



The family hung Season's Greetings barbers were in the busy and cold in Harwick. (Image following the first appropriate view of the year.)

Wind-Damaged Plainfield May Get Assistance

by Will Walters

PLAINFIELD — The October wind storm hit Plainfield harder than some of the surrounding towns. Two of the more serious situations were the closing of Route 2 for hours from fallen trees at the pull-off on Route 2 across from Goddard College and the closing of Country Club Road for a few days. Road Commissioner Brian Towbin said approximately \$10,000 in damage was done that the town will pay for, and that upwards of \$100,000 in damage was done over.

New Holding Company Buys Big Yellow Barn

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — The "Big Yellow Barn" and previous site at Greensboro Garage has long been a landmark for motorists coming into town on Route 14 at the southwest corner of Harwick Lake. It has a storied history, with its latest chapter being its sale to a holding company called 1781 Group LLC. "We closed on it last Tuesday the 21st, so we sold the property in

all. The town's expense comes from the time spent by the fire department, road crew and expenses such as gasoline used during cleanup operations. He said there was a lot of tree damage, but no damage to the road.

Select board member Ross Shevly commented on the excellent cleanup work by the fire and road crew workers. Pictures of the storm damage can be seen at plainfieldhazard.com.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can give the town a grant.

See DAMAGED, 4



The Dollar General on Rte. 14 South was issued two training violations from the Vermont Department of Labor.

Dollar General Fails Alcohol, Tobacco Compliance Checks

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — For the second time in as many months, the Dollar General store on Route 14 has run into problems with the Vermont Department of Labor Control (DLC) Enforcement's spot checks for compliance. In both instances, the DLC cited failure to comply with training. "Clerks weren't properly trained," says DLC Investigator Jerry Cote. "Employees had been trained, but

we issued a one-day suspension." The DLC's process involves a discovery visit to see if there are any violations before they set. The first violation Cote describes took place in October. An employee was not properly trained to sell tobacco. The second and most recent problem found training violations in both alcohol and tobacco sales. Cote declined to elaborate on either infraction. For the first violation, the store could not sell tobacco on the 24th of November, according to the DLC.

The most recent violation will result in a prohibition on both alcohol and tobacco sales on the 9th of December. The DLC's compliance inspections are carried out without warning, according to Cote. Dollar General manager Dennis Austin, who assumed his position in August after managing another store in Williamstown, characterized both instances as the result of paperwork being misplaced and miscommunication. **See COMPLIANCE, 4**

Marshfield Select Board Dogged by Owner's Ongoing Compliance Issues

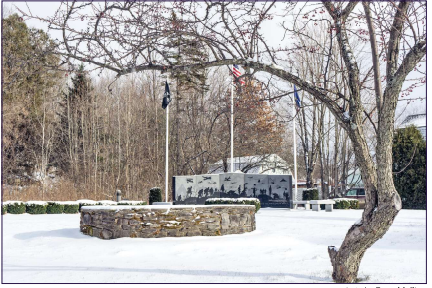
by Will Walters

MARSHFIELD — Vivian Davis accepted the select board's invitation to meet with members on November 21. She and the board discussed the fence at her house and the status of her dogs. Chair Chris Martin said "we had some concerns with the fence you erected," noting it was not a metal

fence and it did not surround the property. The fence was a plastic one, and it only ran across the front yard. Davis said she did not think it had to go around the property. The fence was required by the board in a protective order issued to Davis because of dog bites to passersby on the public road. One bite was to the lower leg of a small girl; she needed medical attention

because it. Complainant against her dogs coming onto the road have been received by the board for over five years. Davis said the plastic fence was strong enough that a tree has fallen on it and is still holding up the tree. Martin said it only goes across the driveway, so dogs can come onto the road.

See DOGGED, 3



Shaw covers the Veterans Memorial Hall in Harwick. The Harwick American Legion is planning the way to include some members who served after September 11, 2001.

Walgreens Purchases 1,900 Rite Aid Stores; Changes Likely at Harwick Location

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — Walgreens recently acquired 1,902 of Rite Aid stores, the \$4.875 billion. Stores throughout the Northeast, King's and Vermont are beginning the process of making the switch in name and appearance. As many as 600 Rite Aid locations acquired by Walgreens will close nationwide,

according to company press releases, primarily those in close proximity to another Rite Aid, or an existing Walgreens. Officially, it has not yet been announced which stores are going to changeover, as Rite Aid will still

function to a significant capacity. "We will be a little bit smaller, with about 2,500 remaining Rite Aid stores," Rite Aid public relations person Ashley Flower said. But according to a liquor license application by Walgreens, approved by the Harwick Select Board earlier this month, it appears that the Harwick location will remain the changerover.

The store locations involved in the transition are still being confirmed. **See RITE AID, 3**

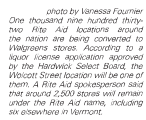


Photo by Vanessa Fournier

One thousand three hundred thirty-two Rite Aid locations around the nation are being converted to Walgreens stores. According to a liquor license application approved by the Harwick Select Board, the Harwick Store location will be one of them. A Rite Aid spokesperson said over 2,500 stores will remain under the Rite Aid name, including six elsewhere in Vermont.

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FCC Proposes End to 'Open Internet' Rules — What It May Mean For You

by Doug McClure

WASHINGTON, DC — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a draft order on the 22nd of November entitled "Restoring Internet Freedom" in which proposed ending net neutrality rules that the Obama-era FCC established in 2010. If, as expected, the FCC adopts the draft at its next meeting on December 14, it will be a seismic shift in the government's approach to the internet.

The most basic definition of net neutrality is that a provider of internet services must treat all traffic equally; the new order would change that to allow internet service providers to slow down, block, or charge extra to websites selected.

The proposed order would reverse the 2015 FCC rules which re-classified broadband access as a "common carrier," allowing the FCC to regulate providers and ensure that they treated internet traffic equally. The 2015 rules relied on Title II of the 1934 Communications Act's definition of "common carrier."

The new order would change the definition of internet service provision to an "information service," which would take most of the regulatory authority away from the FCC. Proponents of net neutrality such as Google, Twitter, and Amazon argue that ending net neutrality could mean that more than three large bandwidth users, such as Netflix, to pay a premium to ensure that their content moves at the same speed as programming offered by a competing service.

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Supporters of the FCC's previous rules argue that net neutrality is in fact fairer to be charged more for certain types of content, that according to providers like

In Sports
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New Girls' Head Coach At Hazen

AT&T, Comcast and Verizon, the net neutrality rules have "allowed, if not halted, the development and deployment of innovative new applications and characteristics of those critical net neutrality rules as heinous 'bureaucratic prohibitions of innovation.'"

Comcast asserted they do not have any plans to take such measures, tweeting "We do not and will not block, throttle, or discriminate against lawful content. We will continue to make sure that our policies are clear and transparent for our customers, and we will not change our commitment to those principles."

Consolidated Communications, the new owner of FCC, has apparently not issued a statement either way. Verizon has asked the FCC to take measures to block any state net neutrality rules that might be passed, and the FCC has included language in its draft that does just that, preventing any local or state law that uses common protection or other justifications to enforce net neutrality.