



Stuck Toyota Camry towed from VAST trail

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Ross Gouin, trailmaster with the Hardwick Sno-Flake Ridgerunners received an unexpected call from Hardwick Town Manager David Upson late Friday afternoon when Upson called to tell him a vehicle was stuck on a VAST Trail and needed to be pulling out.

After confirming the location with the Hardwick Police Department, they headed to the site of the stuck vehicle where they met trail director Chad Trudeau, who had reached it by snowmobile.

Upson and Trudeau rigged a tow line to the stuck Toyota Camry in temperatures falling

from 12 degrees Fahrenheit as night came on.

The Uber driver in the Camry was .8 mile up Wright Farm Road, having driven in from West Woodbury, according to Upson. In a video Gouin recorded while pulling the vehicle out and later posted to Facebook, he said he had no idea how the car had gotten so far in, but was certain it wouldn't have gotten out without the Ridgerunners tow.

Upson, who once served as a Vermont State Trooper, said stuck vehicles on trails had been a common occurrence and trail grooming equipment was usually the only way to remove them, or they'd be stuck until after a spring thaw.

See **STUCK, 3**



Hardwick Town Manager David "Opie" Upson rigs a towline to a Toyota Camry driven by an Uber driver who spoke little English that was stuck 0.8 miles up Wright Farm Road, while Ross Gouin in the Sno-flake Ridgerunners trail groomer prepares to tow the Toyota out. *courtesy photo*

Australian ballot procedures debated

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – The January 14 regular select board meeting began with a revised agenda and debate regarding the minutes of the December 16 budget meeting, with the upcoming election of town officers via Australian ballot dominating discussion for some time.

Beth Meacham of the Communications Working Group was present, expressing to the board that many are busy and thus unengaged with town votes. Asking residents if they'd consider running for a select board seat, Meacham reported there has been an overwhelmingly negative response from those contacted about volunteering for positions. Moreover, Meacham said reaching out via Front Porch Forum or advertising in local newspapers may better serve community members that want to participate in the coming elections for town officials.

She suggested advertising the town administrator position upon approval, to which the board said they were planning to do so.

Meacham also said spreading the word about absentee ballots is important, as mail-in ballots are not available. The board informed her that the usual places like Front Porch **See DEBATE, 6**



Resident Beth Meachem (left), on the Greensboro Communications Working Group, talks at the January 14 select board meeting, about the difficulty of finding candidates to fill seats on the select board as (from right) board Scribe Josh Karp and Chair MacNeil listen.

photo from Greensboro Select Board recording

FY27 budget approved, candidate forum set for Jan. 28

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – After a lengthy discussion regarding the election of town officers via Australian ballot, the board discussed several action items at the January 14 regular select board meeting.

Liz Steel of the Energy and Climate **See FORUM, 5**

Budget, town meeting warning approved

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – A mostly routine select board meeting was held January 8, with preparations for Town Meeting Day that included approval of an item to be warned for creation of a town forest on Buffalo Mountain, spirited discussion about \$1,500 budgeted for the Hardwick Equity Committee and covering a cost overrun on the Town House renovation, where it was decided to hold town meeting, March 3, this year.

A public engagement meeting for the town's Essential Services Project will be held at the library, January 21, at 6 p.m. The project involves moving the fire station to Creamery Road, near the current town garage, creating new quarters for the highway department and constructing a new building for Hardwick Rescue.

During twenty minutes of discussion about language in support of plans to purchase land for a town forest that includes the summit of Buffalo Mountain, most comments were in support of the plan, with only discussion about details, including the cost of maintaining it. Plans were made to move forward with creation of a steering committee, "sooner rather than later," said Remick.

Wording approved for the Town Meeting Warning was, "To protect recreational access, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, and Lamoille River water quality, and to provide outdoor educational opportunities for schoolchildren, shall the Town of Hardwick contribute \$25,000, to be matched by more than \$700,000 of other public

See APPROVED, 7

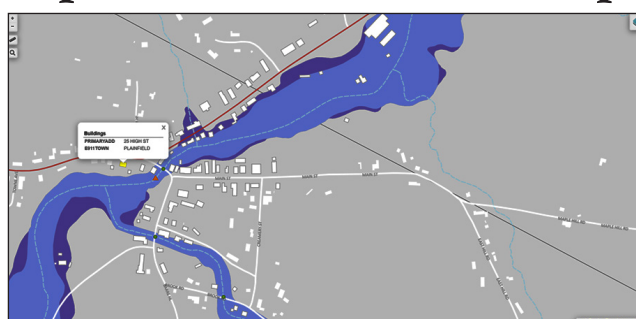
Hazard Mitigation Committee presents draft flood map

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – Maps of four scenarios that could bring floodwaters to Plainfield homes and businesses were reviewed at a meeting of the Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee last Thursday, Jan. 15. Residents were invited to the meeting, billed as an opportunity to, "review newly completed (draft) Winooski, Great Brook and Molly's Falls Dam #6 worst-case flooding projection maps, to help us all think about when to evacuate or stay put, and if neighbors might need extra help."

"These maps are also available for town disaster and housing projections, and evacuation

See MAP, 3



A section of a map showing the potential reach of Winooski River waters in Plainfield during a 100-year flood (.1% probability) in light blue and a 500-year flood (.2% probability) in darker blue was reviewed at the Hazard Mitigation Committee meeting last Thursday. The highlighted building shows how clicking on a house in the flood plain brings up information about the address.

map courtesy Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee

POLICE REPORT

Cabot Fire Department Area departments respond to crashes, abandoned vehicle

CABOT – January 18, just after 3:30 a.m., Cabot Fire and Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service were toned to respond to an automated crash alert on US-2 near the Marshfield Dam.

While en route, a second call for response to an overturned vehicle on US-2 in Marshfield diverted our mutual aid partner Marshfield Fire to that scene.

At the Cabot scene, two occupants were assessed and treated by Cabot Ambulance and Cabot Fire provided scene lighting and traffic control, until VSP and a wrecker arrived.

Walden Fire responded as mutual aid but were turned around upon arrival as the scene was stabilized. On the return to station the Walden crew spotted another vehicle off the road (unoccupied) near Macks Mountain Road on US-2.

State road crews were actively plowing, sanding and salting during the emergency response, but even with treatment road conditions can be variable and challenging. This is especially true in exposed areas where wind may blow snow on the roadway or contribute to icing.



Cabot Fire and Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service respond to an automated crash alert on US-2 near the Marshfield Dam, January 18, just after 3:30 a.m., where two occupants of the vehicle were assessed and treated by Cabot Ambulance. Cabot Fire provided scene lighting and traffic control until VSP and a wrecker arrived. *social media photo*



January 21- January 27

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Post Honey Comb or Pebbles Cereal \$2.99 11-12.5 oz.	Post Great Grain Cereal \$4.99 13.5-16 oz.	Kellogg's Pop Tarts 2/\$5 13.5 oz.
Near East Side Dishes 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.	Food Club Salad Dressing 2/\$4 16 oz.	Duncan Hines Cake Mix 2/\$4 15.25 oz.
Jello Pudding or Gelatin 4/\$5 3-3.9 oz.	Nabisco Family Size Chips Ahoy or Oreos \$3.99 17.6-18.71 oz.	Brawny 4 Dou. Roll Paper Towels \$9.99 137 s.f.
Glad Kitchen or Trash Bags \$9.49 25-40 ct.	Cabot Cheese Slices 2/\$5 7-8 oz.	Newman's Frozen Pizza \$6.49 15.1-17 oz.
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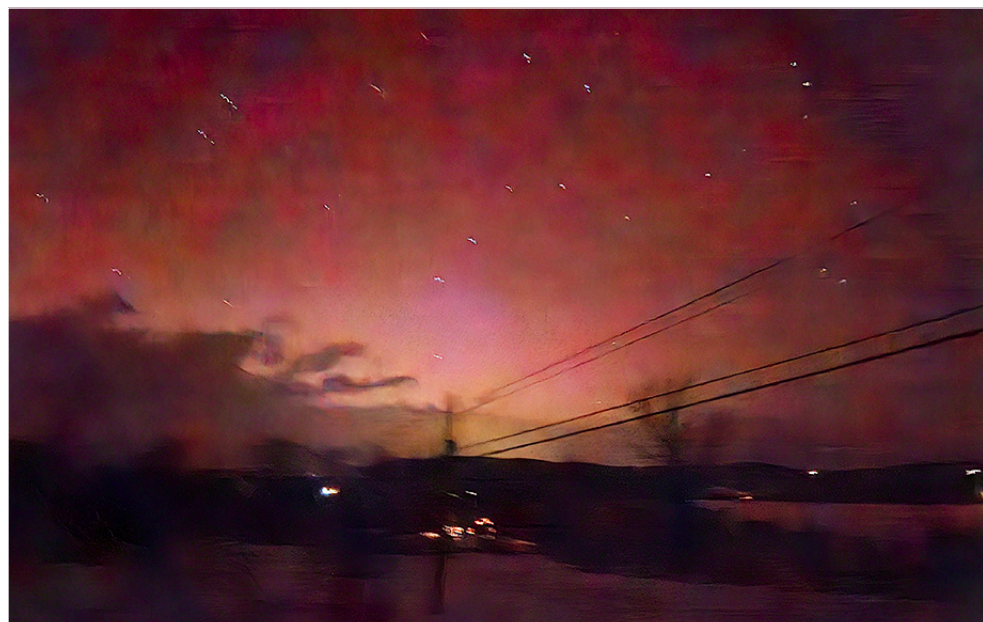
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WEATHER WATCH



An early morning aurora borealis was spotted Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the base of Cook Hill Road in Greensboro. photo by Tyler Molleur

Dangerously cold conditions expected this weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – After starting out the last forecast period with mild conditions and some rain, precipitation in that storm system wrapped up as snow. Following a day of sunny conditions on Friday, temperatures remained below freezing with incrementally accumulating light snow from the weekend into Monday. An intermittent window existed for viewing the aurora borealis overnight on Monday.

A low-pressure system approaching from the Great Lakes today brings moderating temperatures as a warm front lifts through New England. Steady snow is likely during the evening hours, before tapering off through daybreak. Only an inch or two of snow is expected. Then, snow showers with possible snow squalls return for the morning and midday tomorrow as a cold front crosses the region from west to east. This will bring another quick inch of snow and strengthening winds. Snow showers linger on Friday as temperatures continue to plummet through the day thanks to a passing secondary cold front. Cloud cover will decrease by evening.

A significant wind chill threat exists Friday night into the day on Saturday as low temperatures drop

into the teens below zero and winds make temperatures feel like they are in the 30s below zero. Frostbite can occur on exposed skin within minutes under these circumstances. Outdoor activity is strongly discouraged during this time. Winds subside Saturday night, but air temperatures will continue to be close to 20 degrees below zero. The sun is out for the most part on Sunday as bitterly cold conditions persist. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Snow showers developing by evening. High: 22. Low: 15. South wind 5-10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers with possible snow squalls in the morning. High: 30. Low: 6. Southwest wind 10-15 mph. Gusts to 25 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Scattered snow showers, especially in the afternoon. High: 15. Low: -15. West wind 5-10 mph. Gusts to 20 mph. Wind chill values potentially as low as -35 by morning Saturday.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Bitterly cold. High: -7. Low: -19. Northwest wind 5-10 mph, decreasing by evening. Wind chill values as low as -20 throughout the day.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Bitterly cold. High: 0. Low: -16. Calm wind.

Stuck

Continued From Page One

The vehicle's driver spoke no English, so conversation was assisted with a translator reached by smartphone, said Upson..

In a social media post, the Ridgerunners said of the driver, "you can imagine his excitement to get a tow back to the pavement!"

After dragging the Camry out, Gouin went back to the site, where he picked up the grooming drag, which had been left behind

when the car was hooked up.

See a video of the extraction in progress at [facebook.com/share/v/1FrJqwkUVv/](https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FrJqwkUVv/)

In a Sunday evening trail update, the Ridgerunners said, "Both 15A & 15B were groomed this afternoon after the weekend traffic. Tonight, we did 14 S through the village to 15 east and 156 to Walden and Cabot.

"Trails are shaping up nicely and it's nice to see folks out enjoying them. Ride right, ride safe and think Snow!"

POLICE REPORT

Cabot Fire Department Creamery fire alarm activation

by Cabot Fire Department

CABOT – Tuesday evening, January 13, Cabot Fire Department responded to a fire alarm activation at the Cabot Creamery. There was no

emergency. The call provided an opportunity to practice response. Mutual aid partners from Walden responded. A total of 12 firefighters and four apparatus were on scene 11 minutes after the call activation.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Eight people used AWARE services between January 11 and January 18. 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.

Map

Continued From Page One

route planning by emergency personnel," said the agenda.

The recently compiled maps show the levels flood waters could potentially reach in a 100 year flood, which reflects a 1% chance of flooding, and in a 500 year flood, reflecting a 0.2% chance of flooding.

Two other sets of data showed scenarios for Marshfield Dam flooding, first on a sunny day, then during a 100-year-flood with the service spillway open. There has not been an issue with inundation at the dam, since May 26, 2011.

A red line showed the extent of recent floodwaters, which extended well beyond the 500-year mapping. It was explained that the maps do not account for debris washing down the river, or changes to the course of the river as it moves gravel downstream. Both of those issues affected flooding in 2024.

The committee discussed how to share information provided by the maps to families and business owners likely to be affected by future flooding in the area. Because emergency personnel are not likely to reach everyone who needs to be evacuated, they are looking to share the information provided by the maps. The number of buildings affected by floodwaters shown on the maps was close to 100 in Plainfield and considerably more when taking Marshfield into account. That number would be higher if not for the 27 buildings accepting buyouts to be demolished and turned into empty space, potentially creating floodplain to help reduce future flooding.

The mapping extended into Marshfield, which Plainfield Emergency Management Director Michael Billingsley explained is because, "Marshfield and Plainfield

are interwoven in terms of shared risk from the dam and the river, ties between families going to school together for generations, and overlapping economies, social events and strategies."r.

A change to plans for evacuation of the Twinfield school was noted. Where previously they were to go to Old Schoolhouse Common, the mapping shows earlier flooding happens along roads and bridges in that direction, so families are being directed to meet students on the former Goddard College campus. It will still be necessary to evacuate the school early, before flood waters reach roads and bridges offering access to that location.

Soon after the 2024 flooding, the state, without discussion with town officials or emergency management personnel, removed woody debris and gravel from the river. The committee noted that likely increases the damage from future flooding because woody debris can cause high water to back up into fields and forests upstream from towns. Less obstructed and deeper channels left after gravel is removed can cause high water to move faster, causing more erosion and its associated damage. The maps are said to reflect that current state of the river.

Flooding in tributaries to the Winooski River were identified as sources of potential flooding in rainfall events away from the Winooski that can make it a more dangerous river.

Naismith Brook flooding in 2023 led to some evacuations and the 2024 flood involved inundation from the Great Brook.

The maps will be accessible on the Hazard Mitigation Committee page of the Plainfield town website when they are finalized.

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – January 4: Custodial Dispute, Elm St.; Assist - Motorist, Wolcott St.; Medical, E. Church St.

January 5: Assist - Motorist, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 14 S.; Wanted Person, Vt. Route 15 W.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Accident - TCNR, Ward Hill Road.

January 6: Alarm, Vt. Route 14 S.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 14 S.; Abandoned Vehicle, Wolcott St.

January 7: Alarm, Vt. Route 15 W.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Snowmobile, Hardwick; Snowmobile, Hardwick; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Odor Investigation, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Parking Problem, Wolcott St.

January 8: School Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Fingerprints, High St.; Snowmobile, Hardwick; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Terrace Hill Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

January 9: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fraud, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, Balsam Ridge Road.

January 10: Snowmobile, Hardwick; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Trespassing, Vt. Route 15 W.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Mill St.; Assist - Agency, Granite St.

January 11: Medical, Craftsbury Road; Assist - Public, Main St.; Suspicious Event, Spring St.; Accident - LSA, Marshall St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 14.

Hardwick Police Department Mystery bumper malefactor, arrest on warrant

by Hardwick Police Department

HARDWICK – On January 11, at approximately 4:50 p.m., Hardwick Police received a report of a vehicle receiving damage while parked on the street. Jackson Miller had left his gray 2016 Toyota Prius parked on Marshall Street. At some point it was hit in the left rear corner panel. No

one notified Miller of the damage. Anyone with information of the incident is asked to call Hardwick Police.

On January 15, at approximately 1:48 p.m., Shyann MacNeal was seen on Mill Street. MacNeal was known to have warrants out for her arrest. She was taken into custody without incident and transported to Lamoille County Court to go before a judge.



On January 16, at 3:30 p.m., Hardwick Fire Department (HFD) assisted Hardwick Police Department with a car and operator stuck on the VAST trail in Hardwick. HFD located the vehicle with its tracked side-by-side and ensured the operator, who followed a GPS up class 4 Buffalo Mountain Road, was safe. HFD was clear by 4:45 p.m. Social media photo



Retiring Greensboro Fire Department Chief David Brochu Jr. (left) presents Lieutenant Eric Pilbin a retirement plate for his years of service to the department, January 15, before the annual election of officers. social media photo

Greensboro Fire Department Fire department holds elections

by Greensboro Fire Department

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Fire Department held its annual elections of officers meeting, January 15. Before the elections, retired Lieutenant Eric Pilbin was presented with a retirement plate for his years of service by Chief David Brochu Jr., who thanked Pilbin for all he has done for the department and his years of service.

Firefighter John Franklin reached his tenth-year anniversary and was promoted to senior firefighter.

Slate of officers for the year includes K1- Chief David Brochu Jr.; K2- Assistant Chief Doug Casavant; K3- 2nd Assistant Chief Art Brochu; K4- Captain Andrew Casavant; K5- Captain Melissa Moffatt; K6- Lieutenant John Kerr; K7- Lieutenant Anthony Brochu; Secretary Marcy Larrabee; Treasurer Melissa Moffatt.

Vermont State Police Driving under the influence

MARSHFIELD – On January 18 at approximately 8:31 p.m., the Vermont State Police conducted a traffic stop after multiple observed motor vehicle violations on U.S. Route 7 near the intersection with S. Middlebrook Road, in the town of New Haven. The operator was identified as Nicolas L. Garcia of Marshfield. While speaking to Garcia, troopers observed indicators of impairment. Garcia was subsequently placed under arrest for suspicion of driving under the influence and transported to the New Haven barracks for processing. At the conclusion of processing, Garcia was released with a citation to appear in Addison County Superior Court, Criminal



Nicolas L. Garcia

Division on March 16, 12:30 p.m. Troopers were assisted by members of the Middlebury Police Department.

Economic development leader hit with embezzlement charge

by Alan J. Keays, VTDigger

MONTPELIER – The former executive director of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation has been charged with embezzling more than \$70,000 from the organization.

Melissa Bounty, 42, of Waitsfield, was expected to appear in Washington County Superior criminal court on January 15 for an arraignment on the felony charge, according to a Saturday press release from the Montpelier Police Department.

The charge against Bounty stemmed from a lengthy investigation that began in July, when the department received a report from the organization stating that Bounty, its executive director at the time, had “utilized company funds for personal gain,” according to the release.

The investigation, according to the press release, found that Bounty had embezzled \$71,151 from the organization during her tenure as executive director from 2022 to 2025.

Police said they would not disclose any additional information regarding the charges. More information about the investigation is expected to become available following Bounty’s court arraignment when the police affidavit filed in support of the charge becomes public.

A person who answered the phone at a number for Bounty in Waitsfield said she didn’t want to talk about the matter.



Melissa Bounty
photo courtesy Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

Officials with the organization could not be reached Monday for comment.

VTDigger had reported in July that Bounty had been placed on leave from her job with the organization pending an investigation, though details about the nature of that probe were not made public.

The nonprofit organization is one of 12 regional development corporations across the state. The groups receive state and federal funds to help promote and support local businesses.

At that time, Bounty said in a statement to VTDigger that she stood “by my work and my integrity,” adding, “I care so deeply for the Central Vermont business community and have been honored to learn more about the wonderful work happening in this vibrant region every day.”

CVEDC members include Cabot, Calais, Marshfield, Plainfield and Woodbury.

Forum

Continued From Page One

Action Committee (ECAC) was present to discuss the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grant program. Chair MacNeal said, when this came up at previous meetings, there was a question about the propriety of Steel applying for funding as a member of the ECAC, then hiring her communications company Campwell Connexions to manage the grant.

Steel said she was planning to recuse herself from ECAC work for the duration of the grant, but the board felt there was still a conflict of interest and suggested she step down from the committee for the duration of the grant, which is six months, to which Steel agreed.

With that on the record, a motion was made and to accept the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grant.

Steel clarified, it is only a \$2000 grant and does not require competitive bidding. She will be working closely with NVDA and others, so the work of Campwell Connexions will be monitored by people outside the ECAC, she said. The vote was held and the motion carried.

Moving on to the FY27 budget, Treasurer Brett Stanciu said the capital fund transfer was increased from \$135k to \$150k and the total budget is \$2,492,999.27.

Member Tim Brennan made a motion for the board to adopt the FY27 budget in the amount of \$2,492,999.27, which passed unanimously.

Resident Chris Roy asked how this budget compares to the previous year, to which Stanciu said the increase is about 4.5% over FY26, with the largest increase being a proposed town administrator.

The board adopted an amended town warning, with wording adjusted for one article.

They then set a date for an informational meeting and candidate forum on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall meeting room.

Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Brochu said the new fire truck has been paid for and delivery is expected in February. He is getting quotes for a larger boiler in the firehouse, as the current one is undersized with recurring issues, and must be replaced this winter.

The board accepted a revised Caspian Lake Dam Task Force charter and agreed to establish the task force.

A discussion was held regarding groups interested in using the town hall meeting room. After some conversation, Town Clerk Kim Greaves and Scribe Josh Karp agreed to draft a room use policy.

ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION 7C0024-4-1 10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Application 7C0024-4-1 from New Leaf Realty, LLC, 2001 Marina Drive #414, Quincy, MA 02171 was received on December 4, 2025 and deemed complete on January 15, 2026. The project is generally described as: (a) a 2,168-square-foot building addition, (b) new canopy along the western building face, (c) re-grading and paving a portion of the existing gravel parking area, (d) installation of stormwater treatment practices, (e) installation of one new building-mounted exterior light, and (f) replacement of exterior light fixtures in the existing canopy. The project is located at 143 VT-15 in Hardwick, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board’s website (<https://act250.vermont.gov>) by clicking “Act 250 Database” and entering the project number “7C0024-4-1.”

No hearing will be held and a permit may be issued unless, on or before February 5, 2026, a party notifies the District 7 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board’s website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 7 Office at: Act250.StJohnsbury@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact Kevin Anderson at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this January 16, 2026.

By: /s/ Kevin Anderson
Kevin Anderson
District Coordinator
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-522-6074
Kevin.Anderson@vermont.gov

Prices shown valid 01/23-01/29
Member-owner deals valid 01/01-01/31 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!

 \$3.29 Paper Towels <small>Seventh Generation</small>	 \$3.99 Mac and Cheese <small>Amy's, 9 oz</small>	 \$5.99 Gluten Free Enchilada <small>Amy's, 9 oz</small>	 \$4.99 Breakfast Sausage <small>Applegate Farms, varieties, 7 oz</small>
 \$3.69 Smoked Wild Kippers <small>Bar Harbor, 6.7 oz</small>	 \$4.49 Puffins Cereal <small>Barbara's, varieties, 11 oz</small>	 \$4.49 Vegetarian Breakfast Sausage <small>Jack & Annie's, 8.1 oz</small>	 \$5.49 Hoisin Sauce <small>Karne, 8 oz</small>
 \$6.49 Blueberry Cluster Cereal <small>Kashi, 17.2 oz</small>	 \$4.99 Greek Yogurt Varieties <small>Green Mountain Creamery, 32 oz</small>	 \$3.99 Oat Milk Barista Blend <small>Califia Farms, 32 oz</small>	 \$4.49 Liquid Aminos <small>Bragg, 16 oz</small>
 \$4.99 Sparkling Water 8 pack <small>Spindrift, variety</small>	 \$2.99 Butter Quarters <small>Food Club, varieties, 16 oz</small>	 \$3.99 Frozen Snack Treats <small>Good Humor, varieties, 18 oz</small>	 \$1.79 Cottage Cheese <small>Food Club, varieties, 16 oz</small>

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

 \$7.99 Marinara <small>Fody, varieties, 19.4 oz</small>	 \$4.99 Chicken Soup Varieties <small>Zoup, varieties, 16 oz</small>	 10% off Cat Food Varieties <small>Fancy Feast, varieties, 3 oz</small>	 10% off Granola <small>Twin Pine, varieties, 16 oz</small>
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75 Mill Street Hardwick, VT 05843 • 802-472-6020 • www.buffalomountainmarket.com

Debate

Continued From Page One

Forum and the town website will be used.

Board member Ellen Celnik said, “I think this Australian ballot process has complicated things, has added an enormous amount of work to our town staff, and it’s not as if we expanded the staff. It’s added an enormous amount to the budget, and at some point or another, we need to rethink it.”

Celnik said in the past the process was much simpler, if someone wanted to run or nominate someone, they did so at town meetings.

Board member Mike Metcalf spoke, saying Meacham’s concerns about nobody running for the open select board seats are valid. He said the collecting of signatures may be another factor holding people back, based on a recent conversation with someone considering running.

Metcalf also said a third of voters typically attend town meetings, to which Meacham replied, “We’re in new times. We have a community that is sometimes reluctant, sometimes lethargic, sometimes too busy to stay tuned in. As a result, we need to do more about being transparent about what’s going on. The community voted to have an Australian ballot, and for some people that is confusing. And for some people it’s a change where getting seven signatures is just too much for them. I can’t believe that someone who is interested in running doesn’t have seven neighbors or friends in town that they could ask to sign on a line.”

Meacham reiterated that she does not seek to attack or ridicule anyone, she just wants to encourage figuring out new ways to engage the community.

Attendee Janet Long said “I was concerned about the pricing of mailing a ballot to everybody at 75 cents a whack and who [ever] established this communication system seems to be making more muck than we need in a small town. If you need to know stuff, go

to the select board and ask them, or go to the meetings all the time and listen.”

Attendee Liz Steel spoke up, “Mike made the comment that it is a change, and people are confused, partly how the process works and how they get to vote . . . I just think that it’s a really good idea to be as open as possible about things in as many forums as you can. So yes, Front Porch Forum is one of them, but I think an in-person opportunity, we have a community meal that’s happening next week, and I think it would be great if members of the select board were able to come and talk about town meeting a little bit, and the Australian ballot. But if you don’t, possibly the Communications Working Group will do that, because I just think the town needs more information to participate.

“Encouragement as well, because it is different, people are like, ‘well I don’t understand so I’m not going to bother,’ so it’s nice to be as inclusive as possible.

Davis Barnett asked if petitions have been submitted for open roles, to which town clerk Kim Greaves said yes. She has submitted one for herself, as she is running again, as has current board member Ellen Celnik, one for the cemetery commission, collector of delinquent taxes and one library trustee.

Discussion continued for some time, then Celnik spoke again, saying “Regarding Australian ballots, it seems like people knew how to do Australian ballots when they were voting for Australian ballots, so I don’t understand why all of a sudden people don’t know how to do that. I find, personally, anyone that doesn’t want to bother getting seven signatures probably wouldn’t want to be doing all the work that’s involved, as either as a select board member or as a staff member, nor would I want anybody that won’t bother to get seven signatures.

“So again, this an opportunity that we’re learning what comes with Australian ballots as well as learning what people’s interests

are or aren’t. I don’t think you can force people to do something. I don’t know, if they can’t find seven signatures I’m at a loss.”

Metcalf posed a question about advertising prices, with MacNeal suggesting the Communication Working Group write letters to the editor to area publications to remove the cost. Beth Meacham was in agreement, as well as the rest of the board.

Town Clerk Kim Greaves added, “Our town report will have all the voting instructions, absolutely, on there. It says on the front page that polls are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and inside it says that you can request your absentee ballot at the town clerk’s office. That will go out in force, which should be in the middle of February. All that voting information is on there, and has been for years. It gets sent to registered voters’

households.”

Liz Steel asked if it will explain the Australian ballot process, to which Greaves said, “It will tell you how you can right on the cover, when the polls will open,” before Steel interrupted, “With Australian ballots, it’s not just the polls being open. Greaves continued, “No, because the polls are being opened, that’s where the ballots are.”

MacNeal interjected, “Every year, there is an Australian ballot at this meeting. This is not actually a new process in town meetings at all. We’ve always had an Australian ballot. It’s just this year, the change is that town officers will be voted on by Australian ballot.”

Greaves added that this is stated right on the cover.

Concluding the almost thirty minute discussion, the board moved on to action items.

Vermont childhood vaccine policy remains unchanged

by Vermont Department of Health

VERMONT -- Vermont Health Commissioner Rick Hildebrant, MD, provided the following statement on the January 5 update by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the federal Childhood Immunization Schedule which can be found at hhs.gov/press-room/cdc-acts-presidential-memorandum-update-childhood-immunization-schedule.html

“In Vermont, vaccine policy will continue to be guided by scientific evidence and informed by trusted medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. Vermont will continue to follow its established Childhood

Immunization Schedule at healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ID_IZ_CCP_vt_schedule_kids.pdf

Families should consult trusted health care professionals when making decisions about their children’s health, including their pediatrician, school nurse or local pharmacist. We also urge caution when sharing or acting on unverified or misleading health information.”

The Vermont Department of Health has been the state’s public health agency for more than 130 years, to protect and promote the health of Vermonters.

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Approved

Continued From Page One

and private funds, toward the acquisition of +/- 329 acres of land on Buffalo Mountain to become a Town Forest?

Discussion of how to pay a final invoice of \$50,702.66 for work to renovate the Hardwick Town House, which included the addition of a lift to reach the ground floor and stage, led to a discussion about the cost overrun, during which Finance Director Casey Rowell suggested NEKArts should be responsible in the same way the library was for the cost overruns there. In the end the board agreed to cover the cost, putting the building's capital fund into the negative and refilling it with the \$5,000 allocated to it annually. Following the vote, Remick suggested NEKArts could help fund that account in the future.

At the final regularly scheduled meeting to approve a budget for consideration at town meeting, it was decided to approve adding an item to the town meeting warning for a vote on a local option tax on rooms, meals, and the sale of alcohol, but not retail sales. The tax is estimated to generate \$50,000 in income for the town, to help subsidize the budget.

The budget for Spring Fest was reduced by \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the stipend for members of the Board of Civil Authority raised from \$3 to \$25.

A lengthy discussion of the \$1,500 budget item for the Equity Committee began with the suggestion from board member Tim Ricciardello that the item be removed completely and its resolution be revised. He further suggested it become a stand-alone group, not affiliated with the town. In the end the budget was reduced to \$500.

At the January 19 Equity Committee meeting, members expressed concern that what they see as an important function of town government was the subject of that discussion. The committee was more concerned about equitable process and whether the process to eliminate a town committee could be as simple as defunding it and eliminating it at a select board meeting.

That committee made plans to write a letter to the board, with some members planning to attend a future select board

meeting to express their personal concerns.

The final FY27 budget was then approved for \$4,741,600 to present to the voters at town meeting.

During public comments to start the meeting, Jamie Emerson suggested the town use funds from its economic loan fund for accessory dwelling unit (ADU) housing projects. Remick said it could be considered, but Shari Cornish said those funds were to be directed more toward economic development. Town Manager David Upson mentioned that the State has \$50,000 grants available for ADU's.

Lydia Parker then offered her "tremendous support" for town forest, saying she could not stay until that item was to be considered, saying it would be a wonderful opportunity for the Town of Hardwick.

Road Foreman Tom Fadden said they'd been out 62 times doing the usual plowing, salting, sanding and repairs, being roughly halfway through the salt budget and sand pile.

Myles Tandy and Beth McIntyre were appointed as library trustees, until the March town meeting, when candidates to fill the remainder of both a 2027 and 2028 term will be voted for.

Discussion of options to help fund the cost of Black Dirt Farm composting pods in Hardwick led to no decision with Upson to investigate and bring the subject back for future discussion.

Loan documents were approved to fund work costing \$1,700,000 for rebuilding lift stations at the sewage treatment plant that were damaged in flooding. He said undecorated Christmas trees can be brought to the town garage now for disposal.

A painting by Brent McCoy of Hardwick was selected as a cover photo for the 2025 Hardwick Town Report, and select board member Danny Hale said it could be anything other than the library. The dedication will be kept a secret.

At a special select board meeting, Friday, Jan. 16, that involved 20 minutes of rehashing consideration of where to hold town meeting this year, no change was made for this year, though an item was added to the warning for a vote to select either Hardwick Elementary School or the Hardwick Town House as the site of the 2027 town meeting.



At an event Monday, in the Greensboro United Church of Christ sanctuary, Martha Zweig (standing right) recounts a story about her experience supporting a black man's right to use a building's front entrance as Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters stands in the aisle. On Dr. Martin Luther King Day, about 25 people join a "Holding Space for Freedom" event to "reflect on Dr. King's enduring call to justice," where Sunday-Winters shared an event from his life's journey. Before sharing soup and bread in Fellowship Hall, those attending were able to view photos from Erika Karp's 1965 visit to South Carolina with a Quaker group, to register what were then referred to as Negroes, as the new Voting Rights Act gave them the right to vote for the first time.

photo by Paul Fixx



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Drought cost Vermont farmers \$15.9M

by Austyn Gaffney, VTDigger

VERMONT – The preliminary results of a 2025 state survey show that last year’s drought cost Vermont farms more than \$15.9 million.

Most farmers said it was the worst drought they’d ever seen, according to the survey, which was conducted by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force. The final survey is expected to be published by the end of January, according to the agency. Numbers are not expected to significantly change. (As of publication, the current public dashboard does not contain the most updated information from the survey.)

Respondents came from 200 farms across Vermont’s 14 counties, the majority from Addison, Orleans and Rutland counties. The results show 79,000 acres were impacted by the drought, a total swath roughly one and a half times the size of Grand Isle County.

Farmers faced lower crop yields and insufficient pasture for livestock, according to survey responses. They had to pay to bring in additional feed and water. Some had to sell animals such as goats and sheep early because their food stores were scarce. When asked what resources they needed, most farmers responded that they needed financial assistance. Now, agricultural advocates are again asking the legislature for that help.

“Farmers cannot continue to bear the cost of these disasters without support from the state,” Maddie Kempner, policy and organizing director at the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, or NOFA-VT, told lawmakers in the Senate Agriculture Committee last week.

Vermont’s latest drought forces a broader reckoning with how the state prepares for – and pays for – climate-driven agricultural disasters. As lawmakers again debate whether to create a standing disaster fund for farms, the losses documented in the survey sharpen



Corn wilted by drought grows in St. Albans Town on Thursday, September 18, 2025. photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

a central question for the Legislature and the public alike: can Vermont continue responding to extreme weather events ad hoc after the damage is done, or should it establish a system that protects farms before disaster hits.

Kempner asked lawmakers to back S.60, a bill proposed last session to establish a Farm Security

Fund, a permanent well of money to provide financial assistance to farmers facing losses from weather conditions such as high winds, flooding, extreme heat, abnormal freezes, fire and drought.

The bill, first introduced by Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, was passed by the Senate last year and ended up in the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, where it was expanded to include other working lands like forests. It lagged in the Appropriations Committee as the session ended.

Since then, House Appropriations added amendments to the bill that were presented to the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday morning, including the removal of references to climate. The phrase “climate-based” was struck and replaced with the phrase “weather-based,” for example.

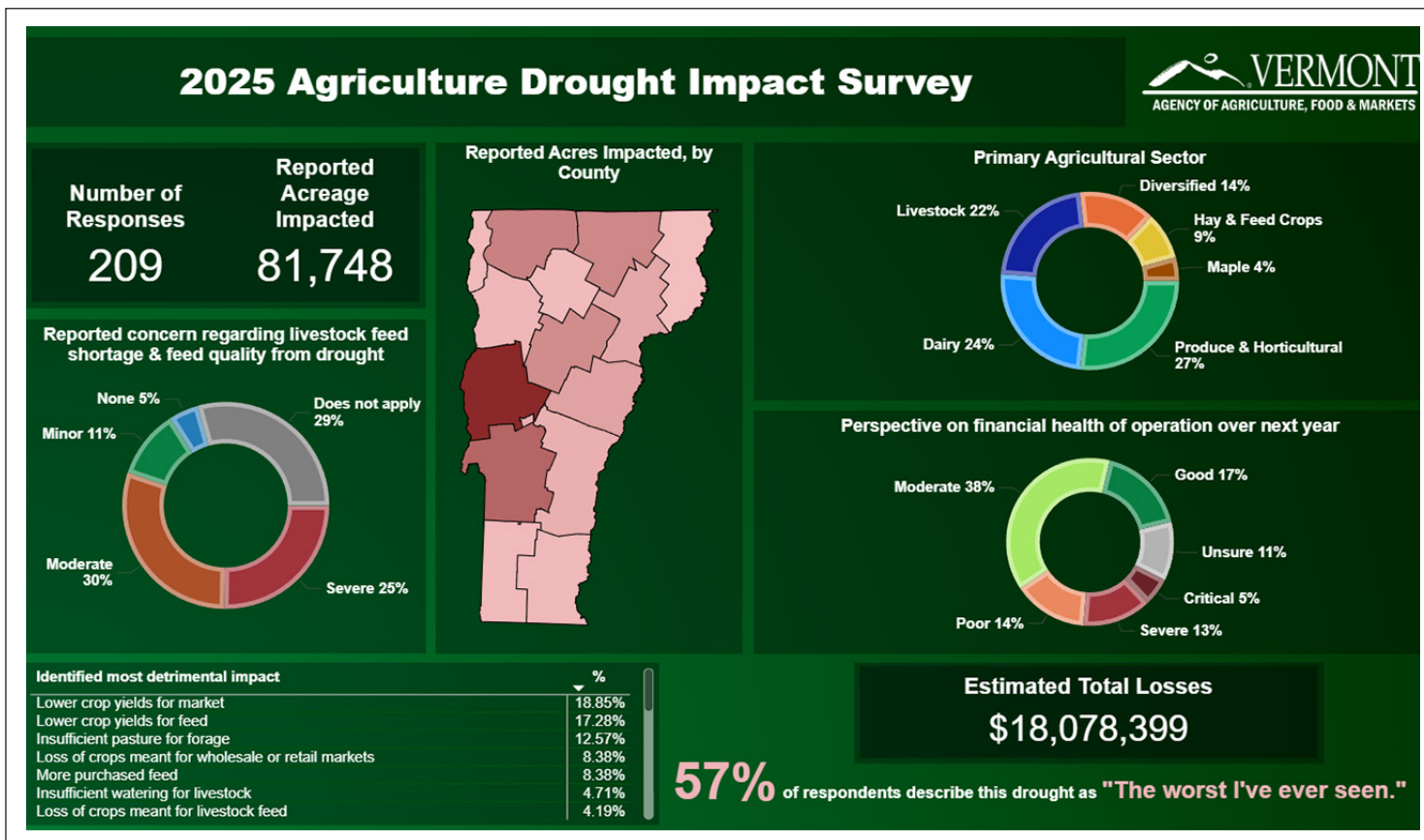
“The committee asked for any reference to climate or climate change to be removed because they didn’t want to create controversy or discussion or debate on climate,” Michael O’Grady, deputy chief counsel for Vermont’s Office of Legislative Counsel, told lawmakers.

Climate change, largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, leads to more extreme weather events like heat waves, drought, flooding and wildfires.

“Our food system is really resilient and really robust in this state, but with the amount and frequency of weather and economic challenges that farmers are facing, they’re really taking the brunt of climate change,” Eli Hersh, a farmer who runs Honey Field Farm in Norwich, said over the phone.

Lindsey Brand, marketing and communications director at NOFA-VT, said on Friday, before the amendments were added, that her organization is hoping the House will pass the bill soon,

See DROUGHT, next page



drought dashboard

courtesy Vermont Agency of Food and Markets

Impacts of 2025 drought seen locally

by Paul Fixx

AREA COUNTIES -- The 2025 Agriculture Drought Impact Survey Dashboard displaying results of a survey that opened in late October, shows results in area counties, where farmers can now benefit from a recently announced Small Business Administration disaster assistance program.

Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Vermont that sustained economic losses due to the drought beginning Oct. 7, 2025. The disaster declaration covers the counties of Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orleans and Washington. Apply at sba.gov/funding-programs.

Data in the survey dashboard at the Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets website can be viewed by county, where 19 Caledonia County farms responding estimated 3,725 acres were impacted by the summer and fall’s drought with losses of \$254,056.

Twenty-five Orleans County farms reported more than twice the Caledonia County losses with \$649,500 lost on 9,105 acres there.

Washington County’s estimated drought losses of \$1,122,000 dwarfed those in other area counties, though the 8,230 acres impacted for the 17 farms reporting there are less than in Orleans County.

In Lamoille County, just four farms responded, estimating \$52,500 in losses on 544 impacted acres.

Ethics complaints against senators dismissed by Senate panel

by **Corey McDonald,**
VT Digger

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Senate Ethics Panel dismissed two complaints against Sens. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, and Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, and found their conduct was not unethical under the state's Senate rules.

The complaints were filed over the summer, after lawmakers worked overtime to craft the final form of a wide-ranging education bill, now called Act 73.

The ethics complaints allege the senators advocated for private schools they are associated with. Beck, the Senate minority leader, is employed as a teacher at St. Johnsbury Academy, while Bongartz, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, served almost two decades on the board of Burr and Burton Academy.

Bongartz and Beck both held critical positions on a conference committee charged with reconciling differences in the House and Senate versions of education reform legislation.

The Legislature passed the bill June 16 and Gov. Phil Scott signed the bill into law on July 1.

One complaint, filed by Friends of Vermont Public Education board member Geo Honigford, alleged that the two senators violated ethical standards by negotiating the reform bill and used their positions to advance provisions benefiting the private schools.

Among its many components, the bill set new limits on which independent schools would remain eligible to receive public funding in the future and how much they would be able to charge.

The other complaint, filed on

July 9 by Essex-Westford school board Chair Robert Carpenter, alleged ethical violations against Beck specifically.

Carpenter, in his complaint, said he was “alarmed at the conflicts of interests we watch unfold at the state level,” and asked why Beck did not recuse himself from education reform negotiations.

Carpenter attached correspondence his board had with Beck during the state's implementation of Act 127, a law that tweaked the state's education finance formula. In the exchange, Carpenter asked Beck whether it was “the will of the legislature and the governor to scale back public education in Vermont?,” to which Beck replied “yes.”

In the Senate Ethics Panel letters dismissing the complaints, panel member Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast, wrote that the panel “did not find probable cause an ethical violation occurred” under Senate rules.

Senate Ethics Panel correspondence typically remains confidential but in this case was shared with VT Digger. The panel's dismissal of the complaints was first reported by Seven Days.

In correspondence with Carpenter, Hinsdale wrote that Beck's employment as a teacher “was no secret” at the time of his election. She wrote that he has been employed with St. Johnsbury Academy longer than he's been a senator.

“To issue an ethical violation to a Senator solely for being an employee/member of a class, known to voters prior to his election in the body, may create constitutional challenges and undermine the sovereignty of the electorate,” Hinsdale wrote.

without irrigation access, he struggled to get a good harvest.

“In most other seasons, we had never gotten dry enough for some of those fields to really start showing the lack of water,” Hersh said. “There really is a need for the state to support the farming community with that safety net to ensure that you don't just lose a couple dozen farms every time there's a bad weather year,” Hersh said. “It starts adding up in terms of who's left to grow the food for us.”

Sen. Russ Ingalls, R-Essex, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, told advocates that farmers' voices needed to be heard in the Appropriations Committee, where such disaster relief funds could be doled out by the state.

“You've already sold us,” Ingalls said.

The losses from the drought are similar to prior floods, according to Abbey Willard, agriculture



Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, left, and Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, right, listen as Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, speaks as House and Senate members of the education reform bill conference committee meet at the Statehouse in Montpelier on May 28, 2025.

photo by Glenn Russell, VT Digger

Bongartz said in an interview the complaint against him was “vacuous” and said he “knew from day one” it would be dismissed.

“I never lost a moment's sleep over it,” he said. “There was absolutely nothing there.”

He called the complaint “an attempt to weaponize the ethics process, which is unfortunate.”

Beck also said he had not given the complaints much thought.

“My job in here is to represent my towns, the schools in my districts, the students in my district, and that's what I do, and if somebody from a faraway district doesn't want me to do that then, I'm not gonna not do what I'm supposed to do,” he said. “I'm going to do my job.”

Honigford said he was not surprised by the panel's dismissal. “I knew they were going to dismiss it before I even filed it,” he said.

“You basically have to get caught with your hand in a cookie jar,” he said. “And aside from that,

there's really nothing you can do to be unethical in Vermont.”

Carpenter in an interview suggested that school boards are held to higher standards than sitting senators are.

“I did believe that ethics were not being followed, and that there was private interest involved,” he said. “At the local school board level that would have zero tolerance whatsoever. Our constituents would vote us out of office instantly.”

A third complaint against Beck, meanwhile, remains in process. Filed by Danville School District's board Chair Clayton Cargill, the complaint alleges Beck “used his position and legislative influence to advance a narrative and push” the district to close high school grades at the Danville School to benefit St. Johnsbury Academy.

Beck similarly dismissed that complaint. Cargill said he has not heard back yet from the Senate Ethics Panel.

Drought

Continued From Previous Page moving it closer to a law this legislative session. NOFA-VT wants a \$20 million fund, which Brand said would be the minimum useful number based on average losses documented on farms over the last three years.

“The losses from the drought are really devastating,” Brand said, emphasizing the impact not only on farmers but on downstream communities.

About a quarter of survey respondents had crop or livestock insurance, but the majority did not have access to such aid. Many farms in Vermont, which are often small and have diversified sources of income, are not covered by rainy day funds like federal crop insurance programs, according to the proposed legislation.

Hersh said that in fields

development division director at the agency that managed the survey. The 2023 flood resulted in about \$16 million in agricultural losses; the 2024 flood claimed farming losses totalling more than \$15 million, she said.

These impacts build over time, according to the survey. Three-quarters of respondents were impacted by previous major weather events like floods, freezes, or wind storms, and the majority of those respondents were impacted by two or more events.

But the impacts from the drought felt more obscured across the state than more visceral events like floods, she added.

“Willard said a statewide disaster assistance program like the Farm Security Fund seemed reasonable, if only because it took so long for federal dollars to trickle down.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture allocated millions of dollars

in block grant funding to support Vermont's agricultural and forestry businesses impacted by the 2023 and 2024 floods, but it's been more than a year since those funds were appropriated by Congress and they've yet to reach the state, Willard said.

The drought has continued into January for the eastern half of Vermont; most of Caledonia and Essex counties are still in a severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor housed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For the rest of the state, even if drought-like conditions are over, it will take time for the land to recover.

In September, Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts asked the federal government to declare a secretarial statewide disaster designation for the impacts of the ongoing drought in the state.

By mid-January, the state had not heard back.

EDITORIAL

2001: It can't just be me?

HARDWICK – When I was eleven, I found a VHS tape in the upstairs bedroom of my grandmother's home. The tape, titled "2001: A Space Odyssey," was Stanley Kubrick's 1968 epic science fiction film. I was curious, naturally, having heard Kubrick's name in the cultural zeitgeist growing up. So I watched it. And then I watched it again. I admit wholeheartedly, my first viewing was one of confusion and boredom.

My second viewing, however, left a lasting impression on me, shaping an early perspective on artificial intelligence, more commonly referred to as A.I. (AI)

I remember thinking to myself, "We aren't that far away from this," and so on. A 2001 baby, I grew up during the whirlwind rise of social media and mobile smart technology.

"Nothing good can come of this," was my other observation. In the decade that followed, I fear those initial observations have proven correct.

AI in its current form has no legal guardrails in this country, with few states passing regulatory bills in recent years.

AI assistants and features have been implemented across the web writ large, despite the evident flaws in the accuracy of generative AI.

Many Twitter/X users like myself see replies under countless posts, with a command for Elon Musk's AI engine embedded into the app: "Grok, make nude, add"

Deepfakes of a sexual nature are rampant in these spaces, forcing many women to either privatize their pages or turn off their replies entirely to prevent such comments.

This can be fruitless in some instances, which is an even more frightening prospect.

Nothing good can come of this, I reiterate. Has anyone considered what lewd and lascivious images may be generated of under-aged girls and boys, the current generations of which have grown up online?

Surely I am not the only one who is concerned, but sometimes it truly feels that way.

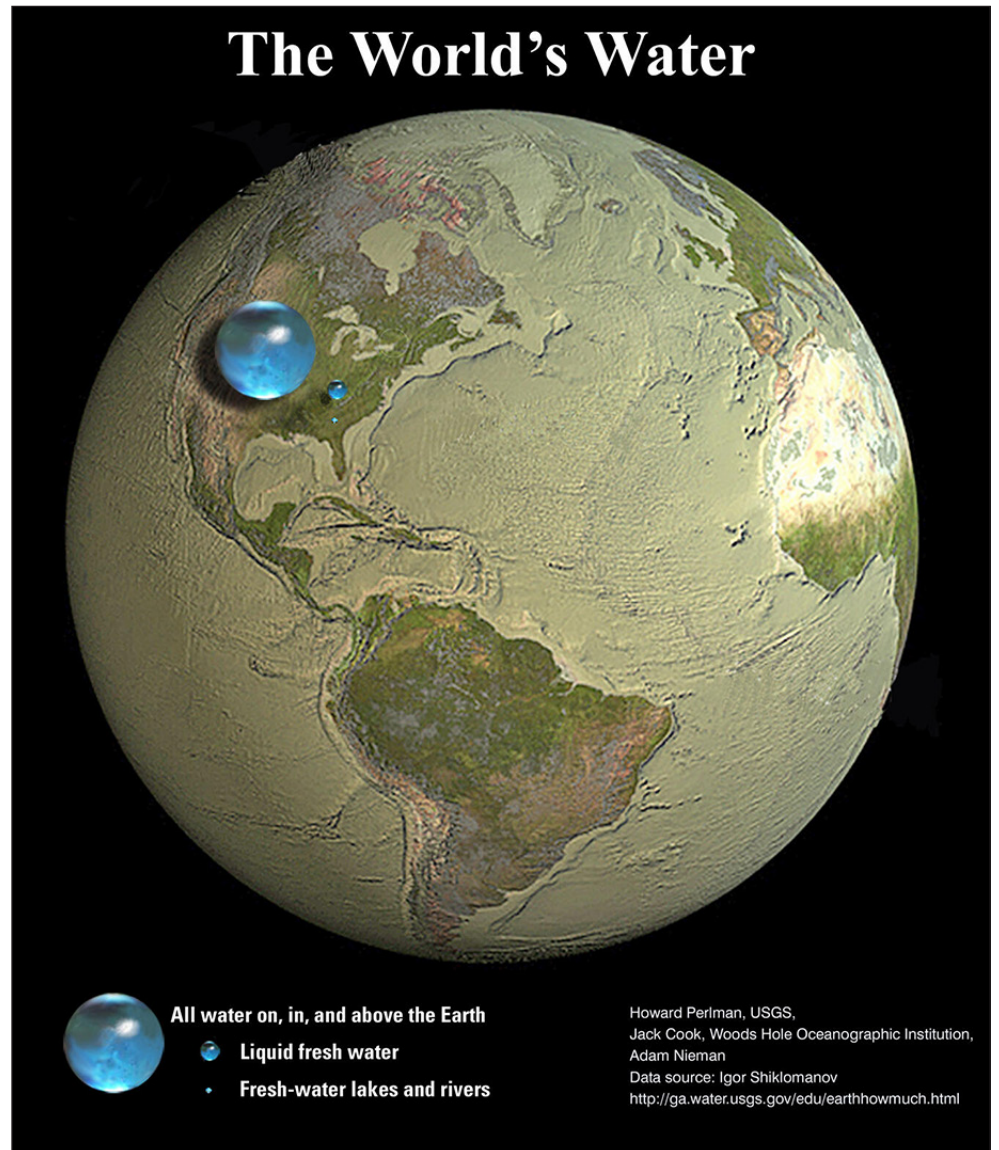
If that isn't reason enough for you, the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) reports that large data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons of water per day, equivalent to the water use of a town populated by 10,000 to 50,000 people.

With larger and new AI-focused data centers, water consumption is increasing alongside energy usage and carbon emissions.

According to the EESI, data centers have a thirst for water, and their rapid expansion seriously threatens freshwater supplies.

As reported by scientists at the University of California, Riverside, each 100-word AI prompt is estimated to use roughly one bottle of water (or 519 milliliters). This may not sound like much, but billions of AI users worldwide enter prompts into systems like ChatGPT every minute. Large language models require many energy-intensive calculations, necessitating liquid cooling systems.

Only 3% of Earth's water is freshwater, and only 0.5% of all water is accessible and safe for human consumption. Freshwater is critical for survival. On average, a human being can live without water for only three days. Increasing drought and water shortages are reducing water availability.



courtesy U.S. Geologic Survey

According to a recent story published in Forbes.com, already A.I.'s projected water usage could hit 6.6 billion m³ by 2027, signaling a serious need to tackle its water footprint.

I also fear for the generations that will grow up with generative AI at their disposal, for surely their critical thinking skills as well as creativity will be impacted by the use of artificial intelligence.

The human brain, in all its wonders, is like muscle. Use it or lose it. To generate an answer or result instantaneously will only reinforce

instant gratification. We have put our younger generations at a disadvantage by eliminating the learning process, finding the answer or doing the work themselves.

There are of course other concerns with artificial intelligence, which I encourage readers to explore on their own.

The question I pose is, are we Bowman or Poole?

Will we overcome HAL, the dangers of artificial intelligence, or end up voiceless and aimless, lost in space.

Raymonda Parchment

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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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.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Somewhere there's an audacious reporter

by Willem Lange

EASTMONTPELIER—Political historian Heather Cox Richardson, author of the daily newsletter “Letters from an American,” opined the other day that the news of the past week has seemed to be breaking faster than ever. From the invasion of Venezuela and kidnapping of its president and first lady, to the terror campaign being waged in the streets of Minneapolis, to the murder by a trigger-happy “government agent” of a perfectly harmless local woman in her car with her partner and dog, to the open threats by our president to annex Greenland “one way or another,” to another Department of Justice “investigation” of a government official who’s refused to bend to the president’s will (and all of this this is barely scratching the surface), our senses and attention have been overwhelmed by a cascading fortissimo of news demanding our reaction.

In the past months I’ve occasionally felt my optimism about the future of the president, of democracy, and of my beloved country slipping a bit as I listened to the national media treating the Trumpian shenanigans as if they were merely the peccadilloes of a poor player, who would strut and fret his hour upon the stage, and then be heard no more. The media seemed to consider him a gift from the gods, a daily lede who’d keep the news lively. Our international standing and credibility would be seriously tarnished, but a few generations (people really do have short memories) would repair that. But, slowly at first and then faster and faster, the puppet masters who give the president his lines for the day apparently took a look at his probable shelf life and decided to get their agenda accomplished sooner, before any semblance of rational speech became impossible for him. They took a look at their bench, and knew they were going nowhere with that guy.

Thus the war on immigration, the culling of “the worst of the worst” from among us. Like many of the administration’s grand ideas, it was sweeping in concept, but woefully inadequate in practice. It’s relatively easy to comb the streets of any city and scoop up everyone who looks different from yourself. But then you’ve got to house, feed, provide basic sanitary facilities and medical services. You’ve got either to deport them willy-nilly and let the chips fall where they may later, or provide judges to weigh their cases thoughtfully before deciding their legal status with respect

to citizenship. With a commander-in-chief who routinely treats the law as a troublesome inconvenience, it’s easy to see where that can go off the rails.

Last, you need to hire “agents” who’ll execute your wishes, and send them gleefully into cities run by Democrats. When, after an initial round of vetting, you find you still haven’t enough tough-looking characters to sweep the neighborhoods, you simply lower your standards for admission, raise the already generous bounty for signing up, and issue really cool warrior gear, so that the dullest bully-boy can feel like a real warrior, even if (as I noticed on one) his bare belly is hanging out below.

There’s no doubt the tactics are effective. I have a young friend in Minneapolis who looks Hispanic (perhaps because he is), and has a Hispanic name and an American passport. He’s literally afraid to leave his house, even though he has the credentials to prove citizenship. They’d, like the law, likely prove a troublesome inconvenience.

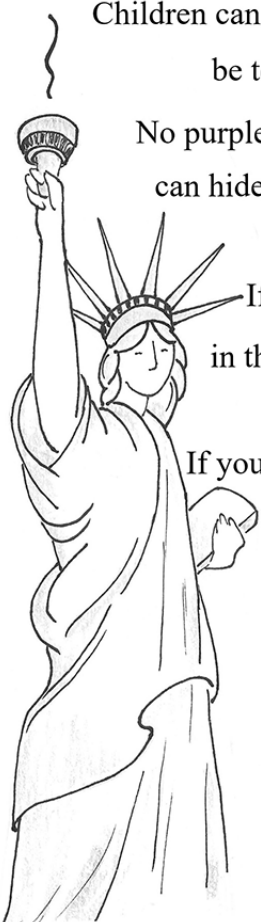
But in the midst of this chaos and lawlessness, in which it’s clearly lethal even to look cross-eyed at the storm soldiers, I see reason for hope. The public, who I had thought supine and unengaged, have now seen it with their own eyes and followed it on the television news. They’ve seen the brutes standing by with their trigger fingers at the ready while their superiors (or betters; it’s hard to tell) do the dirty work of demanding identification and ordering people out of their cars (both illegal) for possible removal on suspicion of not belonging here. And finally they’ve begun to act: marches and rallies, prayer meetings, and acts of disobedience. Almost everywhere the goons go, they’re met with cell phone cameras and hostile stares.

One of my favorites is the all-night charivari outside the hotel where the troops are staying. Citizens spend the night in shifts, beating on pots and pans, blowing horns, and playing saxophones. I’d love to be there. I’d play a well-known tune on a trumpet or tuba, and deliberately flat a couple of notes in the chorus. The one thing autocrats hate most (Hitler was a prime example; I suspect Agent Orange is another) is ridicule.

All this distraction! The good news is it can’t last. Somewhere there’s an audacious reporter waiting for the moment to ask, “Excuse me, but about the Epstein files . . .”

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood

Welcome to the s**** ole country of America.
 Here in the land of the free, you can be kidnapped
 and brutally assaulted.
 Children can be zip-tied and babies could
 be tear-gassed.
 No purple mountains or spacious skies
 can hide you. If you're poor and brown,
 turn around or risk death!
 If you harvest amber waves of grain
 in the hot sun above the fruited plain
 ICE is not to blame
 If you can't prove your citizenship claim.
 America, America
 God shed his grace on thee,
 but if you're in a boat
 and cannot float
 missiles will strike
 from sea to shining sea!



MEETING MEMO

- Wednesday, January 21**
 Wolcott Select Board, third
 Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.
 Wolcott Town School Board,
 third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m.,
 Wolcott Elementary School.
- Monday, January 26**
 Calais Select Board, fourth
 Monday of month, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 28**
 Greensboro Select Board,
 fourth Wednesday of month, 6:30
 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@myfair-
 point.net
 Walden: waldenvt.gov
 Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
 Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Opportunity to limit ICE

To the editor:

Our U.S. Constitution gives people in our country the right to peaceably assemble. It promises free speech rights. It assigns to Congress the powers of declaring war and making the rules concerning captures on land and water. It protects us from unreasonable search and seizures.

These rights, roles and protections are essential to uphold. The Trump administration's escalating trend of attacking our Constitutional Rights, particularly through the police-state rehearsals being conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in U.S. cities are another wake-up call. As the Trump administration increasingly takes powers it does not have under our Constitution, and with ICE armed and acting on the arbitrary quotas set by unelected, all-powerful Trump staff advisor Stephen Miller, the

effect on civilians is kidnapping, illegal detentions, injury and death.

We have an immediate opportunity to limit ICE. Congress is working now on a funding bill to continue government operations including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under which ICE and border patrol exist. Through our representatives in Congress we must call for critical restrictions, per the national Indivisible organization.

Reject increased funding for ICE or border patrol: The budgets for ICE and border patrol have already skyrocketed. Every member of Congress should refuse to give another penny to these agencies as they tear apart our communities.

Restrict ICE and Border Patrol's ability to conduct dragnet arrest operations and target people based on their

race, language or accent, place of employment or location at the time of the apprehension. These agencies have secretly created a mass surveillance apparatus that uses dragnet techniques to forcibly collect and track biometric data on American citizens and immigrants alike without any legislative, judicial or public oversight.

End border patrol deployments to our cities and reject its ever-expanding mandate in immigration enforcement. Trump's DHS has been deploying border patrol in complex immigration enforcement campaigns in cities far from any border, harassing communities and refusing to communicate with

local law enforcement.

Limit DHS's reprogramming and transfer authority, including specifically preventing reprogramming and transferring funds for detention. This prohibits DHS from continuing to move money around to fuel ICE and border patrol lawlessness."

At this moment, Democrats have real leverage in the upcoming funding bill: by standing together they can achieve the above limitations on ICE. Find and call your representative and senators in Congress today through the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

**Anne Hanson
Craftsbury**

Petitions due for town positions

To the editor:

There is no better time than now. Be part of Greensboro's solutions. Greensboro residents have a week left to raise their batons and help lead the community into the future. Petitions need to be handed into the town clerk's office by January 26 and you only need seven signatures on the petition. Forms are on the town website and can be picked up at the Greensboro Town Offices.

New voices are needed as part of our leadership teams. Diverse skills and ideas with new perspectives will help affect positive steps forward. If you want to see changes in town the best way to do so is to get involved. There are numerous seats coming up for election at this year's town meeting that will be voted on by Australian Ballot. Everyone has time and family commitments but working with others the task can be less onerous and rewarding. Seats up for election include the three year town clerk position, town moderator, a two- and three-year term on the select

board, delinquent tax collector, cemetery commissioner, and two three year terms on the thriving Greensboro Free Library Board. The Greensboro community is invited to be part of the change moving us into the twenty-first century.

Important dates to remember include: January 26, deadline for petitions to be handed in to the town offices; January 28, an information session to find out more about the candidates who are running and get answers to Australian Ballot procedures; February 10, request that an Australian Ballot be mailed (20 days prior to town meeting) if not attending in person.

The Greensboro community prides itself on having strong volunteers, rich talents, compassion for our neighbors and a strong sense of belonging. Step up today and become part of our town's future.

**Beth Meachem
Greensboro
Communications
Working Group**



Hazen Union Varsity girls coach Randy Lumsden watches his team during play against Oxbow January 7. Team members from left include Assistant Coach Sue Rivard and players Julia des Groseilliers, Ari Nichols, Ella Renaud, Sadie Gann, Marina Smith and Kennidee Gouin.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

For the record:

Last week's cover story, "ICE Out for Good rallies demand accountability" should have identified the day of the Hardwick rally as Sunday. The quote attributed to Dana Michaud in the story and photo caption should have been attributed to Rae Michaud.

The obituary for Barbara Lightfoot Woodward last week named her incorrectly in the photo.

The Walden Year in Review story, "Town plan adopted, fire dept. active," should have read that Brenda Huntoon was re-elected to the select board and the Walden United Methodist Church benefit

dinner brought an end to summer when employees in the Walden Town Clerk's Office, the Walden PTO and Walden residents showed their support for new Walden Elementary School Principal Jessica Kenyon and her family who lost their home to fire within days of the school year starting.

The community event notice last week, "Winter tracking field trip, Feb. 1," was for a 2025 event.

A photo in last week's sports section featuring Hazen Union Varsity girls coach Randy Lumsden was altered in the PDF issue and reprinted correctly here.



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ANOTHER OPINION

Economic ripples put pressure on Vermont

by Rep. David Yacovone

MONTPELIER – Vermont is under real and growing pressure, much of it driven by decisions made far beyond our borders. Tariffs, federal cutbacks and abrupt policy shifts are colliding with an already fragile state economy, intensifying stresses on working families, farmers, municipalities and small businesses. This is not abstract. Vermonters are feeling it now.

Tariffs function as taxes, and for a state that imports much of what it consumes and exports specialized products, they hit hard. Vermont manufacturers rely on global supply chains for inputs like steel, aluminum and component parts. When tariffs raise those costs, businesses face an impossible choice: absorb the hit, raise prices or cut back. None of those options strengthen local economies.

Dairy and agricultural producers, already operating on razor-thin margins, are especially vulnerable when export markets tighten or retaliatory tariffs close doors abroad.

At the same time, Vermont is experiencing a sharp decline in

cross-border business from Canada, historically one of the state's most reliable economic partners. In 2025, Canadian passenger vehicle crossings into Vermont dropped by more than 25% compared to the prior year. Credit card data shows an even starker picture: Canadian spending in Vermont fell by nearly 50% year-over-year. That decline is not just anecdotal: it is measurable, immediate and economically damaging.

Canadian visitors have long accounted for roughly \$150 million annually in Vermont spending, supporting restaurants, hotels, retail shops, ski areas and border-region downtowns. Tourism makes up close to 9% of Vermont's economy, and Canadian visitors are especially important during shoulder seasons when margins are thin. When that traffic dries up, the effects ripple quickly through the economy.

Those ripples reach the state budget. Reduced visitor spending directly weakens Vermont's rooms and meals tax, one of the largest contributors to the general fund and education fund. Recent collections have come in below expectations, reflecting fewer

hotel stays, restaurant meals and retail purchases. That shortfall compounds an already difficult budget environment and reduces the state's flexibility just as costs are rising.

This loss of revenue is not theoretical. Businesses in northern Vermont report double-digit sales declines tied directly to fewer Canadian customers. Fewer transactions mean lower sales tax receipts, fewer payroll hours and weaker local economic activity. For a small rural state with limited revenue sources, losing nearly half of a key visitor segment has real fiscal consequences.

Layered on top of this are federal cutbacks that shift costs downward to states. Reductions or uncertainty in federal support for housing, food assistance, infrastructure, energy efficiency and climate resilience leave Vermont scrambling to fill gaps with limited options. When Washington retreats, Vermont doesn't suddenly gain new resources: it inherits new obligations. That pressure flows directly to towns, school budgets, nonprofits and, ultimately, property taxpayers.

So, the question must be asked: are we experiencing a man-made crisis? When economic strain stems from deliberate policy choices such as poorly planned tariffs, abrupt funding cuts and manufactured instability, the answer increasingly looks like yes.

This does not absolve Vermont of responsibility. We must continue to make disciplined choices and advocate fiercely for our interests. But we should be honest about the headwinds we face. Vermont's challenges are being compounded by federal actions that disregard the realities of small, rural states.

Recognizing this matters, because it shapes how we respond. We need coordination, clarity and sustained investment, not volatility. Vermont has weathered hard times before, but we do best when policy supports resilience rather than undermining it. Right now, too much pressure is coming from the top down, and Vermonters are paying the price.

David Yacovone, a Democrat from Morristown, represents Morristown, Elmore, Woodbury, Worcester and Stowe in the Vermont House.

The quiet work of local review

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – In village centers and along familiar roads, development rarely feels abstract. It arrives as a new building near a town green, a change to a well-known corner, or a proposal that raises questions about traffic or neighborhood character. In towns of all sizes, these moments bring a mix of possibility and uncertainty.

Much of the work of navigating those changes happens quietly, in meetings that rarely

draw attention but shape outcomes for years to come. These are the meetings where questions are asked early, concerns are voiced face to face, and decisions are shaped incrementally rather than all at once. In Hardwick, as in many Vermont towns, that work takes place through the Hardwick Development Review Board (DRB).

For the past decade, the DRB has been chaired by John Mandeville. His decision to step down this June marks a transition familiar to many communities:

the passing of responsibility from one set of steady volunteers to the next. It is a reminder that local governance is sustained not only by policies and plans, but by people willing to serve over time.

DRBs are not advocacy bodies, nor are they places where broader policy debates are resolved. Their role is procedural and deliberative. Members listen, ask clarifying questions and apply the regulations their communities have already adopted. This work is intentionally measured. It provides consistency for applicants and transparency for neighbors, with decisions that can endure disagreement.

Service on a DRB does not require technical expertise. In Hardwick and elsewhere, board members are supported by zoning administrators and planning staff who help guide the process

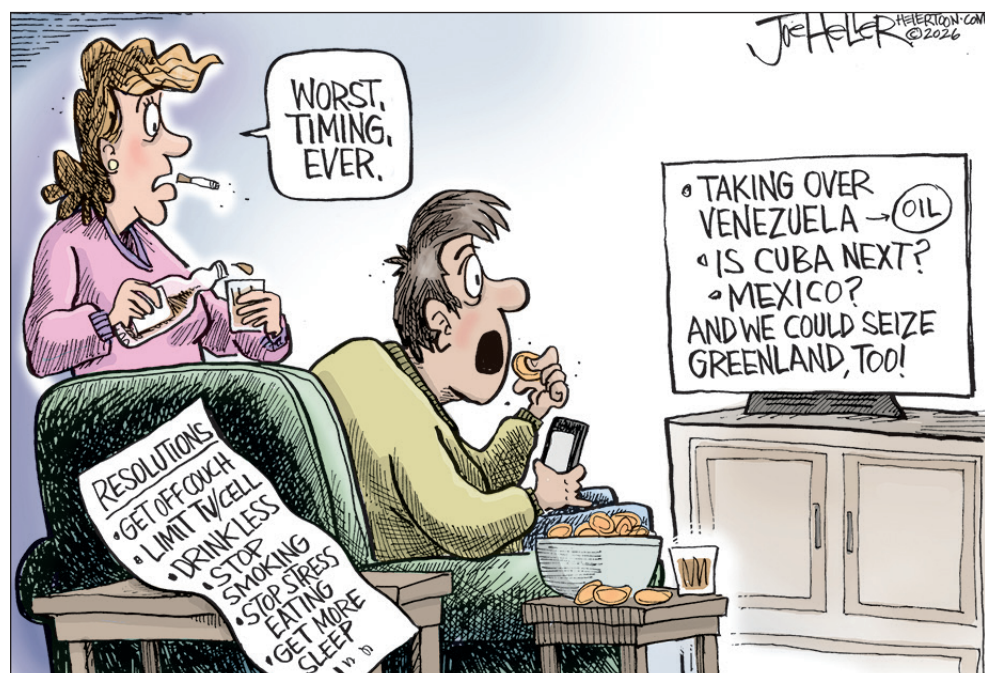
and clarify applicable standards. Meetings are scheduled as needed, often monthly, and the work is concentrated in those public sessions rather than in outside research or preparation.

At a time when civic institutions are under strain and public trust can feel fragile, local boards like DRBs remain among the most grounded forms of civic participation. They offer a structured place for community voices to be heard and for change to be navigated thoughtfully rather than reactively.

As towns continue to adapt to growth, housing needs and changing conditions, the quiet work of local review remains essential, even when it is largely unseen.

Kristen Leahy is the Town of Hardwick zoning and floodplain administrator.

Heller's World by Joe Heller





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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Montpelier, The Big Picture

by Rep. Richard Bailey

MONTPELIER – The Legislature reconvened on January 6, with education reform being a top priority. That said, 115 new bills (a number still growing) have been compiled and assigned to various committees, including one from a Burlington representative that would establish a 10-member task force to investigate UFO sightings in Vermont. As a first-term legislator, this really leaves me scratching my head, not just because of the lack of focus on serious issues, but the cost that comes with frivolous bills like this.

As of this writing there have been 637 proposed new pieces of legislation in the House since the start of the biennium. It is estimated that the average cost to have Legislative Council (our in-house lawyers) to draft a bill is \$1,000 per bill. So, to date we have spent \$637,000 in just drafting legislation, most of which will never get a hearing in a committee, let alone become law. I'm still in the learning stage of this job, but I cannot fathom why we would need all this legislation. What we do need more of is common sense and fiscal responsibility.

The governor's State of State message was focused primarily on education reform, and for good reason. Vermont's total education bill is \$2.4 billion to teach 80,000 students (includes pre-k) putting per student spending at \$31,250. This is more than every other state in the Union but one, and this appetite for spending on public schools is causing problems for other programs. The Education Fund consumes not just \$800 million in property

taxes, but also every dollar from the 6% sales tax, a quarter of the rooms and meals tax, a third of the vehicle purchase and use tax (taken from the Transportation Fund), the new 3% surcharge on short term rentals, all of the lottery funds, and all of the new payroll tax that goes to Pre-K.

This is unsustainable, and as an example of the problems it is creating, our Transportation Fund has a \$35 million deficit, and if we can't fill that hole we will lose out on federal matching funds amounting to about \$150 million to pave and fix our roads and bridges. If the Education Fund wasn't eating up a third of the Vehicle Purchase and Use tax, that hole would not exist.

Ten years ago, the Education Fund spent \$1.6 billion. In just a decade it has increased \$0.9 billion, over 40%. This why education reform is essential. The current spending path is not sustainable and making young people, those that can, move to other states that are more affordable. We as a state cannot afford to lose this young workforce. The governor is correct we need to get this Education Fund spending under control.

In the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee where I serve, we are still discussing priorities and deciding which legislation we will take up. Several bills to repeal or reform the Global Warming Solutions Act and related laws are still on the wall, and unfortunately there is no desire on the part of the majority to even consider them, though I will continue to fight to get them a hearing. Vermont's current tab for climate change related laws was recently pegged at half a billion per year.

Given other challenges we face with education, healthcare, public safety, and tax burden, my personal opinion is that we should be paring back in this area, not adding on. However, we will be debating another request to support an additional \$800,000 increase spending to set the stage for a Cap & Invest carbon tax scheme on home heating and transportation fuels. I will not be supporting this request.

Another topic of discussion involves Residential Building Energy Codes, which are currently under voluntary compliance by home builders. A new bill wants the Department of Fire Safety to enforce these codes. Fire safety testified that

they do not have the personnel to do this enforcement and would have to increase staff at taxpayer expense to do so. Safety is important, but these codes are much higher than standard building practices and add a substantial amount to the cost of building a house, which contributes to our housing affordability crisis. We need to strike a common sense balance.

It is an honor to represent the residents of the Lamoille 2 District in the Vermont Legislature. My email is rbailey@leg.state.vt.us, and my text number is (802) 760-0405.

Richard Bailey is a state representative serving Belvidere, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Wolcott.

EDITORIAL

"Gone Guys" examines modern masculinity

GREENSBORO – Last Thursday evening, the documentary *Gone Guys*, set in Vermont was screened at the Highland Center for the Arts. The 45 minute film draws influence from Richard V. Reeves' 2022 book *Of Boys and Men*, and dives deep into the issues of male mental health, tackling aspects from higher education to substance abuse to societal expectation.

As a teenage boy myself, I have mostly good things to say about the film. *Gone Guys* digs into important data trends in male literacy, behavioral issue, suicide rate, and academics. I like that the film spends its runtime switching between factual national statistics and personal, individual perspectives from student and adult voices. These two components naturally flesh each other out and make each other feel whole. For example, the film will give a statistic on how the number of college-bound men is rapidly declining, then give personal accounts.

The most notable issue that the film tackles is the rigidity of traditional male expression. "What's acceptable within our communities and within our society, it can definitely feel narrow," says Ben Arendsee, a high school teacher appearing in the documentary. When asked the question "Do you feel like you spend more time trying to fit in or stand out?" Sean, a college student who appears throughout the film responds, "Unfortunately, I feel like I've spent a lot of time trying to fit in and be something that I'm not..."

This theme resonates with me. While not on as personal a note as some of my peers, I do see the effects of this rigidity in my everyday life. In a small high school there tends only to be one or two ways to, say, dress, socialize, or act. This has two effects, both stifling the expression of those who fit in and alienating those who do not. Strong feelings of directionlessness come from both sides of the issue, just as is presented by the film.

My only criticism of this film is that while it illustrates its issues very well, it does little to trace these issues back to their roots, or to fit them into a bigger societal picture. Doing so would leave the audience not only aware of the problems, but with a sense of what to do about them going forward.

Overall, *Gone Guys* paints an accurate picture of male social issues despite a slight lack of fleshed out background.

Will Helms, Hazen Union Intern

Heller's World by Joe Heller



MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

The Crack of Dawn

When my mind races down the rabbit hole of brokenness, I remind myself of Leonard Cohen's song, "Anthem." "There is a crack in everything/that's how the light gets in."

My inbox has been flooded with the year-in-review emails: all the breaking news of 2025. Well into 2026 now, it seems that almost everything is broken. At least I couldn't read about it when the power went off in an ice storm. Instead, I closed my eyes in the dark and remembered a heartwarming letter exchange I witnessed in December. A little girl's letter to Santa was beautifully decorated with sparkly, silver ink. She wanted a fun Christmas, art supplies, world peace, and if it wasn't asking for too much, a dog.

She gave Santa hope for the world. In reply, Santa told her to

put her hand over her heart, and she would feel Christmas inside of her. She was the gift. He asked her how she would draw Puppies for Peace. I hope her dreams come true.

I am a morning person and wake long before sunrise, even in the summer. It gives me a chance to check in with Grace before the crack of dawn. Hand over my heart, I give myself some Reiki and ask Grace what gifts I have to offer the world today. She often tells me to show up and listen generously, even to breaking news. Grace is fonder of questions than answers. Here are some of our questions these days.

What if drugs were about healing not escape?

What if all energy was renewable, including that of children at Christmas?

What if we all loved our neighbors, no exceptions? What if the world was our neighborhood?

What if all children were loved unconditionally and taught to share?

What if everyone had enough food, housing, health care and clothing?

What if we lived at peace with ourselves and each other?

These ancient questions have been in my consciousness all my life, often through music. "Let There Be Peace on Earth" was written in 1955 and was originally sung by the International Children's Choir. I was coming of age with songs like "The Dawning of The Age of Aquarius" and "Morning Has Broken." Joanna Macy and The Great Turning entered my awareness much later. Since her passing last summer, she some-

times shows up in my morning meditation.

I woke up on Epiphany wishing the world would have one. "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love." If we greet the crack of dawn with our gifts, the world will finally live love in peace.

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.

IN THE GARDEN

The winter garden, full of interest, beauty

by Susan Socks

CABOT – The winter garden is an underrated joy. Even in the deepest part of winter, a garden can be full of interest and beauty, full of different heights and textures and colors. If you would like to enjoy your garden year-round, the key is to incorporate trees, shrubs, and stemmy perennials.

These plants will stand tall above the snow, providing birds with seeds and fruit and perching places, and giving you something to look at while the rest of the world is blanketed in white.

It does take some advance planning. Annuals like marigold and petunias turn to mush by October, as do perennials with tender leaves, such as hosta, daylily, iris and peony. And if you cut back all your tall, stemmy plants in fall, it will be late spring

before you see them again. To have a garden with winter interest, think about a combination of the following plants, and leave your stemmy perennials standing.

There are a number of trees small enough to be used in a garden. When browsing the nursery catalog, look for dwarf or weeping as an indicator that it's a small form tree. And always check mature height and spread before choosing a tree, to make sure it won't overwhelm and outgrow the space. There are weeping cherry, crabapple and birch varieties that stay very petite and have a lovely form when the leaves drop. There are even dwarf and weeping Norway spruce, which will have really interesting shapes and stay green year-round.

There are many delightful small shrubs suitable for gardens. As with trees, check the mature

height and spread before planting any shrub. Red twig dogwood is a native shrub that rarely exceeds four feet and has brilliant red stems throughout winter. Winterberry, another native, holds onto bright red berries till the birds finally decide they are worth eating in late winter. Hydrangeas hold their spent dried flower heads, sometimes right up till their next blooming in late summer. There are many junipers and cedars that stay small and can provide a splash of green or gold. If you are looking for a true oddity, try the corkscrew hazel, also called Henry Lauder's Walking Stick, with wildly cork-screwing branches that really stand out when the leaves drop.

There is a long list of perennials that have tall, cellulose-rich stems: coneflower, bee balm, aster, goldenrod, black-eyed Susan,

goatsbeard and phlox, to name some of the more common native plants.

If not cut back in fall, these stems can stand right through to spring. These plants can be a winter seed source for birds and small mammals, and the stems can house stem-nesting bees. There are also non-native plants that, while having less wildlife value, still have great visual appeal, such as Autumn Joy sedum and astilbe.

Have a beautiful winter, and if you don't have a winter garden now, start thinking about one for next year.

Susan Socks, the Garden Goddess, is available at garden-goddess802@gmail.com or (802) 498.7785, or visit SocksFamilyFarm.weebly.com. This article first appeared in the January issues of the Cabot Chronicle.

WHERE ELSE?



- Where else would the public get the very complete coverage of the candidates for local and state offices such as appeared in this week's issue?
- Where else would there be coverage of the exciting news that Habitat for Humanity will be building two housing units in Greensboro Bend?
- Where else was there coverage of the beautiful mural recently unveiled in the Bend?
- Where else has there been unbiased coverage of the critical issues such as the future of the Lakeview School or discussion of the proposed use of Town Hall?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of events at the Highland Arts Center?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of Hardwick sports and local teams?

Remember the value received and how an investment by you will make the service even better. As a 501(c)(3), all donations in support of this valuable resource are tax deductible. Your support, through a donation, will help us fill the vacuum in local news and the continuation and expansion of full and unbiased information about the things that directly impact your lives. Please consider giving your support to the Gazette and its hard-working staff.

hardwickgazette.org

IN THE GARDEN



A moisture meter can help you determine if houseplants need water. *photo by Debra Heleba*



Houseplant care in the winter requires less watering and extra attention on light, plant placement, and humidity. *photo by Debra Heleba*

Houseplant care during winter months

by **Debra Heleba**

BURLINGTON – Winter has officially arrived, bringing unique challenges in caring for houseplants.

At this time of year, we experience less intense and fewer hours of sunlight. For most indoor plants, the lack of daylight signals a special kind of dormancy called quiescence. During this period, plants conserve their energy and enter a resting period. For most houseplants, quiescence means that their growth slows considerably. Some plants, like alocasias and caladiums, may even lose their leaves during this period. This is completely normal, and they should rebound in the spring.

Some varieties of cacti and succulents may experience a deeper dormancy to protect themselves from the stress of shorter daylight hours.

For all houseplants, winter care starts with reducing water. UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer Judy Mirro, affectionately known as the Houseplant Hero, says we tend to over-love our plants by giving them too much water. This is especially true in the winter. We need to hold off watering our houseplants until the potting media is truly dry. A moisture meter is a helpful tool to gauge when to water plants. It measures the moisture of the soil media so you can tell when it is dry, and plants need to be watered. An inexpensive alternative is a chopstick.



A yellow sticky trap is placed horizontally over the soil surface to monitor for fungus gnats. *photo by Debra Heleba*

Insert it into the potting media. If soil sticks to the chopstick, the soil is moist, and the plant doesn't need to be watered. If no soil sticks, it is time to water.

While plants need less water during the winter, many need increased humidity. The colder temperatures and indoor heating we experience during Vermont winters mean that humidity levels drop. Tropical plants will especially benefit from boosting humidity from a humidifier or grouping plants together. Alternatively, use pebble trays filled with water under the plants and avoid placing plants near heat sources, such as the woodstove and vents.

You will also want to place plants away from drafty spots. Houseplants thrive best in consistent temperatures, so avoid placing them too close to windows.

Because houseplants are in a resting state, winter is also a time to refrain from fertilizing and transplanting unless abso-

lutely necessary. It's best to wait to renovate plants until spring. However, one important winter care practice is cleaning leaves. Use a damp cloth to wipe any dust from houseplant leaves to maximize sunlight absorption during winter's low light conditions. You can also give them a gentle, lukewarm shower, ensuring that all water drains from their pots.

Cleaning leaves is also a great time to scout for pests on houseplants. Spider mites are a common foe in the winter as they thrive in low-humidity conditions. Fungus gnats are also common winter houseplant pests and become problematic with overwatering. Keep an eye out for symptoms like the webbing of spider mites, sticky honeydew left by aphids, white cottony mealybugs, and bumps along stems that may be scale. You

can also use yellow sticky traps to monitor for fungus gnats.

If you note any of these or other symptoms of decline with your houseplants, feel free to contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Helpline at: <https://go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline>, where you can upload a photo or two of the issue. Houseplant Hero Judy or another EMG volunteer will help you navigate your houseplant woes.

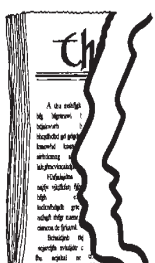
With a little extra attention to light, placement, and humidity, but not too much love in the form of water, your houseplants will survive the winter and be ready to thrive when spring returns.

Debra Heleba is the statewide outreach and education program manager for UVM Extension Community Horticulture program and leads the Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter programs.



A bottom tray with pebbles and water can help increase the humidity for tropical houseplants. *photo by Debra Heleba*

**The
Hardwick
Gazette**



**PEOPLE
SERVING
PEOPLE**

THE OUTSIDE STORY

How to help Evening Grosbeaks and Researchers

by **Desiree Narango, Vermont Center for Ecostudies**

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Every holiday season, my family and I spend a weekend day cutting down our Christmas tree. We like to go to a local place about 45 minutes away in New Hampshire. The owner used to be a wetlands scientist, and you can tell that he cares for his farm with ecosystem health in mind. There are gobs of really nice trees all over, and it never takes us more than 10 minutes to find the perfect one.

Christmas tree farms can be examples of a natural climate solution. They cultivate a sustainable crop, store lots of carbon, and can be nice wildlife habitat too (especially if they have native Christmas trees, like Balsam Fir and White Spruce).

As we pulled into the lot, we heard the chirrp chirrrp of grosbeaks visiting the farm's feeder. I counted no less than 25 individual birds up in the trees waiting their turn. Sadly, I didn't have my binoculars to check for any color bands, but we took a moment to chat with the owners about the birds. They were tickled to know we are helping to study Evening Grosbeak, to help save one of the fastest-declining songbirds in North America. They love watching the birds at the feeder, and seemed keen to look out for any of our tagged birds from last year.

After loading up our tree, we headed home ready to decorate. But a few hundred yards away we saw something hopping along the road. As we slowed down to do some impromptu bird watching, we realized it was a female grosbeak, and she did not seem to be doing well. Without hesitation, I jumped out of the car,

scooped her up in my hands, and carefully brought her into the car. Her bill was covered in gravel, likely from desperately seeking food on the side of the road, and she was holding her wing weakly to one side. It was apparent she had been hit by a car, and was unable to fly.

Since I've moved to rural Vermont, I've noticed that road kill isn't just a mammal problem: car strikes happen quite frequently here. Birds that are feeding or graveling (foraging for rocks and grit to grind up hard-to-digest foods) along a country road may not be able to escape quickly enough for a large vehicle barreling down it. In just the last year alone, my family and I have found one Hairy Woodpecker, one Black-capped Chickadee, one Indigo Bunting, two young Ruffed Grouse, one wild Turkey, one Hermit Thrush, and now, one Evening Grosbeak. While the other birds were found deceased (and donated to our colleagues at the New York State Museum to contribute to science), this Evening Grosbeak had a fighting chance to survive.

Not only are Evening Grosbeaks one of the fastest declining birds, but they are also one of top species for window strikes in the United States. In fact, well over one billion birds die each year from collisions with windows in the United States alone. During the non-breeding months, Evening Grosbeaks can spend large amounts of time near buildings with feeders and glass windows.

To better understand the Evening Grosbeak's window collision vulnerability and the impact this threat has on populations, our colleagues in the Evening Grosbeak Working Group have recently set up an iNaturalist project seeking observations



Evening Grosbeak

photo by Andrew Dressel

of Evening Grosbeak window collisions.

If you find an Evening Grosbeak that struck a window, all you need to do is submit your observation to the iNaturalist project Evening Grosbeak Window Collisions and fill out the following required fields: location, date, species – Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertine*), was the bird alive or dead?, was this bird banded?, are you using feeders?

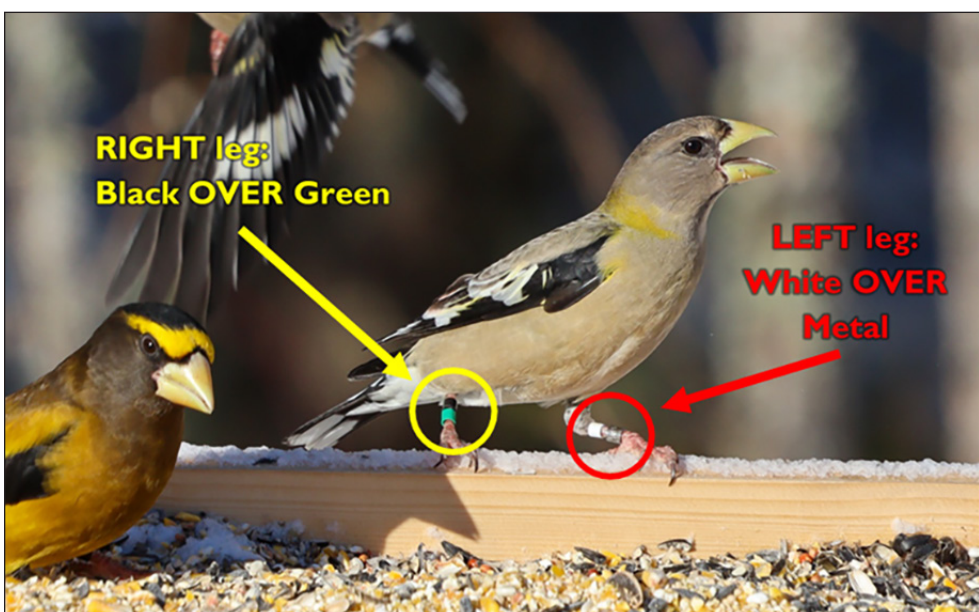
Optional information can be shared: photo, what is the distance of feeders from the nearest window?, does window or glass have bird collision deterrents?, what side of the building was the collision (N,S,E,W)?, have you observed other bird collisions on your windows/glass? If so, what species?

Your contributions to this project will ensure that any deaths are not in vain. If you'd

like to learn more about retrofitting your house with safer, bird-friendly glass, check out abcbirds.org/solutions/preventing-collisions/

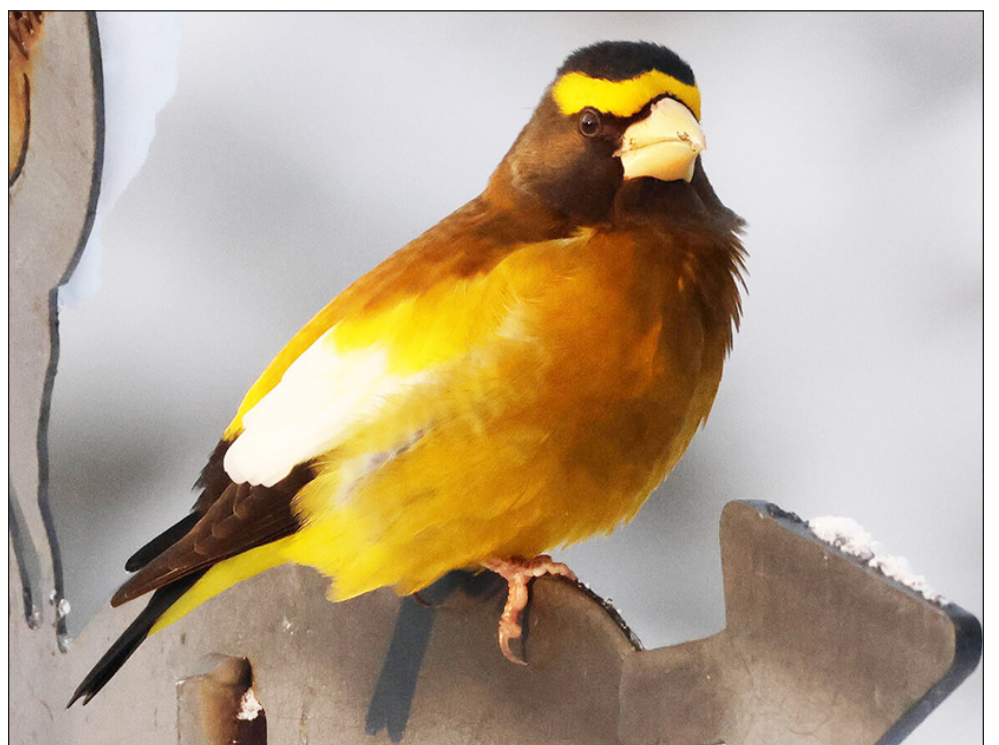
If you have Evening Grosbeaks visiting your feeder, you can also keep a look out for color-banded birds. Please report banded or tagged Evening Grosbeaks to the USGS Bird Banding Lab at reportband.gov and email David Yeany at dyeany@pacconserve.org.

Note and record: location (latitude/longitude coordinates or address) and date; sex of bird: male or female (all birds have adult-looking plumage after Oct.), upper and lower bands on each of the bird's right and left legs. All banded birds will have a metal band plus up to three colored bands. Example: RIGHT LEG: WHITE over METAL, LEFT LEG: BLACK over GREEN, note if the bird has a transmitter.



Banded Evening Grosbeak

courtesy photo



Male Evening Grosbeak

photo by Mark Dennis

OUR COMMUNITIES

Drawing class, 2nd, 4th Tuesdays

CABOT – An Intro to Drawing class will be held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Cabot Public Library from 2:30 to 4 p.m., for adults and youth ages 12 and up. In this six-session course, participants will learn the basics of drawing. Topics include:

gesture line, contour line, positive and negative space, sight measurement techniques, value and shading, and composition. All materials for the class will be provided. Pre-registration is appreciated.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Dungeons and Dragons, Tuesdays

CABOT – The Cabot Public Library hosts Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 and up, Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Losada Stoddard is the Dungeon Master.

Learn how to build a Dungeons and Dragons character and then set out on adventures.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Tech literacy series, third Tuesdays

CABOT – The Cabot Public Library will hold a three-part tech literacy series with Seth O'Brien on the third Tuesdays of the month, beginning February 17, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The first session will concentrate on mastering video calls with Facetime, Google Meet

and Zoom. The second session will focus on password management and basic cybersecurity, March 17. The third and final session, will concern avoiding scams and online safety, April 21. Bring digital devices.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Story time, Wednesdays

CABOT – Cabot Public Library Co-director Amanda Otto will host story and activity time on Wednesdays at the Willey Building from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., for

children from birth to age 5 and up, with songs, crafts, snacks and open play.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Mah Jongg, first Wednesdays

CABOT – The Cabot Public Library holds a Mah Jongg meet-up on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Game sets will be available for use, no equipment is needed. Both fun

and challenging, the game of Mah Jongg is said to improve memory, decision-making skills and patience.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Family dance sessions, Jan 24

WOODBURY – Karen Mueller-Harding leads dances and singing games from American and English traditions at the Woodbury Community Library beginning January 24, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.. Activities will be age-appropriate and accessible to everyone.

Mueller-Harding runs the family-friendly Cabot Community Contra dance and Cabot Community Theater and is a member of the Midnight Capers Morris dance group. Contact library@woodburyvt.org or call (802) 472-5710 to reserve a space at this free event.

Winter market begins, Jan. 25

by Hardwick Farmers Market

HARDWICK – The 2026 Hardwick community winter market series begins on Sunday, Jan. 25. All are invited to join from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hazen Union High School, 126 Hazen Union Drive. These markets are a partnership between the Hardwick Farmers Market, the Center for an Agricultural Economy and Hazen Union High School. Attendees will find local food (including prepared lunch, and to-go

options), products, free live music, childrens activities, and some winter wellness opportunities including mini-massages, Reiki and aromatherapy. Parking is available and attendance is free. Additional Hardwick Community Winter Markets are scheduled to take place on February 15 and March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hazen Union High School. For more information, find the event on Facebook or send an email to Hardwickfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Gallery opening, Jan. 30

HARDWICK – Friday, January 30, from 6 to 8 p.m., Front Seat Coffee will host the opening reception for Josh Kuckens' photographic series capturing the Aurora Borealis across the Northeast

Kingdom. Appetizers will be provided with beer and wine available for purchase.

The opening will also feature projections of real-time aurora video footage.

Genetic testing fraud presentation, Jan. 26

EAST MONTPELIER – A presentation on genetic testing will be held Monday, January 26. Medicare covers genetic testing only when it is deemed medically necessary. Unfortunately, scammers and disreputable companies are taking advantage of this benefit, billing for testing that is not needed or sometimes not even conducted. Jean McDermott from the

nonprofit Senior Medicare Patrol Program will present the discussion covering, how genetic testing scams work, how to detect red flags, who to contact if there are concerns as well as how to know if someone may be a legitimate candidate for genetic testing.

For more information, (802) 223-3322 or director@twinvalley-seniors.org.

Vermont agriculture, conservation at annual meeting, Feb. 11

by OCNRCD Staff

IRASBURG – Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) hosts their annual meeting focused on the evolution of Vermont agriculture and conservation.

This public event will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Nelson's Farm in Irasburg and will bring together farmers,

landowners, foresters and community members to reflect on how agriculture has changed over time, and how locally-led conservation continues to shape its future. The evening includes a keynote presentation by Roger Allbee, former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture and author of "Turning the Soil: 250 Years of Vermont Agriculture," as well as a farm tour, community discussion and dinner.

Masterclass in chocolate drink-making, Feb. 12

by Cabot Public Library

CABOT – A workshop in chocolate drink-making led by Prophesy Chocolate founder Mateo will be held at the Cabot Library,

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about the history of chocolate drink making, and practice making and serving their own drinks. For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Milk quality in dairy goats, sheep, Feb. 14

BURLINGTON – The University of Vermont Extension's Small Ruminant Team will host a milk quality management presentation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., February 14, at the Sugar Maple Ballroom in the Dudley H. Davis Center on the UVM campus. The session will feature Dr. Michelle Buckley, Western Laboratory director at Cornell University's Quality Milk Production Services.

The program will cover key components of milk quality, common challenges for small ruminant dairies and practical strategies producers can use to improve

milk quality on their farms. The event is free, and lunch will be provided.

Online registration is required at go.uvm.edu/milkquality2026. Participants may choose either an in-person session or a remote option via Zoom. In-person attendees will receive a map and parking information in their confirmation email.

Accommodation requests are due by January 23 by emailing Whitney Hull of the UVM Extension Dairy Herd Management Technical Assistance team at whitney.hull@uvm.edu.

LEGO club, Feb. 18

CABOT – A LEGO Club for ages 5 and up will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.. This club offers an environment where children can develop their

problem-solving skills, foster their creativity, and collaborate with their peers through engaging Lego-based activities. For information, cabotlibrary.com.

Pizza and movie, Feb. 25

CABOT – Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1 to 4 p.m., the Cabot Public Library will have pizza and a movie for ages 5 and up. Check the website and Front Porch Forum for the movie title as the date gets closer. Cheese pizza is being donated by

the Cabot Village Store. Pre-registration is appreciated. Caregivers who would like to stay and help out, email amandaotto.cabotlibrary@gmail.com.

For information, cabotlibrary.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Price Chopper and Market 32 employees join town leaders for the opening of the Market 32 conversion of the Morrisville Price Chopper store, Friday, Jan. 16 outside the new storefront. Attending (from left) Tom Snipp, Trustee, Morrisville Water & Light; Blaine Bringhurst, President, Market 32 and Price Chopper; Scott Johnstone, General Manager, Morrisville Water & Light; Brent Raymond, Morristown Town Manager; Amanda Terencio, Zone Director; Michelle Martin, Front End teammate of 31 years; Pamela Allaire, Bakery Team Leader, Anny Lovelette, Seafood Team Leader; Shawn Gelo, Customer Service Manager; Daniel Green, Meat Team Leader; Jenn Tabor, Produce Team Leader; Michael Dennis, Store Manager; Tyler Young Sheldon, Co-Manager; Leslie Kimball, Floral Team Leader; George Greenwood, Grocery Team Leader; Jason Rollins, Deli Team Leader; Don McDowell, Morristown Selectboard Member; Kevin Moore, Regional Vice President.

photo courtesy Price Chopper and Market 32

Market 32, Price Chopper Unveil Morrisville Market 32

by Price Chopper/Market 32

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. – Vermont’s newest Market 32 location was officially opened, Friday, Jan. 16, following the completion of a full conversion of the former Price Chopper supermarket at Route 15 and Munson Ave., Morrisville.

The more than 53,000-square-foot store becomes the 52nd Market 32-branded location across the regional grocer’s six-state footprint. Designed to meet evolving customer preferences, the location now features open sightlines, soft earth-tone décor, enhanced lighting and product-forward displays, all part of a \$3.4 million investment in improvements.

“We’re proud to introduce the Market 32 brand to Morrisville and deliver an enhanced experience that reflects how our customers shop today,” said Blaine Bringhurst, president of Market 32 and Price Chopper.

Following months-long renovations, the location closed briefly on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 15, to complete final renovations, and reopened at 6 a.m., Friday, January 16. To commemorate the occasion, company leaders were joined by local elected officials and



Trail mix, dried fruit and nuts are displayed at the Market 32 conversion of the former Price Chopper supermarket at Vt. Rte. 15 and Munson Ave. in Morrisville.

courtesy photo

dignitaries for a ceremonial ribbon cutting, the Peoples Academy choir performed the National Anthem and customers enjoyed free product samplings.

Led by Store Manager Mike Dennis, the new Market 32 includes expanded floral, produce, specialty cheese and wine offerings. In addition, a new seating area features ADA-accessible tables with built-in charging ports.

“This store directly incorporates the feedback and ideas we hear from our customers,” Bringhurst added. “We’re incredibly proud of the result and grateful to our teammates, whose passion and dedication continue to make a real difference for the communities we serve.”

OBITUARIES

William “Bill” “Flash” Gordon

DENVER, Colo. – Lieutenant Colonel William “Bill” or “Flash” S. Gordon III passed away on January 2, in Denver. He is lovingly remembered by his family, dear friends, and many colleagues.

Bill was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 26, 1939, to his parents, William S. Gordon II and Lillian (Giraitis) Gordon. He spent most of his childhood in Wethersfield, Conn. Bill graduated from Tufts University with a degree in Economics and joined ROTC there. Bill played soccer and did competitive swimming while in college.

After graduating, he joined the Air Force and served for many years as a pilot and weapons training instructor, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. Bill served bravely in the Vietnam War, completing more than one hundred missions over two tours and earning a Purple Heart. Bill later worked at the Pentagon for the Air Force. He also earned an MBA from Auburn University.

Over the years, Bill enjoyed riding and showing horses. After retiring from the Air Force, Bill became a ski instructor in Breckenridge, Colo. Bill taught skiing for over thirty years. In retirement, Bill enjoyed splitting his time between Breckenridge and his home on Caspian Lake in Greensboro, Vt. Bill led motorcycle rides throughout Vermont and surrounding areas. In addition, Bill was keen on biking and once organized a group ride that ran the

David L. Robinson

ARENAS VALLEY, N.M. – David L. Robinson, 69, died unexpectedly on November 21, 2025, at his home in Arenas Valley. He was born on Oct. 21, 1956, in Norwalk, Conn., the son of Kenneth and Jean (Worthy) Robinson. The family moved to Hardwick, where he graduated from Hazen Union High School in 1974, before joining the army and later graduating from Vermont College in 1983 with a degree in nursing.

He worked for many years at Central Vermont Hospital, where he met Deborah Noyes. They married in 1984 and lived in Williamstown, then Barre with their three children before divorcing. He later married Pamela Wakefield of Wolfeboro, N.H. Following his second marriage, he worked as a traveling nurse and driver, eventually settling in Dover-Foxcraft, Maine, then Silver City, N.M. He enjoyed motorcycles and hunting with his beagles.

Survivors include his three



William “Bill” “Flash” Gordon

length of Vermont. Bill was also an avid enthusiast of aerobatics. He was both a participant and judge of aerobatics competitions nationwide. Bill was very fond of spending time at the Morrisville-Stowe Airport where he flew small planes and gave glider rides.

Bill was a loving father to his two children. He is survived by his son, William Taylor Gordon (Evergreen, Colo.), and his daughter, Stephanie Salgado (Honolulu, Hawaii). He will be deeply missed by his cousin, John Loeb and wife Anna Belle (Greensboro, Vt.), and four grandchildren, Lifko, Simon, Kainoa and Kailani.

A memorial get-together was held in Breckenridge on January 19, at the Base Nine Lounge at Beaver Run. A military funeral will follow in June at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center, Vt.

Bill, you will always be in our hearts and will be greatly missed.



David L. Robinson

sons, Aaron, Scott, and Daniel Robinson, all of Barre; four sisters Linda Snyder (Sam) and Nancy Dimick (Kelly) of Zephyrhills, Fla., Kathy Granai (Matt) of Colchester, and Ruthellen Doyon (Kip) of Walden; and many nephews, a niece, great-nieces, and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his nephew, Timothy Parks.

A memorial service and military burial will be held in Summer 2026 in Randolph Center, Vt., at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery.



The Many Waters choir performs Sunday, Jan. 25, at the Adamant Community Club. *courtesy photo*

Choir performs, Jan. 25

ADAMANT – Many Waters, a ten-person choir led by John Mark Harrison, will bring his music to the Adamant Community Club's Winter Sunday series, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. Choir Director and Composer Harrison presents a concert of original acappella choral compositions, performed by the ensemble of Vermont singers.

Says Harrison, "This is a program of joyful and heartfelt songs exploring themes of community: births, people who have passed, love for our local environment, our water, our floods, our joys and our sorrows."

The ensemble includes Christiana Athena-Blackwell, Lee Blackwell, Scottie Harrison, John Harrison, Lily Jacobson, Michael Kellogg, Kate Latz, Julia Ostrov, Marianne Perchlik and

Donia Prince. Admission is free. The series continues each Sunday through March 1.

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Current 2025 Schedule

as of Nov 2025

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	12 AM
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond	The Kinetic Playground	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine			The Sonic Cafe		2 AM
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix							3 AM
4 AM	Music Directors							4 AM
5 AM	Softpower/Fulstories	Thom Hartmann Program					Oldies Time Machine	5 AM
6 AM	Prison Pipeline	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Woodsongs Radio Hour	6 AM
7 AM	Green St. News	Maggie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	Portal Levi	Writer's Voice	Bike Talk	The Secret Sisters	7 AM
8 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Democracy Now!					The Country Jamboree	8 AM
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	Alternative Radio	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etnier	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)	9 AM
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see below)	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see below)	10 AM
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	Shortwave Report & Food Sleuth		11 AM
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat		Unshelved J Kramer	Modern Jet Set	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM
1 PM				The Rubber Room Dan Towner		Now Playing DJ Liu		1 PM
2 PM	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	David Rogers Music Mix Hour	Straight Up Soul		UpFront Soul		Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM
3 PM			Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Adiogo		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		3 PM
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland		Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder		Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	4 PM
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Project Censored	Economic Update Rumble Strip	Tectonic	Big Picture Science	The Friday Drive at 5 Corey Flynn		5 PM
6 PM	The Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see below)			6 PM
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAhH	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see below)	ROTATING SLOT #6 (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								8 PM
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Deep Blues Les Mawson	Kozie Korner	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	9 PM
10 PM		Blues Edge Les Mawson					The Beatdown Z-Point	10 PM
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop		11 PM

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm

1st & 3rd Sun: Indigenous Music
 2nd & 4th Sun: The Immanent Grove Conni Mags

#2: Sun 4-5 pm

1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
 2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances with Savannah

#3: Sun 9-11 pm

1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: The Show of Life
 2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm

1st Mon: Bluminations Stefanie Lingenfelter
 2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneiform Radio Kyle Schlesinger
 3rd Mon: Biketalk

#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 7-9 pm

Biweekly rotation: Still Life with Club Soda Serena Matt
 Still Life with Orange Peel Ada Bowman

#7: Thu 6-7 pm

1st Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents... Khonsu X and Titan
 2nd Thu: The Hyper Local Dispatch Natascha and DJ Syd
 3rd Thu: Democracy Now
 4th Thu: Into the Issues Steve Pappas

#8: Sat 9-10 am

1st Sat: Gathering Peace Joseph Gainza
 2nd Sat: Projected Censored
 3rd Sat: Pollinator Report Emily Lanxner
 4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture Rebecca Beidler

#9: 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: Full Moon Hacksaw



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EVENTS

Wednesday, January 21

HOMESCHOOL UKULELE CLASS for Beginners, 11 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick, for ages 7 and up. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.
BAKING CLUB, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick, for ages 10 and up. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Saturday, January 24

QUEST! AUDITIONS, 1 to 4 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Casting kids and adults for Cabot Community Theater's spring play. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/questauditions>. Questions: info@cct.aroundvt.org.
BUFFALO MOUNTAIN Town Forest Expansion proposal presentation, 2 to 4 p.m., Parker Ladd Room, Jeudevine Library, N. Main St., Hardwick. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Hardwick Conservation Commission. Information: Rachel Kane at (802) 472-5512.

Sunday, January 25

WINTER FARMERS MARKET, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hazen Union School gymnasium.
SUNDAY AFTERNOON POETRY, 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Library, featuring Scudder Parker and Judith Janoo. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.
YOUNG CONCERT ARTISTS on Tour, 3 p.m., South Church Hall, St. Johnsbury. Presented by the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series. Tickets at the door or online. Information: nekclassicalseries.org.
MANY WATERS CHOIR, 3 p.m., Adamant Community Club. A 10-person choir led by John Mark Harrison.

Monday, January 26

JEUDEVINE PLAYERS, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Tuesday, January 27

HONK & WAVE, with Indivisible Hardwick, noon, Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St., Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.
KIDS' CHORUS, 3 p.m., for ages 9 and up, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Thursday, January 29

BOOK DISCUSSION with Rachael Cohen, 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library. The book is "The Light Pirate" by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581. Snow date January 31 at 2 p.m.

Ongoing Events

ARTHRITIS RELIEF EXERCISE CLASS, Thursdays, 10 a.m., Com-

munity 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.
MAH JONGG MEET-UP, first Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, Cabot Public Library. No equipment needed. Information: cabotlibrary.com.
INTRO TO DRAWING CLASS, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Cabot Public Library. For adults and youth ages

12 and up. Six-session course. Information: cabotlibrary.com
CHESS CLUB MEETS, on select Mondays, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Crafts-bury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Bar-koczy in preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament on March 28.
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 Crafts-bury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpson-memorial.org.
FRIENDS OF THE JEUDEVINE 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.

See EVENTS, Next Page

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EVENTS

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.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS, Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Cabot Public Library. Losada Stoddard is the Dungeon Master. Information: cabotlibrary.com.

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 youngpeoplegettogetheratTheCivicStandard, 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., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. 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, 5:30p.m., TheCivicStandard, 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.

STORY & ACTIVITY TIME, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Willey Building For children from birth to age 5 and up. 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 Satur-

days, 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 andshovels.

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 Lamoille 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.

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



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Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. Sign up to receive written notification from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2026 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. Watch and listen for public service announcements in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. Check with your local electric utility regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. You have the right to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are transmission lines or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

(leave blank for local electric co. mailing address and phone)	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2026.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name	Town/City of Affected Property		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? (circle one)	Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you	
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other (Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification: Utility Initials		Pole Numbers	
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15 TH , 2026			



Hazen Union junior Wildcat Jeter Demers (left) passes to an open teammate as Grady Gervais (center) of Enosburg follows the play at Hazen, January 15. Hazen won 66-47. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen senior Ethan Gann (right) looks past Enosburg's Daniel Murphy (Left) during play in Hardwick, January 15. Hazen defeated Enosburg 66-47. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union boys split week with win, loss

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys basketball team took care of business at home against Enosburg last week before falling to undefeated Randolph over the weekend, dropping to the No. 5 spot in the current Division III rankings at 5-3.

Jamison Lamarre dropped a career-high 29 points last Thursday to power the Wildcats to a 66-47 home win over Enosburg. The junior guard canned 5-threes and gave his team a 37-25 lead heading into the break with an unprecedented 18-point second quarter. Senior Sully Laflam added 12 points and five rebounds as Hazen's lead swelled to 20 with eight minutes to play. Lincoln Hill (10 points) connected twice from long distance, Morgan Michaud scored nine, Ethan Gann pulled down nine boards and Jeter Demers dished out six assists in the win. Grady Gervais (trio of threes) and Austen Wilde led Enosburg with nine points apiece. Gann shut down the Hornet's leading scorer Sawyer Bentley, holding him to six points on the night. The loss dropped Enosburg to 5-4 on the season.

Randolph continued its divisional dominance on Saturday, suffocating the Wildcat offense in a 69-58 home win. Jack White and Eli Messier led the Galloping Ghosts with 18 points apiece as

they took a 35-30 advantage into the break. Hazen battled through injuries and illness against the Ghosts but a 13-point deficit with eight minutes to play was too much to overcome. Hill knocked down four more threes to finish with a game-high 19 points, Laflam added 16 and Michaud pulled down 16 rebounds in the loss. Lamarre battled through an injury on his shooting hand, finishing with 11 points. Connor Sault connected on four threes to finish the night with 16 points as Randolph improved to 8-0.

"We were missing Ari Jurkiewicz due to illness and Jamison has a serious bone bruise on his shooting hand. He did his best to gut it out but he just wasn't himself at all. They are a good team with some huge athletes on their roster. It's probable the best Randolph team I've seen since the 90's," said head coach Aaron Hill.

Randolph continues to sit at the top of a loaded Division III bracket and has cemented themselves as real contenders with now double digit wins over the Wildcats and fourth ranked Woodstock. They will get another litmus test matchup this week with a trip to defending champion Thetford Academy. Hazen falls to the fifth seed in the current standings but has faced one of the toughest schedules in the division to date.

The Wildcats traveled to

Lake Region on Tuesday and will welcome Harwood to the Cat Den on Thursday night. They'll get back on the road next Tuesday

for a match-up against Lyndon Institute. All home games can be live-streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Sullivan "Sully" Laflam (No. 15) of Hazen Union soars to the hoop as Enosburg defender Luke Burns (center) falls backwards during action in the Cat Den, January 15. Also in the play is Hazen's Morgan Michaud (No. 20). The Wildcats topped the Hornets 66-47. photo by Vanessa Fournier

ERIC HANSON'S SKI REPORT



Craftsbury Academy's Aemelia Terrone skiing to a 3rd place finish in the girls' varsity race.

photo by Peter Morneault.

Schools compete in freestyle ski races

CRAFTSBURY – St. Johnsberry Academy was the host school at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center January 14, where over 130 middle school and varsity boys and girls took to the trails in wave start cross country ski races. Stella Cusack (St. J), who lives in Craftsbury, won the JV girls race. Hazel Morton-Lynch (Montpelier) took top honors in the large middle school girls' field in 14:44 with Craftsbury Academy's (CA) Bea Johnson in 2nd, 12 seconds back. Other CA skiers included

Eleanor Hammond 5, and Amara Hansen 13. Tillie Lange (St. J) led the girls' varsity race in 16:29 with CA's Aemelia Terrone 3, Lake Region's (LR) Nora Demaine 8, Kate Mackenzie (St. J) 16, and Lila Mackenze (St. J) 19.

On the boys' side of things, Bowman Suddaby of People's Academy (PA) had the fastest middle school time of 10:21, with CA's Hollis Allen 15 seconds back. Joe Krebs (CA) placed 7, Finn Nunnery (CA) 14 and Beckham English (Hazen) 28. Magnus Hayden (PA) won a very close varsity boys race in 15:26. Max



Craftsbury's Amara Hansen (171), Bea Johnson (152) and Eleanor Hammond line up for a wave start in the middle school event.

photo by Peter Morneault.

Demaine (LR) was 3 seconds back and Oryon Hart (CA) only 11 seconds behind in 4th. Oakley Crawford (CA) finished 6, Jin Ramsey (PA) 15, Linden Urie (LR) 16 and Eli Davis (LR) 19.

Experienced, novice shooters compete in biathlon races

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Biathlon Club (CBC) hosted nearly 130 skiers in the Bayley Hazen Shootout. About 70 of the participants have been attending regular training sessions or had previous biathlon experience, but about 60 of the skiers were learning. The experienced skiers skied five laps, shooting four times total between laps. The novice skiers skied three laps with two shooting stages. In the experienced boys event, Bowman Sudday hit 14/20 and skied a time of 14:14.

For the men, former Green Racing Project (GRP) skier, Tim Cunningham won in 19:01 only missing two shots. GRPer Tim Cobb was 3rd and Albany's Ethan Dreissigacker was 4th. There was a bit of reunion of past biathletes with former GRPers Claire Egan 1st in 23:02 (hit 16/20), Hallie Grossman 2, Emily Dreissigacker 3, Susan Dunklee 5, and Hannah Dreissigacker 8. Craftsbury residents Aemelia Terrone placed 12 with Lila Mackenzie 15.

In the boys novice division, CBC skiers included Teddy Harvey 6 and Arlo Jackson 7. A bunch of CBC girls skied in the novice race with Emerson McCarthy 2, Elizabeth Stevenson 4, Elisa Bakeman 5, and Sierra Putnam 8. There were 25 skiers in the men's novice race and 26 in the womens. David Donnelly took top honors in 18:29 and Mae Searle (Hyde Park) placed first in the women's race 20:52.



Oryon Hart (84) of Craftsbury Academy (CA) leads the start with CA's Oakley Crawford (77) on the right and Peoples Academy Noah Legacy (71) on the left.

photo by Peter Morneault.




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Record-breaking week for Rivard as Lady Cats roll

by Ken Brown

RANDOLPH – Kelsie Rivard added another record-breaking performance to her impressive resume last week as her Hazen Union girls basketball team rolled past Randolph to improve to 8-1 on the season.

Rivard erupted for a career-high and program record 43 points to lead the Lady Cats to an impressive 70-38 road win over Randolph on Saturday. The junior forward added 19 rebounds to her already formidable stat line as the Lady Cats took an insurmountable 43-15 edge into the break. Randolph came into the matchup with an impressive win over an 8-2 Oxbow team but Rivard doused any hopes of an upset, punishing Randolph with 27 first half points. Mya Lumsden added seven points and Autumn Dailey chipped in with five in the win. Kaleigh Jarvis-Chabot paced Randolph with 17 points and Ella Messier added 15 as the Lady Galloping Ghosts fell to 4-5.

Rivard already set the freshman record (33 points) in her Barre Auditorium debut two years ago when the Lady Cats cut down the nets for the first time in over three decades. All-time great Caitlyn Davison (34 points) finished off that championship run in the title game with a second half performance (26 points) that will stand the test of time.

As Rivard barrels towards the 1,000 point club with already 960 for her young career, the only comparison that can be made is to the GOAT Jennifer des Groseilliers. Although Rivard, and anyone else for that matter, may never reach des Groseilliers' all-time Hazen Union scoring record of over 1,900 career points, eclipsing her single game record of 40 points is yet another incredible accomplishment that runs in a storied athletic Rivard family. Her mother Sue, who is now on the Lady Cat bench as an assistant coach, was the all-time scoring leader at North Country for 29 years. Her brother Tyler is

on the Wildcat Mount Rushmore as the only player in school history with 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds. He also is the only player in school history with a 50 burger in a single game.

Many times throughout a given basketball season, you run across phenomenal individual performances and stats that don't always run parallel to team success. That is certainly not the case here as the Lady Cats look primed to reach the Aud and win 20 games for a fourth consecutive season under head coach Randy Lumsden. Rivard is well supported by fellow talented juniors Mya Lumsden, Autumn Dailey and Taylor Thompson, as well as vital senior leadership from Isabelle Gouin and Julia des Groseilliers.

Hazen currently sits atop of the Division III standings ahead of No. 2 Bellows Falls, Oxbow and defending champion Windsor. Since losing their only game of the season to Division I powerhouse CVU, Coach Lumsden has

moved Thompson to the point and Lumsden to scoring guard. The results have exceeded expectations, with Lumsden averaging career-highs at nearly 15 points per game, Rivard averaging nearly 25 over that span and Thompson harassing opposing point guards with her relentless defense.

"Mya was struggling to be efficient scoring the basketball, while trying to run our offense with her dad yelling in her ear from the sideline. We talked about potentially doing this over the summer and made a change after the CVU game. Everyone has bought in and it has organically benefited the entire team more than we ever thought it would. We still have things to improve on and need to keep working at playing our best basketball by the end of the season," said Coach Lumsden.

Hazen will host Spaulding on Wednesday before traveling to take on Thetford Academy Friday night. All home games can be live-streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

Twinfield-Cabot boys keep pace in top-heavy Division IV

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball team delivered knockout blows to Richford and BFA-Fairfax last week on their home court, keeping them atop of the rugged Division IV standings at 8-1.

Senior point guard Eli Russell powered the Trojans to an 81-43 win over Richford with a game-high 26 points last Tuesday. Russell added four assists and three steals as the home team raced out to a 41-17 halftime lead and never looked back. Fellow senior Tej Stewart punished the Falcons with 11 points, 11 boards and eight assists in the win. Sam McLane added eight points and six assists and Sam Churchill chipped in with seven points and six rebounds for the Trojans. Liam Farnsworth and Colton Kittell led Richford with 8 points apiece as they fell to 5-3 on the season.

"Richford was coming off a big win against Danville, so it was important for us to come out with more energy than them, and the guys did a great job of doing that. We're fighting through some injuries right now but guys like Ben Monaco and Azeem Stewart have been

tremendous coming off the bench for us," said head coach Kris Bador.

"Sam McLane is playing the game with such a high IQ right now, and all of the things he is doing for this team don't necessarily show up in the stat sheet. Losing to Danville a couple of weeks ago humbled this group. That program is always going to be well prepared under Jason Brigham and credit to them, they outplayed us. You'd rather lose that game early in the season, so coaches and players can use it as a teaching moment and hopefully get better from it,"

Russell and Stewart teamed up again to lead the Trojans to an 85-59 lopsided victory over BFA-Fairfax Thursday night. Russell poured in a season-high 31 points and added five assists as Twinfield-Cabot erased an early eight-point deficit to take a 48-30 lead into the break. Stewart complemented that with 24 points and 10 rebounds, Thomas Gouge added 13 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks and Zepherin Hebert chipped in with 11 points in the win. Kai Von Sitas led the Bullets with 18 points as they fell to 4-5. The Trojans held on to the No. 2 spot in the current Division IV

standings behind an undefeated West Rutland (9-0) team that has yet to be tested.

"There are some really good teams in our division. We need to continue to put the work in as a team and as coaches to get better as we move towards March. The Mountain League is competitive and filled with teams that will make you battle tested for the state tournament.

This is an unselfish team that is a blessing to coach. We are built on the defensive end, and our objective is to wear you down in the second half. When we couple that with good ball movement it's fun to watch," said Bador.

Twinfield-Cabot welcomed Northfield to town on Tuesday and hope to carry momentum on the road against an improved Oxbow team on Thursday.



Hardwick Knights of Columbus Brownson Council 1568 held its annual Free Throw Championship Contest on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Hazen Union. Students ages 9-14 from the Hardwick and Morrisville area competed, with girls' and boys' divisions and winners in each age group. Competitors include, front row, (from left) Raelyn Poleio, Carter Delaricheliere, Nora Paquette, Murray Meyer, Silas Moore and Ivy Demers; back row, Brownson Council Grand Knight Jon Lussier, Kylie Smith, Deegan Michaud, Emallee McTigue, Hollis Allen, Trevor Smith, Savana Marshall and Brownson Council Financial Secretary Joe Young.

KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS



Twinfield-Cabot's Tegan Trader (left) heads up the floor past Williamstown defender Courtney Beliveau (right) during a January 14 game at Twinfield. Williamstown outscored Twinfield-Cabot 60-21.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Cabot ninth-grader Nora Churchill (left) of Twinfield-Cabot advances the ball ahead of Williamstown defender Gracie Englehard (right) at Twinfield, January 14. At back (left) is head varsity Twinfield-Cabot coach Jack Whalen.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Off-week for Chargers in Randolph

RANDOLPH – Coming off some of their highest scores of the season, the Craftsbury Academy (CA) bowling team struggled to find their groove last weekend at Randolph's Valley Bowl.

Senior Soren Stelma-Leonard continued to be a bright spot for the Chargers in his first compet-

itive season, leading the way on Saturday with a high game of 138. Junior Kosmos Gletsos leads CA with a 122 average but couldn't find his form that he brought to Claremont, recording a high game of 127. The Chargers went 1-4 on the weekend and have five game wins to 13 losses on the season.

Fair Haven sophomore Madison Stamp recorded the high game of the week, rolling a 244.

Essex senior Sam Curtiss had the next highest game, leading the Hornets with a 226. Junior Owen Gregarious led St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) with a 223.

Fair Haven continues to hold on to the top spot in the current Vermont high school bowling rankings with a razor thin advantage over Randolph. South Burlington and SJA round out the top four.

The Chargers will be back in action this Saturday at Missisquoi Lanes in Lowell.

points and Anna Wheeler chipped in with 14 points and seven steals in the win. North led the Lady Trojans with 8. Williamstown swept the season series, improving to 6-4 on the season.

Richford put a stamp on a tough week for Twinfield-Cabot, blowing past the visitors 65-12 on Friday night behind a career-high 37 points from Sophia Derby. Mia St. Pierre complimented with 10 as the Lady Rockets improved to 7-1 with their sixth straight win.

Twinfield-Cabot will look to spark the offense on the Wednesday in a home tilt against Blue Mountain. They are scheduled to host Vergennes on Friday to wrap up the week.

Lady Trojans reach halfway point looking for answers

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot girls basketball team battled a tough schedule last week, dropping games to BFA-Fairfax, Williamstown and Richford for their tenth straight loss to start the season.

Adi See scored 15 points and recorded 9 steals to lead BFA-Fairfax to a 42-19 road win over the Lady Trojans last Monday. Ella Arel chipped in with nine as the Lady Bullets took a 20-10 lead into halftime and turned the defense up in the second half. Chloe North led Twinfield-Cabot with five points. BFA-Fairfax improved to 3-7

Hannah Spencer torched Twinfield-Cabot for a second time this season, pouring in a game-high 21 points to lead Williamstown to a dominant 60-21 road win on Wednesday. Julia French added 15

Morrison leads Marauders

NORTHFIELD – Former Hazen Union standout Damian Morrison dropped a career-high over the weekend to lead his Northfield boys basketball team to a win over Blue Mountain.

Morrison poured in a game-high 26 points on Saturday to lead Northfield to a 57-36 home win over Blue Mountain. The senior guard connected on four three-pointers in route to his big night. The former Wildcat multi-sport varsity starter scored 19 points earlier this month in a close loss to BFA-Fairfax.

Morrison and the Marauders (2-4) were at Twinfield-Cabot on Tuesday and are scheduled to host Richford on Thursday.



Chloe North (left) of Twinfield-Cabot looks to pass by Williamstown's Leighton Kennedy (right) during play in Twinfield, January 14. Officiating is C. G. Powers. Williamstown won 60-21.

photo by Vanessa Fournier