

THE Hardwick Gazette

YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED NEWSPAPER

• INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889



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

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

\$5 in-store, free online at hardwickgazette.org

Volume 136 Number 50

HED management mystery handled handily

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – At a quick special meeting of the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) commissioners last Thursday, Scott Johnstone was formally appointed as the HED general manager.

The meeting began with an executive session that interim general manager Scott Johnstone and the department's attorney Ed Adrian were invited to join.

When that closed session ended, three motions in quick succession followed, with commissioners first unanimously accepting a separation agreement with General Manager Sarah Braese, who served in that position since January of this year.

A management services contract under which HED will share a general manager with Morrisville Water & Light (MWL), that had previously been approved outside a public meeting in violation of Vermont's Open

Meeting Law, was formally approved by all the commissioners.

Chair Michael Ambrosino acknowledged the commission's inadvertent violation of the Vermont Open Meeting Law and apologized to the community for his error, saying a remedy for it had been one purpose of this meeting.

Accepting the resignation of Braese and signing the management agreement with MWL paved the way for Johnstone to be appointed as the department's new general manager, thus handily curing the Open Meeting Law violation.

Previously Johnstone had been appointed to sign checks on behalf of HED..

In other business, minutes of the meeting report that Commissioner Roger Prevot acknowledged the sincere interest of the Greensboro Association "in addressing the ownership questions regarding who should own and operate both the public access and the dam that regulates water elevation on



HED general manager Scott Johnstone. social media photo

Caspian Lake."

Johnstone will advise the association that, though the agenda for the regular 6 p.m. meeting, December 16, has been set, it will likely be added to the agenda at the meeting.

East village expansion final report submitted

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – The final report of the East Village Expansion Advisory Committee (EVEAC) was approved in a 10-0 vote at its December 3 meeting, after which the committee voted to recommend to the select board that that meeting be its last.

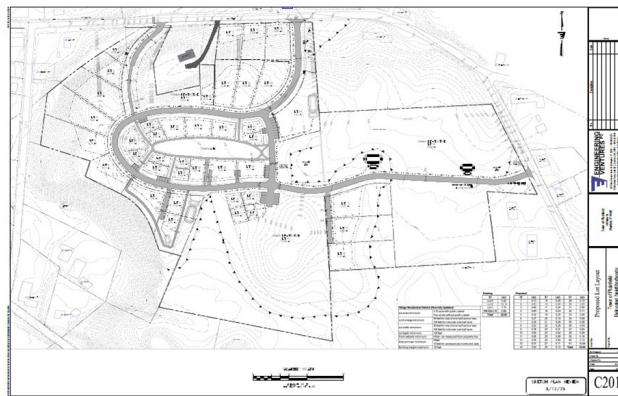
Five days later, the Plainfield select board accepted the report and voted unanimously to dissolve the committee.

The project is effectively stalled, following a failed bond vote and rejection of a key federal grant to fund the project.

The community has been divided over the town's role in development, the specific location (including its effect on wetlands), the density of the proposed homes, the project's

overall cost and the risk associated with it, as noted by Vermont Public.

The bond vote would have funded purchase of property for the village expansion project in a way that would have allowed the town to generate



A March plan showing the location of 40 proposed home lots in Plainfield's East Village Expansion shows the Main Street entrance to the development at the top center and the East Hill Road entrance to the right. drawing by Engineering Ventures

revenue from the sale of lots, which buying it with the hoped for grant would not have.

Rejection of a \$9.7 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that would have funded a significant portion of the project, was rejected by the state, at least in part due to the failed bond vote, reported The Times Argus.

Arion Thiboumery, one of three EVEAC co-chairs, presented the report, telling the select board the committee "has fulfilled its charge to the fullest extent it could," noted meeting minutes.

In her grant administrator's report, Karen Hatcher said feedback on the CDBG "was that the scale and scope of the project was too big to complete in six years." She added that "there was concern based on the results of the bond vote that the town doesn't have site control."

An additional \$14 million is available in a second round.

See EXPANSION, 4

Preliminary budget up over 10%

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – A preliminary town budget discussion presented to the Woodbury Select Board (WSB) at its December 8 meeting, showed a general fund increase of 11%, with 15% for the highway fund. Discussion was to continue at the special meeting held Monday, Dec. 15.

In other business, the FEMA buyout of the

fire station property was accepted, the town will ask to keep excess FEMA funds and the zoning board of adjustment's deliberations over the Swenson Granite Company's request to expand its operations generated much discussion.

The board signed an agreement for the FEMA buyout of the old fire station for \$128,000, giving the town ownership of the empty lot. Fire Chief Paul Cerutti said the funds will be

See BUDGET, 4



Paul Ruta and his Percheron draft horses Babe and Rocky give wagon rides at Wintermarket, Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Highland Center for the Arts.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Croissants
HOUSE
MADE
BAKED
GOODS
SANDWICHES



COFFEE SHOP
AND BAKERY
SUPPORTING LOCAL & SMALL SCALE
FARMERS, PRODUCERS, AND ARTISTS.

7AM-3PM
SEVEN DAYS/WEEK
FREE WIFI

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Car crashes

HARDWICK – On December 10, sometime shortly before 4:14 p.m., the Hardwick Police located a crashed vehicle on Slapp Hill Road while on patrol in the area. The vehicle had exited the west-bound lane of travel and struck a fire hydrant in the area of 122 Slapp Hill. The operator had left the scene of the crash prior to police arrival. The operator was subsequently identified as Palmer Jordan of Hardwick. The investigation is ongoing at the time of this notice. Jordan was not injured in the crash.

On December 11, at 10:45 a.m., Hardwick Rescue Squad and Police Department responded to a single vehicle crash on Center

Road, near Porter Brook Road in Hardwick. The investigation revealed that Charlene McCann of Hardwick was traveling south on Center Road in her Toyota Highlander. She was operating below the 50 MPH speed limit, on the slippery roadway, when her right tires traveled off the right side of the pavement. McCann attempted to correct this; however this caused her vehicle to veer to the left and off the left side of the roadway. McCann's vehicle struck a telephone pole and landed upright off the roadway. McCann was wearing her seat belt and sustained minor injuries. She was checked out by Hardwick Rescue Squad members, but not transported.

Vermont State Police Impaired driver

PLAINFIELD – On December 13, at 7:39 p.m., troopers of the Berlin barracks received a report of an impaired driver in Plainfield. The operator was identified as Michael Grant. While speaking with

troopers, Grant displayed signs of impairment. Grant was taken into custody for suspicion of DUI. Grant was issued a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court to answer the above charge.

Contents

Police Report.....	2 - 3
Weather Watch	3
Several seats available on select board	4
Act 73 community conversation	5
Budget meetings continue.....	5
Area lodging establishments saw fewer travelers...	6
Letters from readers: Clifford, Shepard, Malick Hoffman, Ray, Young, Library trustees	7, 9
Yankee Notebook: Orphans and widows	8
Another Opinion: Hill, Kelley, Leahy.....	10-11
Voices of Spirit: I paint because I can.....	11
In the Garden: Natural holiday decorating.....	12
The Outside Story: Dwarf-mistletoe	13
Weeks Gone By: 1925, 1960	13
Our Communities	14
Obituaries: Gerretson, Bagley, McAllister Sr. ...	14-15
Review: Tallis Scholars.....	16
Events	17-18
Lady Cats tip-off season.....	19
Woodstock handles Lady Trojans.....	19
Sport Calendar	19
Snowmobile season opens Dec. 16	19
Twinfield-Cabot defend title at Bob Abe Classic	20
Record numbers for Chargers bowling	20
Eric Hanson's Ski Report	21
Holly Jolly Brawly Invitational (photos)	22



December 17- December 24

New Willey's Store Skida Alpine hats and headbands!		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SALE 20% OFF Toys and other Christmas items starts December 19	
Green Mountain Ground Coffee \$6.99 10-12 oz.	Kellogg's Rice Krispies or Corn Flakes \$3.49 12 oz.	Kellogg's Raisin Bran \$3.49 13.6-16.1 oz.	
Quaker Oats \$3.99 18oz.	Classico Pasta Sauce 2/\$5 15-24 oz.	Barilla Pasta 3/\$4 12-16 oz.	
Pam Cooking Spray \$3.49 5-6 oz.	Betty Crocker R.T.S. Frosting 2/\$3	King Arthur Unbleached Flour \$3.49	
Domino Granulated Sugar \$3.49 3.5-4 lb.	Bakers Baking Chocolate \$3.99 10-12 oz.	Kellogg's Town House or Club Crackers \$3.49 12.7-13.7 oz.	
Simply Done Bathroom Tissue \$9.99 12-roll, 286-2912	Cabot Sliced or Cracker Cut Cheese 2/\$6 7-8 oz.	Pictsweet Steamed Vegetables 2/\$4 9-10 oz.	
Betty Crocker Brownie Mix 2/\$3	Nestles Baking Chips \$3.99 10-12 oz.	Pepperidge Farm Garlic Bread \$3.49 10-11.75 oz.	
Morning Star Farm Vegetarian Patties \$4.49 8-10.5 oz.	Eggo Waffles \$2.99 12.3 oz.	Talenti Gelato \$3.79 16 oz.	

The Willey's Store Since 1900
Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

True Value
HARDWARE

- Full-service Grocery & Hardware • Clothing
- Footwear • Housewares • Hunting & Fishing
- Coffee Bar • Beer & Wine • Toys • Gifts

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

WEATHER WATCH



A hairy woodpecker feeds at a bird feeder, Sunday, Dec. 7, on Montgomery Road in East Hardwick. There was a flurry of activity at feeders prior to sub-zero weather on Monday.
photo by Dawn Gustafson

Warm and windy weather interrupts winter conditions

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Almost every day of the past forecast period featured some form of light snow, with moderate to heavy bursts and those amounts added up over the week. Snowfall totals ranged from nine inches to a foot, with just under an inch of snow liquid equivalent.

Total snowpack depth by Sunday ranged from 10 to 16 inches, with the accumulating snow well-preserved by overnight lows close to zero degrees and highs getting into the 20s.

A pattern change is expected as we start out this forecast period, with multiple disturbances developing along an airmass boundary that will lift north of the region, putting us in the warm sector. Expect some periods of above-freezing conditions, especially with the strongest wave. That wave will move north and east from the Mississippi River Valley Thursday and into our region Thursday night and Friday. Precipitation will be mainly in the form of rain, with possibly a thunderstorm on Friday morning as precipitation turns back to snow showers with brief snow squalls. This period will also feature windy conditions, with some gusts as high as 35 mph in the north-south valleys Thursday night, and the west-facing hills on Friday.

Overnight temperatures on Thursday will be in the upper 30s, with rising temperatures overnight. Expect a flash freeze as temperatures plummet Friday afternoon, potentially making for difficult travel on icy roads.

Unsettled weather continues into the weekend, although any additional precipitation appears to be snow. A brief break in cloud cover will occur Saturday. Highs during the weekend will generally be in the 20s and lows in the single digits to teens. Hopefully some of that snowpack hangs on for folks who are just starting to get outdoors to enjoy it. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers. High: 34. Low: 14. Southwest wind 5-10 mph, becoming west.

Thursday: Partly sunny, becoming cloudy. Rain. High: 40. Low: 35 early, with temperature rising overnight. Southwest wind 10-15 mph, becoming south and increasing to 15-20 mph with gusts to 35 mph by evening.

Friday: Cloudy. Rain with a chance of thunderstorms or snow squalls in the morning, becoming scattered snow showers in the afternoon. High: 44, with temperature falling throughout the day. Low: 5. Wind southwest 15-20 mph, becoming northwest and decreasing to 10-15 mph by afternoon.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 22. Low: 17. Variable wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. High: 28. Low: 8. West wind 5-10 mph.

POLICE REPORT

Lamoille County Sheriff

Sheriff's department makes arrest in sexual assault investigation

WOLCOTT — On December 12, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) Special Investigation Unit received a report from the Vermont Department of Children and Families regarding an alleged sexual assault involving Michael Mason, age 28, of Wolcott.

A coordinated investigation between LCSD deputies and Department of Children and Families investigators led to the arrest of Mason on charges of one count

of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Minor. The victim involved in this case is under the age of 19. Following his arrest, Mason was lodged at the Northeast Correctional Facility and held without bail. On December 15, Mason was arraigned in Lamoille County Superior Court. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department will continue to work closely with partner agencies as the investigation proceeds. No further information will be released at this time.



A multi-vehicle accident at the Cabot-Marshfield town line on December 9, resulted in significant damage to two of the three vehicles, but with no serious injuries.
social media photo

Cabot Fire Department Multi-vehicle accident

CABOT – On the afternoon of December 9, the Cabot Fire Department responded to a multi-vehicle accident on Vt. 215 at the Marshfield town line. Part of the scene was inside of the Town of Cabot.

Cabot firefighters performed extrication of an operator from one of the three involved vehicles and provided traffic control. Marshfield

Fire, Plainfield Fire, Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service and East Montpelier Ambulance all responded to the incident as well. There were no serious injuries despite significant damage to two of the three vehicles. Vermont State Police responded and investigated the incident. Caledonia Wrecker Service and Action Towing cleared vehicles from the scene.

AWARE report

HARDWICK – Nineteen people used AWARE services between November 30 and December 14. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is (802) 472-6463. A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence.

AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender. For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

Several seats to be available on select board

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – The first regular select board meeting of December consisted primarily of budget discussions, updates on flood-related projects and debate over whether or not to implement a local option tax. Notably, Danny Hale announced he would not be running for re-election to a select board seat.

Two seats will be available at town meeting in March; a one-year term and a three-year term.

Much discussion centered on a possible local option tax. Board Chair Eric Remick explained there are three local option tax choices: sales, meals and alcohol and rooms.

Board member Danny Hale expressed concerns that these options wouldn't benefit a small town like Hardwick. Hale noted that adding option taxes may place a burden on smaller businesses, especially those that operate in multiple towns and must keep track of different tax requirements. He gave the example of delivering lumber to 33 towns, each with its own tax rules.

Shari Cornish responded that businesses already have to keep track of sales tax, to which Hale reiterated his point. Remick agreed that a local sales tax seems complicated due to variability across towns. He suggested a meals and alcohol option would be easier for businesses to manage. Hale said he would support this,

barring business who get deliveries. Remick clarified that if the tax is passed by voters, individual businesses cannot opt out: it would apply town-wide.

Rachel Kane, who was at the meeting representing the Hardwick Conservation Commission, said she is still learning about the option tax issue. Her business, Summersweet Gardens, currently collects sales and rooms and meals tax, but she noted that most towns with local option taxes are larger than Hardwick. She expressed concern that adding taxes could discourage visitors and create complications for businesses that get deliveries. In her role representing the conservation commission, Kane inquired about the proper steps to create a Conservation Reserve Fund. Town Finance Director Casey Rowell explained that if the fund is to be established using town money, then it must be approved by voters. If the fund is created solely from donations, a vote is not required. Chair Remick requested Kane return when more is known. The town maintains a fund to handle unexpected expenses, or reduced revenue. The current policy has been to maintain the equivalent of 10% of annual budgeted expenditures in that fund, with a goal of 20%. Rowell proposed changing the goal from 20% to 15%, which was approved. The board recapped the draft budget for FY27, discussing proposed changes and additions they may want to make. The most current draft version of the

budget is available on the town website.

In other business, a public engagement session for an essential services project is scheduled for mid-January. Upson met with members of the fire department last week to address their questions about the proposed new fire station building.

SLR Consulting was present to give an overview of the River Flood Modeling project of Lamoille River and Cooper Brook, showing how future flooding could affect Hardwick. River modeling presentations were held for the public, on December 3. with SLR, attended by 60 people.

Transportation engineering firm VHB, under contract with the town for a Mill Street-Main Street study, has scheduled a meeting for January 7.

Town Manager David Upson reported the town received preliminary designs and cost estimates for both Bridge 31 and Fisher Folly Bridge, each with three proposed alternatives, to be submitted to FEMA for final review. The town is requesting extensions for seven FEMA projects, including a two-year extension for the wastewater treatment facility, and a one-year extension for the Fisher Folly Bridge project.

Upson said he continues to meet with FEMA every two weeks. He hopes FEMA will present an offer for the wastewater treatment facility by mid-January.

Budget

Continued From Page One

used toward matching funds required by the USDA agreement for the new fire department's addition.

Plans for that addition have been sent to the USDA. Once they are approved, the project can go out to bid.

Town officials had been under the impression that unused FEMA funds for bridge replacement could be kept by the town for additional

flood mitigation projects, but that became less certain in recent months.

Recovery Officer Skip Lindsay reported the Vermont Public Assistance office sent an email indicating that FEMA will be expecting the return of unused funds for the bridge replacement work.

Some of those funds have already been spent, leading to discussion about options, including only returning unused funds and asking to keep what has already been

spent, but it was decided Lindsay will write a draft letter asking to hold on to the remaining funds.

Zoning board of adjustment (ZBA) Chair Jonah Meacham talked about the November 18 hearing on a Swenson Granite Company application requesting approval to expand, which the ZBA must consider and determine is not a detriment to the community if it is to be approved.

The board's deliberative session was scheduled for December 11, with a decision to be based on issues raised in the hearing. Meacham said noise, dust and traffic safety from the additional trucks were the main concerns raised there.

The amount Swenson pays to the town hasn't increased in 15

years, but is outside the purview of the ZBA and will be negotiated by the WSB, along with other things that might include more control over the scheduling of the trucks.

Two candidates have applied for a position as the third road crew member. An interview scheduled for December 15 with the most promising candidate, which Alfred Larabee will attend.

A discussion about how long Larabee, who has resigned, but agreed to stay on until the position is filled, ended with Larabee saying he doesn't intend to leave the town short-handed and is willing to help train the new employee.

A quote to replace five town hall windows came in at \$17,000, which was thought to be too high, but no further plans were made.

Expansion

Continued From Page One

Hatcher explained funds are available in a second round of grant funding. "The state has reached out and encouraged the town to re-apply during the second round of grants, where there is another \$14 million available for housing."

It was decided that the town's "grants group will be in communication with state agencies to ask what they would like to see changed or amended."

The EVEAC was established to create a feasible plan for developing a new neighborhood in Plainfield, Vermont, aimed at addressing housing needs and revitalizing the community.

The final report outlines the

project's goals, with timelines, design, budget, management, lot sales and permitting information.

Goals of the project are to provide affordable housing to help address Vermont's housing crisis in the area and include diverse housing types, with single-family homes, multiplexes, tiny houses and apartments;

The committee recommended prioritizing the re-housing of flood-displaced residents affected by floods in 2023 and 2024 and community contributors.

It is hoped the project will contribute to restoring the town's tax base and expanding the water/wastewater user base lost to the flooding.

Finally, the project should be cost-neutral to the town.

Calderwood

INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

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

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES



Mike Gauthier, CIC

mikeg@calderwoodins.com




Act 73 community conversation emphasizes rural needs

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – A report on the November 21 community public hearing on Vermont school districting, addressing issues around Act 73 concludes with, “The message from Craftsbury was clear: Vermonters care deeply about their children, their communities and their schools. With open dialogue and inclusive planning, Vermont can build a path forward that includes the values, the voices and the hopes of all its people.”

The gathering, organized by Sterling College and Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO), brought the Craftsbury community together with residents from nearby towns, legislative members of the School District Redistricting Task Force and area Rep. Leanne Harple, a member of the House Committee on Education.

A presentation by Ranny Bledsoe, a member of the Hazen Union

School and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Boards “provided an overview of Act 73, the Redistricting Task Force’s work, and the proposals under consideration.”

Following the presentation, participants broke into small groups to consider three guiding questions, sharing concerns about the Act 73 proposal, hopes about recommendations from the task force and what legislators should hear about impacts of the proposal.

Responses to the first question emphasized the impacts of school consolidation and potentially destabilizing already shrinking rural towns, creating longer bus rides, with increased costs and greater carbon emissions. Of particular note were comments about anxiety and instability around uncertainty about Act 73s outcomes creating a mental health crisis.

A lack of data, evidence and clarity about goals and long-term benefits was noted by many, followed by concerns about staffing,

with associated labor and workforce concerns.

That recommendations might lead to a one-size-fits-all curriculum that won’t meet local needs, worries about the loss of education quality and loss of unique of programs, were expressed as concerns.

And finally, for that question, a potential loss of local representation and top-down decision making, leading to a loss of local expertise, were concerns.

Hopes for what the task force might recommend included incorporating collaborative, flexible models and recommendations to control costs without sacrificing community.

The small groups hoped that legislators would understand the local sense that schools are at the heart of small communities, that local governance and representation are important, with local voices central to decision-making, and not peripheral.

Also suggested was the importance of reforming the education funding system by addressing

rising healthcare costs at the state level that Act 73 does not address. A preference for new models of taxation that shift school funding to an income-based system and looking at taxing second homes more effectively was identified.

And again, needing better data to make good decisions came up.

The report encourages community members to remain active, “paying attention to who is making decisions for us.”

It suggests schools and boards to explore collaborative models, that might include resource sharing and partnerships with career and technical centers, “that strengthen opportunities without sacrificing community presence.”

Pointing to the value of having legislators and task force members at the gathering, the report recommends they “engage directly with rural communities especially the NEK, early and often.

The full report is available at bit.ly/3L3Zx0f.

Budget meetings continue

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – The weekly budget meeting had a short agenda. Town Clerk Kim Greaves informed the select board that, while it has delegated authority to the town clerk to approve catering permits, it did not give her authority to approve special event permits. After some discussion, the board approved granting the town clerk provisional authority to approve special event permits.

Last spring, the town invested FEMA funds in two CDs, one for \$700k and the other for \$300k. These are currently up for renewal. Josh Karp said funds in the \$300k CD are earmarked for the Shadow Lake Bridge project which was just completed. The board agreed to renew only? the \$700k

CD for three additional months.

Moving on to FY26 budget review, Chair MacNeil inquired if the town can enact a policy that would require appropriation requests to be received sooner, as the current January 15 deadline is very close to when the town report needs to be sent to the printers. Greaves will investigate.

The board discussed the creation of an emergency reserve fund to be placed on the town meeting warning as a separate article. The board must first decide what restrictions should be placed on such a fund.

While the board had intended that the FY27 budget presentation be made at the Dec. 10 select board meeting, the budget is not yet finalized so a public budget presentation and Q&A will happen at a later date.

W. Danville-Joe’s Pond

Choose from either sunny loft bedroom or semi-private, two-room lower walkout level with rustic half bath overlooking Joe’s Pond. Hosts and their pup are seeking companionship, some shared meals, small amounts of shoveling and cleaning. Zero rent plus small utility share. (802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required.

EHO

Prices shown valid 12/19 - 12/25
Member-owner deals valid 12/01-12/31
While supplies last

BUFFALO MOUNTAIN MARKET
COOPERATIVELY OWNED SINCE 1975
Weekly Highlights

Just a taste of the deals this week. Stop in for hundreds of local items, cafe food, and more!

2/\$5 Cranberry Sauce Ocean Spray, varieties, 14 oz	\$6.99 Pasta Sauce Rao's Homemade, varieties, 24 oz	25% off Medicinal Teas Sprouting Soul Botanicals, varieties	\$5.49 Mochi Ice Cream Treats Bubbies, varieties, 7.5 oz
\$4.99 Ground Cinnamon Frontier, 2.45 oz	\$8.49 Bedtime Fizzy Bath Kit Aurus Cacia, 7.5 oz	\$12.99 Maca Root Powder Garden of Life, 7.93 oz	2/\$4 Stuffing Mix Stove Top, varieties, 6 oz
\$5.49 Ben & Jerry's Varieties Ben & Jerry's, varieties, 16 oz	\$4.99 Mayonnaise Hellman's varieties, 15-36 oz	2/\$5 Cheese Bars Cabot, varieties, 6-8 oz	\$4.00 Organic Frozen Potatoes Cascadian Farms, varieties, 16 oz
\$2.50 Sparkling Yerba Mate Clean Cause, varieties, 16 oz	\$4.29 Plant Powered Cleaner ECOS, 22 oz	\$5.99 Organic Margarine Earth Balance, 13 oz	\$2.29 Ginger Beer Fever Tree, 16.9 oz

Some of our Member-owner Deals This Week ...

\$1.49 Taco Seasoning Rioga, 9 oz	2/\$5 Breath Mint Varieties Vermints, varieties, 141 oz	10% off Moist Cat Food Fussie Cat, varieties, 2.82 oz	25% off Ramen Base Varieties Tsuki, varieties, 16.9 oz
--	--	--	---

75 Mill Street Hardwick, VT 05843 • 802.472.6020 • www.buffalomountainmarket.com

Your support powers every story we tell.

DONATE NOW

NewsMatch

Local news provides the facts you need to make decisions about your community.
DONATE NOW TO MATCH \$40,000 TO HELP US BRING YOU FACT-BASED COMMUNITY INFORMATION.
THE Hardwick Gazette
INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Area lodging establishments saw less Canadian travel in 2025

by Paul Fixx

VERMONT – Canadian tourism and spending in Vermont has fallen significantly since January, following the February announcement that the U.S. would impose a 25% tariff on Canadian imports, except oil and energy, which were to be taxed at 10%. At roughly the same time President Trump began to publicly suggest the idea of Canada becoming the 51st U.S. state in social media posts and interviews.

In Greensboro, Elsa Schultz, Highland Lodge's general manager, said business from Canadian customers is down significantly. "Many Canadians book a year in advance to reserve the lodge's cabins, but are now calling to cancel."

She said "some have said they are happy with the lodge, but will not return until Donald Trump is no longer President."

Though the tariffs didn't begin until March 4, a steep decline in February by Canadians reporting being likely, very likely or planning a trip to visit the U.S. in the next 12 months set a level that continued into September, the last month for which Vermont reported data.

The number of Canadian travelers and their spending are both down too, reflecting those intentions.

September data showed Canadian's intention to travel to the U.S. in the next year was just 13.4%, slightly more than half of the 25.2% during the same month in 2024, reported the Vermont Agency for

Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) based on data from Travel Market Insights, Inc.

Schultz reported Highland Lodge customers have reported difficulties, with hassles and seemingly needless searches creating significant delays that have caused some to miss their flights from Montreal airports.

The decline in Canadian travel can be seen in data from Statistics Canada that tracks Canadians returning home by automobile. Through October, 31% fewer Canadians have returned to Canada in automobiles than last year.

U.S. data tracks travelers of all nationalities entering Vermont. Visits in personal vehicles, as pedestrians and in trains are down 30.9% through September this year compared to the same period in 2024, according to federal data reported by ACCD.

October trips are down slightly less, at 30.5%, both closely mirroring the data on all visitors entering the U.S., according to data provided by ACCD.

Jessie Upson at the Craftsbury Farmhouse reports business there is down too, but only "more like a 10-15% decrease" and they "have noticed less Canadian tourists."

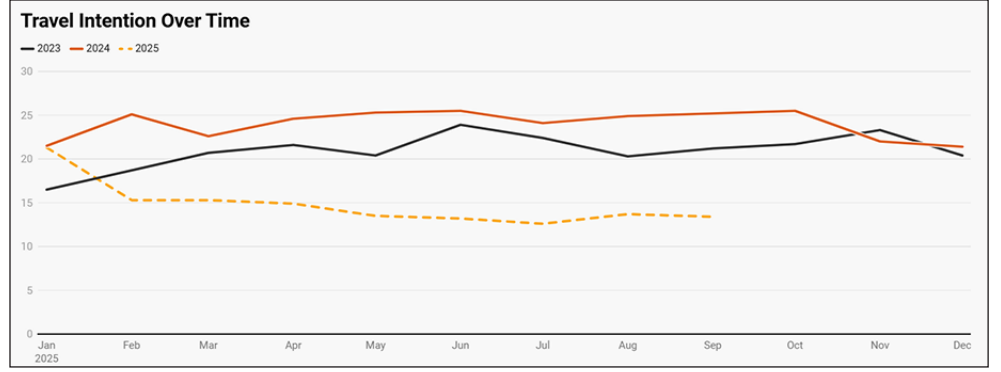
A December ACCD announcement noted that, in 2024 data for all travelers, "both visitation and spending numbers statewide showed a modest increase from 2023."

Any drop in Canadian travel to the U.S. will have a greater impact on Vermont, where visitor spending represented 9% of Vermont's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is three times higher than the national state average of 3% seen in 2023 data, according to the report.

The report found the visitor economy directly supports 10% of Vermont's workforce compared to the national average of 4.6%, with a decrease in travel impacting 31,780 Vermont jobs.

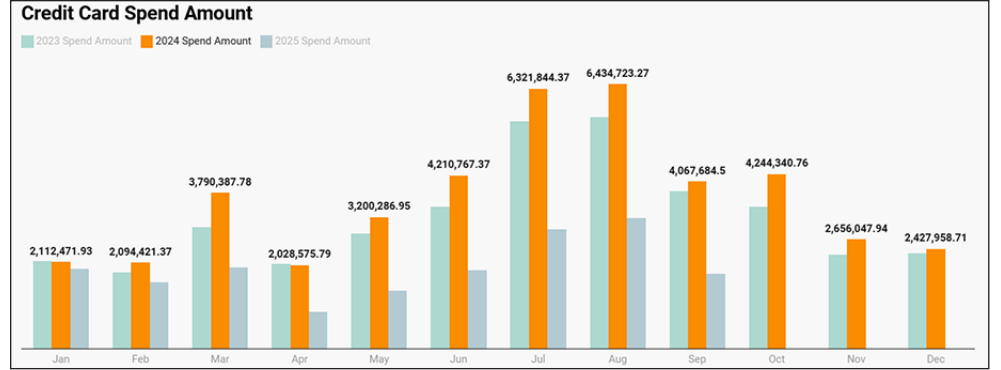
Sue Holmes, at Kimball House Bed and Breakfast in Hardwick said, "I know for sure I have had only one Canadian customer so far in 2025."

"Before that I don't have a number count, but I've generally had many Canadian visitors the



The number of Canadians intending to travel to the U.S. dropped sharply in February, falling slightly through mid-year and remaining at that level into September.

graph courtesy Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development



Canadian credit card spending in the U.S. this year is down by more than half from 2024 levels.

chart courtesy Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development

last couple of years, and many of them for the Lamoille [Valley] Rail Trail.

"I would estimate that in the past probably 20 to 25% of my clients were from Canada," she said. "But almost nobody now."

The decline in Canadian travel is reflected in spending data, which shows an even sharper decline. Credit card spending in Vermont by Canadians was down by more than half in September, though Canadian travelers are down by less than a third, suggesting Canadians are spending less during their trips to the U.S. than they did a year ago.

Vermont Tourism reports credit card spending by Canadians continues to show significant decreases compared to last year, according to the latest September data from Visa Destination Insights provided by ACCD.

This September, Canadian credit card spending was down 55% compared to the same month last year, with year-to-date spending down 49%.

Upson reported, "We are getting snowmobilers here this winter to help with our winter season and have created a trail to connect to VAST for our bistro and farmhouse guests."

HOLIDAY SALE

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE

EXCLUDES SPECIALLY MARKED ITEMS and winter gear, through January 1

Angel Outfitters Thrift Shop

United Church of Hardwick
South Main Street
Hardwick • (802) 472-6800
Hours: Thurs., 11-2; Sat., 9-2

Since 1975
Celebrating 50 Years – Thank You!

Fresh Local Produce, Café, Organic & Natural Foods and more!

BUFFALO MOUNTAIN MARKET
COOPERATIVELY OWNED

Visit www.buffalomountainmarket.com/sales/
Open 7 Days a week | 802.472.6020 | info@bmfc.coop
Mill Street, Hardwick VT

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Town Office and via Zoom. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by Andrew Nicely to amend his 2022 Conditional Use permit for a boathouse rebuild at 133/135 High Pines.

The application will be considered under the following bylaws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Use, and 8.7 New Uses and Encroachments.

A site visit is scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. The site visit and hybrid hearing are open to the public. The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: +16469313860.

The materials under review are available at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the GreensboroTown website, www.greensborovt.gov.

For further info, please contact Brett Stanciu, Zoning Administrator, at 802-533-2640, or zoning@greensborovt.gov.

Greensboro Development Review Board

Cabot

Enjoy upstairs bedroom/half bath in rural home surrounded by rolling fields. Host seeking guest w/some daytime availability to accompany her outdoors as safety presence, lift/carry items, run occasional errands, provide occasional transportation. Rent-free w/utility share. No smoking, no pets. Nut-free household. (802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required.

EHO

LETTERS FROM READERS

Another perspective on sex offenders

To the editor:

I understand the intent behind your actions is to protect children, and as a mother, I deeply respect that. Protecting kids matters to all of us. But sometimes, in trying to do good, we unintentionally cause harm; and that is what is happening here.

Not every situation, and not every person, fits neatly into black-and-white thinking. That is why the law does not impose the same restrictions on everyone on a sex offender registry. Yet you have chosen to single out one man; someone who has served his sentence, who continues to do everything asked of him and who has shown no evidence of reoffending.

We do not excuse what he did. We never have. In fact, those of us closest to him have likely been the hardest on him over the years. Accountability has always mattered. But so has growth, responsibility and change. We see a man who works every day to stay right, to follow the rules and to live quietly without causing harm.

By publicly calling him out, you have placed a target not just on him, but on the people who love him. On families who chose compassion, understanding and hope. You have turned our kindness into something to be judged and

attacked. That is deeply painful.

It is hard to understand why it is so unbelievable that someone can be in a dark place mentally, make a serious mistake and still fight every day to be better. The man you are pointing at today is a good big brother, a devoted husband and a steady father figure, roles he takes seriously and with humility.

His presence during school pickup was done with the full knowledge and permission of his probation officer. He stayed in his car, in view of cameras, so his stepson would not have to walk home in freezing temperatures. There was no hidden agenda, no law broken, just a person trying to do the right thing without drawing attention to himself. He does not want to cause more harm or reopen old wounds. He simply wants to live his life quietly, responsibly and with dignity.

My hope moving forward is this: share your concerns, discuss the petition if you feel it is necessary, but please stop targeting one individual who has done everything asked of him and more. Compassion and accountability can exist together. And sometimes, protecting children also means allowing space for healing, growth, and redemption.

Sarah Clifford
Plainfield

Sharing Leahy's articles

To the editor:

I read the Hardwick Gazette's weekly publication all year round and I just wanted to stop and take a moment to ask that you thank Kristen Leahy for sharing her articles. Kristen has a wonderful writing style and masterfully writes

about complex subjects in an easy to follow context. Not to mention including vital, important content. Warm regards to her and The Gazette for a great holiday season.

Nancy Shepard,
Hardwick
and Gainesville, Fla.

Appreciation for library

To the editor:

My name is Michael Malick, I am the Restorative Justice Coordinator of Hardwick and the surrounding towns in the area. I work for the St. Johnsbury Justice Center, and I live in Greensboro Bend.

I am writing you to express my gratitude to Diane Grenkow and also to express my appreciation to the Town of Hardwick for letting me run my restor-

ative panels at the newly-rebuilt Jeudevine Library on at present, a monthly basis. I feel that we are very lucky to have such a nice facility located right in Hardwick. We try and meet at least once per month at Jeudevine Library to see people who have been directed by court or probation who have legal issues from the State of Vermont.

Michael Malick
St. Johnsbury

Rodenticide resolution prepared for town meeting

To the editor:

In 2024, the Greensboro Conservation Commission (GCC) developed a resolution declaring Greensboro a Pollinator-Friendly town in support of the Vermont Neonicotinoids Act 182 that was going through the House at the time. That resolution was developed based on the work of the Town of Cabot in particular and passed at Greensboro Town Meeting in 2024 with resounding popular support.

We've been busy walking the talk after the resolution passed in 2024. We've been incredibly invested in the pollinator habitat down by the rail trail, and we are actively seeking ways to restore pollinator habitat elsewhere in town. The GCC has done this by prioritizing the management of invasive species such as knotweed, which displaces and outcompetes the native species pollinators prefer for food and habitat. Members of our commission have spent countless hours supporting

local businesses and landowners through the cutting, covering, and pulling of these invasives."

Please check out all the work the GCC has undertaken at greensborovt.gov/conservation-commission/.

This year the GCC developed a resolution aimed at stopping the use of anticoagulant rodenticide in our town. Extensive research has documented that such rodenticide causes the cruel and unnecessary suffering of non-target wildlife such as raptors, fishers and bobcats. Again, this resolution is timed in support of a bill (H326) passing through the Vermont legislature. On this occasion a number of other towns are following Greensboro's lead in taking this Resolution to 2026 Town Meeting.

The GCC encourages Greensboro residents to support the resolution at 2026 town meeting. Protect our wildlife.

Jane Hoffman, treasurer
Greensboro
Conservation Commission

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc., 82 Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841
Tel. (802) 472-6521. E-mail: News@HardwickGazette.org. Web: HardwickGazette.org
The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 9, Hardwick, VT 05843

EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins,
Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONIST - Julie Atwood

WEATHER - Tyler Molleur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

ADVERTISING

Sandy Atkins, Paul Fixx, Raymonda Parchment
ads@hardwickgazette.org, sales@hardwickgazette.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Alley, Brendan Buckley
Ken Brown, Elizabeth Dow, Hal Gray,
Abrah Griggs, Henry Homeyer, Willem Lange,
Cheryl Luther Michaels, David Rodgers,
Kay Spaulding, Liz Steel, John Walters;
Will Helms, intern.

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Fixx, John Walters, Stefanie Cravedi,
Anita Engel, Betty Jones

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon; Thursday, closed; Friday 8 a.m. to noon. Phones are usually answered during office hours and other times when possible. Please leave a message if there is no answer, or email the appropriate address.

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 2025 by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc.

Letters to the Editor, Opinions and Editorials: We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day and welcome letters from all political points of view as the free expression of reader's opinions. Letters with claims of fact that are false or potentially damaging may be rejected.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. We might rarely withhold the writer's name with good cause. Letters are limited to 400 words and must be addressed to the Gazette's readers, not to individuals, public figures or organizations. Opinions longer than 400 words on topics of current and local interest to readers in our 11-town coverage area may be considered for publication. Thank you notes are not considered to be opinions and will not be printed as letters from readers.

Letters to the editor require the writer's name, town of residence and phone number. Letters and opinions may be mailed, e-mailed or brought to our office. Letters and opinions are the opinion of the author. Editorials are the opinion of the editor and not the staff or publisher.

Submissions of Content and Deadlines: The Hardwick Gazette is published late on Tuesday each week with Wednesday's date. Submit community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases, paid ads and business news the Friday before publication by 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

We make every effort to include all submissions with timely content in the earliest possible edition. Call with requests to include submitted content in specific issues. Submissions may be edited for style and length. We cannot guarantee publication dates.

E-mail addresses to send us messages: ads@hardwickgazette.org for advertising inquiries including display ads and business directory submissions; editor@hardwickgazette.org for corrections, letters to the editor, story ideas, website or newsletter questions and comments; news@hardwickgazette.org for all submissions of calendar of events, news stories, obituaries, births, press releases and everything else.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Will widows and orphans be left to their own devices?

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Around 1906, a young Harvard graduate student was browsing a used book store in Cambridge and came across a rare treasure: a prompter’s script used by Charles Dickens in his tour of the United States to perform readings from his work. It was an abbreviated version of “A Christmas Carol.” The student, a speech major, snapped it up. Shortly after, he began reading it at Christmastime for his students at the College of Wooster in Ohio, where he spent his teaching career.

Near the end of the tradition of his annual readings, in 1953, he was by then years into emeritus, I first heard him. To say that I was charmed by the story read by such an old hand would be a great understatement. I couldn’t help but wonder who would pick up the baton when he passed it.

Many of us are facing this Christmas season with a sense of dread and uncertainty. What more, we wonder, can this administration spring on us? Will the widows and orphans (to use a cliché, but you know what I mean) really be left to their own local devices, when judgmental bureaucrats ignorant of their experiences set them adrift?

A couple of his family members and some young faculty did try, but something was lacking, and the tradition shortly died. Meanwhile, far away in Hanover, N.H., the embers of the memory of hearing it still smoldered. They smoldered for 22 years. Finally in 1975, at the age of 40, I decided to give it a try. But I had no script.

I did, however, have a 33-rpm record of the old professor’s reading. So, armed with a stack of typing paper and an elderly Smith-Corona portable, I set out to create the script. I’ll tell you: It’s hard to appreciate the difficulty of typing (I’m a hunt-and-pecker) from a 33-rpm record. It does wonders for the memory. Finally I

had it, and began rehearsing, using a music stand borrowed from the church.

Professor Sykes of the Dartmouth Music Department lent me his set of tails. We trucked a couple dozen folding chairs, also from the church, up to the house and set them up in the living room. My wife made a large trifle, we sent out invitations, and hoped for the best.

If success is measured in numbers, we succeeded. The second year, we had to do it two nights, after which my wife, a bit frazzled from making huge trifles, suggested we move it to the church, where it’s been for 50 years now. I’m getting a bit frazzled myself, so this anniversary year is probably my last.

Just yesterday in Montpelier, I had a chance to read the story again to an audience, at the local theater. Everything technical was taken care of perfectly: the lighting, sound, and seating, which let the brilliance of Dickens’ language shine through. I always appreciate a savvy audience, one that chuckles at bits of humor (sorry; humour), smells the roast goose, the gravy, and hot gin-and-lemons, and exudes sympathy at the plight of poor, crippled Tiny Tim. Such a group changes a performance to a sharing of an inspired piece of writing.

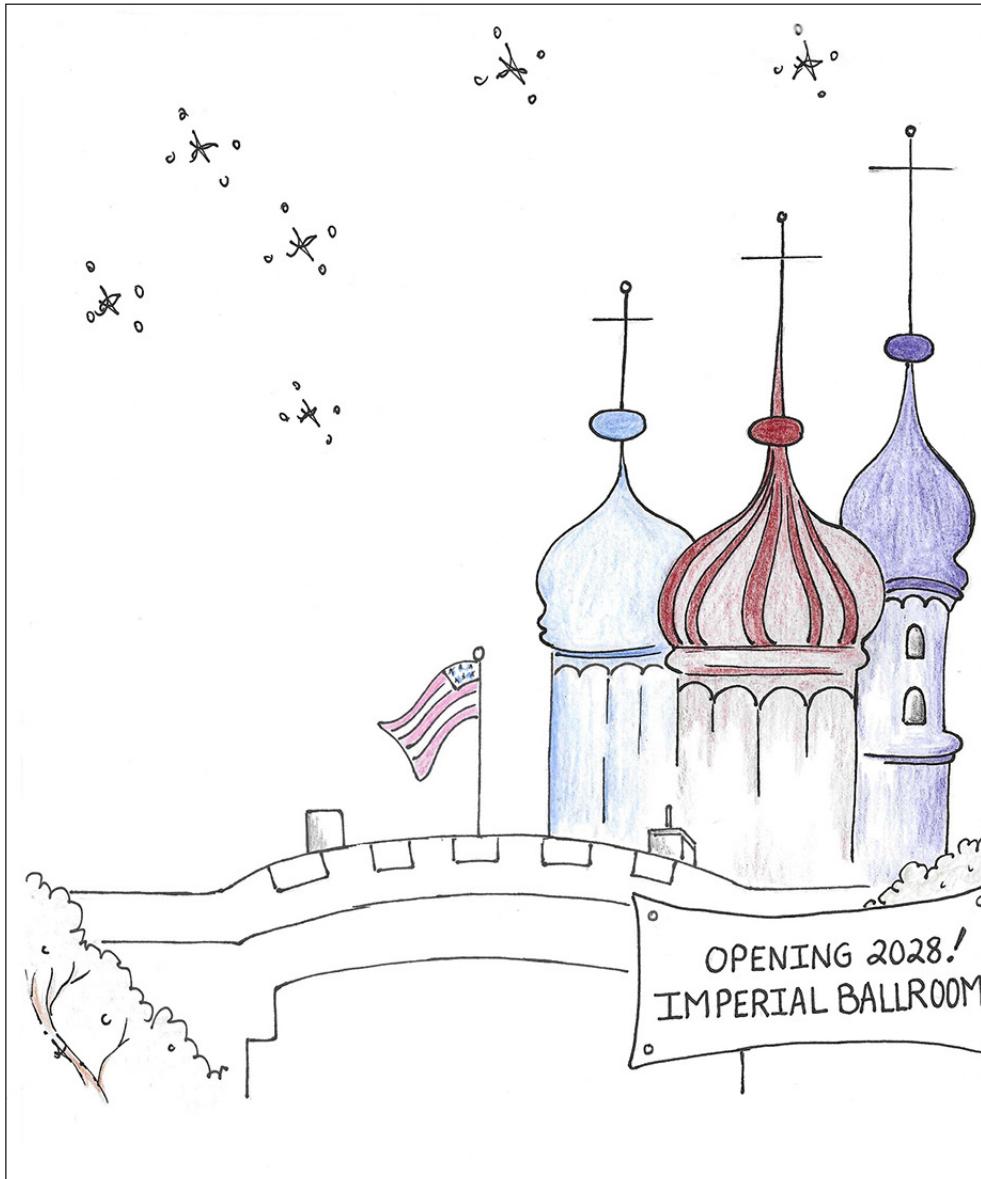
Many of us are facing this Christmas season with a sense of dread and uncertainty. What more, we wonder, can this administration spring on us? Will the widows and orphans (to use a cliché, but you know what I mean) really be left to their own local devices, when judgmental bureaucrats ignorant of their experiences set them adrift?

Many of the traditional churches are in the middle of the Advent season, when they prayerfully prepare for the birth of the holy child. I’ve got an Advent calendar on my kitchen countertop, a gift from my children. Each day I remove a tiny bottle of Bonne Maman preserves from one of its windows, spread it on my toast, and while I’m having the toast, try to focus meditatively upon the gifts of the season.

This is the gift and the spirit that Dickens is trying to get us to remember. His Ebenezer Scrooge is such a caricature that even the dullest of us can recognize elements of ourselves in his behavior. The ghost of Jacob Marley sets the stage: “It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow men and travel far and wide . . . blind man! . . . not to know that any kindly spirit, working in its little sphere . . . will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness.” The three predicted spirits arrive, affirming the lesson, till finally Scrooge, facing the inevitable end of his miserliness of both riches and spirit, wakes up a completely changed person and begins to share generously.

Somehow we have to persuade our government to share more generously with those who have little or nothing. And while we’re at it, share our own good fortune.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE RUSSIA!”

For the record

The names in the caption under the page eleven photo by Hal Gray in our December 3 edition should have read: (front, from left) Judy Carpenter, Cilla Bonney-Smith, Maria Schumann, Patti Sunday-Winters, Andrew Gray, Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters, Jan Terwiesch, Emma Palumbo.

(back, from left) Josh Karp, B.J. Gray and Erika Karp.

Last week’s story, “Sex offender on school property alarms community members,” should have indicated Doug Hersey had spent just over six years in prison.

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, December 17

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

Wolcott Town School Board, third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Wolcott Elementary School.

Thursday, December 18

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

Monday, December 22

Calais Select Board, fourth Monday of month, 7 p.m.

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.gov

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org

Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

Stannard: Stannard town clerk:

(802) 533-2577, open Wed.,

8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net

Walden: waldenvt.gov

Wolcott: wolcottvt.org

Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

LETTERS FROM READERS

Delightful article on little store

To the editor:

Heart wide open, so delighted to read your article on the little store in The Bend that is so community oriented. It seems this is a family affair. The Smiths have a generational habit of being there

for their community. In these times it's just so important to read of all the wonderful ties they provide in the area. Great article: thank you for being you.

**Carol Ray
Woodbury**

Preparing for Christmas

To the editor:

As Christmas approaches, delivery vehicles are traveling across the highways and byways delivering packages containing Christmas gifts. Shoppers are busy choosing gifts, either online or in the stores. Homes and businesses are decorated with lights, Santas, snowmen, nativity scenes and more. Why all this hustle and bustle and decorating? They are preparing for Christmas.

What is Christmas? For Christians, Christmas is the celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God. If you're not celebrating the birth of Jesus, why all the decorating and shopping? What are you celebrating?

Do you remember the days when you had to get to church half an hour before services just to get a seat? Now, seats are aplenty.

What is the best gift you can give this year? Give yourself the gift of faith. Give an hour of your time to the Lord and feel the love of God.

Plan to attend Christmas services at your church-even if you

haven't been in a while, even a long while.

Catholics believe that Christ is present at every Mass. If you heard that Jesus Christ were coming to your church in person, wouldn't you line up to see Him?

Christmas Masses at St. Norbert's Church in Hardwick are Christmas Eve at 4 p.m., and Christmas Day at 8:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Michael's in Greensboro Bend is at 6 p.m. Or, find the time for Christmas services at the church of your choice.

Let's fill our churches this Christmas. Then, keep the light of Christ in you by attending every weekend. Bring your children. They are our future. Remember, if your church isn't crying, it's dying. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Bring Christ back into Christmas and let His light shine in you.

**Jeannine A. Young
Craftsbury Common**

The library is open

To the editor:

We were thrilled to finally be able to announce the opening of the Jeudevine Memorial Library, addition and all, in July. From the sounds of our patrons, they have been thrilled as well.

Our new children's space is bright and welcoming, a new teen section, with its booth seating, is in use by people of all ages, and the renovated historic building is a designated quiet space to work and read.

And the library is, at long last, fully accessible, with an outside ramp to the main door and a lift to take patrons to each floor.

Two meeting rooms, available for anyone to reserve, have been used for tutoring sessions, private Zoom calls, quilt groups, tai chi sessions, watershed education sessions hosted by the town of Hardwick, as well as library and Friends of the Library events. We feel so proud to be able to offer these spaces to the community. If you haven't been to an event here, feel free to ask to see the space the next time you are in the library.

However, as is often the case with complex projects, unexpected costs have arisen as we near completion, and we are now setting an appeal goal of

\$30,000 to close the books on this expansion. A

huge thank you to Margie and Roger Prévot and the Prévot Foundation's pledge to match up to \$10,000

in donations, which helps every contribution, no matter the size, have an immense impact now more than ever.

The community has been incredibly supportive throughout this expansion project, we hope they come

visit and enjoy all that is offered in their library. The Jeudevine Memorial Library is, as it always has been, a building that belongs to everyone and everybody.

Those that would like to donate may visit jeudevinememoriallibrary.org/appeal or mail a gift to Jeudevine Memorial Library, P.O. Box 536, Hardwick, VT 05843.

See more about what's happening at the library by visiting jeudevinememoriallibrary.org.

**Jeudevine Memorial
Library Board of Trustees**
Daphne Kalmar,
Ross Connelly, Abrah
Griggs, Solomon Lew,
Mary Meyer,
Hardwick

MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

Leading together

SHELBURNE – The day before Thanksgiving last year, the new executive director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), Denise Smith, came for a visit. After talking for two hours, we wondered how we had not met before. We imagined convening Vermont women nonprofit executive directors in a way that would help them support each other in the challenging, changing culture in the country.

A year later, the need felt greater than we had feared. Then magic happened. The Windham Foundation offered VCRD their Grafton Inn free of charge December 2 to December 3. The Wisdom Connection and I co-sponsored Kerry Secrest of Watershed Coaching to facilitate "Leading Together: A Retreat for Vermont's Women Nonprofit Executive Directors: Connection, Renewal, Shared Leadership." Despite the holidays, Giving Tuesday, and a

snowy nor'easter, eighteen extraordinary women made it to Grafton. Thanks to Denise, I was able to join them.

We represented conservation, business and professional associations, food security, the arts, a utility cooperative, education, housing, public policy, philanthropy, leadership, economic and community development, not counting the nonprofit boards we serve on. We sat in a circle.

Kerry asked me to be her poetry muse and help her hold space as an elder. I had a good elder partner in Ellen Lovell, vice-chair of the Windham Foundation. We hadn't seen each other for decades. Kerry gave me a poem to read as an opening: "Everyone Is Welcome Here" by James Crews. I took a deep breath. James was the poet at WholeHeart's Culmination Celebration in June. WholeHeart's final fund balance went to VCRD. Full circle.

We quickly connected as a community of trust. We cried together. We laughed together. By the end of the retreat, we were laughing so hard, we cried. There were lots of hugs. We left with action plans, individually and as small groups. We will reconvene on Zoom at the end of January to keep our momentum going.

Frederick Buechner said that grace shows up at the intersection of our gifts and the needs of the world. Grace was in our circle in Grafton. I noticed that many in the circle were inspired as children to be servant leaders. I smiled when I returned to my cozy cottage and saw the books I ordered for my great nieces and nephews for Christmas, with the good guidance of the Galaxy gals at the Galaxy Bookshop in Hardwick. They are: "Together, United" by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier; "The Littlest Solstice Tree" by Lisa Varchol Perron,

illustrated by Ahya Kim; Jan Brett's "The Nutcracker;" "Tyger" by S.F. Said, illustrated by Dave McKean.

In his book, "The Idea of America," Darren Walker says that democracy requires radical hope. As I ponder the gifts of the Grafton retreat in this sacred season, I hold radical hope for peace and democracy if we lead together.

Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. A published author and poet, her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering, and retail, and founding and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at gracefulmischief.com/. When her column refers to Grace, it is a presence in her life, and it is capitalized. She now lives in Shelburne.

ANOTHER OPINION

Water fountain built in memory of William S. Hill

by **Stephen A. Hill**

HARDWICK — I wonder if anyone would like to know the truth about the Hardwick Water Fountain. Other than a niece of mine, not a soul has contacted me to discuss [it].

I did go to the town office to speak to Opie about this as my niece had contacted me asking if I knew what was going on. The manager had no time for me and I'm sure he already had his mind made up.

As to the truth: after my father's death, my mother, Doris Hill asked me if I would help with having a water fountain built in memory of my dad, William S. Hill (not to be confused with William F. Hill), and that she would pay the entire bill.

As you may or may not know, my dad gave many, many years of service as chair of the town select men and president of the village trustees, as well as his being involved in numerous other groups. So I talked to Ray Riel and we put the tub/basin up. Then I found and purchased a fountainhead, installed it and took care of it and any required maintenance, for years.

Then, as has been mentioned, some punks did all kinds of pranks

to it, which stopped the fountain from working. I removed the fountainhead and was on my way to having it repaired when one of the Town's so-called upper crust talked me into letting him take it in to be repaired. Weeks later I met up with him and asked him where the fountainhead was. He told me sorry, but I seem to have lost it and I don't know where it is.

So I began to search for a new fountainhead. While I was looking, no one bothered to say a word to me, but I learned that the basin had been filled in to make a flower garden, which it was never meant to be. It looked nice for a week or two then it became overcome with weeds and trash.

Sometime later, one of the town's help took it upon himself to clean it out, found a new fountainhead, installed and took care of it. I'm not sure what became of him but I guess the town couldn't be bothered, so let's fill it in for a wonderful town garden.

As to having to drain it once a year, the basin had a drain that got plugged due to being filled in with dirt the first time. For some reason no one wanted to take time to clean that out.

Now a lot of folks want their



The Hardwick Water Fountain in its heyday, built by Ray Riel and Stephen A. Hill at the direction of Doris Hill in memory of her deceased husband William S. Hill, former chair of Hardwick's Town Selectmen and president of the village trustees, as well as his being involved in numerous other groups. The fountain has now been converted to a garden for the second time in its history.

courtesy photo

name on it though they have no real part in it.

It was built as a water fountain in honor and memory of my father, William S. Hill and it should remain and be maintained as such.

Now in my eighties, I'm not able to do much any more, so many will tell about the

wonderful things they will do or have done and pay no matter to why the water fountain

was built there in the first place, and now they want a plaque with their name put on it.

I would rather see it torn down and have the area seeded, and grass in its place than turned into a flower garden, but nobody asks my family or me what we would want.

Stephen A. Hill sent this opinion to The Hardwick Gazette on December 9. He now lives in Wolcott.

On sale now: American moral leadership

by **David Kelley**

GREENSBORO — Almost 250 years ago Jefferson wrote that we "are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights" and that "government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed." America has not always been a "shining City on a Hill," but from Valley Forge to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, we have struggled to live up to those ideas. And those ideas have inspired millions of others around the world struggling to join the family of democracies.

Today the point man for the Trump administration in the Middle East and Russia is Steven Witkoff. Witkoff has spent his career as a real estate developer in New York City, with a brief foray into Las Vegas where the Koch brothers recently rode in with hundreds of millions to resuscitate his stalled hotel deal. In 2023, when Witkoff was facing heavy indebtedness in a New York City hotel project the Qatari Sovereign Wealth Fund conveniently stepped in with \$623 million.

Recently the Witkoff and Trump families decided the time was ripe to go into the crypto business. They began what they call World Liberty Financial and in May Witkoff parlayed his newfound career in diplomacy into big cash. Shortly after one of his trips to the Middle East, the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund deposited \$2 billion into the new Witkoff-Trump family business.

Maybe we should call it "pay to play diplomacy." But it is one thing when a couple of New York real estate developers shake down

Witkoff called Putin a "great guy" and "super smart." He said, "I liked him, I think he's honest." He proclaimed Putin's "not a bad guy." Even some of Putin's best pals, like Yevgeny Prigozhin, might disagree if they were still alive.

a few wealthy monarchs in the Middle East. Playing the same game with Russia when the Ukrainian people are fighting and dying for the freedom and democracy we extol is another thing altogether.

In an interview with that doyen of journalism, Tucker Carlson, Witkoff called Putin a "great guy" and "super smart." He said, "I liked him, I think he's honest." He proclaimed Putin's "not a bad guy." Even some of Putin's best pals, like Yevgeny Prigozhin, might disagree if they were still alive. Putin murders anyone who opposes him. It is an old Russian tradition. When Putin had one of Russia's wealthiest oligarchs, Mikhail Kodorkovsky (who had the nerve to talk about running for president), jailed in 2003 a handful of the other oligarchs went to Putin and asked what they needed to do to stay out of jail. Putin gave a simple answer: "50%." Putin wears luxury wrist watches that retail for ten times his reported salary.

In April of 2025, when Witkoff began negotiating with Putin, he didn't even bring an American translator to the meeting. He relied

on Putin's translator. I've written contracts with numerous Russian businesses. I can tell you that is not indicative of intelligence on Witkoff's part. I don't want Witkoff writing contracts for me in Russia.

Witkoff's negotiating partner from the Russian side has been Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund. One of their proposals is to have Ukraine cede 20% of their land to Russia, then take the \$300 billion in Russian assets that are frozen in Brussels, use it to rebuild the land Ukraine cedes to Russia; and that Russia destroyed with American businessmen (presumably more golf buddies) getting 50% of the profits from rebuilding. European leaders, understandably, felt betrayed.

Democracy, freedom and the rule of law have been paid for on the fields of Gettysburg, on the beaches of Normandy and in a Mariupol, Ukraine, steel plant. Witkoff, Trump and Putin know how to turn power into profit. They know the price of a watch, but they obviously don't understand the value of freedom, democracy or the rule of law.

Shame on us, all of us, if we let them turn our back on the world's family of democracies and the Ukrainian people who are fighting and dying for their freedom, independence and democracy, especially now when we are about to celebrate those words Jefferson wrote 250 years ago.

David Kelley is a former Visiting Scholar at the Russian Research Center at Harvard. He drafted some of the first contracts with Russian businesses when foreign investment was first allowed in Russia.

VOICES OF SPIRIT

I paint because I can!

by Sarah Lammert

Last year I was shopping in the wonderful Whistle Emporium with my young adult daughter. We browsed among the million wonderful objects there, and she bought the book “Watercolor in Nature” by Rosalie Haizlett.

As we were enjoying a lovely lunch at the Village Restaurant, I thumbed through her purchase and eyed her new watercolor set. Perhaps it was the lovely way the Lamoille River runs alongside the restaurant, or the particular slant of the light that day in downtown Hardwick, but a creative seed was planted in me that day.

I’m one of those people who says “I can’t” when it comes to art;

can’t draw, can’t write poetry, can’t imagine how to beautify a space. Yet, with the help of Rosalie’s gentle book, I started to draw and paint. The subjects were very tiny things, as were the canvasses. A daisy, a frog, a fiddlehead fern, all broken down into even smaller shapes and shades and layers of color. It was fun and made me see things more vividly in my everyday life. Walking the dog became an adventure. I started sending original cards to friends and visiting the art store in Montpelier. I was starting to say “I can!”

Then I tried a landscape. Oh dear. It was a simple scene of a view overlooking a lake to some rolling mountains beyond. It seemed simple until I tried to render it on my canvas. I just couldn’t capture it.

I didn’t have the knowledge or the tools to paint or draw landscapes, but I let myself feel inadequate rather than curious. That’s not exactly a recipe for creativity.

How often do we stop ourselves in life because we say “I can’t,” instead of reaching for the resources we need?

After a long pause in my budding life as a watercolor artist, I now own a new book: “Stunning Watercolor Seascapes” by Kolbie Blume. It is all about how to paint water: rivers, oceans, lakes and more.

With Kolbie’s kind tutelage, I’m beginning to feel like I can again; ready to reach for a brush and start to play again as I translate the beauty I see into art.

During this season of cold and darkness, may we slow down just a little in our striving, and allow ourselves to explore freely on tiny canvases or in small gestures of love.

Try a new recipe or check out a book on something you know nothing about. Take up the ukulele or get out on snowshoes on a frozen lake to see what might open in your soul. Find new ways to encounter the beauty of life around you and to say “I can.” There are so many ways we shut ourselves down, yet new possibilities abound.

Reverend Sarah Lammert is the founder of Shared Vision Consulting in Vermont and works as the Federal Chaplaincies Endorser for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

ANOTHER OPINION

What the flood buyout program really does

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – In recent months, many residents have asked how Hardwick’s flood buyout program works and what it means for the town’s finances and long-term flood resilience. As the community continues recovering from repeated disasters, it is important to clear up several common misconceptions and explain why this program remains one of our most effective tools for public safety.

First, no local tax dollars were used for the 2023 and 2024 buyouts.

All acquisition, demolition and site restoration costs were paid through federal and state disaster-recovery programs. The town did not provide a local match. This structure prevents Hardwick from inheriting

damaged or tax-delinquent properties and avoids the substantial cleanup and stabilization costs that often follow major floods.

There is also concern that removing properties will reduce municipal revenue. In reality, the combined pre-flood assessed value of the 20 buyout parcels represents less than one-half of one percent of Hardwick’s projected grand list. In addition, the state reimburses the town for the municipal portion of taxes on each buyout property for ten years, 100 percent for the first five years and 50 percent for the next five. This system ensures a predictable transition and protects municipal operations from sudden revenue loss.

Another frequent question is why some homes were not rebuilt.

Each of the buyout properties had sustained repeated flood losses and was in areas where reconstruction or elevation would not provide reliable long-term protection.

Several of the properties sit within the floodway or high-hazard flow paths. Others face chronic basement flooding or unstable soils. The buyout program removes those vulnerabilities and returns the sites to open space, allowing them to store floodwater and reduce downstream impacts during future storms.

While individual homeowners certainly benefit from leaving unsafe structures behind, benefit to the broader community is significant. Following demolition, the open parcels function as part of Hardwick’s growing network of flood and stormwater mitigation areas. They reduce pressure on neighboring homes, help protect roads and utilities, strengthen

overall public safety.

If the town had taken no action, Hardwick would likely face increased long-term costs through abandoned structures, safety hazards, tax delinquency, and eventual cleanup obligations. The buyout program avoids those liabilities while helping stabilize the municipal budget and improve resilience across the watershed.

As recovery progresses, buyouts represent one of the most important ways Hardwick can reduce future damage, protect neighborhoods and plan responsibly for a changing climate.

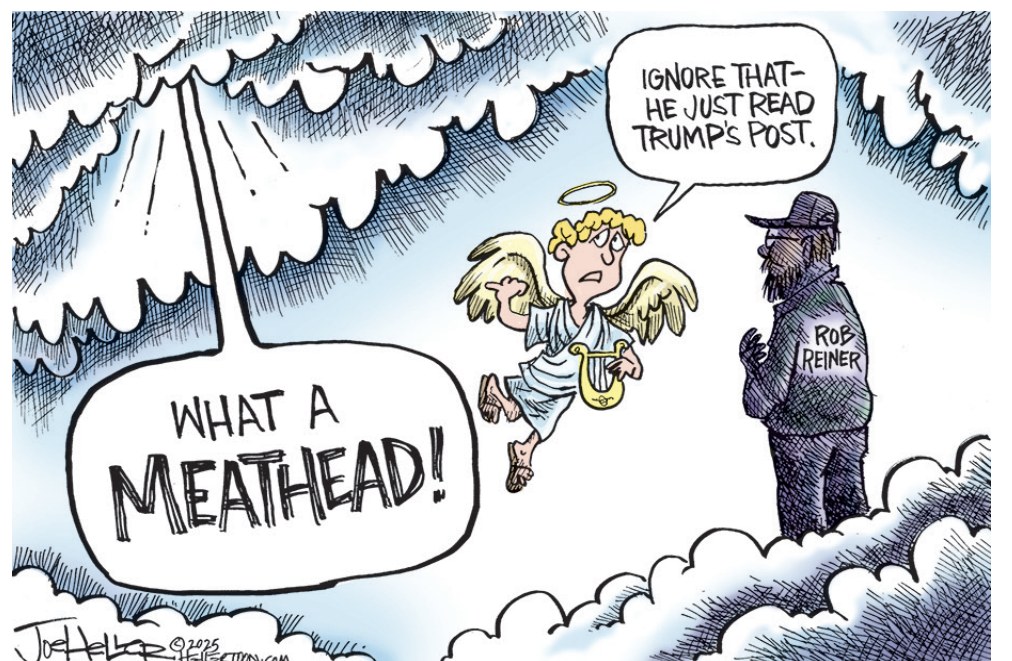
They are funded through state and federal recovery programs and are designed to improve long-term public safety and community stability.”

Kristen Leahy is Hardwick’s zoning and floodplain administrator and resilience and adaptation coordinator.

In My Nature by Abrah Griggs



Heller’s World by Joe Heller



IN THE GARDEN



Snip a few winterberry branches to add pops of natural color to your holiday decor. photo by Amy Simone.



Gather pine and other conifer cones for use in your natural holiday decor. Be sure to clean them first. photo by Amy Simone.

Holiday decorating, naturally

by Amy Simone

SOUTH BURLINGTON – Those decorating a home this holiday season should consider the bounty of garden elements and other natural options available to brighten up holiday displays. Many of these can be gathered up at no cost and, better still, can be simply tossed in the compost pile during clean-up.

Juniper, spruce, pine, fir, cedar, holly and boxwood branches are just some ideas of evergreens that might already be in a yard to choose from.

Remember that in gathering these branches, trim the tree or bush so consider the plant's shape as it is cut. Curating greens from a variety of plants increases the different textures and hues of green in the décor and decreases the

number of branches needed from each plant.

If a yard does not offer up enough greenery, visit a local garden center. They should have everything from bulk stems as material for a creations, to fresh wreaths and garlands, either already decorated or ready to adorn with natural elements.

Place greens in a festive container with a waterproof liner filled with water or fitted with a block of moistened oasis. Hammer the cut ends of the woody stalks to allow them to absorb water better.

Maintain the moisture in the containers to ensure the longest life of greenery. Wherever possible, place natural garlands and wreaths in cooler locations to prolong their beauty.

Take a stroll around the yard to look for twigs, ideally volunteers

that have already separated from the tree or shrub. Birch and dogwood are two plants that offer interesting features and colors. These can be added to tall narrow containers with other natural elements. Or, if there is a larger stick with small branches, it can be mounted to a wood base and adorned with ornaments or lights.

Houseplants can also be called upon to act as a canvas for string lights or lightweight ornaments. Look to Norfolk pine, rosemary and other houseplants with a desirable shape and ability to support some adornments.

To add some brighter color to natural décor, tuck in some cuttings from winterberry, American cranberry bush, sumacs (in the Rhus family of plants), red chokeberry, and holly berries. Keep in mind that holly and winterberries are toxic to pets and humans.

For additional texture and color, check the yard for dried perennial stalks, especially those

with interesting seed heads. These can be added to garlands, wreaths and containers.

Pine and other conifer cones are prolific and can be collected easily. Cones gathered from nature should be prepared prior to use. Soak them in two-parts warm water to one-part white vinegar for 30 minutes. They may need to be weighed down if they try to float. Stir the water every 10 minutes to dislodge any debris and bugs. Shake off excess water and lay out on a towel or cooling rack to dry completely. This process will remove any sap and disinfect them as well. Use the clean cones to beautify wreaths and garlands, in centerpieces, or tie many along natural fiber twine to create a string of cones to hang on the tree.

After enjoying a natural holiday display all season, remove any non-compostable elements and add the rest to a compost pile.

Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.



Houseplants like rosemary, Norfolk pine, lemon cypress and others with holiday forms can be with strings of lights or small ornaments. photo by Amy Simone



Fill decorative containers with greens and twigs of varying colors and textures. photo by Amy Simone

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Tiny kiss under Dwarf-mistletoe

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Mistletoe has been a symbolic plant of love and fertility for thousands of years in Celtic, Greek, and Norse mythology. In England in the 17th century, it became associated with Christmas as a decoration under which lovers were expected to kiss.

Of course, this was the European Mistletoe (*Viscum album*), the only native mistletoe species that ranges across most of Europe. The tradition was carried to the New World where American Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*), similar but with shorter, broader leaves and longer clusters of berries, was adopted.

If living in the Northeast, there will be no harvest of mistletoe to hang for the holidays, since American Mistletoe only grows in the southern portion of the continent. There is a unique mistletoe lurking in northern forests, Eastern Dwarf-mistletoe (*Arceuthobium pusillum*), but it looks nothing like the holiday decoration.

Still, like other mistletoes, Dwarf-mistletoe is a bit of a thief, a hemiparasite, which means it steals nutrients and fluids from its host plant but also generates some of its own energy through photosynthesis. It grows within the branches of pine, fir, tamarack, or spruce, most commonly Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*), sometimes causing unusual growths of twigs on the hostplant, called witches' brooms.

After a couple, to perhaps a dozen, years of growth inside the host plant, Dwarf-mistletoe sends reddish-colored aerial stems out of the



Eastern Dwarf-Mistletoe (*Arceuthobium pusillum*)
courtesy photo

host branch. Flower buds develop in autumn and overwinter. The plants are dioecious, producing either male (staminate) or female (pistillate) flowers, which usually have longer shoots. They bloom between March and June, although the exact dates here in Vermont have not been fully explored. The anthers on male flowers are able to open or close in response to changes in environmental conditions, perhaps saving pollen for times when dispersal is optimal.

Insect pollination seems to be important for our Dwarf-mistletoe. Researchers in one study used nets around flowers to exclude insects, while allowing the passage of wind-blown pollen. They found that exclusion of up to 59 species of potential pollinators significantly reduced fruit production. The insects captured near pistillate flowers with the most pollen on them were flower flies (*Syrphidae*), tachinid

flies (*Tachinidae*), firefly beetles (*Lampyridae*), and wasps (*Aphidiidae*, *Ichneumonidae*, *Tenthredinidae*, *Vespidae*).

Now comes the violent (but fertile) part. The fruits of Dwarf-mistletoe mature during September and October, filling with fluid and building up pressure as they ripen until they violently explode. The sticky seeds are launched at 30 miles per hour and travel up to 40 feet. Of course, the seeds may spread much longer distances by animals too, sometimes sticking to Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) or bird feet.

If a seed sticks to a suitable host branch, a twig less than five years old, it will germinate, and its emerging radicle will pierce the stem. The new plant penetrates past the cambium layer and into the host's xylem and phloem tissues, where it steals the nutrients needed for its own growth and reproduction. It passively draws water from the host by keeping its leaf stomata open day and night, creating a moisture gradient between the plant and its host.

Dwarf-mistletoe isn't an easy plant to find. It's rare in the Northeast and listed as endangered in Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island as well as threatened in Pennsylvania. It has mostly been found on spruce trees in bogs here in Vermont.

Look for witches' brooms or other tree deformities. Snap a photo of the plant and report your sighting to iNaturalist Vermont.

Kent McFarland is a staff member at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

WEEKS GONE BY

100 Years ago in The Hardwick Gazette December 17, 1925 Community Tree.

The beautiful Community Christmas tree, already set in place at the Academy campus, in front of the school building, is electrically connected and will be lighted at 6:30 o'clock this evening, at which time exercises commemorative of the joyous Christmastide will be held.

The time and date have both been changed from the original day and hour. Friday evening the basketball game would interfere, and it the time was changed to 6:30 sharp, on account of the many little tots, and they are the ones most vitally interested in in the big tree and its myriad colored lights, can return home earlier in the evening, and many others who plan to attend have other meetings to go to later in the evening, so it seemed best for all concerned to hold it at the hour now specified, 6:30, and it is hoped that a large number will be present to listen to the singing and other exercises.

The committee in charge have put in some hard work to make this a success, and with this big community tree all aight and the Main Street and Square with its many trees and

colored electric lights, the evening will be made one long to be removed by all. Imbibe the spirit of Christmas and gather at the tree and watch and listen to the little folks. Remember the time, 6:30 p.m.

Main Street Miniature Christmas Tree Forest.

Due to the Christmas spirit and progressiveness of the merchants of Main Street and the Square, with the cooperation of the village electrical department, Main Street and the Square for the net week will bear a resemblance to a miniature forest. Beginning at the postoffice, and extending along down the street, across the new iron bridge, as far as the Cass hardware store, up Mill Street, as far as the Hardwick Savings Bank & Trust Company, on one side, and the Meader block on the opposite side, about fifty small Christmas trees, each about seven feet in height, set in sand in large red-painted tubs, and with electric wires string along the regular light poles, the wires being about twelve feet above the walk, and from these wires extending down near the trees, shorter wires, on the end of which will be colored lights, are now in place and

WOW - Why Go Further? Stop in at Mac's and you'll find

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sport Shirts \$2.98 | Pajamas \$2.98 - \$3.95 |
| Flannel Shirts \$2.98 | Socks \$.55 - \$.79 - \$1.00 |
| Wash & Wear White \$2.95 | Ties \$1.00 |
| Slacks \$4.95 - \$7.95 | Men's Slippers \$2.50 - \$3.95 |
| Sweaters \$5.50 - \$8.95 | Ladies Slippers \$2.50 - \$3.95 |
| Underwear 3 - \$2.05 | Kids Slippers \$1.95 - \$2.25 |
| Gloves \$2.98 - \$4.95 | Car Jacket \$14.94 - \$16.95 |
| Cuff Links \$1.95 | Kick-A-Roo's \$7.95 |
| Linen Handkerchiefs 3 - \$1.50 | Sport Coats \$20.00 |
| Cotton Handkerchiefs 6 - \$1.00 | |
| | Pocket Books \$2.98 - \$3.50 |

Mac's

S - H GREEN STAMPS

will prove an added attraction to the already nicely decorated places of business.

It is also expected that the merchants will keep their foot windows lighted up during the next week or more, thereby displaying the many beautiful and useful gifts in their storefronts.

The stores of this village are well stocked with useful and pleasing gifts for the Christmas season and with the added outside and interior decorations, should prove places of interest to local shoppers and out of town purchasers.

65 Years ago in The Hardwick Gazette

December 17, 1960

Hardwick Academy

The Music Department of Hardwick Academy will present

an "Evening of Christmas Music" on Dec. 21 at 8:00 P.M. The Concert will be held at the town hall. The groups will consist of Junior and Senior High Chorus, the band and Special Groups. Students are now busily selling tickets for the concert. The organizations have worked and your interest and support can be shown by attending the enjoyable evening of Christmas music.

The Grammar School Christmas Program will be held Friday, Dec. 16 at 2 o'clock in the School Study Hall.

Mr. Clark from the Balfour Co. spoke to the senior class last week and personal cards and announcements have been ordered.

Schools will close Wednesday, Dec. 21 for Christmas Recess.

Speaking of Christmas

Let us Make a Few Suggestions:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Smoking Stands | Candle Sticks |
| Reading Lamps | Table Scarfs |
| Floor Lamps | End Tables |
| Bridge Lamps | Book Troughs |
| Percolators | Book Ends |
| Electric Toasters | Pictures |
| Electric Grills | Mirrors |
| Electric Irons | Sleds |
| Electric Heating Pads | Kiddie Cars |
| Electric Vibrators | Carts |
| Electric Curling Irons | Rocking Horses |
| Serving Trays | Doll Carriages |
| Fancy Baskets | Card Tables |
| Sewing Baskets | Vacuum Cleaners |

Also other things in our lines, too numerous to mention.

E. M. DAVIS P. T. McNamara, Mgr.
Licensed Undertakers and Embalmers Auto Hearse and Ambulance Cut Flowers for All Occasions
Telephones: Night Calls, 44-2; Store, 44-3

OUR COMMUNITIES

Great Brook study meeting, Dec. 18

PLAINFIELD – Thursday, Dec. 18, beginning at 7 p.m., Plainfield's Hazard Mitigation Committee will host the State of Vermont and their contracted river engineering firm, SLR International, at the Plainfield Town Hall. The meeting will be the town's first chance to shape how this long-awaited Great Brook study is done and what questions are the most

important to answer. All Plainfield residents are invited.

Roy Schiff and Ethan Ely of SLR will present, accompanied by Steve Libby and Vicky Arthur of Vermont Emergency Management. Come and listen in person or via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6280392654...>

Meeting ID: 628 039 2654

Passcode: 123123

Community pasta dinner, Dec. 20

HARDWICK – The United Church of Hardwick is hosting a pasta bar community dinner on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.,

in the church dining room. The dinner is free to the public. For more information, call (802) 274-9393.

Board meeting for budget planning, Sat., Dec. 20

by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism

GREENSBORO – The monthly meeting of the New England Public Journalism (NEKPJ) Board of Directors is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. in The Hardwick Gazette office at the Greensboro Town Hall, 82 East Craftsbury Road, Greensboro. The agenda will include a report of the NewsMatch end-of-year fund drive status and

planning for the campaign's last 11 days, budgeting for 2026 and other items.

Join the meeting in-person, or remotely at <https://meet.google.com/rtb-inao-ybv> or (US) +1 541-623-0665 PIN: 118730423 #. More phone numbers can be found at <tel:meet/rtb-inao-ybv?pin=1245501875424>.

Editors Note: NEKPJ, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is the publisher of The Hardwick Gazette.

Winter solstice wildlife tracking, Dec. 21

MONTPELIER – Sunday, Dec. 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., learn about winter wildlife tracking walking on the trails at North Branch Nature Center. Participants will search for signs of wildlife activity while appreciating the beauty and wonder of the natural world on the first day of winter. Dress to be outside the entire time. The group will stay on trail unless all are willing and able to venture

further afield. This program will travel up to one mile in snowy, cold, and/or icy conditions, potentially on uneven or hilly terrain. All experience levels welcome, no RSVP required. Outings will be canceled in the event of poor weather. Check NBNC website for updates. Not appropriate for very young children.

The North Branch Nature Center is located at 713 Elm Street.

Christmas Eve service, Dec. 24

HARDWICK – The East Hardwick First Congregational Church will hold a Christmas Eve service Wednesday, Dec. 24,

at 5 p.m.

At the conclusion of this service, the church will be closed for winter recess.

Candlelight service, Dec. 24

EAST HARDWICK – A candlelight service at Touch of Grace Church will take place Christmas

Eve beginning at 6 p.m. The church is located at 104 Vt. Route 16, East Hardwick.

OBITUARIES

Mark Russell Gerretson

WALDEN – Mark Russell Gerretson died peacefully in his home on December 10. He was with his daughter, Anna Gerretson and her husband Owen Rachampbell, listening to recordings of his own father's stories. His friend and caretaker, Kathy Barclay, was with him as well. We sent him out with the song "Wooden Ships" by Crosby, Stills and Nash and drank a beer in his honor.

Mark was born January 8, 1949, to Fred and Louise Gerretson (deceased). He spent his childhood in Maryland and Virginia on Chesapeake Bay. He learned to sail from his father, Lieutenant Commander Frederick William Gerretson, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and continued his enrollment thereafter. In addition to learning to sail, Mark inherited an appreciation for beauty from both of his parents, who were professional photographers.

Mark grew up with an older brother, Rick (deceased 2018), and a younger sister, Lisa. Fred, their father, created a family tradition called "Friday Present Night." He brought Louise a gift and for the kids, Mark remembered, "The aim was that dad would come up with something cool and interesting to eat, blow up, sink or whatever the case was. Things like plastic ants or ants in ice cubes were highly regarded. Firecrackers always had their niche as a good explosive. Nothing very expensive for anyone, but it was the thought that counted."

Mark attended the Severn School near Annapolis, Md., and enrolled briefly at Drexel University. Despite leaving school, he was incredibly intelligent and taught himself many skills over the years. He was a lifelong learner who avidly studied history, Eastern religions, farming, fine woodworking and many other crafts.

Mark and his first wife Carolyn (Chuzi) Rubin bought land together in Walden during the fall of 1971 as part of the back-to-the-land movement. They broke ground in 1972 and built the house with salvaged timbers from barns in Cabot and Craftsbury. Mark referred to the house as his "magnum opus." Despite their divorce, Carolyn remembers those times fondly, "There are not many experiences in our lives that create the memories we never forget! This is one of mine." He lived in the house ever since, except for when he went out on sailing adventures throughout the East Coast and Caribbean and later snow-birded in Virginia with his parents and friends.

Mark's son, Marsden, was born in June of 1987. He later married



Mark Russell Gerretson

Susan Burlingham Gerretson, who he had known for years as a family friend. Together, they had a daughter, Anna Lauren Gerretson, who now resides in East Montpelier. Susan remembers him affectionately, saying that after their separation, "we remained family."

Mark enjoyed several relationships following. Most recently, he spent many winters with Ella Quinn of Heathsville, Va. He continued to love her deeply until his death.

Mark also leaves behind many amazing friends. He was a charming, funny guy who knew how to help people out with a task and how to celebrate a job well done with a beer. He maintained lifelong connections across his communities in the Northeast Kingdom and the Chesapeake Bay area. Mark continued making friends until the very end, forming special connections during his stints in retirement and nursing homes and with his caregivers back at home. In addition to his woodworking, sailing and friendships, Mark enjoyed tinkering with antique engines, gardening, ice skating, photography, music and excellent food.

Mark will be dearly missed for his sense of humor, encyclopedic knowledge, his excellent storytelling, his magnificent artistry and especially in his role as a father and friend.

This obituary only scratches the surface of the colorful life of an old hippie. If you know any stories that you would like to share, you may reach out to his daughter Anna.

Mark cared deeply about the natural world. Please consider a donation in Mark's honor to Memphremagog Conservation, the Reedsville Fishermen's Museum or Audubon Vermont.

There will be a celebration of life in his honor in June of 2026.

Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneralservice.com

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb
Funeral Director

PRENEED
PLANNING

OBITUARIES

Wilfred Eugene McAllister Sr.

HARDWICK – With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Wilfred Eugene McAllister Sr., who passed away peacefully, in the warmth of his home, with his devoted wife of 57 years by his side, on December 10.

Willie, as he preferred to be called, was born on January 12, 1949, in Lowell, to Stanley and Solange (Pion) McAllister, and until his passing, he resided in his cherished childhood home on West Church Street in Hardwick. He attended Hardwick Elementary School and Hardwick Academy. Through the connections of mutual friends and family, he met his future wife, Claudette Carlow. They married in 1968, just before he embarked on his courageous service in Vietnam.

With unwavering dedication, he served his nation as a rifleman for the U.S. Army, assigned to Company B, Third Battalion, Twelfth Infantry, Fourth Infantry Division. As a frontline soldier, he was bestowed with two service medals, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Purple Heart. Additionally, prior to deployment, he earned the Expert Rifle Badge.

Upon his return home, after being wounded in combat, he built a beautiful life with his wife, Claudette, where they were blessed with two children, Wilfred Eugene McAllister Jr. and Kristine Mildred McAllister.

Throughout his life, he explored various professions, including long-haul driving and paving, but his profound love for animals led him to pursue farming, and he purchased his forever home, Riverbend Farm, located on the road later named after him, McAllister Farm Road. His affection for all creatures, especially his late dog Pasha and beloved cat Tom Brady, was truly heartwarming and inspiring. Though he loved farming, he retired in 2001 and ventured into his own construction company, WMS Construction and Excavating. In 2016, his most ambitious endeavor was expanding the farm and creating a family business, McAllister's Tree Farm and Maple Syrup LLC, alongside his son, which he passionately pursued until his passing.

He was a nature lover, outdoorsman and avid hunter who cherished the serenity of quiet mornings, the thrill of wild game, deep conversation and the profound beauty of the world around him. He loved the land he owned, the tranquility and stillness of the woods, but his true passion



Wilfred Eugene McAllister Sr.

was connecting with friends and family, whether at the farm, the Legion or around his kitchen table. Wherever he was, he always had a story to tell or a valuable life lesson to teach. Everyone who had the privilege of meeting him has a story to share about his inspiring life or how he inspired theirs. Some might describe him as rough around the edges, but those who knew him understood that his tough exterior was a shield for a shattered soul, forged in the fire of war. Beneath that exterior lay a heart of gold, filled with love, kindness, and gentleness, qualities that served him well as Commander of American Legion Post No. 7, a role he held with passion and dedication for seven years. Serving his community and helping fellow comrades was his calling, and he considered his title as commander a great honor and among the highest of his achievements, alongside the creation of his beloved family.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Claudette McAllister; his two children and their spouses, Wilfred McAllister Jr. (Ruth Carswell), and Kristine McAllister (Joshua Deth); grandchildren, Dennis Mercier Jr. (Megan Lacasse), Kyle Mercier, Alyse Mercier, Wilfred McAllister III and fiancée Marisa (Martin); six great-grandchildren, Chayse Newell, Keyara Mercier, Ada Mercier, Wesley Mercier, Curt McAllister and Wrenna McAllister; three step-grandchildren, Luther Larsen, Daniel Larsen and Frederic Larsen; siblings, Conrad McAllister (Janelle), Russell McAllister (Cheryl) and Gloria McAllister; sister-in-law Trish (Patricia) McAllister; mother-in-law Georgette Carlow; stepmother-in-law Barb Yurgel; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends, so many it is impossible to name them all, but know he loved you all very much.

He was predeceased by both his parents; his brothers, Roaul and Leon McAllister; brother-in-law

Rich Leidenfrost; and father- and mother-in-law, Vinal and Mildred Carlow.

Willie will have everlasting peace, having been laid to rest during a private ceremony at a picturesque location carefully selected by his son on his treasured Riverbend Farm property. His lifelong passion will now be his eternal sanctuary, where he will bask in the sun, enjoying the extended views of Vermont's breathtaking beauty and serenity alongside his family, who will eventually join him and watch over him until their own time comes, thus

fulfilling his last dying wish.

Unfortunately, this obituary will post after all services were held. Calling hours were held Saturday, December 13, at des Groseilliers Funeral Home in Hardwick, and his Celebration of Life was held on Sunday, December 14, at the Hardwick American Legion. All who loved him were welcome to attend. Condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 44, Hardwick, VT 05843, or via dgfunerals.com. In lieu of flowers, make donations in his name to American Legion Post No. 7, P.O. Box 472, Hardwick, VT 05843.

Jacquelyn "Jackie" Bagley

HARDWICK – Jacquelyn "Jackie" Bagley, of Hardwick, passed away December 10, at the Greensboro Nursing Home, with her daughters by her side.

She was born in Hardwick on August 1, 1938, daughter of the late Frank and Florence (Archer) Spring. She grew up in Craftsbury and graduated from Craftsbury Academy in 1956.

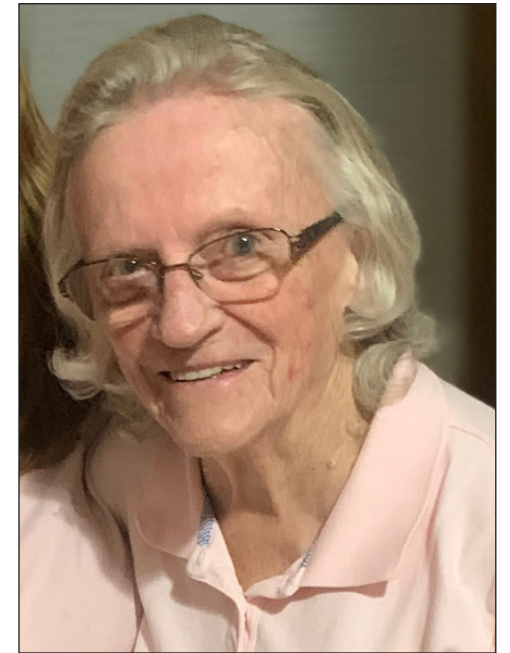
After graduating, Jackie worked for National Life in Montpelier. She married Robert Bagley in Craftsbury on September 2, 1961, and they moved to Hardwick.

Jackie continued working at National Life until her first child was born in 1962. After taking several years off to raise her children, she returned to work as a cleaner for multiple businesses in Stowe, including Stowehof, Topnotch and Simple Solutions. In the early 2000s she started cleaning private homes in the Hardwick area with her daughter Diane and continued to do so into her early 80s.

In her younger years, she was a member of a bowling league and loved going out dancing with friends at Urie Hall and Wolcott Hall. Jackie enjoyed annual summer vacations in Maine visiting family, Sunday cookouts at Caspian Lake with the Bellavances, and wreath making with her good friend Teresa. Jackie was also a member of the American Legion Post No. 7 Auxiliary.

Jackie spent the last two years of her life at Greensboro Nursing Home where she was cared for with exceptional compassion. The staff were truly wonderful, offering her comfort and kindness every day. She was loved by the residents and staff who surrounded her and left a lasting impression on them.

Survivors include her



Jacquelyn "Jackie" Bagley

daughters, Diane Holbrook (Shawn) of Elmore, and Karen Demers (Mark) of Woodbury; four grandchildren, Heather (Ben), Andrew (Brooke), Kristi (Corey), and Nicholas (Cheyenne); great-grandsons, Adam and Easton, who brought her so much joy; sister Irene Lafayette and brother Curtis (Patricia) Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband in 2018, son Randy Bagley in 1984, and son Brian Bagley in 2018, as well as her brothers Leighton, John, and Warner.

Visiting hours will be held at the des Groseilliers Funeral Home in Hardwick on Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed immediately by a Celebration of Life at the American Legion Post No. 7 in Hardwick. A graveside service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Greensboro Nursing Home, 47 Maggie's Pond Road, Greensboro, VT. or the American Legion Post No. 7 Auxiliary, 15 N. Main St., Hardwick, VT. Condolences and memories of Jackie may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.

Tallis Scholars perform medieval works

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – What a remarkable event to have the internationally renowned Tallis Scholars come to the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro last Friday evening for a concert of Renaissance sacred vocal music.

This group, which was founded in Great Britain in 1973 by Director Peter Philips, has now given over 2,500 performances and made some 60 recordings in its 50 years, besides receiving numerous awards. It has been crucial in bringing about a reappraisal of the complex polyphony of that acappella form of music, where male and female voices are harmoniously juxtaposed in interwoven layers.

One can readily imagine the intensity of this music when originally sung in medieval churches with stone vaults, where the resonance would create a deeply transcendental experience. It certainly takes one to a mystical place, especially welcome these days when the world is too much with us. The practice of meditation could be enhanced if accompanied with a CD of this music. The secular form of that polyphony took in this period was the very popular madrigal.

The Tallis Scholars, who have been on a worldwide tour for the past two years in East Asia, the U.S., Europe and England, consist of five men and five women on the vocal spectrum of altos, sopranos, tenors and basses. With the conductor Peter Phillips, they are Amy Haworth, Daisy Walford, Sumei Bao-Smith, Elisabeth Paul, Anna Semple, Simon Ponsford, Steven Harrold, Tom Castle, Tim Scott Whitney and Ben Davis. Many thanks to Jay Craven of Kingdom County Productions and the staff of the Highland Center for the Arts for making this unique performance possible.

There were seven selections on the program, all English composers, with the overarching theme of mother and child, appropriate for the Christmas season with its archetypal celebration of the birth of Christ. Almost all the texts were in Latin, the lingua franca of the Church, government and aristocracy of that time in Europe and many were dedicated in praise and prayer to Mary, who in medieval times came to fill an important role of the female element otherwise lacking in the traditional Christian pantheon barring saints.

The first piece was by Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1558), the Gloria

from his “Missa Puer natus est nobis.” Fortunately the Tallis Scholars provided the Latin texts and English translations in a three-page supplement to the program, which here expresses gratitude to God, Christ and the Holy Ghost in enhancing the arabesques of different levels of voices, the high altos and sopranos being particularly striking.

“The Votive Mass of the Virgin” by William Byrd (c.1540 - 1623) was next with seven parts in the form of motets, rich in counterpoint and canons with voices paralleling each other in repetition, quite a feat of scoring for any composer, all in a very peaceful tempo.

For variation, the following


selection was a contemporary take on Renaissance polyphony by Mathew Martin (b. 1976), a “Salve Regina” (in Latin) dedicated to Mary, which had more variety of rhythm, textures and dynamics than the previous works, with even some seemingly dishonest passages. The verses were a plea for pity for our human suffering on earth.

After the intermission, the Tallis Scholars sang these short sections from the “Missa Puer natus est nobis” by Tallis, a Sanctus, Benedictus and Angus, with the same ethereal feeling as before. The contribution of Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1973) to this repertoire was “A Hymn to the Virgin”, an early work in his career. It

curiously mixed English and Latin texts in its fervent praise of Mary as the Mother of Christ, using the traditional modes of English Renaissance music. John Tavener (1490 - 1545) was another composer of the period, and his “Mater Christi” was a plea to Mary to intervene with Christ for a suppliant’s prayers.

“The Magnificat” of John Nesbitt (? - 1488) ended the concert in its tragedy of voices for “all the wondrous things”, God and Christ have done for human kind.

The audience responded with a well deserved standing ovation for a truly memorable performance that highlighted the well-integrated artistry of the singers.



Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	12 AM
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond	Adagio	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine					2 AM
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							3 AM
4 AM								4 AM
5 AM	Counterspin Grassroots	Thom Hartmann Program					What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	5 AM
6 AM	Big Picture Science Show	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Prison Pipeline Food Sleuth	6 AM
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Maggie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	First Voices Radio	Writer's Voice	Economic Update Rumble Strip	The Children's Hour	7 AM
8 AM	Democracy Now!						Bike Talk	8 AM
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see below)	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etnier	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see below)	9 AM
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see below)	Peace Talk Radio	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see below)	10 AM
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	Night Train Cocktail	¿Where Do We Go From Here? Caleb		11 AM
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat		Unshelved J Kramer		The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM
1 PM				The Rubber Room Dan Towner		Techtonic		1 PM
2 PM	Spanning the Chasm Peter Goreau	The Monday Drive at 2 Corey Flynn	Straight Up Soul		UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM
3 PM				Adiagio		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		3 PM
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland	Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder		Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	4 PM
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Letters and Politics				Geezer Rock Jeff Lindholm		5 PM
6 PM	Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger & Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)			6 PM
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EHMmAh	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see below)	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see below)	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	7 PM
8 PM		Deep Blues Les Mawson	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	8 PM
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Blues Edge Les Mawson			Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow		The Beatdown Z-Point	9 PM
10 PM			Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw		And You Don't Stop		10 PM
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville						11 PM

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am–12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Audio Ergo Sum
Darrien & Ruby McElwain
2nd & 4th Sun:
The Immanent Grove
Connie Mags

#2: Sun 4–5 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances
DJ Savannah

#3: Sun 9–11 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: Show
of Live
2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am–12 pm
1st Mon: Biluminations
Stefanie Lingenfelter
2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneiform Radio
Kyle Schlesinger
3rd Mon: Project Censored

#5: Mon 7–9 pm
1st Mon: Future Reflections
DJ Syd
2nd Mon: In Common Sounds
Brother B
3rd Mon: Gilded Splinters
Kevin Titterton
4th Mon: Borderlands
DJ Tenderman



#6: Tue 9–10 am
1st & 3rd Tue: Alternative Radio
2nd & 4th Tue:
Structurally Unsound
Yardain Amron

#7: Tue 7–9 pm
Biweekly rotation:
Still Life with Club Soda
Serena Matt
Still Life with Orange Peel
Ada Bowman

#8: Thu 6–7 pm
1st Thu: The Broken Boils
Collective Presents...
2nd & 4th Thu: Into the Issues
Steve Pappas
3rd Thu: Radio RoundUp
CVCR hosts

#9: Sat 9–10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace
Joseph Gainza
2nd Sat: Civic Radio Project
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report
Emily Lanxner
4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture
Rebecca Beidler

#10: Sat 10–11 am
1st Sat: Sex Fly Bengé
2nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio
Pat Kantner
3rd Sat: Under the Covers
DJ Rhizosphere
4th Sat: Indigenous Music

Support, stream live or listen to archives at WGDR.org



EVENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 17
GIANT GINGERBREAD COOKIE CLASS, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, for ages 10 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Thursday, Dec. 18
KIDS CHORUS GOES CAROLING, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, for ages 9 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Saturday, Dec. 20
VERMONT SUITCASE COMPANY performs "The Continuing Adventures of King Wenceslas and his page Edith," 7 p.m., Plainfield Opera House. Tickets at the door. Information: plainfieldartsvt.org or plainfieldartsvt@gmail.com.
COMMUNITY PASTA DINNER, 5 p.m., United Church of Hardwick dining room. Free and open to the public. Information: (802) 274-9393.

Sunday, Dec. 21
WINTER SOLSTICE WILDLIFE TRACKING, 10 to 11:30 a.m., North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St., Montpelier. All experience levels welcome. Not appropriate for very young children.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
KIDS' CHORUS, 3 p.m., for ages 9 and up. Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

vineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.
TUESDAY MORNING HONK & WAVE, noon, Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St., Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

Wednesday, Dec. 24
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace Church, 104 Vt. Rte. 16, East Hardwick.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, with communion, 1 p.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 West Church St., Hardwick. Information: (802) 472-5979 or stjohnthebaptistvt.org.

Ongoing Events
ARTHRITIS RELIEF EXERCISE CLASS, Thursdays, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.
PICKLEBALL, Sundays, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group starts at 11 a.m. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.
CHESS CLUB MEETS, on select Mondays, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Craftsbury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Baroczy in preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament on March 28.
KIDS' CHORUS, Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing.

Information: jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.
PLAINFIELD FARMERS MARKET, 4 to 7 p.m., Fridays, 13 Mill St. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.
HARDWICK PEACE (& Cease-fire) VIGIL, Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).
MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. First, third and fifth Saturdays. Information: (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org.
FRIENDS OF THE JEDEVINE LIBRARY, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.
OLD-TIME JAM SESSION, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities encouraged to attend. Jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.
COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS for Young Adventurers, first and

third Mondays, Craftsbury Public Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.
EARLY LITERACY STORY-TIME, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.
TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.
TAI CHI CLASSES, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.
MAGIC ON TUESDAY. A group of youngpeopletogetheratTheCivicStandard, S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns, Games begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.
PARENTING GROUP, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., JaquithPublicLibrary. Caregivers can relax and connect with each other.
See EVENTS, Next Page

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Flooring




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

Laundry



Self-serve • Open daily 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 Drop-off service available, call Derek, (802) 793-7388

Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED
HOLMES PLUMBING
 Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843
 Josh Holmes • 472-6228

Restaurants



The Village Restaurant
 Home Cooking at Its Best
 74 South Main St., Hardwick
 (802) 472-5701
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 Daily, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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



- Dumpster rental
- Excavation
- Landscaping
- Stump Grinding

802.793.7388
 HARDWICK • VERMONT
 dwrichardson1999@gmail.com

Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
 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

Solar



Let the Sunshine Power You
 RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • ELECTRICAL
FEDERAL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE
(802) 793-2211
 jeff@sterlingmountainsolar.com
 Jeff Holmes, Master Electrician
 2089 Laporte Road, Morrisville,

EVENTS

Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

COMMUNITY SUPPER, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick.

STORYTIME, PLAYGROUP ON FRIDAYS, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

MENDING CIRCLE MEETS, every third Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., the Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction and snacks will be supplied.

HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB, every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. A time to read published haiku, brainstorm some Vermont kigo, or season words, and write your own haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

TRIVIA NIGHT, at the Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. A limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.

ALL HANDS TOGETHER, Community Crafting Group, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581, or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

SPANISH CLUB, meets the second Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library.

FIBER ARTS, meets the third Saturday of the month, 10 to 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library.

MEDITATION at Craftsbury Community Care Center, the second and fourth Fridays, 3. to 3:45 p.m., 1784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Offered by Nancy Milholland. Open to all and sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE, second Fridays, through June, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. All dances taught, no partner needed. All welcome. Information: cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

HARDWICK AREA QUILTERS, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 1 to 4 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All levels are welcome. Not a library sponsored event.

HANG OUT ON THURSDAYS, at the Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, 2:45 p.m. - 6. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, or just spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen Union's Community School Coordinator

Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information: vvelzis@ossu.org.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 5. Cabot Public Library. Ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.

OUTDOOR STORY & ACTIVITY TIME, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Cabot Rec Field Pavilion. Join Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM, Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 5; Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime; Friday, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Program. Greensboro Free Library. Information: (802) 533-2531.

PILATES, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common. Mondays (level 1), 9 a.m., Wednesdays (Mat Level 2), 9 a.m.; Fridays (level 3), 9 a.m.

MENDING MONDAYS, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

DANCE, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

COMMFIT, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

QIGONG, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

CRAFTFIT, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

ALL LEVELS TAIJI, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Fridays, Intermediate Taiji, 10:15 a.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

CHAIR YOGA, Wednesdays, 9 a.m., Traditional Yoga, 5 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, open Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon.

FOOD SHARE, noon to 2 p.m., United Church of Craftsbury.

CRAFTSBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., on the Common.

LEGOS & LISTENING, 3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

TAMING KNOTWEED, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Offered by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission. Bring water, bug spray, gloves and assorted clippers and shovels.

STORY TIME, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

CHAPTERS IN HISTORY BOOK GROUP, second Saturday of the month, 2 p.m., Sept. 13 through Dec. 13, Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

ADAPTIVE BIKING MONDAYS on the Lamaille Valley Rail Trail, 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Rd. in Hardwick. Sponsored by Adaptive Sports Partners. Reservations or information: kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org or call (802) 427-4116.

Exhibits

BRENT MCCOY, solo exhibit, "Tricks

of the Light", Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Saturday, through January 11.

VICTORIA MATIESEN: Always Looking. New landscape paintings, through January 20, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

To have your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com.



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

MOVING? Relocating yourself, your family or your business can be stressful, to say the least.

REDUCE YOUR STRESS
KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Begin by calling your local Penske Agent with over 55 years of professional and do-it-yourself moving experience.

Call Kasey at (802) 223-5434




ARENA ATTENDANT



The Town of Stowe Parks & Recreation Department is seeking an energetic, reliable, and customer-focused Arena Attendant to help operate and maintain our prestigious, state-of-the-art ice arena. If you take pride in creating exceptional guest experiences and enjoy hands-on work in a fast-paced environment, we want to hear from you!

What You'll Do:

- Greet, assist, and engage with guests to ensure a welcoming and enjoyable environment
- Maintain a clean, safe, and well-organized facility
- Operate the ice resurfacing machine (Zamboni) to keep our rink in top condition
- Support day-to-day arena operations and contribute to an outstanding visitor experience

What We're Looking For:

- Strong customer service skills and a friendly, professional demeanor
- A valid driver's license
- Prior Zamboni experience is a plus—we're happy to train the right candidate
- Willingness to work nights, weekends, and holidays as part of a full-time, year-round schedule

Compensation & Benefits:

- Starting pay: \$22.12–\$23.94/hour, based on experience and qualifications
- Robust benefits package including low-cost health and dental insurance, generous paid leave, VMERS pension, and more

Ready to join a great team and help keep our Arena running at its best? Apply today!

For full job description and to apply, visit www.stowevt.gov/jobs or email recruit@stowevt.gov.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org
ads@hardwickgazette.org

Lady Cats tip-off season in style with win over Enosburg

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – An emphatic win over Enosburg in their season opener last week continued the Hazen Union girls basketball team's regular season dominance.

Kelsie Rivard poured in a game-high 27 points to power the Lady Cats to a 54-32 home win over Enosburg Friday night. The junior forward drained a pair of threes as Hazen jumped out to a 15-5 lead to start the game.

Mya Lumsden scored 7 points and added a long distance three of her own to help the Lady Cats take a 30-14 lead into the break.

"I liked our defensive pressure on and off the ball. We wanted to make them uncomfortable and I

think we did a good job of accomplishing that. Our zone trapping is something new that we've worked on building up to the season and we'll go back to the video to keep working on the things needed to improve it," said head coach Randy Lumsden.

Senior Isabelle Gouin added six points in the win and freshman Eloise Foster made a strong varsity debut with four points.

"I couldn't have imagined Eloise fitting in better with this team. This is a talented group and it's hard to earn minutes, but her hustle and willingness to not force things have been so impressive from practices right up to the first game," said Lumsden.

Lisey Robtoy led Enosburg

with seven points and six steals and Vienna Wilde chipped in with six points and five rebounds. The Lady Hornets made it to the Division II Final four in 2022 with a 20-win season but the program has struggled to keep its head above .500 ever since.

Lumsden's program has lost a grand total of three regular season games the past three-plus seasons, but will now turn their attention to Division I powerhouse Champlain Valley Union (CVU). Hazen traveled to Hinesburg on Tuesday to take on the Lady Redhawks in an intentional early season test crafted by Lumsden. CVU has a 72-14 record over the past three seasons, including a pair of Division I state championships and four consecutive trips to Patrick Gymnasium.

Tuesday's heavyweight match-up features two of the best players in the state in Hazen's Rivard and CVU's Zoey McNabb. Rivard will be the program's next 1,000 point scorer, the only question is when. She has been

a walking double-double since stepping into the starting lineup as a freshman, garnering consecutive VBCA Outstanding Underclassmen selections along the way.

McNabb has been the orchestrator of the CVU offense throughout their dominant run, winning back to back state titles as a freshman and sophomore. The senior point guard is also within reach of 1,000 career points, making it a marquee matchup Tuesday.

"I think both of our teams have similar size, quickness and styles. We're excited for the challenge and the chance to compete against a team like that on a bigger stage. This is an opportunity for us to put our program on the map statewide," said Lumsden.

After their clash with CVU on Tuesday, the Lady Cats will get a few days rest before welcoming Thetford Academy to the Cat Den next Monday. The Lady Panthers defeated Hazen in the Final Four three years ago.

Woodstock handles Lady Trojans in opener

by Ken Brown

WOODSTOCK – Division III Woodstock flexed its muscles against the Twinfield-Cabot girls basketball team last week in what was both team's season opener.

Paula Cortijo-Martin led all scorers with 22 points as Woodstock doubled up Twinfield-Cabot 54-27 at home on Friday night. The Lady Wasps struggled to navigate a rugged Division III southern schedule last season with just four wins, but may have some new answers to the test this season behind their talented freshman.

"Cortijo-Martin is going to be a great player, her game elevates her teammates and she commands a lot of attention," said head coach Jack Whalen.

Junior Khloi Brusco complemented with 17 points and helped apply relentless defensive pressure in the backcourt to Whalen's young guards. Chloe North picked up right where she left off after a strong sophomore season for Twinfield-Cabot with a team-high 16 points in the loss.

"We had a hard time getting our offense going against their half court defensive pressure. Overall, they were a strong shooting team," said Whalen.

After two highly successful seasons resurrecting the Lady Trojan program with playoff wins in back-to-back seasons, Whalen is rebuilding with youth in his third year at the helm. North will be the focal point of the offense, supported by the experience of juniors Sarah Austin, Finley Washburn and Birtu Lindert-Boyes. Teagan Trader is the only senior on the roster. Cabot freshmen Lily Monaco, Addie Goodrich and Nora Churchill round out the roster for Whalen and will have to develop quickly as they navigate challenges of a tough Mtn. League schedule.

"Defensively we did a lot of things really well. There are a lot of good things to take away from a tough first game on the road. We'll have to continue to adjust and develop as our opponents key on Chloe. We'll continue to put in the work and definitely have a lot to improve on," said Whalen.

Twinfield-Cabot traveled to Winooski on Tuesday to open up Mountain League play and will welcome Mid-Vermont Christian to town on Thursday for their home opener. Winooski is scheduled to travel to Marshfield next Tuesday to complete the home and home series between the two teams.

Snowmobile season opened Dec. 16

by Paul Fixx

VERMONT—The 2025 Vermont snowmobile season officially opened December 16, following the end of the muzzleloader hunting season, with conditions dependent on snow. Grooming starts then for the

roughly 5,000 miles of VAST trails in the state. Riders need registration, insurance and a TMA (VAST Trail Maintenance Assessment, which serves as a membership and pass to use and support VAST trails). Those born after 1983 need to have taken a safety course.

SPORT CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 17

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys basketball, Dave Morse Classic, vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union.

Thursday, Dec. 18

5:30 p.m., Twinfield Boys JV basketball vs. Mid-Vermont Christian, at Twinfield.

7 p.m., Twinfield Girls Varsity basketball, vs. Mid-Vermont Christian, at Twinfield.

Friday, Dec. 19

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys basketball, Dave Morse Classic, consolation round, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys basketball, Dave Morse Classic, championship round, at Hazen Union.

Saturday, Dec. 20

11 a.m., Twinfield Boys JV basketball at Stowe.

12:30 p.m., Twinfield Boys Varsity basketball at Stowe.

Monday, Dec. 22

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union JV Girls basketball, vs. Thetford, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls basketball, vs. Thetford, at Hazen Union.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union JV Boys basketball, vs. Enosburg, at Hazen Union.

6 p.m., Twinfield Boys JV basketball at Danville.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys basketball, vs. Enosburg, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Twinfield Girls Varsity basketball, vs. Winooski, at Twinfield.

7:30 p.m., Twinfield Boys Varsity basketball at Danville.

Saturday, Dec. 27

11 a.m., Hazen Union JV Girls basketball, vs. Randolph, at Hazen Union.

12:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls basketball, vs. Randolph, at Hazen Union.

Monday, Dec. 29

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union JV Boys basketball, at Vergennes.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys basketball, at Vergennes.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union JV Boys basketball, Williamstown JV Tournament, vs. Peoples.

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union JV Girls basketball at Enosburg.

7 p.m., Twinfield Girls Varsity basketball, at BFA Fairfax.

7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls basketball at Enosburg.

Twinfield-Cabot Trojans defend title at Bob Abe Classic

by Ken Brown

PROCTOR – For a second straight season, the Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team won the Bob Abrahamson Tip-off Classic in dominant fashion at Proctor High School last week.

Seniors Tej Stewart and Eli Russell were too much for Twin Valley and tournament host Proctor over the weekend as the Trojans stormed to another Bob Abe Classic title. Stewart pumped in a team high 25 points and hauled in 11 rebounds Friday night to lead Twinfield-Cabot to an impressive 78-57 over Twin-Valley in the opening round.

Brayden Brown did all he could to keep the Wildcats within striking distance with a game-high 37 points, but the Trojan's depth was too much.

Russell orchestrated the offense to perfection with 21 points, three assists, three rebounds and three steals. Fellow senior Sam McLane added six points, nine rebounds and two blocks. Sophomore Omar Miksic-Knibb chipped in with 11 points and five assists.

The two schools got reacquainted with each other after the Wildcats denied Twinfield-Cabot a perfect soccer season in the Division IV championship match six weeks ago.

"Brown is a great offensive

player, and he and their program is a class act. It was great to start the game on a 17-3 run and carry that right into the second half. Tej and Eli's shooting and distribution of the ball was on another level. Ben Monaco came off the bench and played really well. Continuing to develop and stabilize our bench is going to be key for us as we navigate the season," said head coach Kris Bador.

The Trojans blitzed Proctor with an explosive second half to raise the Bob Abe Classic trophy with a 74-42 win on Saturday night.

The Phantoms hung tough, trailing 30-22 at the break behind 7 points from Dean and Braden Mason.

Twinfield-Cabot went on a 24-11 run in the first eight minutes of the second half to put the game away. Stewart and Russell led the Trojans with 18 points apiece, Miksic-Knibb added 15 and Zepherin Hebert was strong inside with 11.

Twin-Valley raced past Poultney 110-29 in the consolation game as Brayden and Landon Brown combined for 61 points.

"Zepherin led us defensively in the second half after I thought we came out a little flat in the first sixteen minutes. Effort and leadership like that becomes



Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team captured their second straight Bob Abe Classic championship over the weekend. *courtesy photo*

contagious and we wore them out as a team," said Bador.

"It was a physical game that tested us mentally and I loved our kids' composure throughout the tournament. Proctor did a great job coming out with a lot of energy in the first quarter but we adjusted really well and stuck to our game plan. It was a great tournament, great crowd and great atmosphere. I love

how tight knit this group is but I don't want it to be easy for them, and it's good to see them go through some adversity and have to figure things out."

Bador's veteran squad will get another full week of practice under their belt before traveling to Stowe on Saturday for a 12:30 p.m. tip-off. The Trojans will be on the road for the first six games of the season.



Lincoln Hill (right) of Hazen looks to pass as Danville's Landon Fournier (left) and Jackson Giroux (center) look to trap him during scrimmage action Saturday in Hardwick.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Record numbers for Charger's bowling program

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – Head coach Ashley Gravel will have record numbers and more experience this season as her Craftsbury Academy (CA) bowling team readies for their season opener later this week.

Gravel enjoyed robust numbers last season in her second year leading the program, but her young team lacked competitive experience at the high school level. She had 13 student athletes from both CA and Hazen Union come out for the team this winter, and hopes to build on the development her team showed throughout the season last year.

This will be the fourth season CA will field a varsity bowling team. The Chargers put their program on the map in their first two years, featuring three of the top 12 bowlers in the state. Last season was a full reset for Gravel and her program, fielding a team of new faces made up of mostly sophomores. Her team was able to get invaluable experience in their first

state tournament however, falling to seventh-seeded South Burlington in the first round. Kosmos Glestos, Arwen Alexander, Cyrus Graham and Tucker Holcomb showed vast improvement last winter, bowling some of their best games late in the season. Gravel hopes her mix of experienced returning bowlers, along with new faces, will lead to building a competitive program at CA for years to come.

"Our returning bowlers continue to progress off of their development from last year and I'm excited for the season. We have a lot of kids who put in the time to practice in the offseason and they've come in with a lot of enthusiasm. They've done a nice job welcoming in new players to the team with that same energy. It's great to see kids continue to have interest in the sport, in the program here at CA and I'm excited to watch it grow," said Gravel.

The Chargers are scheduled to officially open the season this Saturday at Gold Crown Lanes in St. Johnsbury.

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



Craftsbury Elementary School fourth-grade teacher, Hallie Grossman (No. 11), heads back on course after a shooting stage. Grossman is a former biathlete with the Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP).

photo by Eric Hanson



Craftsbury Ski Club skier, Lillian Suddaby (No. 20, kneeling) prepares to shoot in the prone position.

photo by Eric Hanson

Open Biathlon Ski Races

CRAFTSBURY – Skiers are raring to go and the combination of an early winter and some snowmaking made for some solid biathlon ski events the weekend of December 6-7 at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. The Harvard Ski Club hosted the first of a new Eastern Biathlon ski series with over 100 participants from Ontario, Quebec, New York, and the Northeast. Day one was individual races for several age categories. Craftsbury Ski Club skiers are listed here with number of targets missed out of 10 (five prone and five standing):

Under 15 boys (U15): 1. Oakley Crawford (2), 2. Bowman Suddaby (3).

U15 girls: 1. Hazel Morton-Lynch (2).

Youth men: 4. Isaac Fellows (5)

Youth women: 3. Tillie Lange (6), 5. Adele Pritchard (5), 8. Lillian Suddaby (5), 9. Ava Stratman (6), 12. Elizabeth Searles (5), 13. Amalie Pratt (7), 15. Althea Veve (5).

Senior Men: 3. Luke Brown (3), 4. Tim Cobb (3).

Senior Women: 1. Jackie Gorso (1), 2. Michaela Keller-Miller (3).

Masters 30 women: 1. Hallie Grossman (4).

Masters 50 men: 1. Hugh Pritchard, 5. Matt Moody.

SuperTour Races in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Several Craftsbury Outdoor Center Green Racing Project (GRP) skiers headed up to Alaska to compete in the first two weekends of SuperTour events.

The races were supposed to be held in Fairbanks, but cold weather (minus 20s and 30s) forced the race organizers to move the races to Anchorage. SuperTour results help determine who receives U.S. Ski Team starts on the World Cup.

In the first sprint race of the season, GRPer John Binhammer cranked it up in the qualifier for the win; he ended up 26th after the rounds of quarterfinals, semis, and finals.

His teammate Joe Lynch was not so fortunate as he and a few other racers were chased off course by a charging moose. Race rules say that interference by wildlife does not change the results or allow for a re-do of the race, only in cross country skiing would this rule be included. Joe might be truly disappointed but he'll remember this race better than any other (unless he lands a spot on the World Cup or wins nationals).

New GRP members Jack Christner was 16, Keelan Durham 17, and Brian Bushey 18.

In the first weekend distance



Jack Young (No. 6) took a fourth-place finish in freestyle sprint on the World Cup in Davos, Switzerland. Young now skis for Green Racing Project (GRP) and grew up skiing in Jay and Craftsbury.

photo by Modica/NordicFocus

race, Brian Bushey placed third in 28:53 for a tremendous result in his first post collegiate career race. Bushey graduated high school from Green Mountain Academy in Waitfield, grew up in Montpelier, skied for the University of Utah, and now is back home in Vermont.

Jack Young Fourth in Davos World Cup

DAVOS, Switzerland – On the World Cup, new GRPer Jack Young (Jay VT) has had some solid top-40 results in late November and early December sprint competitions, but did not crack the top 30 in qualifiers to make the heats. Both early sprints were classic style skiing, while Jack tends to do better in skate technique.

This past weekend, knowing he needed a good race and believing he could, Jack qualified 6th in the skate sprint. He went on to place 2nd in the quarterfinal (top two places move on), 2nd in the semifinal, and then placed an

amazing 4th in the final. This was his first-ever top 10 finish.

Teammate Ben Ogden from Landgrove, qualified 2nd and ended up a few tenths of second behind Jack in the final to place 5th overall. To have two U.S. skiers in a final with so much European talent is a phenomenal accomplishment.

From FasterSkier: For Young, the fourth-place finish marked his first World Cup sprint final, a breakthrough that felt less like a surprise than a confirmation. "This result means so, so much," he said. "It really feels like proof that I can make it to the top in this sport. If I'd told myself three years ago that I'd finish fourth in a World Cup sprint, I would have thought I was insane." Jack grew up skiing with the Craftsbury Ski Club, attended North Country Union high school, and graduated from Colby College this past Spring.

For the full story link to faster skier.com/2025/12/fire-ice-and-belief-two-vermonters-deliver-under-the-lights-in-davos/

Holly Jolly Brawly Invitational Benefit Martial Arts Tournament



D.J. Jeandell (left) of the Vermont Martial Arts Academy of Rutland/Manchester prepares Harper Williams, 6, of Martial Arts in Hardwick to compete in the flag sparring division Saturday in the Holly Jolly Brawly Invitational Benefit Martial Arts Tournament in the Hazen Union School Gym.



Chase Park, 8, (left) of Martial Way in Colchester and Brooks Schifihiti, 9, (right) of Martial Arts in Hardwick spar in the Gi Grappling Division as Adam Beckley (center) of Martial Arts in Hardwick judges the competition during the Holly Jolly Brawly Invitational Benefit Martial Arts Tournament, December 13, in the Hazen Union gym. The fundraiser was hosted by Beckley, with attendees donating 111 pounds of food and \$1,346.75 for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and 18 games, 22 toys and \$1,140.75 for the Hardwick Holiday Project.



Grayson Pelletier, 7, (left) and Nolan Zammuto, 9, (right) of Martial Way in Colchester, spar in the Gi Grappling Division during the Holly Jolly Brawly Martial Arts Tournament, Dec. 13 in the Hazen Union Gym. 56 competitors from 13 different schools competed in seven different divisions.

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Competing Saturday in the Holly Jolly Brawly, Emmaline Poland III, 14, (left) of Randy Rotta's Blackbelt Academy in Randolph point spars with Phoebe Cornwell, 15, (right) of Vermont Martial Arts Academy in Rutland. Jeremy Lesniak (back left) is the head ring judge.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Jayden Currin, 13, of National Institute of Modern Martial Arts in Claremont, N.H., demonstrates an empty hand form during the Holly Jolly Brawly Martial Arts Tournament at the Hazen Union gym, Saturday. The fundraiser was hosted by Adam Beckley of Martial Arts in Hardwick.