist Mollie Burke. They have three children and five grandchildren and are active around Vermont in the areas of climate change, migrant workers' rights, food and farming, prison reform, restorative justice, cross-cultural communication, and always arts-in-education for young people: especially for families who need support.

2023 Gun & Outdoor Sportsman Show

Sponsored by Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club

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Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 19, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vt.

Adults: \$10 ~ Children under 12: Free

For information call Larry Hamel: 802-917-2886 or email lwhamel@aol.com



OUR COMMUNITIES

Writing Group Meets March 18

ALBANY – A writing group will meet Saturday, March 18, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany Public Library. The writing group is a creative space, facilitated by assistant librarian and writer Krista Mayer. Teens and adults are

both welcome. Writing prompts are provided. This group meets on the first and third Saturdays of each month. The library is located at 830 Main Street. For information call (802) 755-6107 or see albany-publiclibraryvt.org

Historic Movie Night March 19

EAST CRAFTSBURY – On Sunday, March 19, at 7 p.m., Historic Movie Night: Sugaring, lambs, and beloved dogs will be shown at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. The film will feature seasonal footage of sugaring and lambing in East Craftsbury in

the '30s and '40s, as well as some films with Miss Jean Simpson's beloved dogs. Films are from the J.W. Simpson Memorial Library Ouida B. Grant film collection. The event is free and all are welcome. For more information, email jwsimps-onmemorial@gmail.com.

Craft Supply Swap March 18 at Library

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Public Library will have a craft supply swap on Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Crafters may drop off unwanted craft supplies at the library from March 11 through March 17. All items should be clean and in usable condition. All collected craft supplies

will be available free while supplies last. Participants may drop off supplies, or pick up new supplies, or both.

For more information about this free event, contact the library at director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or organizer Misty Allen at m_ist_y@yahoo.com.

Introduction to Knitting March 30

MORRISVILLE – An Introduction to Knitting will be presented on Thursday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m., with master knitter Elaine Fortin, at River Arts. The workshop will also meet April 6 and April 13, and is appropriate for ages 13 and up.

Fortin will lead this three-week series exploring the foundation to knitting, and will guide participants through basic stitches, tools and patterns. This class is open to beginners but offers a creative exploration for more experienced knitters as well. Supplies are not provided for this class. A basic materials list is necessary for this class and will be available upon registration.

Fortin has been knitting since childhood and has a Master's in Knitting from The Knitting Guild Association, in which she excelled in knitting techniques from around the world and introduced her to designing knitware. She has taught individuals to knit throughout her life and is now offering a full structured course for beginners. She is



Elaine Fortin

a member of the Green Mountain Knitting Guild and the St. Johns in the Mountains Knitting Guild. She raises fiber animals, and processes the fiber into yarn through every step from the animal (sheep, goat, rabbit, Alpaca) to the spinning wheel. She is author of the Vermont Yarn Sourcebook, which promotes yarns from Vermont producers.

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

OBITUARIES

REBECCA "BECKY" (WESTOVER) CHAMPNEY-MERCHANT

HARDWICK – On the evening of March 14, with her favorite music playing and holding the hands of her sister, Becky entered into her new journey. She was the oldest of five daughters born to the late Carlton and Corrine (Tatro) Westover. She spent her life enjoying caring for her younger sisters, her nephews, and most enjoyably, her great-nieces and -nephews.

She graduated from Lamoille Union High School in 1971 and started her career in the medical field. She worked at numerous hospitals and nursing homes in Vermont, New Hampshire and Florida. She returned to small town life when she retired in Hardwick.

She is survived by her sister Prudence Daniels-Aldrich, brother-in-law John Allen, nephews Brian, James, Shawn, Alex, Howard Jr. and Joseph, five great-nephews and three great-nieces, many cousins including her beloved Janice Lafountain, Sherry Eldred McClellan, and Judy Morse. She was predeceased by her husband, Frank, two sisters, Lisa Westover and Katherine Westover Allen, and brother-in-law, Howard Daniels Sr.

Becky requested there were to be no calling hours. A combined Celebration of Life for Becky and Kathy will take place in June. In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite no-kill shelter.

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**Town of Woodbury
Zoning Board of Adjustment
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 29, 2023, 6 PM**

On February 21, 2023, the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) submitted a request for an amendment to permit #2019-16. That permit was issued in May, 2020, for construction of a new fire station approximately 4,000 square feet in size, on an existing lot in the village of Woodbury. The permit was issued with a variance to the required 75-foot setback from the center line of Route 14. The project was approved with a 59-foot setback at the closest corner of the building. The current amendment request asks for the setback variance to be increased by nine feet. The property is Parcel 14-66, .75 acres, located at 3618 Vermont Route 14 in Woodbury.

The Board of Adjustment will hear this request on March 29, 2023, at 6 p.m., at the Woodbury Library Community Room. Participation in the warned proceeding is a pre-requisite to the right to take any appeal of the Board's decision.

A copy of the application can be seen at the Town Clerk's office in South Woodbury.

Notice dated March 3, 2023

Events

Thursday, March 16

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.

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.

Friday, March 17

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 18

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., teens and adults welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Everyone welcome. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. Information: capitalcitygrange.org/dancing/contradancing, (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com

Sunday, March 19

HISTORIC MOVIE NIGHT: Sugaring, lambs, and beloved dogs,

7 p.m., at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. Features seasonal footage of sugaring and lambing in the 30s and 40s. Hosted by the J.W. Simpson Memorial Library. All are welcome. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial@gmail.com, (802) 586-9692.

Tuesday, March 21

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 23

COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick. Hosted by members of the Missions team and other church and community volunteers. 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.

Saturday, March 25

20TH ANNUAL PIE BREAKFAST hosted by the Woodbury Community Library, at the Woodbury Elementary School, 8 - 10:30 a.m. For pie donations, contact Katherine at 1 (802) 224-6748 or email kcole5678@gmail.com. Drop off pies at the school Friday, March 24 from 3 to 8 p.m.

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.



courtesy photo

These artists will perform at Lost Nation Theater's Cabaret on March 18.

Cabaret Begins LNT Season March 18

MONTPELIER – Lost Nation Theater (LNT) artists gather for an evening of tales and tunes, for one night only, to celebrate the kick-off of the resident professional theater's 35th season on Saturday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. This benefit for LNT is hosted by G. Richard Ames, and features (among others) Kate Kenney, Taryn Noelle, Alexa Kartschoke, William Pelton, Tim Guiles, Kathleen Keenan, Kim Bent, Maura O'Brien and George Woodard.

Lost Nation Theater is located at the Montpelier City Hall Arts Center, 39 Main Street. Masks are a must and adherence to other COVID-safety protocols are required for all in person seating (for those over age 4). LNT's state-of-the-art bio-defense air purification "Synexis" system is in service 24-7 for safety. Audience and staff mask, but performers do not. For more information see lostnationtheater.org



courtesy photo

The George Woodard film "Farm Boy" debuts at the Hardwick Town House March 19.

Woodard Film Debuts at Town House March 31

HARDWICK – "The Farm Boy," George Woodard's new film premieres at the Hardwick Town House this month.

"The Farm Boy", a love story and adventure is directed by George Woodard and is placed in December 1944, as the war rages on in Europe. Leaving his new

bride behind, Calvin Dillard is shipped to Belgium and thrown into what will become known as the Battle of the Bulge. He now faces a riveting adventure on a path that will test his integrity. For additional premiere dates and times, see Hangingmudflapproductions.com



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The Art of Mardi McGregor, March 16, at Back Room Gallery

ST. JOHNSBURY – The art of Mardi McGregor will be shown beginning March 16 at the Back Road Gallery. Follow McGregor’s journey, visually hearing the music and dances of her heritage and travels around the world in her paintings and collages. It all began in the footsteps of her grandmother Rose, a dancing gypsy queen and her Nordic grandfather, shipwrecked in Italy, whose Teutonic name translates as “Famous Wolf Dances.”

Mardi McGregor is a self-taught artist who has exhibited her collages and paintings in art fairs, retail stores, and group and solo shows in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Guanajuato, Mexico.

She holds an undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of New Hampshire, and a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology from Antioch University. She is a native of Hanover, N.H.

Mardi moved from Hanover to Piermont, N.H., in 1985 and participated in its Community Art Show from 1991 to 1999. She was employed at Dartmouth College during these years, first in the Art History Department, and then in the Environmental Studies Program. Her painting, “Perils of Carbon” hangs in

the Hornig Library at Dartmouth.

After graduating from Antioch in 1996, she worked in the community mental health field, taught psychology courses at the Community College of Vermont, and continued to make collages and paintings. In January 2000, her collages appeared on the cover and in the body of a PBS series companion book on microbes, “Intimate Strangers: Unseen Life on Earth.”

In 2006, McGregor and her husband Don moved to San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. During the eight years of their residency, they renovated two houses and engaged in art-related activities of that community. In 2014 they returned to the States and opened a small bed and breakfast-gallery in St. Johnsbury. Since then, her work has been exhibited at the Artisan’s Guild, the Piermont Library, and Bert Dodson Gallery in Bradford.

Collage was Mardi’s first medium to work in. It was economical: just some cardboard, magazine pictures, and glue. She chose images that when combined, became constructs that didn’t exist in real time and space. Like totems, or the images in dreams, they appeared as visual haikus



“The Plight of Ancestors” by Mardi McGregor

Abenaki Singer-songwriter Performs March 22

MONTPELIER – The ninth performance of the 2023 Farmers Night Concert Series on Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m., will present Abenaki singer-songwriter Bryan Blanchette and the Black Bears, featuring Padraic Smith on bass, and Darell Brown on Djimbi/Keys. The ensemble will perform both contemporary and traditional Abenaki songs, featuring traditional social dance demonstrations. Nikwôbi is the Abenaki word for “now.” These new Abenaki songs demonstrate that Abenaki culture is vibrant and alive. Blanchette plays multiple instruments, writes his own music and lyrics, and sings with a Abenaki warrior voice.

Blanchette is a New England native and member of the Nulhegan Band of the Abenaki Nation.

He studied music at the

Berklee College of Music. In 1996 he founded a pow-wow drumming group which has toured internationally to critical acclaim.

Bryan currently lives in N’dakinna, the Abenaki homeland, in Graniteville.

The Farmers Night concert series is a long-standing State House tradition of over a century. Artists from around the state, in genres ranging from classical music to bluegrass to barbershop, perform at 7:30 pm in the well of the House Chamber each Wednesday night during most of the legislative season, through mid-April. All performances are free of charge.

For additional questions, please contact David Schutz, Vermont State Curator at david.schutz@vermont.gov, or (802) 279-5558.

from the personal and collective consciousness.

Simple in structure, they invited the viewer to look more deeply into the meaning of their own personal images.

During the late 1980’s, wanting to try a new medium, Mardi turned to acrylics. She painted a

few landscapes and still lifes from her travels, but preferred to paint those dreamscapes from her previous and current collages. This exhibit at the Artisans Guild is the first solo show of her paintings.

The Back Room Gallery at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild is located at 430 Railroad Street.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Members of the Cabot High School band from (left to right) Jacob Tidd, Chase Alden, Silas Robbins, Wyatt Searles and Declan O’Connor (in front) perform a mini-concert along with the middle school band for grades 3 to 12 during Winter Fest February 24.

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IN THE GARDEN



courtesy photo

Gomphrena is great fresh or as a dry flower.



courtesy photo

I grow Persian shield for its foliage.

Plan to Plant Plenty of Annual Flowers

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Reclining in an easy chair on a recent cold and snowy day, I imagined myself a bumblebee. I meandered from flower to flower, taking in the colors and scents and textures of annual flowers, starting with A (alyssum) and ending with Z (zinnias).

I wasn't a good or careful bumblebee who only visited flowers of one kind: I was a bumblebee tourist, seeing everything my mind could imagine and all were in bloom at once. Then, returning to reality, I got out of my catalogs and started searching for new flowers to try.

Annual flowers are wonderful. Perennials are great, too, but most make a relatively short appearance, rarely more than three weeks. Annuals are born to flower: many start early and keep on blooming all summer if you keep cutting them. They need to make plenty of seeds or their genetic lineage can literally die out and disappear at the end of the season.

I like starting annuals by seed in six-packs indoors, even when it's warm enough that I could plant them directly in the ground. Flowers can easily get lost or misidentified as weeds when planted directly in the soil, especially things I haven't tried before, or if I just want a few.

I love zinnias. They come in such a profusion of colors, and range in size from diminutive to giant. I love the lime-green ones such as Envy and Benary's Giant Lime because they look so great mixed in with other flowers, in a vase, or in a flowerbed. Zinnias come as singles, such as the Profusion series, which are short (12-inch), and doubles such as Sunbow (24-inch to 30-inch)

and Oklahoma (30-inch to 40-inch). I save seed from non-hybrid ones and plant them directly in the soil in large numbers. And the more you cut these flowers, the more they branch and re-bloom.

Most annual flowers are easy to grow from seed, but not all. One of my favorites, Lisianthus, takes 17 days to germinate if kept at 72 degrees, longer if cooler. And even after it starts to grow, its seedlings do not grow fast for several weeks. It's not a flower for impatient gardeners.

Cosmos varieties have been bred and hybridized in recent years. Looking at the John Scheepers Garden Seeds website I see 23 different kinds of cosmos, including one I must try: "Double Click Cranberries Cosmos". Deep wine colored, double-petaled like an old fashioned rose.

A flower good as a cut flower or as a dry flower and spectacular in the garden goes by the unlikely name gomphrena. I plan to plant at least a dozen of these this year, maybe more.

Vines are good, too. I love purple hyacinth bean with purplish leaves and pink-purple flowers. They are slow to start, so I'll start some indoors in March.

Nasturtiums are vines that don't climb. They sprawl. Plant these large seeds in full sun after the danger of frost has past, perhaps in a bed of daffodils. The daffies need sunshine to recharge their bulbs until the foliage dies away, and the nasturtiums will fill in and hide the dying foliage. Nasturtiums like lean soil, so don't add fertilizer.

I grow some of my favorite annuals not for their flowers, but for their leaves. These beauties are always in bloom, which is to say, their leaves are a treat to look at.

I love their bright colors and shiny surfaces. Here are some good ones:

Perilla: This is a terrific purple-leafed plant that self-sows exuberantly. Pinch off the flowers (which are not at all showy) if you don't want it to spread next year. Eighteen inches tall. The "Magellanica" cultivar is taller, and has foliage in shades of hot pink, deep plum and vibrant green.

Persian Shield (*Strobilanthes dyerianus*): This plant just shimmers with silver overtones on dark purple and pink leaves. It loves hot weather, and gets big: one plant can spread over a three-foot circle and stand three to four feet tall.

Licorice Plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*): I buy some of this every summer because I love the silvery

leaves, because it mixes so well with bright colored flowers in planters, and because it takes abuse. It rarely complains if I let it dry out in a pot. It flows over the edge of pots and weaves its way through other plants. It's also exceptional in flower arrangements. There are also chartreuse and variegated lemon-lime varieties.

So even though annuals are disposable plants (they die when frost comes) I have to have them. I grow them in the vegetable garden, and in pots to fill in drab corners of the flower garden after perennials have finished blooming. If you want, all those mentioned above are available as plants in six-packs at your local nursery, come spring. Most are great cut flowers and the bumblebees love them.



courtesy photo

Purple Hyacinth Bean has both lovely flowers and interesting foliage.

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Return of the Ospreys

by Meghan McCarthy
McPhaul

FRANCONIA, N.H. – On my commute to the Northern Woodlands offices in Lyme, N.H., I pass a long-established osprey nest, perched atop a very tall electric tower next to Route 302. This location offers the ospreys a view of their surroundings and provides me with a view of the ospreys from the road. My early morning drive is brighter now, on the season's edge, than it was in the heart of winter, and I have been craning my neck lately to get a look at the nest and hoping to see a raptor or two perched on its edge or soaring nearby.

It's early still, I know, for the ospreys to return, but by now they're likely on their way, flying north from their winter homes in South America, across the Caribbean to Cuba, and from there to Florida, then along the East Coast and inland until they reach this nest. And chances are good that when I do spot the ospreys, it will be the same pair I've seen in past years here. Ospreys often form breeding pairs that last several years, although the male and female spend their winters separately.

"They take completely separate winter vacations, which maybe is the key to a long and successful marriage," said Iain

MacLeod, executive director of Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, who has been keeping tabs on osprey nests in New Hampshire's Lakes Region for 25 years. "But they'll come back to the nest year after year after year and reunite."

Last spring, MacLeod witnessed the reunion of a pair that has been together, at least during the breeding months, for at least 15 years. The female had already arrived by the time the male returned to perform what MacLeod calls "sky dancing," a combination of vocalizations and aerial displays of hovering and swooping.

"As he dropped down to the nest, she flew to join him. The two of them sat on the nest together. He displayed submissive posture, where he kind of turns his back and droops his wings," MacLeod said. "They mated within 20 minutes of reuniting, and then he went off and got her a fish, which is an important part of the courtship. And within 11 days they were sitting on eggs."

While many raptors build their nests in the shelter of overhanging branches, osprey nests tend to be high up and open to the elements and often on manmade structures, both those intended as nesting platforms and those meant for other purposes. These nests comprise a base of large



Osprey

sticks, topped by smaller sticks, with a lining of grass, moss, and bark to cushion the eggs. Ospreys add to their nests each breeding season, and a nest may grow to be as large as six feet across and several feet deep.

In New Hampshire, pairs typically produce three eggs each spring. The female is responsible for nearly all incubation, which lasts just over a month, and for tending to and protecting the chicks once they hatch. The male spends his time catching fish for his mate and the chicks and guarding the nest from predators and intruding ospreys.

These raptors are purely fish eaters and have several adaptations for this lifestyle. Their long, narrow wings allow the birds to hover as they search for prey in the water below. They have long legs that can reach into the water and hooked talons to snatch fish. Ospreys have "zygodactyl" feet, meaning they have one reversible talon; while perched, three toes face forward, and one backward, but when they dive for a fish, the outer front toe pivots to provide a stronger grasp. Tiny barbs, called spicules, along the underside of their feet help ospreys hold slippery, wriggling

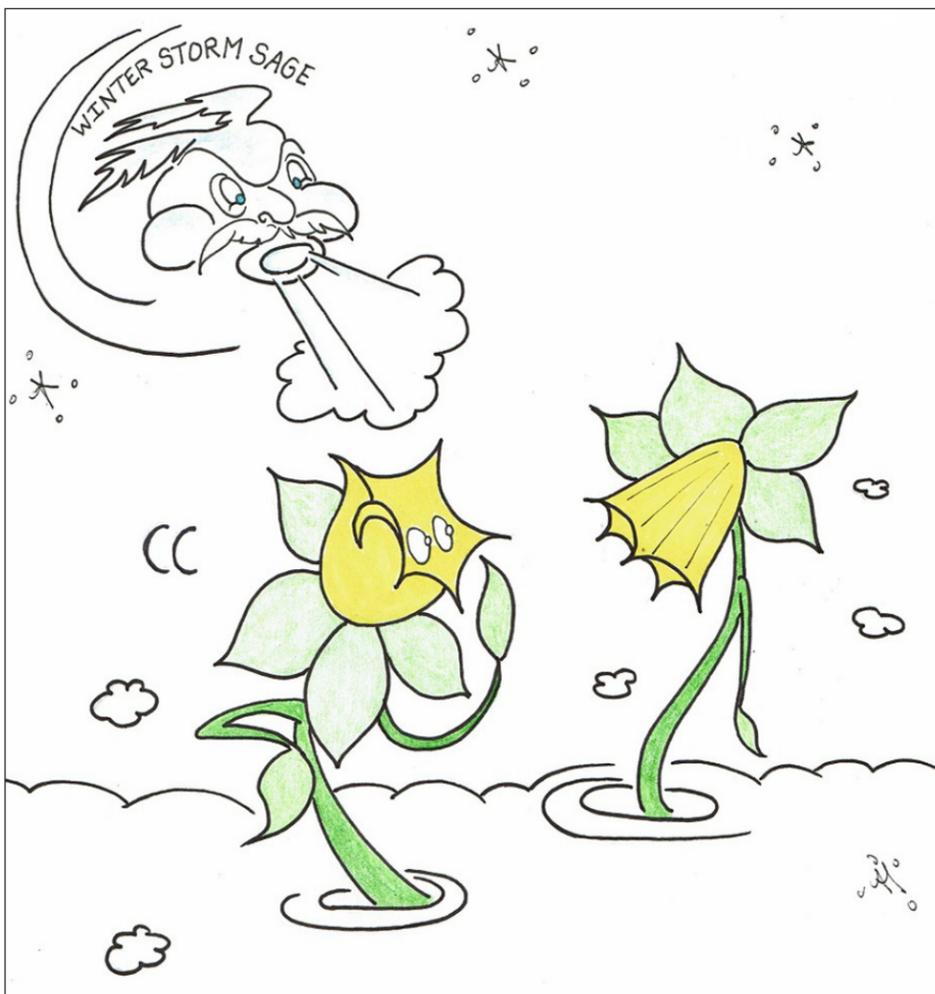
fish. And if you catch a glimpse of an osprey flying with a fresh catch, look closely – the fish will be faced forward in those talons, reducing aerodynamic drag as the osprey flies.

As with many birds of prey, osprey populations were devastated by the use of DDT in the mid -20th century. Thirty years ago, when raptor biologist Chris Martin was starting out at New Hampshire Audubon, the only osprey nests in the state were in northeastern Coos County. But the fish-eating birds have thrived since then and now nest throughout the state. When biologists stopped comprehensive tracking of nests in 2010, Martin said, there were more than 175 established nests in New Hampshire.

One of those is the nest I pass, near the Ammonoosuc River and plenty of ponds and lakes for good fishing. I'm looking forward to the day, a bit later this spring, when I look up and see an osprey or two back for another breeding season.

[Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is the associate editor for Northern Woodlands. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"I'M MAKING MY SPRING DEBUT REGARDLESS OF O'L MAN WINTER!"

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IN THE GARDEN

Surviving Cabin Fever

by **Deborah J. Benoit,**
Extension Master Gardener,
University of Vermont

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – It's that time of year when the groundhog has retreated back into its burrow, but the temperature tempts us with the possibility of spring. We all know there's still plenty of snow and cold weather yet to come. On those days, when the world outside is gray and dreary, the walls surrounding us can seem much too close.

Fighting cabin fever can be as simple as bringing home a new houseplant in bloom to raise your spirits or some cut flowers to brighten up a room. Better yet, set your inner gardener free and think spring.

Forcing flowering branches such as witch hazel and forsythia to bloom will bring a touch of spring indoors. Take a walk outside to check your spring flowering shrubs and trees. Look for any branches that you would normally prune in late spring after flowering.

Be sure any branches you select include fat buds that are just waiting for warmer weather to open into flowers. Cut and bring branches indoors, trim to desired size and place in room temperature water in a sunny location. The closer to actual bloom time, the quicker flowers will open. For more detailed information on forcing branches, see go.uvm.edu/branches.

When the weather outside is in full winter mode, sit back with a cup of something warm and browse through the seed and garden catalogs that have been arriving in your mailbox since late autumn. If your stack of incoming catalogs isn't high enough, visit online

versions. Make a wish list of plants you'd like to add to your garden this year, but don't stop there. If you're planning on ordering seeds or plants, this is the time to do so. The longer you wait, the more likely it is that what you want will be out of stock.

Plants ordered now should ship to you when the time is right for planting. Seeds will likely be shipped when ordered, so there's no time like the present to make sure you have everything needed to get those seeds started at the appropriate time.

If you just can't wait to grow something, there's no reason not to start some potted herbs or salad greens from seed now. You'll be enjoying an indoor harvest before the hummingbirds return in the spring. For more information on seed starting, visit go.uvm.edu/seeds.

On a stormy winter's day when you're stuck inside, consult your garden journal and refresh your memory about the details of last year's garden. This trip down memory lane is also a place to create wish lists, record your plans and sketch garden layouts. It will provide an invaluable reference in years to come.

If you don't have one, this is a great time to start one. All you need is pen, paper and a binder to hold the pages. For more information on garden journals, see go.uvm.edu/journal.

Don't limit yourself to plant selection in your spring planning. Make notes and sketch the coming season's garden.

Take a walk in the garden when weather permits. Record conditions there such as how much snow remains and any damage that will need to be tended to in



photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Growing herbs, such as sage and mint, in pots indoors in winter is a fun activity to combat cabin fever.

the spring. Record snowfall, when the snow recedes, when the ground thaws and when the ground temperature reaches 50 degrees Fahrenheit. All of this information can help you plan next year's garden schedule.

What if you just need to get away from the confines of home?

Take a trip to the library or your local bookstore and make a

beeline to the gardening section. There you'll find volumes of inspiration and instruction that will transport your mind far away from winter's cold and into the garden.

[Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of Vermont's Bennington County Chapter.]

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Hazen Union High School



Electrical Panel and Transformer Replacement

Hazen Union High School is seeking bids from qualified electrical contractors for replacement of electrical panels and transformers in the building. For a complete bid package please visit ossu.org or contact:

Joe Houston, Facilities Director (802) 472-2934 or jhouston@ossu.org

Bids Due: April 7, 2023 1:00 p.m.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Ups and Downs, Ins and Outs, Yin and Yangs

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – January 2023 was a month of Sundays, ending abruptly on the January 29, with a fourth and final Sunday fall on ice underfoot. My friend Bea and I left my house for church that morning, and that was the last time I saw the house till the day after yesterday, when my son drove me home from the rehabilitation center. It looked very good to me.

There was a pile of letters, newspapers, and magazines on my desk awaiting triage. There were several hundred emails on my computer. I tore the month of January off my desk calendar so I could enter my new appointments and obligations, realized I was looking at the month that never was, and tore off another to reveal March. Whoops! I began sorting the mail to look for unpaid bills. Coming back to my normal life was a lot like hopping a moving railroad train. The telephone, which moves much faster than checks in the mail, repaired most of the damage (I think) this morning.

Getting back to my own bed was wonderful. Likewise my kitchen, whence the first Omelette Guillaume issued my first morning home. Likewise my own shower. Lingering in the background is the hope, and “hope” is hardly a strong enough word, that I never again shall have to lie recumbent in a hospital bed contemplating the growing need to pee somehow into a plastic gravy boat without causing an environmental catastrophe.

Ups and downs, ins and outs, yins and yangs, hopes and disappointments, victories and defeats, positives and negatives – take your pick – ran through that whole missing month. When I first graduated from the hospital to the nursing facility, I was essentially an inert, pain-racked sack with limbs that had to be raised, transported, and set back down by an amazing hydraulic transporter. The physical therapist showed up on the second day, transferred me from bed to wheelchair, stood me up (it took two of ‘em) in a walker, and bade me walk. Which I did: eight tiny shuffling feet in the first burst and nine in the next, before collapsing happily into the wheelchair following close behind.

Next day I made 30 feet, and the next, 56. Within a couple of days I was doing the 560-foot circuit of the home’s hollow square. The apparently rapid healing of my cracked pelvis was a great boost to my spirits.

An x-ray of my previously broken elbow (Fall No. 2), however, revealed that its surgical repair had failed. That was not a boost to my spirits; a further procedure was scheduled. This was the point at which a lifetime of collecting cheerful and inspiring aphorisms rallied to my rescue. The surgery cost me a day of recovery time and left me in a rigid cast that hurts like hell if I try to do anything with the hand on that side – which may be the point of it. Just typing, as I’m trying to do right now, is quite painful.

This is not a pity party. The folks at the rehab center needed assurance that I’d have help if I went home. I did, in spades. My son and his wife flew up from Arkansas; Bea drove up from Nahant; and my daughter Martha (who’s spent the past few weeks typing for me) came down from North Montpelier with Kiki, who’d been away from her home as long as I had. We invited the tenant up from downstairs and had a great spaghetti supper. Yep, I had plenty of help. That was definitely a big boost.

Getting back to my own bed was wonderful. Likewise my kitchen, whence the first Omelette Guillaume issued my first morning home. Likewise my own shower. Lingering in the background is the hope, and “hope” is hardly a strong enough word, that I never again shall have to lie recumbent in a hospital bed contemplating the growing need to pee somehow into a plastic gravy boat without causing an environmental catastrophe.

So on we shuffle, my walker Herschel and I, into an unpredictable future whose only certainty is that we must not stumble, teeter, slip, slide, totter, or fall. Kiki is banished from my company anywhere that we must be connected by a leash. A cell phone will now always be in my bedroom, ready to call for help. I will daily credit my late wife’s genius in designing the layout of my single-level life, and my own for installing the entrance ramp (originally for a failing old dog) and so many sturdy grab bars here and there.

I’ve seen one possible future – it was all around me at the nursing home – and as Scrooge says at the prospect of being visited by ghosts, I think I’d rather not. There’s just too much still to look forward to – hosting a trip to France in less than eight weeks, a night at the fabulous Chateau Montebello in Quebec on Canada Day, a weekend in Harpswell, Me. Life certainly has its ups and downs, some more extreme than others, but I don’t know where it’s likely to go better.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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EDITOR
Ray Small

SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS
Dave Morse

PHOTOGRAPHER
Vanessa Fournier

CIRCULATION
Dawn Gustafson

PRODUCTION
Sandy Atkins
Dawn Gustafson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

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

ADVERTISING SALES

Erica Baker

CARTOONIST

Julie Atwood

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MEETING MEMO

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.

Tuesday, March 21

•**Cabot Select Board**, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

•**Craftsbury Select Board**, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

•**Marshfield Select Board**, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.

•**Plainfield Select Board**, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

•**Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors’ Special Informa-**

tional Meeting, 6 p.m., Waterford School Room 13 and remote access is also available.

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Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. waldenvt.gov. waldentc@pivot.net
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Background check, physical exam and drug screen will be required. Please send or deliver your application to the Woodbury Town Office, P.O. Box 10, Woodbury, VT 05681 no later than March 31, although the position may be filled earlier.

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SPORTS

KEN BROWN'S HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Second Straight Dream Dozen Selection for Davison

HARDWICK – Hazen Union star point guard Caitlyn Davison was named to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association (VBCA) Dream Dozen Team for a second consecutive season last week.

Davison was near the top of the list when it came to prolific scorers in the state of Vermont this past winter, averaging over 20 points per game on the season. She averaged over 26 points per game in the last six games of the season, including a career-high 34 points in their quarterfinal win over Oxbow, sending the Lady Cats to the Barre Auditorium for the first time in five years. Davison will undoubtedly become the next 1,000-point career scorer for the Lady Cat program at some point in the regular season in 2024. The Vermont Dream Dozen selections represent the 12 best underclassmen from Division III and IV. Joining Davison on the roster were: Peyton Guay (West Rutland), Sidney Herrington (Arlington), Isabel Greb (Proctor), Destiny Campbell (Williamstown), Addie Cadwell (Thetford Academy), Kyrielle Deuso (Richford), Callie Spaulding (Green Mountain), Sydney Perry and Sophia Rockwood of Windsor, and White River Valley's Tanner Drury and Ashlyn Rhodes.

The VBCA will honor the Dream Dozen Teams, 1,000-point scorers, Coaches of the Year, Hall of Fame inductees, Milestone wins, Outstanding officials, The Tom Finnell Service Award, The Stretch Gillam Scholarship, The Eric Ward Scholarship, The Tristen Southworth Scholarship, Media Award, and VBCA Scholarships this coming Saturday at Champlain Valley Union High School. The VBCA will also host its annual Senior All-Star game on Saturday with the best 120 basketball players from the North and South matching up against each other. The Division 3-4 girls' game will tip-off at 11 a.m., Division 3-4 boys at 1 p.m., Division 1-2 girls at 3 p.m., and Division 1-2 boys at 5 p.m. The day is a celebration of all that is good about Vermont High School



courtesy photo

Top finishers at the N.H.-Vt. Senior Classic at Maple Lanes in Claremont, N.H., were (far left) Head Coach Will Bassett (Brattleboro), (left to right) Josh Kennedy (Fair Haven), Logan Gendron (Randolph), Harry Althoff (S. Burlington), Blake Bliss (Randolph), Will Patnoe (Craftsbury Academy); (first row, left to right) Kelton Major (Brattleboro), Max Ingham (S. Burlington), Parker Banas (S. Burlington), Orion Casavant (Essex), and Tucker Sargent (Brattleboro).

Basketball.

Patnoe Shines at N.H.-Vt. Senior Classic

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Craftsbury Academy (CA) senior Will Patnoe ended his high school bowling career on a high note last week, finishing fourth overall in the season-ending N.H.-Vt. Senior Classic at Maple Lanes.

Patnoe qualified sixteenth overall with scores of 136 and 178 to start his day. He faced fifth-seeded Blake Bliss of Randolph in the first round and caught fire to pull the upset 220-180. Bliss led all bowlers in the state in regular season average. Patnoe would then discard fifteenth seeded Logan Gendron from Randolph 210-169 to advance to the step-ladder finals bracket as the third overall seed. Patnoe's hot streak would come to an end at the hands of the reigning Vermont Individual Champion Josh Kennedy of Fair Haven 193-163. Kennedy would ultimately lose in the Finals to New Hampshire's Cazmir Couble 219-180. New Hampshire also won the team event, besting Vermont four games to two for their fourth straight victory in the series.

CA athletic director and head coach Connor Bean helped the Charger bowling program get off the ground for its inaugural season this past winter and is also the VPA Director of High School Bowling.

Matt Wilcox also claimed Individual State Runner-up honors for the Chargers late last month.

“As a first-year program, we did very well and I think impressed many teams and coaches. We ultimately fell short of our goal, but it was a great season nevertheless. It will be hard to lose valuable seniors Will Patnoe, Joe Wilcox, Verna Stoddard, Dalton Gravel, and Linden Stelma-Leonard, who all made vast improvements throughout the year. We do have a pretty young core and good feeder system in the Misisquoi Lanes Youth League, which makes me believe that we will be competitive for years to come. We will return core starters Matt Wilcox, Jacob Marquis, and Jason Brown next season as well. I have a lot on my plate at CA, but I'm nervous and excited for the opportunity as VPA director and I think with the support of the previous directors as well as the coaches, we can continue my stance on trying to build excitement among athletic directors for the sport in the state. I also look forward to continuing to work with coaches on improvements that need to be made within our system

Patnoe finished as the sixth ranked bowler in the state, set the individual game school record earlier this season, and helped CA to their first tournament win along with four runner-up finishes. Underclassmen

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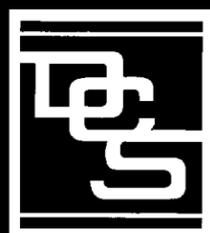
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SPORTS



Division III Championship Game

Hazen Union assistant coaches (from left): Kevin Doyon, Mike Baker, head coach Aaron Hill, assistant coaches Adam Gann, Travis Hill, Letty Hill, water boys Jeter Demers, Kobe Smith and players Liam Jurkiewicz, Khamden Luangrath, Gavin Stratton, Damien Morrison, Sully Laflam, Morgan Michaud, Gabriel Michaud, Ryan Morrison, Brandan Moodie, Xavier Hill, Jadon Baker, Lincoln Michaud and Tyler Rivard lineup for the singing of the National Anthem before the start of the Division III championship game held at the Barre Auditorium against Winooski March 11.



Xavier Hill of Hazen Union looks to pass as he is guarded by Thetford's Hunter Clay during semi-final action at the Barre Auditorium March 9. The Wildcats beat the Panthers 66-43.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Wildcat Gabriel Michaud rushes by a Thetford player Thursday during semi-final play at the Barre Aud.



photos by Vanessa Fournier

Left, Brandan Moodie of Hazen Union sets to pass the ball past Thetford's Dillon Vance during Division III semi-final tournament play March 9 at the Barre Auditorium.

Hazen Union Boys at Division Championship Game



Hazen Union head coach Aaron Hill (center) talks to his team before the final buzzer against Winooski Saturday at the Barre Aud. In the back are (from left): assistant coaches Kevin Doyon, Mike Baker, Travis Hill and Letty Hill.

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union senior Lincoln Michaud heads up the court during championship play against Winooski Saturday at the Barre Aud.



Hazen Union senior Tyler Rivard races past some Winooski players as he heads for the basket. Wildcats Ryan Morrison (left) and Brandan Moodie (right) follow the play.



Hazen Union senior Jadon Baker jumps for the ball ahead of a Winooski player during final action at the Barre Aud. March 11. The Winooski Spartans won 57 to 52.

SKI REPORT

BY ERIC HANSON

Four Craftsbury Skiers at NCAA Championships

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. – Ask any coach at the Craftsbury Ski Club (CSC) about what's important: learning to ski, having fun, living healthy, skiing with friends and family, challenging oneself. Racing and top finishes are not at the top of the list. Skiing is a neat sport in that you do not have to make the varsity squad to participate. There are no try-outs. Everyone skis and progresses at his/her own level. Most of the pressure comes from a few parents who want their kids to finish high-up in the standings.

There have been hundreds of youth skiers who have gone through the CSC programs from the beginner Catamounts to the Eastern Cup racing group. The low-key approach at the junior level likely helps those skiers who advance to more serious competition deal with the pressures that come with that training and racing intensity. Skiing stays more

fun, which often translates into better results and lower burnout rates. Four of these CSC alumni skied at the NCAA Championships this past week: Jack Young (Colby), Finn Sweet (UVM), Quincy Massey-Bierman (Middlebury), and Nina Seeman (Dartmouth). With only 40 men and 40 women in the race, the CSC was well represented. Finn and Jack's best of two races was the 10 km freestyle where they placed 22nd and 29th, respectively. Nina and Quincy's best results were in the 20 km classic mass start race placing 25th and 30th, respectively. Ava Thurston from Waterbury (skiing for Dartmouth) had some of the best eastern skier results placing 7th and 10th in the two races. For both the men's and women's field, the Western and Alaskan skiers filled out most of the top 10 places from schools like Utah, Denver, Colorado, and UA-Fairbanks.

For the four CSC skiers, I bet you will find them back-country skiing or alpinism this next week or two or if they're back in the area, jumping in to help with the CSC Catamount program. They've learned how to keep skiing fun and healthy and will apply these same lessons to all their future endeavors. * Correction: In last week's ski report, I mistakenly reported that Jack Young did not make NCAAs. He was not in the top 13 of the Eastern Collegiate circuit but did qualify due to other circumstances.

Local High Schoolers at Eastern High School Championships

RIPTON – Leo Circosta, Charlie Krebs, Anika Leahy, and Ruth Krebs wrapped up the ski season racing for the Vermont team at the Eastern High School

Championships with teams from New Hampshire, New York, Maine and Massachusetts. Most teams had 24 boys and 24 girls making for a large field of participants with three races over two days. Circosta had three top-10 finishes closing out his year in fine form. He was the second Vermonter in the 7.5 km classic race. Krebs had two 3rds to finish out his senior year of skiing. Leahy's top finish was sixth in the 5km freestyle race where she was the second Vermonter. Anika is only in 10th grade so has two more years to keep getting faster. Ruth placed 18th in the 5 km freestyle and 7.5 km classic races. Sage Grossi (Montpelier) who skis with the CSC won the boys sprint race. Vermont won the team title ahead of New Hampshire and Maine. A unique aspect of this race is that every skier counts in the scoring whether you're in the top 20 or back at 110th.

Nordic Skiing Class Draws 43 Participants

by Helen Beattie, Community Journalist

CRAFTSBURY -- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center's (COC) offer to host a Hardwick Trails group drew larger than anticipated crowds. This past Saturday, 43 participants joined in a morning of Nordic skiing at this world class ski center, just down the road from the Hardwick Trails. Hazen Union teacher Emily Willems volunteered to bus folks up to the center, and then provided a brief introduction of technique to new skiers before sending them off to hone their skills. The COC treated all to a cup of hot cocoa to top off the morning ski, to go along with the bowl of chocolate chip cookies provided by the Trails committee.

Twenty six of those taking part in this event were able to secure equipment loans from the Hazen Union cabin inventory, and the COC generously offered to supplement those offerings. For example, the center helped a family of five with the loan of a pull-along sled for their two-year-old.

The COC has long been an advocate for the Hardwick Trails efforts, assisting in securing equipment each year. Their mission includes making the center accessible to all, and reaching out to the Hardwick Trails to sponsor this event is evidence of this deep commitment.

Given the late start to our season, the



courtesy photo

Forty-three participants joined the Nordic skiing instruction event Saturday at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

overwhelming interest in the loan and lesson program, and new snow cover on its way, the Hardwick Trails committee will staff the cabin this

coming Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., to loan ski and snowshoe equipment for the weekend to interested community members.



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Davison and Lumsden Lead Mountain League Honors

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – The Hazen Union girls’ basketball team put a bow on a spectacular season earlier this month, taking home some of the top hardware in the year end Mountain League honors.

Junior point guard Caitlyn Davison and first-year head coach Randy Lumsden were awarded top honors in the Mountain League after guiding the Lady Cats to a 20-win season and a trip to the Division III Final Four. Davison was stellar for Hazen in her junior campaign, averaging just over 20 points per game on the season and was named Mountain League Player of the Year for her efforts. Davison was also a First Team selection along with her senior back-court mate Alexis Christensen. Christensen broke onto the varsity playoff scene with a career-high 22-point performance as a freshman and has been a double-digit scorer and long-range sniper for the Lady Cats ever since. Joining Davison and Christensen as First Team selections were Jordan Alley and Kyra Nelson (Blue Mountain), Marlie Bushey (Milton), and Richford’s Sierra Derby.

“My ability to get to the rim has improved significantly since last year and throughout the season my shooting from

the arc has improved. Our three seniors were tremendous role models to our underclassmen all season. They helped make everyone better in practice and it showed on the court! Myself, as well as the entire team couldn’t be more grateful and proud to have had them as teammates,” said Davison.

Lumsden, a former Wildcat champion as a player and nearly a 1,000-point career scorer, brought an edge to the program on both sides of the ball in his first year on the sidelines. After a road loss to Enosburg to open their season, his squad reeled off 20 straight wins (including a forfeit) all the way to the Barre Auditorium. The Lady Cats also won the Mountain League regular season title and he was named Coach of the Year. Outstanding Freshman Rookie of the Year went to Milton’s Marlie Bushey, Defensive Team of the Year went to Blue Mountain, and BFA-Fairfax, Milton, and Stowe were honored for team sportsmanship.

“We had a phenomenal year. The work ethic and dedication this team had was immeasurable. The three seniors we are losing will not be easy to replace, but we have an extremely talented group coming in that will add speed and agility to accompany Caitlyn, Tessa, Sarah Collier, and Sadie Skorstad,” said Lumsden.

Craftsbury Academy senior Ellas Gillespie was a key cog in the starting lineup for Hazen Union this past season and led the Second Team selections for her efforts. Joining her on the Second Team were: Laci Potter (Danville), Destiny Campbell (Williamstown), Kyrielle Deuso (Richford), Emma Korrow (Northfield), Parker Reeves (Stowe), Maeli Rutherford (Milton), Felicity Sulham (Blue Mountain), BFA-Fairfax’s Forest Skillman and Anna Villeneuve.

Junior Tessa Luther and senior teammate Haley Michaud led Third Team selections for the Lady Cats. Luther’s improvement as a long-range shooter made her a mainstay in the starting lineup all season and Michaud did all the dirty work inside for a team that lacked size. Earlier this year, Michaud was also recognized as a Vermont Presidential Scholar in the Career Technical Education category. Twinfield-Cabot senior Kendall Fowler was an Honorable Mention after a challenging season for the Lady Trojans that saw four of their five starters go down with season-ending injuries. Teammate Jorja Washburn was also honored as a selection, having led Twinfield-Cabot in scoring before going down with one of those injuries.

Local Athletes Lead Boys Dream Dozen Roster

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Twinfield-Cabot’s Tej Stewart and Hazen Union’s Xavier Hill and Brendan Moodie were selected to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association (VBCA) Dream Dozen Team last week for their outstanding play on the hardwood this past season.

Stewart broke onto the varsity scene in a big way for head coach Chris Hudson in their season opener, dropping 30 points to beat Proctor on the road and leading their young team to the Bob Abrahamson Tip-off Classic title. The freshman two-way guard led the Trojans in scoring on the season as they navigated their way through the gauntlet of the Mountain League with double-digit wins. Hudson had six other freshmen on the roster this winter, but still won a playoff game before bowing out in the quarterfinal round. The future looks bright in Marshfield for several winters to come and Stewart is leading the way.

“Tej is just a freshman, but can already shoot, rebound, and handle the ball really well in high pressure situations. We asked a lot of these fourteen- and fifteen-year-old kids this season at the varsity level, but I’m proud of what they accomplished in an extremely tough league. If they continue to put

the work in this summer, they are only going to come back next season more physical and complete basketball players,” said Hudson earlier this season.

Junior point guard Xavier Hill earned his second straight Dream Dozen selection and sophomore Brendan Moodie also made the roster as the backcourt mates helped lead the Wildcats to the

Division III state title game this season. Hill has not only orchestrated Hazen’s offense the last two years, but also is asked to rebound and defend with his size and wingspan. His career-high 24 points against White River Valley in the quarterfinal round, helped the Wildcats advance to the Barre Auditorium for the fifth time in six years. He also led the Wildcats with a game-high 19 points in the title game versus undefeated Winooski. Moodie transferred from Peoples Academy over the summer and was an instant install into head coach Aaron Hill’s starting lineup. His ability to shoot and handle the ball helped space the floor for senior big man Tyler Rivard. Moodie combined for 50 points and fourteen three-pointers in his first two playoff games in a Hazen Union uniform, including a sophomore record 33 against White River Valley. Hill is losing a lot of muscle next season with the graduation of Rivard, but is

excited to watch what his talented backcourt develops into next season.

“Xavier and Brendan were just awesome for us throughout the playoffs this year. Brendan has been to most of our camps since he was a kid, so our guys know him and he fit in right away. He is smooth and spaces the defense with his shooting and we got a glimpse of what these two are capable of doing the past two weeks and I’m excited to watch them develop next season,” said Hill over the weekend.

Joining Stewart, Hill, and Moodie on the Division III and

IV Dream Dozen roster as the twelve best underclassmen in the state were: Andrew Joncas (Danville), Carter Crossman (Proctor), Brayden Russ (WRV), Jack Dickerson (Long Trail), Abel Goodwin (MVCS), Colby Dearborn (Bellows Falls), Ethan Davignon (Randolph), Jerrick Jacobs (Richford), and Boone Fahey (Thetford Academy).

The VBCA will honor Dream Dozen selections along with several other achievements in high school basketball this Saturday at Senior All-Star Weekend at Champlain Valley Union High School.

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courtesy photo

Jackson Strong of the Green Knights of Rice Memorial in Burlington has strong ties to local athletes.



courtesy photo

Jackson Strong, skating for Rice Memorial in Burlington, was named Division I Player of the Year.

Strong's Green Knights Fall to Essex in Title Game

by Ken Brown

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Essex shut down top-seeded Rice last week to claim their second consecutive Division I boy's hockey state championship at Gutterson Fieldhouse.

Jackson Strong and the Green Knights split the regular season series with the Hornets, but a power play goal and an empty netter late was the difference in the title game for Essex as they prevailed 2-0 last Wednesday. Rice handed Essex their last loss on February 11, but the Hornets ran the table all the way to Gutterson for their fourth

state championship in six years. Strong is the son of Hazen Union alum Jeff Strong, who was a standout baseball player for the Wildcats and went on to play four more years for Lyndon State College as their starting catcher. He is also the grandson of legendary Hazen coach Jack Strong, who led the Wildcats to their last state championship in baseball in 1982 and was head coach of the 1990 Vermont Twin State team. He also led the varsity girls' soccer program to three straight state title matches from 1988-1990.

Jackson Strong was a standout soccer player for Rice this past fall as he was named to the Vermont

All-State team. He led the Green Knights to 14 wins on the ice this winter and was named the Division I Player of the Year by the coaches for his stellar season. The senior defenseman led all of Division I at his position with five goals and five assists on the season. He led his team in ice time and was one of the top players on the Green Knights in plus/minus. His head coach Jerry Tarrant had nothing but glowing reviews for his senior leader.

"It has been an absolute pleasure coaching Jack over the last four years. That kid is a leader and a warrior. He has a tremendous attitude, work ethic, and he will be

sorely missed. It is kids like Jack on the team that makes it hard to not come away with the championship as they most definitely deserved it. As a coach you could not ask more of a player. He was a leader on and off the ice for us, always willing to do whatever was asked of him to make the team better. It was obvious to most that he controlled the game for us when he was on the ice and the other teams focused on that. Jack understood this and still was one of the best players on the ice night in and night out. His parents should be very proud of this boy, he will do great things," said Tarrant.

Caron and the Long Game to a Flying Tiger Championship

BARRE — Sam Caron has been a far cry from the top throughout his career but through pure perseverance climbed the heap to become the 2022 Flying Tiger Champion.

Sam Caron was in the world of stock car racing from the very beginning. The Caron family name has been synonymous with racing in Vermont and New Hampshire since the 1970s. Uncle Larry Caron was a two-time Catamount Stadium champion and the 1984 Thunder Road King of the Road who also took down a couple NASCAR Busch North Series wins in his career while Sam's father Dennis and Uncles Gary and Richard also successfully dabbled in Flying Tiger and Street Stock racing at Catamount and Thunder Road. While Larry might have led the family by way of championships, Gary was no slouch either, nearly taking the 1995 American-Canadian Tour

championship but missing out by a mere three points to Williamstown's Lance Ferno.

With help from his father Dennis, Sam joined the family hobby in 1997 by jumping headlong into the Thunder Road Late Model division while attempting several American-Canadian Tour events. Unfortunately for Sam, his introduction to stock car racing was less than impressive and for the better part of a decade he failed to win a Late Model event at Thunder Road or on the ACT Tour before finally hanging up the helmet in 2012.

Getting the bug once again, Sam Caron returned to Thunder Road in 2018, this time piloting a Flying Tiger. Starting off lack-lustre, Sam turned it all around on June 27, 2019, by taking his first career win at Thunder Road before stealing two more in 2020, including the Flying Tiger

Mini Milk Bowl. Although winless in 2021, Sam bounced back in 2022 to finish with one win, six top-five and 11 top-10 finishes to claim the Flying Tiger track championship ahead of Justin Prescott and Derrick Calkins. Once again for the first time in decades, the Caron's Auto Body machine was on top at Thunder Road International Speedbowl as the pride of Chittenden County.

Sam Caron is prepared to defend the Flying Tiger championship with his Monte Carlo starting on Sunday, May 7, with the 25th Community Bank N.A. 150. The epic opening weekend will feature the Pro All Stars Series Super Late Models, PASS Modifieds and R&R Race Parts NH V-8 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.

Climb to Throne for Late Model King of Road Pelkey

BARRE – The 63rd season of stock car racing at Thunder Road International Speedbowl was one for the record books. Christopher Pelkey is not only the youngest of Thunder Road's 2022 champions, but he also joined an elite group that have claimed both the King of the Road track title and the win in the Toughest Short Track Stock Car Race in North America in the same season.

Christopher Pelkey started out his racing career like many other Northern New England standouts have, behind the wheel of a Kid's Truck at White Mountain Motorsports Park. After visiting victory lane several times in his rough and tough Ford Ranger, Pelkey jumped up to the Flying Tiger ranks at Thunder Road just in time for the track's 50th anniversary when he was turning 16 back in 2009. Although right out of the gate might not have been the results he was looking for, the Pelkey team began to build on experience and grow confidence needed to chase wins at The Road.

Pelkey's first win would come on June 21, 2012, interestingly enough the same Thursday that fellow 2022 champion Dean Switzer Jr. also collected his first Thunder Road gold. It would take five more wins over four more years for Pelkey to finally break into the top-10 in final Flying Tiger points, earning a strong fifth-place run in 2015 before bringing the team up the ladder to the Late Models in 2016.

In his first season, Pelkey was able to secure the Rookie of the Year title before taking his first Late Model win on August 3, 2017, atop of the newly paved highbanks. His consistency grew to a strong sixth-place point run in 2018 before coming within 15 points of Jason Corliss to take the home runner-up spot in 2021. Even without Corliss running weekly last season, Pelkey and his family team were in the hot seat week in and week out as fellow perennial title chasers Stephen Donahue, Scott Dragon, Kyle Pembroke and Marcel Gravel poured the pressure on. The stoic Pelkey never let the pressure overpower his talent on the track.

In the final event of the season, Pelkey pulled off the King of the Road battle over Pembroke by a mere five-point margin to secure his first championship at Thunder Road. In a rare show of emotion, Pelkey was elated in victory lane surrounded by the family that had stepped up and stepped in to support his journey to the



photo by Alan Ward

After climbing the ladder at Thunder Road, hometown boy Christopher Pelkey was finally able to secure his first championship as King of the Road in 2022.



photo by Alan Ward

By winning the Vermont Milk Bowl, Pelkey joins an elite list of stars who were able to take the Toughest Short Track Stock Car Race in North America and the Thunder Road King of the Road track title in the same season.

top.

As if completing a perfect group of all new champions at Thunder Road wasn't enough for Pelkey, he stepped into the ring for the 60th Vermont Milk Bowl in October. The most prestigious event of the year for all Thunder

Road divisions, the iconic Vermont Milk Bowl is yearly the final show of strength for the top dogs. Pelkey stunned the crowd by stealing away the fast lap time of 12.283-seconds on Qualifying Day, the \$1,000 prize and the pole starting position for

Sunday. The 60th Vermont Milk Bowl was its usual whirlwind, but after winning the first segment and patiently making his way up through the following two segments, Pelkey was able to claim the win and kiss the cow.

The perfect end to a perfect season, in doing so, Christopher Pelkey joined an elite list that includes the likes of open-wheeled Coupe drivers Lee Ingerson and Harold "Hardluck" Hanaford, Flying Tiger ace Larry Demar, 1970s powerhouses "Dynamite" Dave Dion and Stub Fadden and contemporary Late Model heroes Brian Hoar, Cris Michaud and Jason Corliss as just the ninth driver to take the King of the Road honors and the Vermont Milk Bowl in the same season.

Pelkey has stated his Chevy SS is ready to defend his 2022 King of the Road title in 2023. While he admits that he's hopeful for a second consecutive championship, he's really looking to get his name etched in a couple more slabs of granite on Quarry Hill.



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