You can take this job and...
by Rachel Siegel

Going Irish in March with lamb and Guinness stew

Risks & Repercussions
A series exploring our region’s role in the Underground Railroad...Pg.12

The Sweet Taste of Success
Danville Teen’s Business Gets a Boost From UVM Extension Program

15-year-old Greg Moore in front of his sugarhouse in North Danville.
Direct democratic rule

Town Meeting day is upon us again. An annual gathering of voters to hold elections and decide on budgets and appropriations. Centuries old, this custom is an example of direct democratic rule.

“When, in some obscure country town, the farmers come together to a special town-meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land, that, I think, is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States,” said Henry David Thoreau in a 1854 speech entitled “Slavery in Massachusetts.”

Many towns in our coverage area have important issues to discuss next Tuesday. Here in Danville, voters will likely want to hear our friends and neighbors on Tuesday, March 4.

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Danville Teen’s Business Gets A Boost From UVM Extension Program

Greg Moore knows what he knows and knows what he doesn’t know. What he knows is maple sugaring. What he doesn’t know is business. Through a University of Vermont Extension program, however, his business skills are getting a jump start, but Greg already has an advantage on the next generation of competition because he’s still only 15 years old.

“I’ve been sugaring for seven years,” he said. “I started when I was eight with just a pot and 10 taps. I loved it, and I don’t think I’m ever going to stop. I have quite a passion for it.”

Greg doesn’t seem to be aware of how amazing it is for someone his age to already have so much hands-on experience making maple syrup, and if he is, he doesn’t show it. He already carries himself with the swagger of a tried-and-true Vermonter, someone whose been that’, done that.

Homeschooled and in 10th grade, Greg lives in a cozy log cabin in a quiet neck of the woods in North Danville with his father Tom and mother Vicki. Tom works in construction for S.D. Ireland. Vicki is a sales representative for The North Star Monthly. The Moores exude that quintessential Vermont country living, complete with their family dog, two cats, chickens, and about 10 acres of wooded property.

Greg said there aren’t many trees on their land to tap, but they have some generous neighbors, Shaun Somers and Chip Langmaid, who let him sugar on their land.

“Last year I had about 250 taps, and I hope to do about 300 this year,” Greg said.

Greg balances his schoolwork and his blooming maple sugar business quite well. A typical day finds him up early and hitting the books for a couple hours before heading out into the woods to begin sugaring—be it setting up his lines, tapping trees, or, when spring arrives, boiling sap.

“When sugaring time does come we let that take top priority,” Vicki said. “But we push the school work pretty hard before that time to make sure he gets it all done.”

Still, it’s not uncommon to find Greg doing his schoolwork as he boils, out in the sugarhouse that his

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Greg started humbly at the age of eight. Now, with the help of a University of Vermont Extension program, he is looking to take his sugaring business to the next level.

"I never would’ve been able to get it all going if not for them,” he said.

As part of the next generation of sugar makers, Greg said one of the biggest challenges is knowing what new equipment is worth investing in. Money is scarce for him at the moment, and he is still learning about the more professional aspects of the business, but he said he’s trying hard to make wise investments.

Greg has received a helping hand from a University of Vermont Extension program called IDA (Individual Development Account). It is, essentially, a savings account, except money in an IDA is matched with program dollars at a rate of 2:1. With a $500 ceiling participants could potentially earn $1,500 to be used for a business asset purchase.

Greg’s one year is up in April. He said he has $1,500 in his IDA and plans to put it toward the purchase of a truck.

During the year-long program, participants get structured financial literacy training, business management coaching, mentoring from farm business management specialists and established farmers, all with the aim of helping them develop a business plan.

"The IDA program has taught me business management," Greg said, "and how to run my business as economically as possible. A truck will run my business as economically as possible. A truck will make me able to buy syrup from local retailers and help me distribute my maple syrup as quickly as possible. A truck will make it toward the purchase of a new bucket. I can use the money I put in my IDA and plans to put it toward the purchase of a truck.

For more info on all the fun call Vanna or Barb at 748-8470 or e-mail goodliving@vtlink.net

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Sanctioned Bridge – Every 1st and 2nd Wednesday 12:30pm – Luncheon Available
Wil Bowling – Every 2nd and 4th Thursday 1:00pm
Poetry Tea Party – Every 2nd Tuesday 2:00pm
Third Thursday Movie – A movie will be shown in the comfort of the Senior Center every 3rd Thursday at 1:00pm
Memoir Writing Group – Every Last Tuesday 1:30pm
Art Class with Ed Kadunc – Every 1st & 4th Wednesday 1:00pm

For more info or to sign up to the next level.

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