

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Volume 132 Number 50

Omicron Variant Found in Lamoille County

by Doug McClure

MONTPELIER – On Saturday, the Vermont Department of Health (DOH) said in a release that the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant in Vermont was detected by genetic sequencing. The news came a day after Burlington officials said a small amount of the variant was detected in the city's wastewater. While Burlington is nearly fifty miles away

from Hardwick, the confirmed result was in “a Lamoille County resident in their 30's,” which is much closer to home.

The individual was vaccinated, the state said, and was “experiencing mild symptoms,” which has been the norm thus far in vaccinated people affected by Omicron.

Omicron has far more mutations than Delta, which is problematic since those can impact the effectiveness of vaccines. Thus far,

Moderna and Pfizer have said that their studies have shown people who are fully vaccinated with boosters have far more protection than those without boosters. Both Moderna and Pfizer are working to come up with boosters that specifically target the Omicron variant.

Since the variant is still new, much is not yet known except it seems to spread far more rapidly than the Delta variant. The outgoing

See **OMICRON, 4**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Walden Winter Program was held for grades pre-K to 8th on December 16. Members of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades played ukuleles. Pictured (from left) are Julian Boyd, Kole Curschman, Gracie Stratton, Sophie Curschman, Abigail Badore, Samuel Bittner and Brooklyn Maxfield.

Technology, Budgets Discussed

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its December 15 meeting, the select board heard from the road crew about its budget request and made another pass at the overall draft budget.

A petition was sent to the board that read “We, the undersign [sic] voters of Wolcott, Vermont, petition the select board to call a special meeting to vote on the following article: Shall Wolcott vote on town officers by Australian ballot?”

See **BUDGETS, 2**

Prejudice, Budgets, Cats and Dogs on the Agenda

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The topics of discussion were wide-ranging at the December 16 select board meeting. After a slight controversy over whether to enact a mask mandate at the last meeting, the entire board wore masks, as did most of the town administrative staff present.

The board learned of business owner

See **PREJUDICE, 3**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Mr. and Mrs. Claus (aka Donny and Doreen Cote) greet Kylie, 8, and her brother Andruw, 4, children of Hollie and Jamon Smith of Hardwick on December 14 in front of their house on Wakefield St. in Hardwick.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Jeudevine Memorial Youth Librarian Diane Grenkow stands behind the donations of mittens, hats and scarves that were brought to the library for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFF). These donations will be included with the holiday food boxes. Other donation boxes were located at Front Seat Coffee, Greensboro Free Library, HAFF and the HAFF's Craftsbury and Albany satellite sites.

FAQs: How do I organize Gazette coverage for my town?

Q: I want to support the Gazette's citizen journalism initiative, but doing that on my own seems overwhelming. How do I get other people involved?

A: Organize a meeting for people who might be interested in helping out. The efforts in Greensboro and Craftsbury got off the ground with two meetings, both supported by the editor of the Gazette: a general informational meeting and, later, a “Journalism 101” meeting to cover the basics of writing news stories. Wiz Dow, the president of the Hardwick Historical Society, is already at work organizing a Hardwick meeting for January. It's not too early to start thinking about organizing one for your town. The Gazette staff will be happy to answer any questions on this topic and send the editor along to help out with your meetings.

Q: What are the mechanics of coordinating my town's coverage?

A: There is no single way to organize a town's coverage, but there are lessons that might be gleaned from the efforts in Greensboro and Craftsbury. First, it helps to have a person (or persons) who are explicitly responsible for coordinating coverage. The objective is to plan the dates on which articles are submitted to avoid having zero articles some weeks and tons of articles on other weeks. Second, automate and sharing the planning. A shared spreadsheet on Google Drive, for example, will allow anyone to see who is doing what and for which week. Google Drive is just one example; there are other online tools that can get the job done.

Q: What if we don't have enough articles when we start off?

A: For most of the towns the Gazette

covers, we only need one article per week to start so, hopefully, this won't be a problem. On the other hand, it may take a little time for enough people to get comfortable with the process. If you're struggling to build up the number of community correspondents, get in touch with the Gazette. We'll see what we can do to support your efforts.

Q: What if we get too many articles?

A: That would be a terrific problem to have. If the Gazette staff does not have the capacity to process (edit, format, publish) articles, we can look at bumping the least time-sensitive articles to the following week. Since the Gazette is digital-only at the moment, staff capacity is the only limiting factor: We can run as many articles and photos as we can prepare because we don't have to factor in printing costs.

Contents

Police Report 3
 Town Hall on Climate Change Counted 200 Participants..... 5
 Greensboro Fire Department Puts Out Ice Instead of Fire..... 6
 Winners of Holiday Light Display (photos) 7
 Gazette's Community Journalism FAQs..... 8
 Our Communities..... 10
 This Week's Events 11
 Scottish Music Group to Perform Jan. 22 at HCA..... 11
 Highland Center to Exhibit Student Wildlife Art 12
 In the Garden: Winter Plantings 13
 Yankee Notebook: It Follows Me Through the Park 14
 Another Opinion: Vermont's Forest Economy Under Threat 15
 Letters from Readers 15
 Young Lady Cats Show Fight in Pair of Tough Battles 17
 Experienced Richford Handles Lady Trojans at Home..... 17
 Ski Report..... 18
 Richford Spoils Craftsbury Girls Home Opener..... 18
 Wildcats Claim Third Straight Dave Morse Classic 19
 Chargers Hold off Saints for First Win of the Season..... 20
 Winooski Pummels Shorthanded Trojans..... 20
 Sports Calendar 20



courtesy photo

The staff of Paul Davis Restoration of Hardwick, (left to right) Julia Melanson, Patti Williams, and Paula Lawrence, donated 57 holiday bags to area elders through the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Not pictured is Ken Williams, who, along with Janney Johnson of Greensboro, helps coordinate the recipients and distribute the bags throughout the Hardwick and Greensboro areas.

Budgets

Continued From Page One

The board discussed the petition. One resident said it was "highly inconsiderate" for people to even expect town meeting to be held, given the Omicron variant's appearance in Vermont and it would be "really irresponsible to have a town meeting." The board was not ready to make a decision about moving the date for town meeting if the legislature allows it. A secondary problem is that, with COVID surging and a new variant in the mix, the school might not allow the meeting to take place there. A new location might need to be found, which might incur extra costs.

One budget-related topic was vice chair Kurt Klein's suggestion of creating a new category for Information Technology (IT). He said that it would be a more detailed accounting of the town's IT expenses and allow better control of those expenses, even though the majority of what changed was just moving items that were spread amongst other departments' budgets. Some aspects of the IT budget might be paid for with the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, though that is not yet in the draft budget, including \$10,495 for a scanner to begin putting property documents online, \$8,000 for website development, and \$1,000 for scanner supplies. Klein said it was "really a step in the right direction" to put town services online. Technology consultant Dolan Patrick recommended the town purchase a dedicated computer for its meetings and sign up for Starlink's satellite internet service to support those meetings. He also suggested the town create a YouTube channel for hosting videos of board meetings, which could allow live streaming. Another related topic was addressing the website's numerous

issues in the short-term, which was estimated to cost \$1,500 just to get it working properly and updated. A Phase Two plan would include adding a feature so that residents could pay for town bills online with credit cards.

The highway department was asked about its budget and road foreman Dillon Cafferky indicated that the proposed budget was "roughly the same" as the previous year's. Voters will be asked to decide on creating a capital fund for the highway department.

The transfer station budget was slated to be discussed, but board member Richard Lee, who handles that budget, was ill. The board wanted the public to be aware that the transfer station would be closed on December 25 and January 1.

One budget item that had been discussed in meetings since town administrator Randall Szott tendered his resignation was what to do with that position. The board is now envisioning the position as more of a project manager, who would do what the town administrator did and more, with a \$35,000 budgeted salary. Chair Linda Martin described it as a person to "fill the holes" that had appeared since Szott's departure. Board member Kurt Billings warned the board that the person had to be familiar with IT. Martin said that was an obvious requirement, and Klein said it was more important that the individual had some experience with municipal government and good attention to detail.

Twenty percent of Wolcott's budget goes to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) and the town is entering its third year of a three-year contract facing a three percent increase. Klein suggested the town survey residents to get a better idea of what their expectations were for law enforcement in Wolcott.



December 22 - December 28

Meat Dept. Shurfine Roast Beef - \$9.99 lb. Smithfield Seasoned Pork Tenderloin - \$7.29 ea.		20% Off Work Gloves Kinco & Carhartt Dec. 22 - 28 while in stock
G.M. Chex Cereal 2/\$6 12-14 oz.	Wide Awake Ground or K-Cup Coffee \$3.99 11-12 oz. or 10 ct.	Raos Pasta Sauce \$4.99 24 oz.
College Inn Broths 2/\$4 32 oz.	Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$3.99 15-30 oz.	Vlasic Pickles 2/\$4 16-24 oz.
Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter 2/\$5 16 oz.	Betty Crocker Cookie Mix 2/\$4 17.5 oz.	Tate Cookies \$3.99 7 oz.
Blue Diamond Nut Thins 2/\$5 4.25 oz.	Nabisco Family Size Oreos 2/\$6 17-20 oz.	Nestles Baking Morsels 2/\$5 10-12 oz.
Rana Ref. Pasta \$3.99 10 oz.	Vanity Fair Napkins 2/\$4 40-100 ct.	Pillsbury Ready Pie Crust 2/\$6 14.1 oz.
Chobani Greek Yogurt 5/\$5 5.3 oz.	Hood Ice Cream 2/\$5 48 oz.	American Flatbread Pizza \$6.99 13.8-16.8 oz.
California Peelz Clementines \$4.99 3 lb.	Imported Peruvian Blueberries 2/\$5 pt.	Del Monte Gold Pineapples 2/\$5

The Willey's Store Since 1900 Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

True Value HARDWARE

- Full-service grocery & hardware • Clothing
- Housewares • Hunting & Fishing • Coffee Bar
- Beer & Wine • Toys • Gifts

"If we don't have it, then you probably don't need it."

Prejudice

Continued From Page One

Grace Johnstone and vice-chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane's successful effort to create a Wi-Fi hotspot in East Hardwick with a grant through IT Disaster Resource Center. The hotspot is by the old schoolhouse and is free to use, with a range about seventy yards/meters from the building.

The public safety building is getting new fiber internet through Consolidated Communications. Beyond improving the service to the

building, which is high priority since it is the town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the fiber internet will cut costs and allow the department to change to the rest of the town's phone provider, saving approximately \$2,500.

Chair Eric Remick said that the hybrid board meetings that have proven challenging to effectively carry out might benefit from using the conference room in the public safety building with that upgrade.

The police department is investigating buying an electronic

fingerprint machine. Currently, electronic fingerprinting is only available in St. Johnsbury and at the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office.

Police Chief Aaron Cochran wanted to warn the public about email scams which now include fake emails that appear to be sent from hardwickpolice.com. He advised the public not to open attachments or click links in those emails and said there had been no reported compromise of data. Chief Cochran said that the scam is global, but in Vermont seems to be particularly impacting law enforcement.

Galloway-Kane is chair of the Hardwick Equity Committee, and she said the committee had conferred with the Community Allies regarding the recent incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti and slurs involving resident Jessica Gasper. The two groups wanted to enter into the select board record a specific statement regarding anti-Semitism which mirrors the town's own equity resolution. It reads "The Town of Hardwick select board stands by our Jewish community. Due to a recent publicized use of anti-Semitic slurs, we are taking this moment to re-affirm our commitment to the Hardwick Equity Resolution. The select board wants to point out that using hate-related speech and prejudicial slurs transitions a personal conflict into an attack on an individual and ultimately a whole community. Prejudicial slurs are used to remind people about violence their group has experienced in the past and are a veiled threat of future violence. The select board condemns anti-Semitism and recognized the important contributions Jewish community members make to our town. Moving forward, the Hardwick community condemns any forms of bigotry or hate to any of our community groups."

With town meeting around the corner, the board discussed the budget. Before overall budget discussions, Rachel Kane of the conservation commission came before the board with a "modest request" to increase the commission's budget to \$1,500. The commission has \$1,300 in the bank and has its eye on hiring someone to produce a natural resource inventory. Town Manager David Upson said that such an inventory could prove very important to the town's climate resilience and might also fold in addressing climate change, and grants might be available for that. The cost of the inventory is estimated at \$15,000 - \$20,000 and the commission is hoping by increasing its budget for a few years there would be enough for matching funds for a grant. Chair Eric Remick said that grants might cover as much as 80% of the cost. Another avenue suggested by business manager Casey Rowell was the possibility that some of the town's current use revenue could be directed to the inventory.

In what Remick called a "bitter pill to swallow" the revenues are

expected to be down for FY2023 by \$206,680, largely due to revenue lost from the Greensboro policing contract and the COPS grant winding down. Rowell had gone through the entire budget in looked back several years to try and align the figures with historical actuals.

A subject of discussion was the capital expenses for buildings. The discussion was largely around spelling out exactly what was going to be done to which building and when. Upson suggested that the town go building by building starting with next year's budget and creating a maintenance operations plan. The goal would be to eventually avoid sending bonds up for a vote in the future. The Memorial Building has a more immediate need, with a broken sprinkler system that will cost \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The recreation committee had requested a larger increase than the draft contained. Galloway-Kane is on that committee and said part of that is because the previous coordinator did not charge for their actual hours, and the committee wants to properly fund the recreation coordinator position for five hours a week. The proposal was to re-arrange some aspects of that budget while still addressing the issue of replacing the skating rink.

Overall, the tax increase is projected at 1.52 percent before appropriations, or 3.08 percent if all appropriations pass.

The Yellow Barn was also discussed. The board was asked to provide letters of support for the Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation and Jasper Hill for Capital Investment Grants through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. In discussing those, Remick said that at present the project itself is "a little bit stalled" in going out to bid because its largest grant provider, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), has a long list of requirements that must be met. The town is meeting with the EDA on December 21 and the hope is most of the conditions will be satisfied, allowing going to bid in January and groundbreaking in the spring.

Dog license fees were discussed. Hardwick currently charges \$8 for spayed and neutered animals and \$12 for those who are not. Town clerk Alberta Miller said the state takes about \$5 of those fees for its related programs and most communities are more in the \$9-10 range for spayed and neutered animals and \$13 or more for non-spayed/neutered. Select board member Elizabeth Dow said the historical context for dog license fees is that there was a time when the town would be responsible for paying for sheep that dogs had killed, so the dog license fee went into a fund to pay for any sheep killed. The question came up as to why there is no license fee for cats, to which Dow replied, "cats don't attack sheep."

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

December 13: Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Noise Disturbance, Carey Rd.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Dr.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; TRO/FRO Service, Church St.

December 14: Accident – Property Damage Only, Billings Rd./Bridgman Hill Rd.; Suspicious Event, Swallow Hill Dr.; Lost Property, Main St.; Lost Property, Rte. 15 W; Assist – Agency, Bridgman Hill Rd.; Threats/Harassment, Hillside St.; Citizen Dispute, Hillside Ave.; Suspicious Event, High St.

December 15: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Center Rd.; Vandalism, Vt. Rte. 14; Assist – Public, Central St.; Assist – Public, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

December 16: Vandalism, Highland Ave.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Benway Dr.; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 16; Theft, Benway

Dr.; Suspicious Event, Charlevoix St.; Traffic Stop, Elm St./Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Mental Health Incident, Hazen Union Dr.

December 17: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Animal Problem, Smith Farm Rd.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Medical, Dale St.; Directed Patrol, Spring St.

December 18: Theft, Vt. Rte. 15; Mental Health Incident, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Wanted Person, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Traffic Hazard, Rte. 16/Rte. 15.

December 19: Parking Problem, Mill St.; Noise Disturbance, Riverside Ter.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Rte. 15 W.

December 20: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Hazen Dr.; 911 Hangup, W. Hill Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, High St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Welfare Check, Molleur Dr.; Mental Health Incident, High St.; Alarm, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, Hillside Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Upper Cherry St.

Hardwick Police

Crash into Telephone Pole, Speeding

On December 14, at 6:43 a.m., Police responded to a one vehicle into telephone pole crash. Upon arrival, found a 2005 Toyota Tundra off the left side of the road into a pole with heavy damage. The operator, Andrea Chaplin, was uninjured. The pole had to be replaced.

On Dec. 20, at 8:48 p.m., Hunter Leon Duprey, of Hardwick, was stopped on S. Main St.

in Hardwick. Police issued a \$259 ticket for traveling 48 mph in a 25-mph zone.

This report is based on information provided by the Hardwick Police Department but is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE assisted 18 victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence from December 12 through December 19. 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.

Omicron

Continued From Page One

director of the National Institutes of Health, Francis Collins, warned over the weekend of an explosion of cases. Collins said “We do not know what this virus is capable of doing... And even if it has a somewhat lower risk of severity, we could be having a million cases a day if we’re not really attentive to all of those mitigation strategies.”

The State of Vermont has continued its limited response to the continued surge in cases. The state’s portal has a link to a CDC page about Omicron. Two days after announcing the first confirmed Omicron case in the state, the portal still reads “When the Omicron variant is detected in Vermont, it will be reported on this page.” The state has largely abandoned the wide-scale contact tracing used in the early days of the pandemic and now advises “If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate at home away from other people and begin reaching out to close contacts immediately. The Health Department is conducting contact tracing for people at higher risk to better protect Vermonters against the most severe effects of COVID-19. You may not receive a phone call from a contact tracer, but you still need to follow these steps to stop further spread.”

At the same time, Delta is continuing to rampage unchecked. Governor Phil Scott and Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Mike Pieciak announced on December 7 that the state would require

insurers to cover the costs of COVID testing using rapid antigen test kits that can be done at home. That would include many plans on Vermont Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, Cigna, and MVP, but some plans are under federal regulation and therefore not impacted by the state rule. The supply chain has become a secondary issue. The Walgreens on Wolcott Street sold out of all its self-testing kits almost immediately a week ago, and a store clerk said no more kits had arrived with the most recent delivery.

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Superintendent Rosenberg said that the schools are using rapid antigen testing to implement the state-recommended “Test to Stay” program “on a case-by-case basis, depending on capacity.” The program involves administering rapid antigen tests for seven successive school days to asymptomatic but unvaccinated students who were identified as close contacts with an individual who had tested COVID positive. A negative test would allow a student to continue staying in school but only interact with students from their own school and take part in on-campus school activities. Those kids would not be allowed to attend or participate in activities such as sports that would involve students from other schools. A positive result would send that student into quarantine for ten days.

Two weeks before the end of 2021, Hardwick is reporting a nearly tenfold increase in COVID cases, from 33 in the first week of January to 298 as of December 16.

Calderwood
INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

132 South Main St.
Hardwick, VT
802-472-5517
www.calderwoodins.com



Mike Gauthier, CIC
mikeg@calderwoodins.com

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANY

Trusted Choice

Better together.

 +  +  = **SAVE**

The more you protect the more you save.

I can help you protect more than you’d expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies.

Get the savings you deserve. Call me or stop by my office for a free quote.



Jennifer Bellavance CPIA
802-472-5721
31 North Main St.
Hardwick, VT 05843

We’re always here with local advice you can trust.



Allstate
You’re in good hands.

Subject to terms conditions and availability. Savings vary by state and product line. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Indemnity Co., Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Allstate Insurance Co. © 2015 Allstate Insurance Co. 12492107



**Just say,
“Charge it!”**

VISA and MasterCard accepted for subscriptions and advertising.

Display advertisers with current accounts eligible for 5% discount.


(802) 472-6521
news@hardwickgazette.com

THE **Hardwick Gazette** Since 1889

NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Happy Holidays, Hardwick!

Give the gift of history to all your Hardwick connections, whether they live here or not.



Every membership supports a great cause – and it includes *The Hardwick Historical Society Journal*, a quarterly booklet of articles and pictures about life in Hardwick through the ages. All for \$15.

Easy and inexpensive – a gift that keeps on giving.

Send the recipient’s name, address and \$15 to:
The Hardwick Historical Society, PO Box 177, Hardwick, Vt. 05843.
Visit us at www.hardwickvthistory.org



We Wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and hope that they will offer their family members to try one free class before signing up for the whole semester.



BALLET WOLCOTT

www.balletwolcott.com

Town Hall on Climate Change Counted 200 Participants



photo by Jean-Francois Lemire

Daniel-Johnson Dam in Quebec was one of the energy solutions discussed on December 15 at the Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus.

by Thorolf van Walsum

VERMONT - At 7 p.m. on December 15, more than two hundred Zoom users from across Vermont logged into the Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus Virtual Town Hall.

Led by State Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas and Chittenden County Senator Chris Pearson, the town hall served primarily to update the concerned citizens of Vermont on what steps were being taken to prepare the state for the ongoing climate emergency. The end of the meeting was dedicated to getting the different counties of Vermont in dialogue with their respective representatives to address region-specific issues.

The Vermont Climate Solutions Caucus began in 2019. Rep. Hanzas noted that “It is with help from Vermonters like you that we have the climate plan that we have.” The caucus is founded on the proposal that Vermont should have a serious global warming solutions act; that is, that legislature must work to meet climate goals rather than leaving climate goals to communities and individuals alone. While the caucus originally fought hard to find funding and was stalled by the dawn of the Covid-19 era, government has increased for climate solution efforts.

Senator Pearson made this transformation of the climate crisis’ priority clear in numbers. “In 2019 we fought hard -- and failed -- to allocate \$2 million for the support of weatherization programs. Now in 2021, the Vermont Climate Caucus has \$250 million earmarked to address a wide range of issues.”

When Governor Scott vetoed the Climate Solutions Act in September of 2020, Rep. Hanzas stressed that it was due to the Climate Solutions Caucus that the House was able to override his veto

and see the act put into legislation.

The Climate Solutions Act follows in the footsteps of the climate goals set out by the 2015 Paris Accords targets. The goals are challenging: emissions must be 26% below 2005 emissions by 2025, 40% below 1990 emissions by 2030, and 80% below 1990 emissions by 2050.

Currently, roughly 40% of Vermont energy comes from fossil fuels. One proposed bill by the Climate Solutions Caucus would seek to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030, partially by stimulating the development of renewable energy producers in Vermont.

“The plan is not actually calling for many new ideas here, it’s actually just saying hey, the direction the state legislation has been going is great. It’s the scale that’s wrong,” said Sen. Pearson.

One of the places this starts is with weatherization at scale. Roughly three quarters of Vermont emissions comes from transportation or building-related emissions. In the last 20 years, the state of Vermont has weatherized about 20,000 homes. In the next eight years, Vermont needs to get that number to 100,000 to meet goals. Vermonters, particularly rural Vermonters, are all encouraged to have their houses weatherized. With new government aid, this will be done for free.

“We hope to see state and local governments lead this charge by example,” representative Copeland Hanzas elaborated. “Some portion of the tax money that everyone pays goes towards the operation of physical buildings: municipal buildings, schools, the like.” Currently, there is the State Energy Management Program, which is a revolving loan program used to weatherize state buildings. The loan is paid off over time by the savings generated from weatherizing those buildings, yet the program

currently does not cover municipal or school buildings.

“It’s a tried and tested program. It works. There are so many municipal buildings that aren’t benefitting from it that could. By expanding this state program to municipalities, we can save money and cut down emissions coming from school and municipal buildings. Everybody wins.”

The energy grid of Vermont is approaching what is called the Renewable Energy Standard, that is, shifting systemic dependence to electricity rather than fossil fuels. Sen. Pearson said in the meeting that “if the grid isn’t renewable, we aren’t ahead as a state.”

Currently, roughly 40% of Vermont energy comes from fossil fuels. One proposed bill by the Climate Solutions Caucus would seek to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030, partially by stimulating the development of renewable energy producers in Vermont.

“As it stands, too much Vermont money is going to Quebec for energy. We have a number of Vermont renewable energy companies in dialogue right now. If they can come to an agreement, great. If not, well, we won’t stop working until they do.” As of February 2021, roughly 30% of Vermont’s energy was purchased from HydroQuebec.

On a more home-to-home basis, the Climate Solutions Caucus of Vermont is hoping to set a new standard for the nation. The Clean Heat Standard, like the Renewable Energy Standard for the energy grid, seeks to move Vermonters away from fossil fuels to heat their homes. “What’s exciting about this, and I think it will be a very high-profile discussion,” Senator Chris noted. “It was endorsed by Vermont gas and fuel distributors. They’re acknowledging that gas and oil are just not sustainable businesses in the coming decades.

I don’t believe this is being done anywhere else in the country, and I hope to create something like a model for other states to follow.”

The caucus acknowledged that transportation presents special problems for a rural state like Vermont. This means ramping up smaller transportation programs such as MileageSmart (government subsidies of hybrid or electric vehicles) or ReplaceYourRide (incentives to replace high-emissions vehicles with low-emission vehicles), as well as striving for zero-fare public transportation and bike space on roadways.

As the end of the meeting neared, representative Scott Campbell summarized the issues that seemed most pressing for Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties. Beyond the re-emphasis of weatherization at scale, residents want to pay special attention to preserving natural lands and waters, and biodiversity. Addressing a specific Northeast Kingdom issue, Scott mentioned the current constraints on the energy output of windfarms in Sheffield. As it stands, these farms can only produce a limited amount of energy for the grid. Part of achieving the Renewable Energy Standard in the Northeast Kingdom means raising these caps.

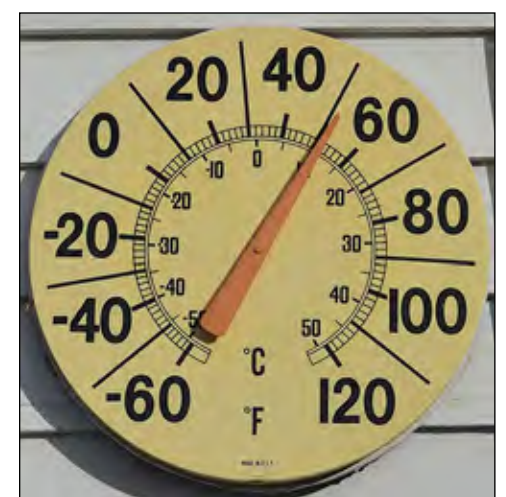


photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hardwick hit a balmy 52 degrees on December 16.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Damian Renzello (left) of Damian J. Products explains how to run the Bambini ice resurfacing machine he invented to Robert Fairbank (center), who will maintain the ice rink, and Keisha Luce, Highland Center for the Arts executive director.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

MacNeil (left) of the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA); Keisha Luce (second from left), HCA executive director; Damian Renzello (center), owner of Porta-Rinx; and Larry Webb (right) of Porta-Rinx work on setting up the 50 x 100-foot rink at HCA December 18.

Greensboro Fire Department Puts Out Ice Instead of Fire

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – On Saturday, December 18, it was clear that the members of the Greensboro Fire Department are much happier about putting out ice on skating rinks as opposed to putting out fires.

With Christmas smiles, Christmas cheer and hot coffee provided by the Highland Center for the Arts, Dave Brochu, Devin Burgess, and John Moffatt laid down four to five inches of water on a fifty-foot-by-one-hundred-foot piece of land at the Highland Center. Mother Nature seemed to be working to help, as temperatures plummeted while the firemen worked. Hopefully, when frozen, their efforts will result in the much-anticipated Greensboro Community Skating Rink.

An anonymous donor is purchasing skates for those who want to try skating but who don't have skates. The skates will be loaned out at the Highland Center.

The Greensboro Fire Department was ably assisted in installing the rink with help from MacNeil, David Kelley, Ellen Celnik from the Greensboro Recreation Committee, and Keisha Luce and Robert Fairbank from the Highland Center staff.

The rink was installed with enthusiastic discussions about future possibilities. Kelley said he hoped to see an ice ballet at the Highland Center someday. Others talked more wildly and ambitiously of someday being home to outstanding skaters in the way our area is already home to some of the world's greatest cross-country skiers. There were rumors flying among some of the more enthusiastic members of this small crowd of even having "Highland Winter Games," and perhaps hosting an international cheddar cheese ice curling competition.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Greensboro Recreation Committee, in collaboration with the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) installed this 50 x 100-foot ice rink December 18. It took around 18,000 gallons of water to fill it. The community skating rink located at HCA should be ready to skate on by Christmas.

If Mother Nature continues to cooperate, the hope of the Greensboro Recreation Committee is that the ice will have frozen and been cured enough to have people skating by Christmas.

Winners of the 2nd Annual Holiday Light Display “Small Towns, Big Lights” were announced on December 18.



First place winner was at the home of Bobbie and Archie Hodgdon on Lamoille Avenue in Hardwick.



Second place winner went to the home of Mindi and Kevin Moore, located on Dale Street in Hardwick.



The third place winner was the home of Doreen and Donny Cota on Wakefield Street in Hardwick.



The kids' choice winner was at the home of Mariah and Andrew Whitney located on Hardwick Street in East Hardwick.

Photos by Vanessa Fournier

Bring Home the Holidays

Thank you readers, neighbors and friends for your kindness and generosity throughout the year. We look forward to bringing you news of your communities in the coming year.

Front row (left to right) Charlie Morrissey, Willem Lange and Kiki, Dawn Gustafson, Jim Flint, Vanessa Fournier. Back row (left to right) Tyler Molleur, Erica Baker, Ray Small, Sandy Atkins, Kim Small, Doug McClure.

The Hardwick Gazette

The Gazette's Community Journalism Initiative: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

by Ray Small

Why does the Gazette need community journalists?

Two reasons: to survive (that's a biggie) and to provide better coverage of your town (also very important). Like many local weekly newspapers, the Gazette needs to change its business model – or close. Volunteer journalists can do a great job covering events in their towns. Our experience in Greensboro and Craftsbury has proven that this approach can work. Really well.

Do I need experience in journalism?

Nope. The most important attribute you need is a desire to share what's happening in your town with your neighbors. The Gazette will edit, format, and publish your article. A news article should answer some (or all) of the following: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

What topics can I write about?

Pretty much anything that you think folks in your town should know about: select board meetings, school board meetings, school and community events, what's happening at the library or historical society or church or care center or general store or community organization, or something interesting that someone in town has done. Or something I didn't put on this list.

How about photos?

Yes, please.

When does the Community Journalism program start?

Our first issue will be published on

Wednesday, January 12. The holidays are coming up, but it's not too early to think about what you might write about. Our deadline is Mondays at noon, but we love to get submissions early. Ridiculously early is not too early.

How many articles does the Gazette need?

For larger towns, like Hardwick, two or three articles a week. For smaller towns, an article every week or so will do the trick. Of course, we'd be happy to get more than that, but we don't need a huge number of articles for this effort to succeed.

What if not enough people submit content?

Sadly, and reluctantly, the Gazette will be shut down.

What if I have questions or need advice?

An easy first step is to look at articles published in the Gazette: What do they cover? How are they written? If that doesn't do the trick, send your question(s) to news@hardwickgazette.com. We'll be happy to help out via email, over the phone, or over a cup of coffee (COVID permitting).

Details on Creating Content for the Gazette: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

by Ray Small

How long should an article be?

400-600 words. Most text programs have a Word Count function (in Microsoft Word, it's under the "Review" tab). Articles can be shorter. Longer ones may get pared down by the editor. [Editor's Note: yup.]

Do I need to make the article look fancy?

Nope. In fact, don't spend any time on formatting (centering, bolding, indenting, etc.). That's the first thing we remove since our layout software doesn't like formatted text.

How do I submit an article?

Please send your article as an attachment to an email (rather than copied into the body of the email) to news@hardwickgazette.com.

What about pictures?

Same thing: please send photos as attach-

ments, not copied into the body of your email. Send the largest file you can; that gives us the best resolution to work with. Please include a cutline (the caption that goes with the photo) as a text file attachment to the email. In the cutline, identify the people in your photo and their position (if you can). For example: "(left to right)" or "(in the back, running away from the moose)."

How much should I stress about all this?

Writing articles and taking pictures requires a little bit of planning and research, but it should not be stressful. I'd aim for having fun. If you have a question, or are stuck, take a look at a recent copy of the Gazette for guidance. Or send your questions to news@hardwickgazette.com. We'll be happy to help out via email, over the phone, or over a cup of something (COVID permitting).

The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~
News, Opinion, Entertainment, Sports & More!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Peter D. Watson Agency
northernvtrealstate.com



**FOR ALL THE FLAKES
YOU MEET ON THE
ROAD THIS WINTER...
Make Sure You've Got Control!
See Bear for all your winter tire
needs and rest assured you've
got a grip on winter roads!
Dealership Quality at Service Station Prices**



DONA'S CAR STORE

Lower Wolcott Street • Hardwick, VT
05843

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



BFGoodrich

MICHELIN
BECAUSE SO MUCH IS RIDING
ON YOUR TIRES

802-334-2314



- Monuments
- Lettering
- Cleaning
- Restoration
- Granite Benches
- Cremation Memorials
- Granite & Quartz Countertops



Scott & Lori Bianchi, Owners
 515 Union St., Newport, VT
 Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Any time by appointment.
www.heritagememorialsvt.com



photo by Aspire Together
 Vermont Catholic Daughters made a \$2,775 donation to Aspire Together on November 22 toward Aspire's purchase of a mobile ultrasound, which is the first of its kind in New England. State officers traveled to the Aspire office in Williston, where they presented the check to Aspire's nurse Lynne Caulfield. The donation was made possible through two individuals and a fundraiser at the CDA Retreat held in September. Pictured (left to right) State Secretary Rose Pelchuck, Calais; State Regent Loretta Schneider, Middlesex; Lynne Caulfield; First Vice Regent Doris Voyer, Calais.

Wishing you
 the happiest
 of holidays!




Nancy Durand
 Cell (802) 595-2256
 Office (802) 851-4034
nancy.durand@pallspera.com

The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~
 News, Opinion, Entertainment, Sports & More!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
 Northern Vermont
 Funeral Service

60 Elm St. Hardwick, VT 05843
 802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb
 Funeral Director



Just say,
 "Charge it!"
 VISA and MasterCard
 accepted for subscriptions
 and advertising.
 Display advertisers with
 current accounts
 eligible for 5% discount.
 (802) 472-6521
news@hardwickgazette.com

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889



THE STAFF AT BUFFALO MOUNTAIN
 CO-OP WISH EVERYONE A

Happy, Safe and Healthy
 Holiday Season

Closing at 5PM December 24th Closed December 25



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Volunteers Bev O'Neill (left), Jane Allen (right) and Lottie Allen (center), co-organizer of the annual Hardwick Children's Holiday Project, show some of the toy donations collected or bought with monetary donations. Thirty-four families, which include 200 children, were gifted. Again this year, because of COVID-19, families gave their gift lists to the Holiday Project. Because of the amount of monetary donations and gifts donated, each child received four gifts. The filled boxes were picked up on December 18 outside on the porch of Lottie and Perley Allen's home in Hardwick. Christmas trees were also provided for those who wanted one. Missing from the photo is co-organizer Lee Ann Lee.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Community Dinner and Christmas Eve Service at the United Church of Hardwick

HARDWICK – On Thursday, December 23, the United Church of Hardwick on South Main St. will be hosting a Community Dinner at noon. To reserve a meal, call 802-472-6800 and leave your name, phone number, how many meals

you want and if you need them to be delivered. This is take-out only.

On Christmas Eve, there will be a service at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Masks are required. Services will be as normal on Sunday, December 26 at 10 a.m.

Christmas Services In Hardwick

HARDWICK – On Friday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m., there will be a Christmas Eve communion service at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, at 39 West Church Street. All are invited to participate. Since masking is required, there will be no choir; however, special Christmas music will be played by

organist Rip Keller and lutenist Jerry Willard.

On December 26, and every Sunday at 10 a.m., the church conducts regular in-person (masked) services; in addition, on Tuesday evenings at 5 p.m., a brief prayer service is held on Zoom. For information, contact 802-426-3671.

Plainfield Church to Read the Gospel on Christmas Day

PLAINFIELD – Journey Fellowship Church will be opening its doors on Christmas Day for a marathon Bible reading of all four Gospels of Christ. Starting with the Gospel of Matthew at noon, Pastor Kempton Randolph will lead the scripture reading on December 25, in the church sanctuary until 6 p.m.

Light refreshments and coffee will be served throughout the day. The scripture will be read from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible. For those interested in reading along, extra pew bibles with large print will be on hand.

This is a new event for the church this holiday season. "This is our effort to put Christ back into Christmas, which is ultimately a celebration of his birth," Pastor Randolph said.

Anyone present will be invited to come up to the pulpit and take a turn reading the gospel if they are interested. Candles will be available for lighting in prayer, as well. The church's food shelf and coat closet will be stocked and open to anyone in need on Christmas Day.

The event is open to anyone, regardless of their faith background, or beliefs. The scripture reading will be happening in the church sanctuary and will also be streamed on Journey Fellowship's Facebook page.

More details can be found on the church website at journeyfellowshipvt.com, and Pastor Kempton Randolph can be reached with any questions at the church phone number, (802) 371-9996, or by email at journeyfellowshipvt@gmail.com.

Circus Smirkus Winter Camp to be Held at ArtPort

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts has announced two Circus Smirkus camps scheduled at Catamount Artport over February school vacation. Circus Smirkus coaches will teach children ages 6 to 11 from 9 a.m. to noon, and children ages 12 to 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Both camps will run from February 21 through February 25 at Catamount ArtPort on Memorial Drive in St. Johnsbury.

through the power of performance. Smirkus offers three programs – Residencies, Smirkus Camp, and Big Top Tour – that blend circus tradition and contemporary practice to create immersive experiences that challenge children to perform and live to the very best of their own abilities.

At this special vacation day camp presented by Circus Smirkus and Catamount Arts, professional circus artists will coach students in juggling, acrobatics, aerials, balance, and more. No experience is necessary.

Space for both camps is limited, so early registration is required. To register online, visit catamountarts.org, and complete an online enrollment form after registering.

Circus Smirkus is a circus arts organization that inspires children of all ages to develop artistic, athletic, and life skills

As with all Catamount Arts events, participants are required to wear masks and to present proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test dated within 72 hours of the event. To learn more about Catamount's COVID-19 safety policy or about additional arts education opportunities, visit catamountarts.org.

Family Owned And Operated

HARDWICK VILLAGE MARKET

13 Mill Street, Hardwick • 472-6677

Ham Shank Portion, Sugardale, lb.	\$1.09
Pork Chops, center cut, bone-in, lb.	\$1.99
Clementines, California, Peelz, 3 lb. pkg.	\$5.99
Chicken Breasts, jumbo, family pack, boneless, lb.	\$3.29
Strip Steaks, boneless, USDA Select Beef, lb.	\$8.99

Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • effective December 24 - December 30
We accept MasterCard, VISA and EBT Cards



**Support your local news coverage
We invite volunteer journalists to
submit articles and photos.**

Write about important events in your town
and send in your photos.

See hardwickgazette.com for submission guidelines, or
email news@hardwickgazette.com or call (802) 472-6521.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, December 23

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St. Call 472-6800 to reserve a meal. Leave your name and phone number and how many meals you need and if you want them delivered. Take-out Only.

Monday, December 27

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Mondays, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace AG Church, 104 Vt. Rt. 16, E. Hardwick. Men's Addiction Group. Information: 802-279-2185.
THE DADS' GROUP, every Monday, 5-6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information: Rob at rcary@

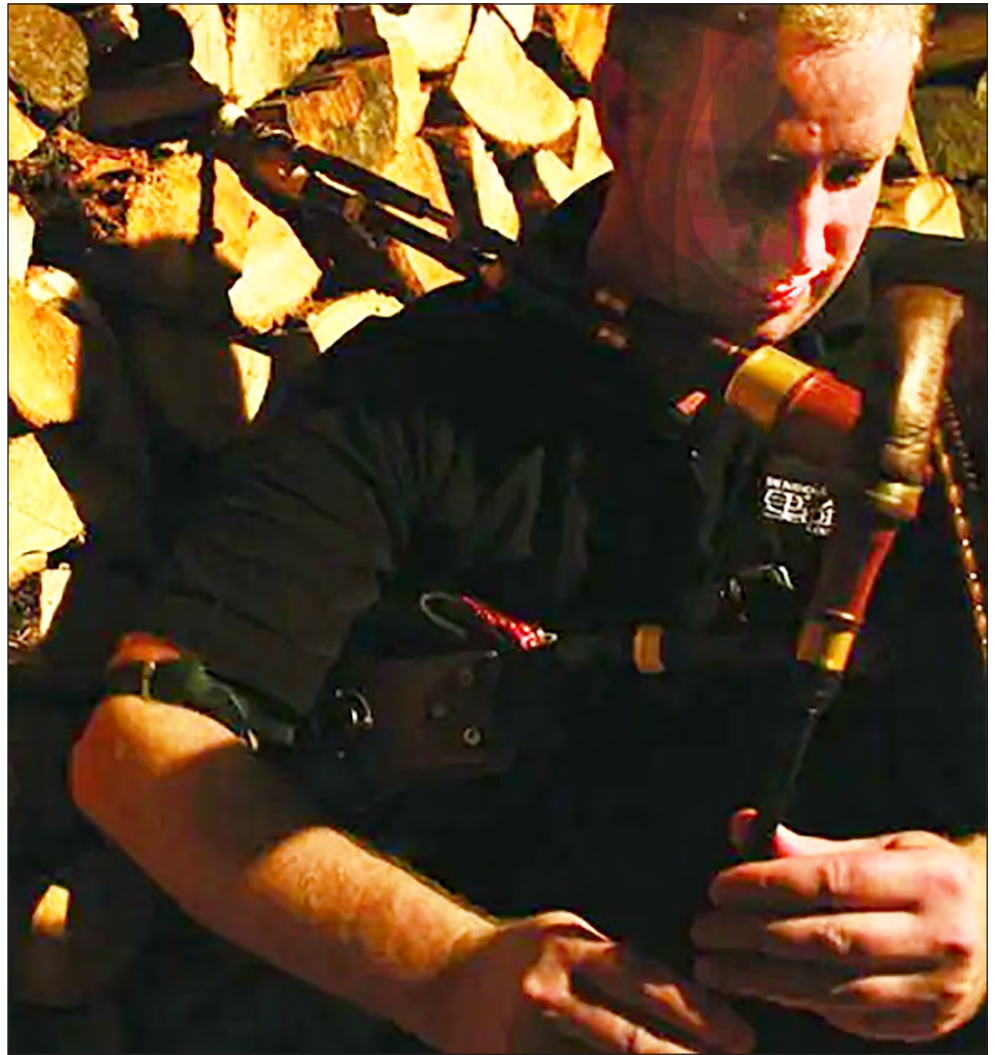
LRCVT.org or 802-730-3000.

Tuesday, December 28

THE MOMS IN RECOVERY Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 1 - 2 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com, 802-635-0084.

Exhibits

ELEANOR OTT'S ART is on display, the Third Floor Gallery, Hardwick Inn, through December.
SUE TESTER: Photographs of the unspoiled local landscape, through January 7, 2022, Parker Pie Gallery, County Road, West Glover. Information: 802-525-3366.



courtesy photo

A tribute to Robert Burns will be performed by the Vermont Institute of Celtic Arts on January 22 at Highland Center for the Arts.

Scottish Music Group to Perform Jan. 22 at HCA

GREENSBORO – A tribute to Robert Burns will be performed by members of the Vermont Institute of Celtic Arts on Saturday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., at Highland Center for the Arts.

and a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Joanne Garton is a fiddler, teacher, and step dancer from Montpelier. Ian Gauthier and John Nowak are both long-standing members of Catamount Pipe Band.

Vermont's leaders in Scottish music have combined forces to create a new supergroup, "Stravaigin," which unites their deep roots in the Highland and Hebridean traditions to create a music of their ancestors.

This indoor event will be held on the Main Stage at Highland Center for the Arts. With the health of the community in mind, patrons are expected to be vaccinated against COVID -19 and will be asked to show proof of vaccination, either with an original vaccination card, photocopy of the card, cell phone photograph, or verifiable health info PDA app. Alternately, attendees can provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) performed within 72 hours of the show. In accordance with CDC recommendations and Vermont Department of Health regarding indoor spaces, masks are required.

Group member Iain MacHarg has been leading Vermont's Scottish music scene for the last 20 years. He is the director of the Vermont Institute of Celtic Arts, Catamount Pipe Band, and a member of Prydein. Dan Houghton is a talented piper, accompanist, and a member of Cantrip, one of New England's most popular folk groups, and Rachel Clemente is a former US National Scottish Harp Champion, and graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Hazen Metro is a member of Prydein, Catamount Pipe Band,

For more information see highlandartsvt.org or call (802) 533-2000.



THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889
 Wednesday, August 5, 2020 Volume 131 Number 31
Hazen Union Discusses COVID-19 Concerns
 by Doug McChes
 with Ais. What's been hard for you about this time? Perigo went around to hear people's stories. Google Meet with parents and hopes and most pressing concerns. During the third part, he clarified David Perigo, newly-appointed Director of Education Services, and lastly asked what people felt the school should do. Many parents said their kids "really really" wanted to go back to school. One parent said "They really want to go back to school. They want to be in school, they want to see their friends, they're tired of this whole thing. It's not average, it's not normal to them, they don't like it. They want to have discussions with friends, they want to be challenged by their teachers."

SANTA LIKES IT!
A subscription to the electronic Gazette is the perfect gift.

For \$45 per year, you can give the welcome gift of the Hardwick Gazette. Your lucky gift recipient will receive the e-Gazette every Wednesday morning after 6 a.m. It's easy. Go to hardwickgazette.com or call (802) 472-6521.

THE Hardwick Gazette

Independent local news since 1889.



Subscribe online, \$25/6 mos. \$45/yr • hardwickgazette.com

Highland Center to Exhibit Student Wildlife Art

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – On Thursday, Dec. 16, the Vermont Wildlife Education Fund announced the winners of its statewide “Give Wildlife A Voice” student art contest. The 40 top entries will be exhibited at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro in late January and then at the Vermont State House.

The contest idea came from a desire to celebrate Vermont’s wildlife species while giving students an incentive to explore or deepen their art skills in traditional forms. Claudia Mucklow, a Vermont Wildlife Coalition Board member, noted that the Coalition jumped at the chance to provide seed money for the Education Fund and the art competition. “With the increase in online learning keeping young people tied to their screens even more than usual, our Board thought it was important to take a step back from the digital world and celebrate the richness and diversity of wildlife in Vermont.”

According to Rob Mullen, one of the three nationally recognized wildlife artists who acted as the judges, “Judging was difficult due to the number and quality of the entries.” Entries were judged on a combination of composition, technical skill, creativity, originality, story, and unique focus on Vermont wildlife and wildlife habitat. “We’d like to congratulate all the students for a job well done. The future of wildlife art is in good hands in Vermont. I hope many Vermonters will get to see these wonderful pieces that our talented young artists have created. I wish we could have selected more. As an artist myself, who has been involved in many art competitions, I want to tell all the students who submitted to keep at it. Just keep

creating and developing your own unique art.”

First place, a \$1,000 prize, was awarded to Shakeh Hagopian, grade nine at Champlain Valley Union. Second place award, a \$750 prize, was awarded to William Cunningham, grade seven at Mater Christi School. Third place, a \$500 prize, was awarded to Aren Eisenman, grade ten at Champlain Valley Union and fourth-place, a \$250 prize, was awarded to Molly Aeberhard, grade seven at The Riverside School. Six other cash prizes were awarded, together with 30 selections for exhibition.

The Vermont Wildlife Education Fund was created with support from the Vermont Wildlife Coalition, the I Have a Dream Scholarship Fund and the Highland Center for the Arts. This fall, over a dozen artists joined together at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro as “Artists Uniting for Wildlife” to raise money for the Education Fund. The artists included musicians David Mallett, Tish Hinojosa, the Mallett Brothers Trio. The painters included renowned wildlife artists and two Vermont-based artists who painted Lake Champlain while crewing on the “Artful Otter” sailboat this summer and fall.

Judges for this year’s contest included nationally recognized artists Adelaide Tyrol, who is also on the board of the Highland Center for the Arts, John Pitcher, and Rob Mullen, who also served as skipper of the Artful Otter and is chair of the Vermont Wildlife Coalition.

View images of the student artwork and find detailed information on the judges at vtwildlife-coalition.org/student-art-2021.

For more information contact David Kelley at (802) 249 8262 or davidkelley05602@gmail.com.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“HAPPY HOLIDAYS!”

Thanks
for saying you saw it in the
Hardwick Gazette
hardwickgazette.com

CAPSTONE
COMMUNITY ACTION

Housing Counselor

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Housing Counselor is a full-time position working with families or individuals experiencing a housing crisis because they are currently unhoused or at risk of losing housing. The position includes advocacy, mediation, assessment, planning, creative confrontation, and connecting families with resources. The FCSS Housing Counselor works as part of a team and reports to the Housing Programs Manager. For a detailed job description and qualifications, please visit www.capstonevt.org/jobs. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Capstone Community Action, Inc.
Human Resources
20 Gable Place, Barre, VT 05641

Or e-mail to: jobs@capstonevt.org

Capstone Community Action, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider. Applications from women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and people from diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

Stowe Family Dentistry
would like to wish you and
your family a safe and
happy holiday season!

Currently Welcoming New Patients!
1593 Pucker Street (Route 100N), Stowe, VT
802-253-4157 | stowefamilydentistry.com

Stowe Family DENTISTRY

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ON FACEBOOK

VISA **MasterCard**

**Just say,
“Charge it!”**
VISA and MasterCard
accepted for subscriptions
and advertising.
Display advertisers with
current accounts
eligible for 5% discount.
(802) 472-6521
news@hardwickgazette.com

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

IN THE GARDEN

Winter Plantings: Paperwhites and Amaryllis

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – As winter drags along, I long for warm sun and green plants surrounding me outdoors. It's much too early to start spring seeds (even indoors), but I can plant some flowers bulbs now. I love paperwhites and amaryllis, and both are readily available for planting now – and they will bloom indoors while it snows outside.

Paperwhites are a type of daffodil specifically for forcing indoors now. Most grocery stores sell them, as do garden centers and feed-and-grain stores. They usually cost about a buck a bulb and will produce flowers in four to six weeks. They are not hardy in New England, so don't bother saving the bulbs to plant outdoors. Just enjoy them and accept that they are a one-shot deal.

I should warn you that paperwhites have strong scents, and not everyone is enthralled with their smell. But I like the scent, which I can smell once I walk into a room with freshly blooming paperwhites. If you don't like strong-smelling musky scents, there is one variety that is barely fragrant, "Grand Soleil d'Or." Instead of the traditional white blossoms, these bulbs produce gold or yellow blossoms.

If you are in a hurry for blossoms, and can select your bulbs from a bin, select those that already have started to grow. They are just aching to grow. Select a nice bowl or pot that will hold water and get some small stones – three quarters of an inch to an inch is a good size. Garden centers sell white marble chips for this, but you can pick up stones from your driveway or garden, too. Just rinse

off any stones before using them.

Arrange the three to five bulbs on a layer of stones, then fill in around the bulbs with more stones. The stems and flowers will get up to 18 inches tall, so they may tip over if not firmly seated and surrounded with stones.

Next, add water until it just kisses the bottom of the bulbs. You do not want the bulbs to sit in water. Those dry roots will quickly wake up and extend into the pool of water around the stones. Top up the water as needed, but try not to let it go dry.

Some people wait until the bulbs have grown an inch or two, drain off the water, and replace it with a seven-to-one dilution of gin or vodka. This will, I am told, produce shorter, sturdier stems that will not flop. Or use rubbing alcohol and dilute a bit more, 11 to one.

A more expensive, but more dramatic flower for forcing is amaryllis. This is a tropical flower originally from South Africa, and many are still imported from there each year. Properly cared for, your investment in an amaryllis bulb will produce a plant that will last for up to 75 years, blooming every year!

Amaryllis bulbs are big: they are anywhere from two to four inches across. They are often sold with a kit that includes an appropriate-sized plastic pot, the bulb, and enough potting soil to plant it in.

Smaller amaryllis bulbs are younger and less expensive, but you get what you pay for: a \$5 amaryllis at a big box store will probably produce one stem with three or four large blossoms. A \$12 bulb will be bigger and should produce two stems with eight or more blossoms. In time, your small bulb will get bigger if you care for



courtesy photo

Amaryllis blossoms come in red, white, pink, and striped.

it properly.

Planting an amaryllis is easy. You should plant it in a good potting soil, not soil from the garden which may stay too wet and get compacted. It is important that the bulb NOT be buried in soil. It may rot if you do that. The shoulders of the bulb should stick up above the soil line, up to one third of the bulb. The potting soil should be lightly moist, not dry or soggy when you plant it.

Place your amaryllis in a sunny window and wait. Sometimes when you buy an amaryllis it will have already started to grow in the box. I like that, as it means that my amaryllis will start growing for me right away.

Other times, an amaryllis will sulk for weeks, doing nothing. There is nothing I know of to encourage it to grow, though maybe whispering encouragement to it will help. Only do that, however, when you are the only person in the room!

Amaryllis stems tend to lean

toward the light, so rotating the pot every few days will help to keep it growing straight up (and give you something to do). You may need to insert one or more thin bamboo sticks and tie with yarn to help keep the heavy blossoms – up to four inches across – from pulling the stem over.

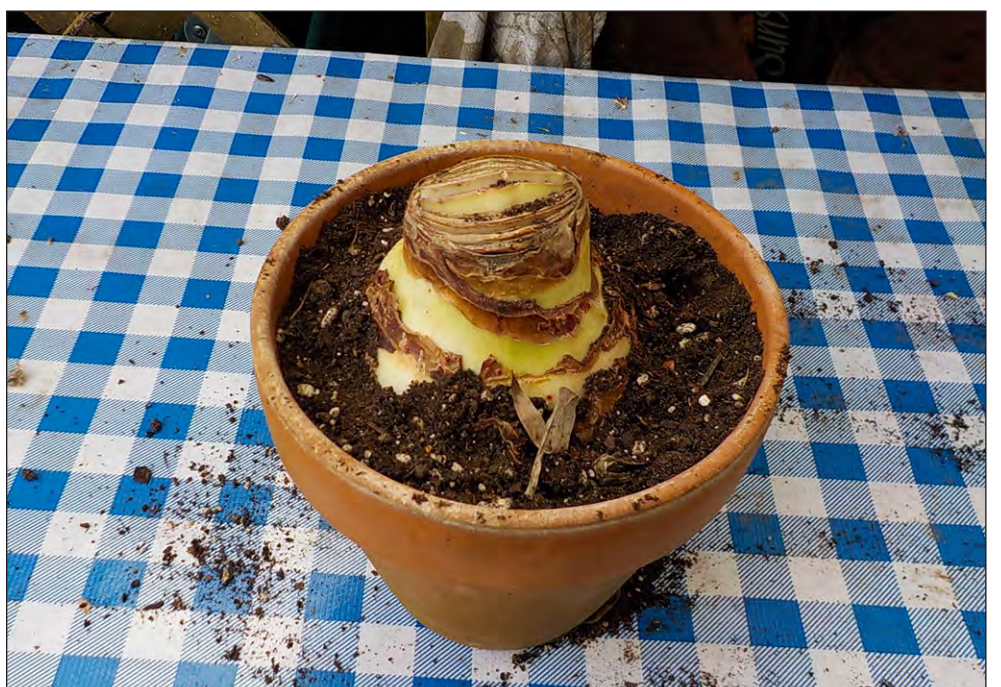
After the first stem has bloomed you may get a second stem. You can cut off the first stem after it is finished blooming. Sometimes the first and second stems grow at the same time, which leads to a little pushing and shoving in the pot, much like teenagers. Once a stem is finished blooming, you can cut it off.

After blooming, keep it in the pot, and put it outside in a sunny location all summer, but bring it inside by October 1. Remove from the pot and let it dry out. Cut off the leaves and place it in a paper bag and keep in a cool, dark place for five or six weeks. Then pot it up, and it will bloom again.



courtesy photo

Five paperwhite bulbs fit into this soup bowl with gravel.



courtesy photo

An amaryllis bulb does not need much soil and needs to be planted like this.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

It Follows Me Through the Park

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – My alarm clock (the iPhone channeling Gerald McBoing-Boing) goes off at six. As I test the bedroom temperature with my nose, Linda starts singing in my ear:

Silver threads and golden needles
cannot mend this heart of mine...

It doesn't matter whether I get up or not; she's staying with me for a while. Which is fine. The lyrics of the song are captivating, depressing, and defiant; and I remember Ms. Ronstadt as a most captivating young lady, as well. Also, "Silver Threads and Golden Needles" is preferable by far to the other lines I often wake up to:

And would it have been worth it, after all,
After the cups, the marmalade, the tea
Among the porcelain, among some talk of you and me...

They're called ear worms, and everybody I know, as far as I can tell, gets them -- a set of verse, lyrics, or music that bubbles through the mind and usually refuses to go away. It's not an American phenomenon; in Germany it's called "Ohrwurm," in France, "ver de l'orielle." It's a global endemic. But that doesn't make it any easier to bear when one's got you by the ears and won't let go – I don't want your lonely mansion with a tear in every room.

I also found out why Linda Ronstadt and the Eagles have stuck like cockleburs in my head, ready to nibble at the edge of consciousness with no apparent provocation. The most persistent tunes are upbeat, which "Silver Threads" certainly is. Second, they're keyed in a popular range.

I mentioned the situation to my kids in Arkansas during our twice-weekly Zoom call and, for some reason, my son knew where to look for information. The links arrived this morning. The first link was to a University of Arkansas research journal

and an article titled "The Effect of Motor Involvement and Melody Truncation on Involuntary Musical Imagery." It was the kind of reading that dissuaded me from pursuing advanced degrees. Although the writer helpfully reduced the experience to the acronym INMI, I found myself wading through sentences like "... the introspective persistence of an auditory experience, including one constructed from components drawn from long-term memory, in the absence of direct sensory instigation of the experience."

Right! Got it. Apparently, about 90 percent of people tested in the research have at least one ear worm a week; musicians and non-musicians are equally affected; and in case anybody's interested, more research is needed. Shakespeare long ago mentioned the 10 percent who don't get them: "The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils." So, cherish your sweet sounds if you get them.

A much easier-to-read article on the subject, from "Today," is much more helpful, even if only because it's written in what's called "more accessible language." And it gives an example of an external ear worm: a toddler who constantly tells Alexa to play "Baby Shark," 'til her parents are about to lose their minds. It also lists the one hundred most popular. I'm delighted that I've never heard of any of them.

I also found out why Linda Ronstadt and the Eagles have stuck like cockleburs in my head, ready to nibble at the edge of consciousness with no apparent provocation. The most persistent tunes are upbeat, which "Silver Threads" certainly is. Second, they're keyed in a popular range. The greatest part of Bing Crosby's popularity was that he sang in an easy range. It's hard to imagine "The Star-Spangled Banner" ever becoming an ear worm; "America, the Beautiful", however, once accompanied me as I rowed down an Adirondack lake just after the attacks of September eleventh,

Linda sings "Silver Threads" in G – my key – and you need only six chords – you can get away with three – to play along. It follows me through the park and pops up in the car when the radio is off. The danger is that it may pop out, as well as up, and people who don't know me may reach for their phones when they come across me and Kiki in the park. It's kind of hard to bop while leaning on a cane and wearing crampons, but as long as she keeps singing, I'm bopping.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.,
Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843
Tel. (802) 472-6521, Fax. (802) 472-6522. E-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com
Publication (ISSN 0744-5512).
Periodicals postage paid at Hardwick, Vermont 05843.
Postmaster send address changes to
The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

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,
Jim Flint, Eric Hanson,
Pat Hussey, Willem Lange,
Doug McClure, Daniel Métraux,
Joyce Slayton Mitchell

ADVERTISING SALES
Erica Baker

CARTOONIST
Julie Atwood

The Hardwick Gazette assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertisements but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error appeared. Advertisers must notify the Gazette within five days of any error that occurred. Copyright 2021 by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from
The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com
ads@hardwickgazette.com

NOTICE

WARNING OF CALEDONIA COUNTY MEETINGS

In compliance with Title 24 VSA §133, a meeting of the registered voters in Caledonia County, Vermont, is hereby called for the presenting of the proposed Caledonia County budget for the ensuing 2023 fiscal year (1 July 2022-30 June 2023).

All citizens interested in these matters are welcome to meet at in the Bandstand on Caledonia Courthouse grounds at 1126 Main Street, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, at noon, 25 January, 2022, to discuss the county budget.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will not be held inside the Courthouse.

A final meeting will be held at noon, on 25 January, 2022, at the same location.

PERSONNEL	\$132,000
OPERATIONS	8,200
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	9,000
PROBATE COURT	1,500
RESERVE FUND	100
TOTAL COUNTY COURT EXPENDITURE	150,800
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	198,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR CALEDONIA COUNTY	348,800

	Past Year's Budgets		
FY2022 \$346,800	FY2021 \$357,266	FY2020 \$355,492	
FY2019 \$367,686	FY2018 \$353,587	FY2017 \$360,784	

Dated at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, this 27 December, 2021
John S. Hall
Assistant Judge

Merle L. Haskins
Assistant Judge

ANOTHER OPINION

Vermont's Forest Economy under Threat

by Katherine Sims, State Representative, Orleans-Caledonia

CRAFTSBURY – Working lands are central to Vermont's identity. Vermont is the 4th-most forested state, with 4.5 million acres of forest covering a whopping 75 percent of the landscape. Vermonters have been working in the woods, playing in the woods, and using wood products for generations.

How we maintain our forests directly impacts our environment, our culture, our economy and our future. Forests provide habitat, carbon sequestration, clean water and clean air. They're also the source of wood, that renewable material we use in our everyday lives. When we use wood for building, heating, and making things, we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, thus reducing emissions.

In order to reap the benefits of both standing forests and wood products, we need to make it practical for Vermonters to own and properly manage forestland.

Instead, we're losing forestland at a rate of approximately 11,000 acres per year to development.

So, what now?

To answer that question, a tri-partisan group of over thirty legislators formed a summer study group and visited sites all over the state. Our group interviewed loggers, landowners, foresters, and business owners across Vermont's forestry industry.

Among them were Chris

Brooks, a fifth-generation lumberman, who owns Vermont Wood Pellet Co. in North Clarendon. Brooks told us that wood pellet heating is the future. Cleaner, more efficient, and less expensive, heating with wood pellets reduces our dependence on fossil oil and keeps those dollars local.

Long View Forest is an employee-owned forest management operation in Westminster that's bucking stereotypes about loggers. Their 20-plus member crew of mostly young people are committed to helping clients meet the "near universal, but elusive goal of leaving the land better than we found it."

Vermonters engaged in the industry today are environmentally conscious, innovative, and prepared to collaborate in order to protect and preserve Vermont's forests and forest economy. They view wood as a safe, renewable resource that's greener than concrete, steel or plastic – a way to reduce our state's carbon footprint.

A thriving, modern forest industry is Vermont's best tool to ensure healthy, sustainable forests and healthy, sustainable communities. But Vermont's forestry businesses face their own slew of threats. Conducting business is expensive, profits are down, interest in the field is declining and state regulations make it nearly impossible to succeed.

LSF Forest Products plays a vital role as one of only two remaining lumber mills in Franklin County. The family-owned operation wants to expand, but owner

Tucker Riggs says Act 250's permitting process is slowing them down: "It's expensive and time-consuming and has already delayed our expansion process at a time of record-high demand for our products."

In order to support existing and potential forest-based businesses that are working to sustainably manage Vermont's forestland, we recommend the legislature establish the Vermont Forest Future program to stabilize and strengthen Vermont's forest economy over 10 years. This program will bring together key stakeholders to create an action plan that identifies infrastructure investments and public policy recommendations that will increase economic development, sustainably manage wood resources, and develop the workforce for the future.

Additionally, we recommend that Vermont:

Launch a program to support municipal fuel switching, including modern wood heat

Modernize Act 250 for forest-

based enterprises and recreational trails

Update transportation regulations related to forestry

We'll be introducing these recommendations as a part of a rural omnibus bill at the start of the 2022 legislative session.

Decisions and actions made today will influence our forests and our economy for years to come. The state of Vermont already invests in agriculture, celebrates it and educates consumers about it. We must invest in and raise awareness about our vital forest industry, the other half of Vermont's working lands. If we care about Vermont's forests, if we care about Vermont's rural communities, we must save Vermont's forest economy.

[This article was submitted on behalf of the Rural Economic Development Working Group (REDWnG) of the Vermont House of Representatives, a tri-partisan group working together to advance legislation and policy initiatives that strengthen the economy in rural Vermont communities.]

LETTERS FROM READERS

The Guilty Few

To the editor:

Remember when Trump said that COVID was no worse than the flu, downplaying the warnings of the World Health Organization? Remember when he said it would be gone by the summer of 2020?

Remember his "manly and virile" posturing after his bout with COVID, hiding the extraordinary medical intervention to save his life? Remember when he and his sycophant Republicans, such as Florida Governor DeSantis, Texas Governor Abbot, Senator Cruz, and Representative Josh Hawley (to name just a few), created the toxic political divide by claiming that government action could not infringe on "personal liberty," brainwashing the now 50 million

Americans who still refuse to get vaccinated?

They are the ones responsible for the pandemic that has wreaked havoc with our lives. They are the ones responsible for creating a pool of unvaccinated in which the COVID has mutated into first the Delta and now the Omicron variants.

They are the ones who are responsible for ruining our kids' education, the loss of over 20 percent of the nurses nationwide due to burn-out, the threatened collapse of our hospital system, and the loss of over 800,000 lives. They are the ones responsible for a COVID winter that is the worst since the pandemic began.

Bob Hawk
East Hardwick



Development Director Full Time Position in Morrisville

The Lamoille Family Center is seeking a full-time development professional to work as part of its leadership team. The Family Center is in its 45th year of encouraging, educating, and celebrating children, youth, and families and reaches over 4,000 Lamoille Valley residents each year. You could be part of this highly collaborative and supportive work environment.

If you have experience in development, or possess transferable skills you can bring to this position, we urge you to apply. Promoting this organization and being part of its team is highly rewarding and enjoyable work.

Qualifications and Responsibilities: This position requires a bachelor's degree, or the skills and knowledge one can expect to acquire in an undergraduate education. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated success in fundraising in a nonprofit setting including annual campaigns, grant writing, organizing special events, and leading individual/business solicitations. Especially critical to the position are strong written and verbal communication skills, and excellent organizational skills. Experience with marketing and communications including print media, website maintenance, and social media are also essential.

The position is open until filled.

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Lamoille Family Center
480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661
or info@lamoillefamilycenter.org

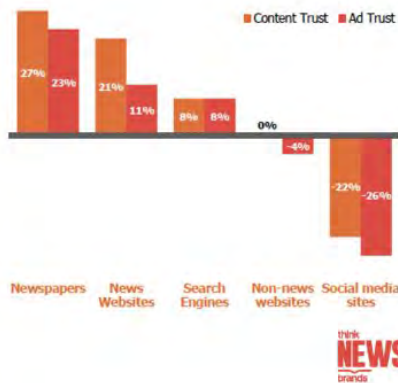
The Lamoille Family Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com
ads@hardwickgazette.com

Consumers trust the ads in news more than in any other media

85% of consumers agree that "Seeing a brand or product in news brands gives me more confidence that it's right for me".



Study reveals that advertising carried by news publishers (like the Hardwick Gazette) outperform ads distributed on social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

Ads with news, it found, are significantly more memorable than a six-second YouTube video and "on par" with 15-second video ads on YouTube. Despite the billions in advertising business Facebook does in a year, the effectiveness of those Facebook ads is questionable, based on the group's analysis. "Irrespective of the Facebook ad type, ads in news outperform Facebook by up to 4x," ThinkNewsBrands found.

Advertising, especially with news (like the Hardwick Gazette) continues to be accessible (always in our digital archives) and simply more effective than digital ads on social media platforms. "Social media is simply no alternative to news," the ThinkNewsBrands authors concluded. "News has strong reach, superior trust, memorability and business impact."

Place your advertising where it gets the most results:

The Hardwick Gazette
ads@hardwickgazette.com
(802) 472-6521



Delivering On A Promise
Dead River Company

Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel
Heating Equipment Installations

189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
(802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276



FREE KIDS MEALS

FOUR LOCATIONS

THE ALBANY GENNY
THE CRAFTSBURY GENNY
POSITIVE PIE, HARDWICK
SMITH'S, GREENSBORO BEND

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 2

GO TO ANY LOCATION DURING OPEN HOURS AND ASK FOR A FREE KIDS MEAL. NO PAPERWORK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED! CALL 802.624.0406, GO TO NOURISHHARDWICK.ORG/MEALS FOR MORE INFO.

OR VISIT



Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

click here for more information

Advertising

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

Financial Services

Edward Jones



Rich Jacobs
Financial Advisor
31 Lower Main St Suite 2
P O Box 1639
Morrisville, VT 05661-1639
802-888-4207
877-491-6475
Rich.Jacobs@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Home Improvement



Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon
"Quality You Can Stand On"
454-7301, Hollister Hill, Plainfield

Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED
HOLMES PLUMBING
Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843
Josh Holmes • 472-6228
Cell: (802) 745-8390

Services

Toya's Play Shop LLC

TAYLOUR HAY
Owner-Technician



1043 Dimick Road, off Rte. 16, Greensboro • open Mon.-Fri., 9-5
(802) 533-7070 or (802) 498-8822 • toyas.play

Services



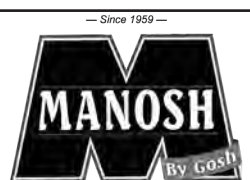
Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services
Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

Services

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

Services



Water Wells • Complete Geothermal Systems
Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service
Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products
Pond Aeration
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

SPORTS

Young Lady Cats Show Fight in a Pair of Tough Battles

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – The Hazen Union girls' basketball team showed a ton of promise in their first two road tests of the season last week but ran out of gas late against Danville and Oxbow to fall to 0-3 on the season.

Colleen Flinn and Rylie Cadieux scored 11 points apiece to help Danville hold off Hazen Union at home last Tuesday, 48-42. Freshman Baylie Christensen scored a career-high 21 points off seven 3s to keep the Lady Cats within two points after three quarters, but Danville's experience showed down the stretch for

their first win of the season. Alexis Christensen added nine points for Hazen Union in the loss.

"It was a back-and-forth game against an experienced team and I'm happy with how the girls competed in their first road game of the season," said head coach Tim Whitney. "We matched up really well with them for three quarters, but we are a very young team and we'll learn to cut down on the turnovers at crucial moments in the game. Baylie is a good young shooter, but she just had one of those nights where when it left her hand it was going to find a way to go in somehow," added Whitney.

Noell Kosolowsky scored eight of her 11 points in the fourth quarter to help Oxbow escape with a 48-37 road win against the Lady Cats on Thursday. Alexis Christensen kept her team in it once again with 15 points as both teams entered the final quarter tied at 29-29. Emma Parkin's game-high 20 and Kosolowsky wore down Hazen's defense down the stretch as Oxbow improved to 1-2 on the season.

"Parkin is extremely quick and disrupted us on both ends of the court and we were a tired bunch by the fourth quarter. She shut down a lot of our top scoring options on offense and made us

work hard on the defensive end. We have a lot of things to work on, but I'm very pleased with the development by the girls already this early in the season. We are still figuring out what everyone's role is going to be on this team and that will come with more games under our belt. We need to keep working at taking care of the basketball, especially late in games and everyone needs to keep working hard to keep improving and get better," said Whitney.

Hazen Union stayed on the road on Monday for a matchup against Richford and are scheduled to travel to Vergennes on Thursday.

Experienced Richford Handles Lady Trojans at Home

by Ken Brown

RICHFORD – Richford's varsity experience was on display last week as they handled the Twinfield-Cabot girls' basketball team at home for their second straight win.

Kyrielle Deuso fueled the Falcon offense from her point guard position with a game-high 20 points, leading them to a decisive 49-27 home win over Twinfield-Cabot. Deuso helped the Falcons break open a close, four-point contest in the second quarter with a 19-8 run and the Lady Trojan offense couldn't respond in the second half.

"We struggled to get an offensive flow all game and just didn't execute very well," said head coach Jason Cushing. "They used their size advantage well and killed us with eighteen offensive rebounds. We're struggling with the little fundamental things right now and boxing out is one of them," added Cushing.

Madison Johnson dominated the inside for Richford with 10 boards and Olivia Hatch chipped in with six points in the fourth quarter to shut the door on any comeback bid. The Lady Trojans never heated up from the field, mustering only ten second-half points. Jorga Washburn and Hayley North led Twinfield-Cabot

with 6 points apiece in the loss as they fell to 0-2 on the season. Richford improved to 2-1 on the season with the win.

"We're a very young team without a lot of size, so we have to keep working and developing solid fundamentals to counter that. We're still trying to balance having a junior varsity team with smaller numbers and that can be a disadvantage, so we're going to monitor it and see what makes the most sense for our program throughout the season. The girls' heads are still high, with great

attitudes, and they are going to put in the work to get better and come together as a team. Our first two games were against two really good, experienced teams and it will take some time to get our footing. We'll put in some work over the break and continue to improve our fundamentals so we can execute better offensively and defensively," said Cushing.

The Lady Trojans will have a week off before traveling to Blue Mountain on December 30 and are scheduled to host Craftsbury Academy on January 5.

We wish you
Happy Holidays
and a
Wonderful New Year

Lamoille Valley
Hardwick, VT
F O R D
"We know price matters!"

Phone: 802-472-5967
Web: www.LVFord.com

WOLCOTT GARAGE
Quality Car Care and Tires

Computerized diagnostics • Tires
Brakes • Shocks • Exhaust
Air Conditioning Service and Recharge
VT State Inspections (Car and Motorcycle)
HUNTER ALIGNMENTS

VERMONT STATE
2
INSPECTION DUE

Rte. 15, Wolcott
(conveniently located between Morrisville and Wolcott)
Monday through Friday, 8-5
888-6260

SPORTS

SKI REPORT

BY ERIC HANSON

Craftsbury Academy Boys Win First Ski Race of Season

CRAFTSBURY – The first two weeks of December did not feel much like winter with numerous warm-spells and rain events, but snowmaking at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center allowed for the first high school cross country ski race to take place on Dec. 15.

Racers from eight schools took off in 16-person wave starts, with two skiers from each school skiing a 2-km loop, twice for varsity and once for JV.

Cormac Leahy (first, 9:45) and Leo Cirosta (third, 9:52) led the Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys to a two-point victory over U-32. Both schools had four skiers in the top 10. CA's Charlie Krebs (sixth) and Charlie Kehler (tenth) were in the mix. Burlington's Nico H. and Montpelier's Sage Grossi filled out the other top spots. CA's Linden Stelma-Leonard skied to 18th, followed by Noah McKibben in 28th in the 47-person field.

In the girls' varsity race, Burlington showed they will have a strong team this year, placing

four in the top seven, led by Gillian Fairfax in 11:36. CA skiers followed with Anika Leahy (second, 11:47), Ruth Krebs (ninth), Amelia Circosta (tenth), and Ava Purdy (22nd) in the 38-person race. CA finished in second overall, just ahead of U-32. This race is the first time ever that the Craftsbury Academy has had four girls for a team score.

In the JV race, many skiers who have raced only a few times (or never) had a chance to see what lining up the start line is about. CA's Silas Hunt, Aidan Moffat, and Cole VanWinkle went 1-2-3 on the fast, one-lap course. Many of the CA boys and girls are coming off an impressive cross country running season. Between already being very fit, CA benefits greatly from more on-snow time than almost any other team at this time of year. Boys' team scores: CA 20, U-32 22, Montpelier 69, Burlington 89, Lamoille 96, Harwood 113, Peoples 120, St. Johnsbury (incomplete). Girls team scores: Burlington 15, CA 43, U-32 53, Lamoille 76, Montpelier 77, Peoples, Harwood, St. Johnsbury incomplete.

Craftsbury Biathletes Do Well at U.S. Olympic Trials

CRAFTSBURY -- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center hosted three days of U.S. Biathlon team trials (Dec. 15-18) to see who moves on to the final Olympic qualification races in Germany in early January.

Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) athletes performed really well, with Hallie Grossman and Kelsey Dickinson both placing in the top three consistently and joining Amanda Kautzer (Plymouth, Minn./Team Crosscut). On the men's side, Max Durtschi (Ketchum, Idaho/Team Crosscut), Vasek Cervenka (Grand Rapids, Minn./National Guard Biathlon), and Maxime Germaine (Anchorage, Alaska/National Guard Biathlon) claimed the three open spots. Three other GRP athletes just missed the top spots, but did well enough to earn starting spots for IBU Cup (International Biathlon Union) races in February. These athletes include Luke Brown, Tara Gerhaghty-Moats, and Carsen Campbell. GRPers Susan Dunklee, Claire Egan, and Jake Brown have



photo by Eric Hanson.

Hallie Grossman (Craftsbury Green Racing Project) skied and shot her way to a second, first, and seventh at U.S. Biathlon trials in Craftsbury last week.

already qualified to race in the upcoming Olympics for the U.S. team.

Richford Spoils Craftsbury Girls Home Opener

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' basketball team ran into a hot Richford squad last week in dropping their season opener at home.

Kyrielle Deuso scored a game-high 15 points to lead the Lady Falcons to a 41-24 road win over CA last Wednesday. The Lady Chargers kept it close early, trailing 8-6 in the second

quarter, but Deuso led Richford on a 12-0 run to end the half and they never looked back. Richford's experience has shown on the court early this season as they returned four seniors and three juniors from last season's squad. The win improved the Lady Falcons to 2-1 on the season.

"The girls came out and started really

strong, but we just had a rough second quarter and went cold. The girls came out after halftime and played really hard and fought until the end. We are still working hard at getting better every day and still figuring out what everyone can accomplish to help the team this early in the season," said head coach Mariah LeVangie.

Ella Gillespie led the Lady Chargers with 14 points, picking up right where the team's leading scorer left off a season ago. Craftsbury brought back their varsity basketball program last season after a four-year hiatus, getting only a handful of games in due to the pandemic. LeVangie knows there will be some growing pains for her young team in her first year at the helm but likes the development that she's seen already compared to last season.

"We're going to put a lot of work in over the break nailing down and executing our offensive and defensive schemes. Gym maintenance has made it very challenging the last week to get on the court and get the practice that a young group like this needs. This team knows their limits well and the more time we get together at the varsity level, the more we'll be in sync. We just need more time on the court together. We are looking forward to our next battle this week," said LeVangie.

Craftsbury hosted Blue Mountain on Monday and is scheduled to host Enosburg next Tuesday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury ninth grader Savannah Boyce heads toward the basket past Holly Raymond of Richford during play in the World War II gymnasium in Craftsbury on December 15. Craftsbury lost to Richford 24-41.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury junior Ella Gillespie aims for the basket followed by Ella Chagnon (#1) and Carly Archambault (#3) of Richford. The Rockets won 41-24.

SPORTS



Dave Morse Classic Tournament Winners

The Hazen Union boys' team won the sixth annual Dave Morse Classic Tournament held on December 17. Hazen beat Williamstown 61-58 to win the championship game. Pictured in the front row (left to right): team manager Zeke Wohlberg, Khamden Luangrath, Aasha Gould, Carter Hill, Ryker Willett, team manager Sully Laflam. Back row (left to right): Jadon Baker, Lincoln Michaud, Fenton Meyer, Tyler Rivard, Gabe Michaud, Xavier Hill, Ryan Morrison.

Wildcats Claim Third Straight Dave Morse Classic

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Hazen Union head coach Aaron Hill and his Wildcat basketball team paid tribute to the memory of the late, great Hall of Famer Dave Morse the best way they knew how last week by beating Randolph and Williamstown to win the sixth annual Dave Morse Classic (DMC).

Tyler Rivard introduced his imposing frame to Randolph in the opening round with 23 points and 16 rebounds, leading the Wildcats to a 64-54 win on Thursday night. Sophomore Xavier Hill made his varsity debut with a solid 14 points to help Hazen build a commanding 38-21 first half lead. The Galloping Ghosts made a second half run behind Levi West's team-high 22, but Rivard and the Wildcats denied any

real threat. Senior Carter Hill rounded out a balanced scoring attack for Hazen with 13. Andrew Lewis chipped in with 16 points for Randolph in the loss.

Williamstown edged Lamoille 62-59 on the other side of the bracket behind 16 points and 9 rebounds from Thomas Parrott.

Not only was it a return of the DMC after a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, but fans came out as they've done for years to honor the state and community legend and support the Dave Morse Scholarship Fund.

"It was awesome having fans back in the gym again," said Hill. "Having fan support adds so much to the experience and this tournament," added Hill.

Rivard continued to impose his will in the championship game with 12 points and 19 rebounds Friday night to lead Hazen past Williamstown, 61-58, to claim their third straight DMC title. Jadon Baker poured in a team-high 17 points to help the Wildcats build a 38-33 lead at the break. Blake Clark kept the Blue Devils within striking distance, drilling six first-half 3-pointers. Carter Hill and Lincoln Michaud combined for 22 points and 12 rebounds on the night as they helped the Wildcats increase their lead to nine after three quarters. Rivard and Michaud hit four straight free throws to make it 59-52 Hazen late in the fourth, but Williamstown clawed back to within three with one possession left. Carter Hill would deny Thomas Parrott's game-tying three with the defensive play of the tournament as time expired, securing the victory for the Wildcats. Clark led all scorers with 25 for Williamstown in the loss as they fell to 2-1 on the season. Lamoille handled Randolph 73-48 in the consolation game.

"It was a great tournament and I'm pleased with our performance on the court. We still

have a few things to clean up, but our effort and teamwork are great right now. The coaching staff is excited about the potential for this team. Winning the Dave Morse Classic really means a lot to all of us," said Hill.

Hazen Union faced their first road test of the season at Stowe on Tuesday and will stay on the road for a matchup against Oxbow on Thursday. Hill's Wildcats will look to continue to build momentum as they head towards a much-anticipated matchup with divisional power Enosburg on the road on December 29.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen senior Carter Hill charges into Thomas Parrott of Williamstown during the 6th Annual Dave Morse Classic Tournament championship game held Friday at Hazen. The Wildcats edged the Blue Devils 61-58.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Tyler Rivard of Hazen drives for a layup against Andrew Lewis of Randolph in the first round of the 6th Annual Dave Morse Classic held December 16. Rivard scored a total of 23 points. Hazen defeated Randolph 64-54.

SPORTS

Chargers Hold off Saints for First Win of the Season

by Ken Brown

ENOSBURG – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' basketball team bounced back from a loss against Enosburg earlier in the week with hard-earned win against Christ Covenant to improve to 1-2 on the season.

Gavin Combs led a balanced attack with a game-high 17 points to lead Division III Enosburg to a resounding 77-24 home win over the Chargers last Tuesday. Devyn Gleason (15), Danny Antillon (11), and Silas Kane (10) helped fuel a 19-0 run to start the game for the Hornets and they never looked back. Enosburg has been to the Division III Final Four each of the last two seasons, with a runner-up finish in 2020, and will be contenders once again this season with seven returning seniors. Dylan Washer led the Chargers with 10 points in the loss.

"They are a big and talented team, and I

wouldn't be surprised if they don't contend for the state title in their division this year," said head coach Sean Ryan. "We knew what we were walking into going in and at halftime I just told the guys to go back out there with pride, continue to work hard, and have fun playing basketball. We are going to see them again at our place later in the season, so we'll come up with a different gameplan to see if we can slow them down," added Ryan.

Washer continued to lead the Charger offense on Friday night with a team-high 17 as they edged Christ Covenant in a home game that was played at Twinfield Union High School. Senior captain Jas Zendik had his best offensive performance of the season with 16 to help CA erase a four-point halftime deficit. Nathan Mulligan led the Saints with 23 points in the loss as they fell to 0-1. The game was played in Plainfield due to gym floor

maintenance at Craftsbury Academy.

"I want to thank Twinfield for allowing us to use their gymnasium on such short notice and to our athletic director Gabriela Silva for jumping through so many hoops to make this game happen before the holiday break. We were down for most of the game, but the guys did a great job of working hard to hang in there and gut out a big win. I'm really happy for them and they gave their coach a fantastic early Christmas present. This is a great group of kids that love to work and have already asked for more practice over the break to work on conditioning. That will allow us to continue to tweak our offensive and defensive schemes. We'll enjoy getting the first win under our belt and go to work getting ready for our match-up with Richford," said Ryan.

The Chargers will get a lengthy holiday break before hosting Richford on January 4.

Winooski Pummels Shorthanded Trojans

by Ken Brown

WINOOSKI – Winooski showed the Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team why they could be the surprise team in the Mountain League this season with a resounding home win to open their season.

Trevon Bradley poured in a game-high 20 points and dished out seven assists to lead the Spartans to a 73-46 home win over Twinfield-Cabot on Friday. Bradley and the Spartans broke open a tight contest in the second quarter with a 25-2 run that saw the Trojans go 1-17 from the field over an eight-minute stretch.

"They are a very strong and talented group of athletes, and we went ice cold in the second quarter. That was the story in the game. The

guys did a great job of battling the other three quarters, but we dug ourselves too big of a hole to come back from," said head coach Chris Hudson.

Daniel Surma did damage inside for Winooski with 10 points and 13 rebounds and Camden Benoit (14) and Sharras McIver (13) rounded out a balanced Spartan attack. Lucas Roberts led the Trojans with 17 and Kerrick Medose chipped in with 10 as they battled without their injured big man Mason Cushing. Hudson started three sophomores and a freshman and he knew it would be a challenge going in against a Division III Spartan squad that is much improved from years past.

"They just had bigger, stronger athletes in this matchup with a deeper bench and they have a talented, experienced team this year. I'm

proud of the kids, the way they battled in the second half without Mason, but we exhausted so much energy trying to cut into the lead that we just ran out of gas. We've been on the road for three games and we're a little beat up right now, but this is a game you flush and continue to work hard to improve as a team throughout the season. I'm not worried about this team. If a loss like this comes in February or March that would be a different story. We'll take the holiday break to work on some things and get healthy and we look forward to getting on our home floor after Christmas," said Hudson.

The Trojans are scheduled to host West Rutland on December 28 and will get another break before hitting the road again against Richford on January 6.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 22
5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School girls' basketball vs. Northfield, at Twinfield.
6:15 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball vs. Northfield, at Twinfield.

Thursday, December 23
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Vergennes.
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Oxbow.
7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Vergennes.
7 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball at Oxbow.

Tuesday, December 28
5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys'

junior varsity basketball vs. West Rutland, at Twinfield.
6 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.
6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball vs. Enosburg, at Craftsbury.
7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball vs. West Rutland, at Twinfield.
7:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.

Wednesday, December 29
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Enosburg.
7 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball at Enosburg.

Thursday, December 30
6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy

girls' varsity basketball vs. Northfield, at Craftsbury.

Tuesday, January 4
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Peoples.
6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' varsity basketball vs. Richford, at Craftsbury.
7 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball at Peoples.

Wednesday, January 5
5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball at Craftsbury.
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Winooski.
6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball at Twinfield.

6:15 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School girls' basketball at Craftsbury.
7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Winooski.

Thursday, January 6
5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' junior varsity basketball at Richford.
7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball at Richford.

Friday, January 7
5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Williamstown.
6 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball vs. Stowe, at Hazen Union.
6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball at Danville.



YOUR GIFT-GIVING MADE EASY!

Santa recommends the electronic Hardwick Gazette.

You probably know someone who would love to receive the Hardwick Gazette. For \$45 a year, it's easy to give the welcome gift of community news to someone on your list. Your gift will arrive every Wednesday morning after 6 a.m.

**To arrange for your gift,
go to hardwickgazette.com
or call (802) 472-6521**