

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Volume 132 Number 35

Board Postpones Discussion of Employee Vaccinations

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hardwick Select Board Chair Eric Remick opened the board's September 2 meeting by addressing agenda item number three, "Select Board to discuss mandating the COVID vaccine for town employees." Remick said that "I know I asked to have a discussion about mandating a COVID vaccine. My

intent was definitely to have the town set a good example and to work for the general health and well-being of our community."

However, Remick tabled the item agenda, explaining that "I understand that there are things that we should research before ... to have an educated discussion about that. I haven't had time to look into because we've had a lot of other stuff going on. I've had a few townspeople

ask me about that specifically and I'll be sure, if we do bring this back up in a future agenda, to reach out to them individually to make sure they know because I think they'd like to have the opportunity to weigh in."

Remick said in a follow-up email that "I asked to postpone the discussion of mandatory vaccination for town employees until I've had

See VACCINES, 4

Hazen Union Opening Day Assembly Sparks Controversy

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On the first day of school at Hazen Union, Principal Dr. Jason Di Giulio brought the students together for an assembly, a "celebration" after nearly two years of isolation and lock-down. As part of the assembly, Principal Di Giulio shared his own story to explain why community was important to him. By some accounts, it did not go well. The reaction on social media was particularly negative.

What exactly Di Giulio said is not documented.

To date, no video of the assembly has surfaced. A student posted on Facebook that they saw no phones out recording, and Di Giulio said he was reading off of notes and unscripted.

According to several students, the first part of Di Giulio's remarks that some people took issue with was the manner in which Di Giulio discussed the Constitutionally-protected right to protest, which he said he valued. Di

See CONTROVERSY, 5

OSSU Delegates COVID Safety Protocols

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On Monday, August 30, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) board voted to "delegate authority for COVID-19 mitigation measures" to Superintendent Adam Rosenberg, with an expectation that Rosenberg work closely with the teachers' union, National Education Association (NEA) affiliate Orleans Southwest Education Association (OSWEA).

Originally, the board debated whether to

See PROTOCOLS, 3



courtesy photo

The Greensboro Historical Society hosted The Walking Ladies of Greensboro for coffee and muffins at a end-of-summer gathering while visiting the Highland Cattle exhibit by Janet Stuart and Ray Shatney. In attendance were (left to right) Jennifer Lucas, Mary Metcalf, Nancy Hill, Alison Gardner, Trink Dornseifer, Janet Long and Paula Harmon.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Grow Your Own Herbs Workshop leader Miranda Resnick of Understory Herbalism of Hardwick (third from left) shows workshop participants the spiral herb garden at Atkins Field. Pictured (from left to right): Beth Springston of Morrisville, Deb Cline of Wolcott, Resnick, Linda Brady of Wolcott, Vicki Strobridge of Worcester, Bruce Klein of Walden, Christine Willard of Elmore, and Diane Sholan of

Road Foreman Resigns After Unsigned Letter Distributed in Town

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – It was confirmed by select board chair Linda Martin at the September 1 meeting that road foreman Dillon Cafferky had resigned. The reason was an unsigned letter that was distributed throughout Wolcott, but not sent directly to the select board.

The first paragraph of the letter reads, "we are paying higher and higher taxes, our roads are a mess, and our road crew is inexperienced, over paid [sic], and actually go over budget."

Martin said, "[Dillon is] leaving on the grounds of stress and negativity. He said this letter was the icing on the cake. He's tried his hardest, put his whole heart into the town, but he can't do it anymore." She added, "I'm in shock."

Road crew member Chan Judd called the letter "terrible" and "uncalled for." He said, "We take care of these roads good. I don't know who wrote it, I don't care, but I hope they move. Dillon showed me quite a bit. We're experienced [now]. I would love to have this person in my

See LETTER, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

New staff at Cabot School are (front row, left to right): Alison Morrow, grade 3-4 teacher; Kris Stecker, school nurse; Lauren Watson, grade 5-6 teacher; Candice Snay, paraeducator. Back row (left to right): Ethan Senterfitt, secondary math teacher; Liam Hart, elementary music; Kyla Kerrigan, grade 1-2 teacher; Liza Ziering, kindergarten teacher; David Pransky, grade 5-12 world language. Missing from the photo: Debi Smith, paraeducator; and Carley Elkin, athletic director.

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Letter

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plow truck when it's snowing, on icy roads on East Hill."

Town clerk Belinda Clegg, speaking in this case as a resident, said she did care who penned the letter. "I would like to ask my select board members if they had anything to do with this letter. I'd like to ask the board as a whole do any of you know who wrote the letter. There's stuff in there that indicates they have been at all the meetings, and that they do not feel that all the select board members are participating. I just want to understand why that person would not sign their name if they truly believe these things. I just wondered how the select board feels they're going to deal with this."

She was referring to a part of the letter that reads "There are projects that are only going to raise our taxes again such as the Waste Water Systems. What kind of businesses are we going to attract and where will they be located in Wolcott? If businesses had the intention of being here, they would have done so already. Projects like purchasing forestland for trails and events. Who will pay the money for this? AND why do we need to spend money on this when we have the Rail Trail? What else is going on behind our backs that is being funded by our tax dollars and grants that we rarely ever hear about or see how they are being used?"

That paragraph references multiple projects that have been discussed at board meetings with no public in attendance in most cases. The board is hosting a public event on September 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to present those projects because the public does not attend meetings.

Martin, vice chair Kurt Klein, and member Richard Lee all said they did not have any idea who wrote the letter. Member Kurt Billings was also present, but said nothing.

Martin said, "the damage has been done. The saddest part is it crushed Dillon enough to resign."

Klein said, "my feeling is, we have to counter it with facts," he said. "There's this misconception the taxes have gone up when actually they went down."

Lee called the letter "despicable and not accurate."

Clegg wanted residents to know that "If anybody has any questions about the tax rate or the taxes for this year, I am happy to take your calls" at the town clerk's office (802-888-2746 or tc@wolcottvt.org).

With winter just around the corner and no road foreman, Martin said, "We know we're in a mess."

Klein said, "we need to move forward [with advertising the position] very quickly. This letter was extremely destructive."

Lucien Gravel, formerly roads commissioner, was present and reminded the board that at least one project Cafferky had been working on had an imminent deadline, and Wolcott might get fined for not completing the work.

The board also had to address another project Cafferky had been working on, leasing a replacement truck for Truck 13 that Klein said "has been forever a problem."

Klein said he had received a quote for a seven-year lease from Clark's Truck Center of Jericho, and the quote was under municipal lease terms.

He said, "There was one truck [available], and it's gone. These things are nonexistent. We can enter into an order for the next build. The delivery would be April."

The yearly amount would be approximately \$31,000, but the board putting its name on the list for one of the upcoming ten trucks being built would not commit it to a specific action. "My proposal based on this is the board consider signing the proposal, and there's a truck with Wolcott's name on it."

Gravel said he would not recommend the board sign a seven-year lease if a five-year one were possible. He said trucks such as this wear out quickly, and part of the problem is there's no water at the garage to wash off the trucks with after routes, so corroding salt builds up. "[The truck is] a wear item," he said.

Klein said, "I think that's the best plan is to move forward with this with the caveat that we will research the five-year and if there is a five-year, we will go with that. If there isn't, then we've made the decision."



September 8 - September 14

Meat Dept.
 Boars Head Oven Gold Turkey - \$7.99 lb.
 McKenzie Hot or Sweet Sausage - \$4.29 lb.

New Kuhl Clothing for Men
 Pants, Flannel Shirts & Vests

Poland Spring 8 pk. Sparkling Water
 2/\$5 135.2 oz.

Arizona Tea
 2/\$5 128 oz.

Green Mt. Coffee
 \$5.99 12 oz. or 12 ct.

Betty Crocker Favorites Cake Mixes
 5/\$5 15.25 oz.

Gold Medal Flour
 \$2.49 5 lb.

Post Great Grains or Select Cereal
 2/\$5 13.5-16 oz.

Full Circle Organic Cereals
 \$3.49 10-15 oz.

Sweet Baby Rays BBQ Sauce
 3/\$5 18 oz.

Cravn Fudge Cookies
 \$1.69 8.5-12.5 oz.

Clorox Bleach
 2/\$5 40-43 oz.

Arm & Hammer Laundry Detergent
 3/\$10 43.75-50 oz.

Cottonelle 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue
 \$8.49 178-24 s.f.

Kleenex Facial Tissue
 \$1.79 65-144 ct.

Food Club Shredded Cheese
 \$1.89 8 oz.

Hood Sour Cream
 \$1.69 16 oz.

Chobani Greek Yogurt
 5/\$5 5.3 oz.

Morningstar Farm Vege Patties
 3/\$10 8-10 oz.

Stouffers French Bread Pizza
 2/\$5 10.38-12 oz.

Lemons
 3/\$1

Del Fresco 3 ct. Rainbow Peppers
 \$3.79 pkg.

New Crop Idaho Potatoes
 \$2.99 5 lb.

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POLICE REPORT

State Police Report Possession of Methamphetamine, Retail Theft

On August 23, at 1:25 a.m., Waterbury-Stowe Rd. in Waterbury, Troopers cited Jamal Walker, of Hardwick, on suspicion of driving with a criminally suspended license. Citation date of Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at Washington County Court.

On Sept. 2, at approximately 9:49 p.m., U.S. Customs and Border Protection called the Vermont State Police to report that a male who was attempting to cross the border into Canada was suspected to be intoxicated. Troopers responded to the scene to further investigate. Subsequent investigation revealed that Jeffrey Kusmit, of Albany, the operator of the vehicle, had displayed signs of impairment. Kusmit was arrested

and transported without incident to the Vermont state Police – Derby Barracks for processing. Kusmit was later released with a criminal citation to appear in Orleans County Court.

On Sept. 5, at 10:47 a.m., Troopers from the Middlesex Barracks responded to a report of a vehicle off the roadway on Creamery Rd. in Marshfield. One of the occupants of the vehicle, later identified as Tyler Finley, of Ogdensburg, N.Y., left on foot. Through investigation, Finley was located and a voluntary consent search of Finley revealed he was in possession of methamphetamine. Finley was taken into custody and processed at the Middlesex barracks. Finley was then released

with a criminal citation to appear before Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m. to answer to the aforementioned charge.

On Sept. 5, at 5:20 p.m., Troopers with the Vermont State Police Middlesex Barracks received a report of a female acting erratically inside the Dollar General in Williamstown. The report also indicated the female may have stolen items from the store. Vermont State Police responded to the scene and identified the female as Kaylee Sevene, of East Calais. Investigation revealed Sevene had stolen multiple items from the Dollar General. Troopers also found Sevene to be in possession of heroin and to have an outstanding

warrant. Sevene was taken into custody and transported to the Vermont State Police Middlesex Barracks for processing without incident. Sevene was issued citations to appear in Orange County Superior Court – Criminal Division for the charges of Possession of Heroin and Retail Theft and Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on the outstanding warrant. Sevene was subsequently released.

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

Protocols

Continued From Page One

“cede” authority. Board member Steven Freihofner felt that the distinction was important because delegation was a “provisional decision” that could be changed in the future, whereas ceding authority would be more permanent. Much of the discussion centered around whether to mandate staff and teacher vaccination. Masking was less controversial as just two of the six OSSU schools have students old enough to be vaccinated.

In practice, what the board has asked Rosenberg to do is no different than his office has so far. There was an acknowledgment from several members that with the far more contagious Delta variant dominant, the ground has shifted drastically from last fall when the original Alpha variant was the only one around. Rosenberg shared that there was a positive test result already during the in-service week for teacher preparation before schools opened, but no transmission resulted.

Some members expressed frustration that the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) had provided just a page-and-a-half of “recommendations” to the schools, leaving the boards to decide on their own. Rosenberg said the OSSU policy thus far more closely followed the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations, which is a “layered approach.”

Board member Kasey Allen questioned why the OSSU was not simply following the VDH requirements, and Rosenberg replied, “to keep as many people safe as we can.”

He said that whereas last year the state had pages upon pages of requirements for schools, this new “layered approach” meant a series of measures designed to thwart COVID from entering the schools. Those would include things such as distancing guidelines that OSSU is trying to enforce, especially among students too young to get vaccinated, masking, and improving ventilation. The only layer that has proved divisive is vaccination.

The board discussed mandating vaccines among staff. Union president and teacher Corey Maskell said he had conducted a survey of its members and was “surprised” to learn “there isn’t really a consensus” as to whether teachers would accept a vaccination mandate.

“A lot of members see a potential vaccine mandate as a change of working conditions. The board making decisions about what they would see as a personal health care choice,” he said, meaning that it would potentially go against contracts already signed.

Board member Gordon Young said one option to consider was to allow teachers to re-negotiate contracts if they had an issue with a vaccine mandate. “I want to put out there that I’m sympathetic to the concerns of the teachers’ union, [but] we need to do something moving forward to make sure that our community is safe.”

A complication with any vaccine mandate is that thus far the OSSU can ask what staff members’ vaccination status is, but not verify the answers. It’s on the honor system. It was noted that the OSSU does not know concretely how many

of its teachers and staff are vaccinated. Unlike students, who have vaccination requirements for things other than COVID to attend school, as far as anyone knew, there was no similar requirement in place for teachers and staff.

Several members pointed out that the schools are already thin on staffing, and vaccination might prevent serious issues with teachers needing to be absent to quarantine.

Young said that he was undecided about whether a vaccine mandate should be in place, but was very aware that in some circles it is controversial. He said that “it’s important that we talk about it, and that we’re aligned and stacked behind our administration so Adam [Rosenberg] is not out there hung out to try by himself for taking a controversial stand in the community. The number one thing is safety: safety for our kids, safety for our teachers and staff, the people that are dedicating so much of their time and effort to do the work that this community needs for them to do. I strongly support doing things from a safety-first perspective.”

Freihofner noted the politicization of vaccines and said that by giving the board so little to work with the state had effectively taken the target off its own back and shifted it to the local level. He said that he felt that the state had provided a “floor” of what to do about COVID safety rather than “shooting the requirements higher and causing a lot of controversy at the state level.” He also said asking why the OSSU was following CDC and AAP standards as opposed to

the VDH “injects” an unnecessary discussion about loyalty.

One board member talked about “the worst case scenario: that we have the death of a student or teacher, and we’re going to hear from the community about, ‘why didn’t we force everyone to be vaccinated?’”

As for a vaccine mandate, chair Amy Rosenthal said, “I just don’t think we’re there yet.”

Board members were divided over how much more aggressive a stance the board should take. Ryan Bjerke discussed masking outdoors and proposed a more aggressive stance at the outset that could be backed down from if the situation improved.

“All the counties that our kids come from have high or [substantial] transmission. Taking extra steps now, early on, may prevent further problems down the road. You can always walk it back afterward if things improve.”

Freihofner said that he supported delegating the authority for determining COVID safety protocols to Rosenberg and the OSWEA.

“They’re in the trenches every day, they see what works and what doesn’t, they’re the people we should rely on to make the decision. And of course, we can disagree. Delegation doesn’t mean ceding. It’s provisional decision.”

Board member Vince Razi-onale moved to “delegate planning and delegate authority for COVID-19 mitigation measures, including masking, to the superintendent,” seconded by Sam Friend. Only Kasey Allen voted against the motion.

Vaccines

Continued From Page One

a chance to review a) what other towns have done, b) what VLCT recommends c) what legal ramifications we may run into with the unions or even individuals.”

There is no official State of Emergency declared by the state, and the Scott administration continues to invoke the overall high vaccination rate statewide, which the state used as justification for blocking Brattleboro’s mask mandate.

The stakes are high in a discussion of vaccination requirements. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that, as of Friday, Copley Hospital fourteen beds available, less than half of its capacity. Central Vermont Medical Center had less than a quarter of its capacity in both ICU and inpatient beds available, and at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, 32% of inpatient beds are available. The University of Vermont Medical Center also had less than a quarter of its ICU capacity left and 15% of its inpatient beds available as of Friday.

Vermont reported over 200 confirmed and probable COVID cases on September 1. Initially, the state reported 145, but that number was revised to 210 a day later. Case numbers were revised upward again on Friday, with an initial report of 96 cases revised on Saturday to 169.

The board also heard from town manager Jon Jewett about the wastewater treatment plant.

He reported that the bids associated with sludge removal at the wastewater treatment facility came in significantly higher than anticipated. He said that was not connected to the COVID-induced supply chain issues, since it did not relate to materials costs. Rather, the issue is that municipal sludge waste has very few places to go, none of them close, with one in Quebec and one in New York being the closest. The sludge needs to be removed to replace the lagoon liners. Jewett said that it was likely a portion of the sludge would need to be put back in once the liners were replaced since the costs of trucking it for disposal were so high.

The town now has a more specific number for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds coming its way. Remick said the anticipated amount was \$855,227, divided into two equal payments, one this year and one next. The conditions for the funding’s use are now much clearer, and three of the four approved uses are related to COVID-specific impacts that the board did not see as particularly relevant to Hardwick’s situation. The fourth category is water and sewer or broadband infrastructure and, with an expectation of a separate package of broadband funding coming up, the board felt that it would be most appropriate to put the entire \$855,227 into the wastewater treatment plant to cover the increased bid amounts. Town Manager Jon Jewett said that the only other way to bridge that gap would be a bond, which would disproportionately impact residents who can least afford it.

The board made no decision at this meeting, but the expectation at this point is that the entire ARPA funding might go to that wastewater treatment plant.

Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran said that the part-time officer he “suspected was interested in the full-time position” indeed was, but would not be able to get into the academy until the fall of 2022. With the expected return in the future of two deployed officers, his assessment was that the department’s staffing would soon be adequate. He said that, at this point, HPD was working its way back to twenty-four-hour coverage, with overnight responses being on-call. The department had tried to end coverage at midnight, but Chief Cochran said “that didn’t work, so we moved to the same schedule as the State Police.”

He said, “We want to work back towards the twenty-four hours [coverage]. I think we can do it with the next few weeks.” Chief Cochran said that the new hire and the other part-time officer were seasoned police officers, and HPD could utilize the two part-time officers to bridge coverage gaps. He said that “we’re actually in better shape than some other agencies around us.”

Chief Cochran also wanted to warn residents of a fraud scam on Facebook involving buying gift cards. He urged people to be careful.

Chief Cochran reported

that when the state “kicked out” unhoused people that were living in motels, it began impacting Hardwick. He said that the way the state handled that with those people was not good.

“There needs to be a lot better way than ‘here’s some money, get out,’” Chief Cochran said. “I think it was \$2,500, a sleeping bag, and a tent.”

He said the department had been referring some of the people needing help for mental health issues to Northeast Kingdom Human Services.

Board member Michael Deering’s agenda item to speak about police department staffing and service levels did not take place as Deering did not attend the meeting, but Larry Hamel noted that he felt the twenty-four-hour coverage from HPD was important “for the safety of my tenants and my property.” Hamel also pointed out that, as Town Service Officer for many years, he had worked with some of the unhoused people moving through Hardwick, without major issues. He did want the board to reconsider in the next budget how much money is allocated to his work, because it had gone from \$500 a year to \$250. Hamel is paid a small stipend for his work, but said he would rather have the stipend money put toward getting the expense budget for his work back up to \$500.

“Nobody does this job for the money,” said Hamel. “And I take this job seriously.”

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<p>EDITOR Ray Small</p> <p>SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS Dave Morse</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHER Vanessa Fournier</p> <p>CIRCULATION Dawn Gustafson</p> <p>PRODUCTION Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson</p>	<p>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Sandy Atkins, Michael Bielawski, Ken Brown, June Cook, Jim Flint, Eric Hanson, Pat Hussey, Willem Lange, Doug McClure, Daniel Métraux, Joyce Slayton Mitchell</p> <p>ADVERTISING SALES Erica Baker</p> <p>CARTOONIST Julie Atwood</p>
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Controversy

Continued From Page One

Giulio said that the right to protest includes the right to burn the American flag, though he did not say people should do so. According to one student, Di Giulio said that the right for people to do so was exactly what he fought for as a soldier. The U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1989 that it was a Constitutionally protected right under the First Amendment to burn the American flag.

Dr. Di Giulio said in a post-assembly, school-wide email that his words “did not land how I intended them to land.”

In that email, he wrote that “[a]s we strive to building agency and the power to ‘own’ their work and process in students, I explained that many say the Pledge with their hands on their hearts, and others would make different choices. I wanted the people in the room to understand that there were many forms of protest related to our flag. I spoke about some folks having their hands on their hearts, others stood with their fists in the air, and others knelt. Some, I said, even have chosen to burn the flag. I intended that they would understand that the nation represented by that flag ensures their right to protest and express, but it doesn’t make all of those choices acceptable. As I noted in the assembly, and I believe still, the flag and its colors represent a shared sense of community — courage, unity, and a purity of promise. I wore that flag on my arm and I believe in it and its promise.”

Dr. Di Giulio enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1991 and served for over twelve years. He worked to become a commissioned officer and rose to the rank of company commander in 2001. He was assigned to train another country’s army to meet NATO standards.

A number of students were clear about what they believed the real issue was: Dr. Di Giulio identifies as LGBTQ. The context in which he presented that fact to the students during the assembly, according to multiple students interviewed, was that he felt that despite his service as a soldier, the military did not accept him.

A handful of people reacted strongly on Hazen Union’s Facebook page, based on what was recounted by at least one student who was at the assembly. The initial message was posted by Monica Billings. Billings posted that “[Di Giulio] rattled off his sexual orientation

and poor treatment by the US military as his reasoning for his Anti-American remarks.” She described his comments as “disgusting” and accused Di Giulio of “manipulating our children into having the same bias mindset.”

In his post-assembly email, Di Giulio said that he was trying to do exactly the opposite. Di Giulio wrote in the post-assembly email that “[w]e learned much about the power of story last year, and I had hoped that my story and adversities would help show that through struggles, we can reach higher places.”

One student said that “he did say it was okay to burn the flag in a form of protest, which kind of drove me crazy,” but concluded that “I think it was also a ton of people didn’t like that someone who was on the LGBTQ+ spectrum was running the school.”

The negative comments on Facebook from multiple people took issue with what Di Giulio reportedly said. One read: “Wait, what? Had to throw in sexual orientation?? Are you serious? Yes, needs to find a new job. NOT IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!”

Some parents and community members came to Di Giulio’s defense. Some responded with positive words to the email Di Giulio sent out. One person thanked Dr. Di Giulio for “teaching what freedom in America is.”

None of the interviewed students said they initially felt that there was anything out of order about Dr. Di Giulio’s assembly. Most, in fact, did not even consider it provocative or inspirational, offering at first only wording along the lines of “It was okay.”



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Diane Sholan (left) of Hardwick and Vicki Strobbridge (right) of Worcester plant an herb during the Grow Your Own Herb workshop led by Miranda Resnick of Understory Herbalism in Hardwick.

MEETING MEMO

- Monday, September 13**
- Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors’ Regular Meeting,** 6 p.m., Barnet School. Remote access also available.
- Walden Select Board,** every other Monday.
- Town Websites, Town Clerks**
- Cabot: cabotvt.us
- Calais: calaisvermont.gov
- Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
- Greensboro: greensborovt.org

- Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
- Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
- Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
- Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
- Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.waldenvt.gov. waldentc@pivot.net
- Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
- Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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The First Week of School



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Woodbury students Marshall Clemmons and his brother, Brysin Clemmons, board the bus Thursday after school. In the back are Madeline Grant and her mom, Melissa Grant.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Woodbury kindergartner Ian Jarvis enjoys an ice cream sandwich during a school-wide ice cream celebration Thursday.



photo by Doug McClure

David Wright and Logan Arnold at Hazen Union on opening day.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Woodbury School students (in front) Catherine Koteas, (in back, from left) Brysin Clemmons, Averie Ashline and Rex Alexander eat their ice cream during a school-wide celebration celebrating the first week back to school.

The First Week of School



Learning Lab with Mr. Dekens at Hazen Union on the first day of school.



Taylor Cloutier and Grace Cloutier in the halls of Hazen Union on the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 30.



Damon Crawford and Jaimey Farrand at Hazen Union on the first day of school.

**Photos
by
Doug McClure**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Dana and Susan Robinson of Cabot held a free concert on the Cabot Village Common on Sept. 2. Around 75 people attended.

Walden Board to Use ARPA Funds to Digitize Land Records

WALDEN – The select board met on Monday, Aug. 30, with Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, and Bob Hatch present.

The curb cut recommendations were approved and the board voted to take up to \$8,000 of the ARPA funds to continue the process of digitizing land records.

The new loader has arrived, but the old trailer still hasn't sold. The road crew is done with winter sand stockpiling, and they worked on some Class 4 road problems recently.

Due to recent events, the board is investigating the purchase of two security cameras for the town garage and will look into grant possibilities for the culvert replacement on Watson Road.

The board is receiving quotes for the firehouse shingle replacement and approved a "bus stop" sign near the Ducharme house.

The next meeting will be September 13, 2021, 6:30 pm at the firehouse and via Zoom.

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OUR COMMUNITIES



courtesy photo

The Peacham Congregational Church organ is pictured after its installation in 1871 in its original location in the back of the church. The organ was relocated to its current location in 1903 and expanded and rebuilt in 1957 with help from a generous donation by Charles F. Brown. A special concert to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the organ is planned for September 17 at 7 p.m.

Peacham Church Celebrates Anniversary of Organ

PEACHAM – As part of a year-long celebration of key anniversaries at the church, the Peacham Congregational Church is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its organ, dedicated in September of 1871.

A special organ concert will take place on Friday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. directed by organist Hal Parker, the music director for the Greensboro United Church of Christ. The concert will start with introductions by The Rev. Sonia Dunbar, who will discuss the history of the organ in the church, and Johanna Branson, president of the Peacham Historical Association, who will highlight the history of the organ’s donor, Oliver Johnson. Johnson and his brother, Leonard Johnson, were avid abolitionists in Peacham.

The organ, a substantial gift from Peacham resident Oliver Johnson, is an Odell organ, an extravagant gift at the time. In 1871, the Church spent \$7,300 renovating the building to accommodate the gift.

Oliver Johnson was editor of the National Anti-Slavery Standard from 1863-1865. The Standard was the official weekly newspaper of the American Anti-Slavery Society, an abolitionist society founded in 1833 by William Lloyd Garrison and Arthur Tappan to spread their movement across the nation. Frederick Douglass was a key leader of this society, with members that also included Susan B. Anthony, and often addressed meetings at its New York

City headquarters. William Lloyd Garrison visited Peacham on several occasions and, in partnership with Oliver Johnson, delivered inspiring speeches from the pulpit of the Peacham Congregational Church.

By 1871, the abolitionist movement caused a great divide in the Peacham Congregation and Oliver Johnson wrote a letter to ask the members of the congregation to mend their ways or he would refuse to donate the organ.

“And now, dear friends, let me be perfectly frank with you. I could not have the heart to bestow such a gift upon a divided and distracted church and society,” said Johnson in 1871. “I offer my gift not to a party but to the whole congregation, old and young; and I must make it an inexorable condition that you shall bury all your differences, letting by-gones be by-gones, acting together in a spirit of mutual good will.”

This offer, with all its conditions, was accepted by the church and adopted September 18, 1871.

In 1957, a donation of \$13,000 by Charles F. Brown provided the resources for a “rebuilding and enlarging” of the organ by The Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro. The organ was moved from the back of the church to its current position, behind the pulpit.

Admission to the concert is by donation and masks are respectfully required. Additional information on the concert can be found at peacham-church.org.

Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



“I’VE GOT MY VACCINE CARD, MY MASK AND A PHONE APP TO ALERT ME FOR A LOCKDOWN!”



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The Walden Volunteer Fire Department
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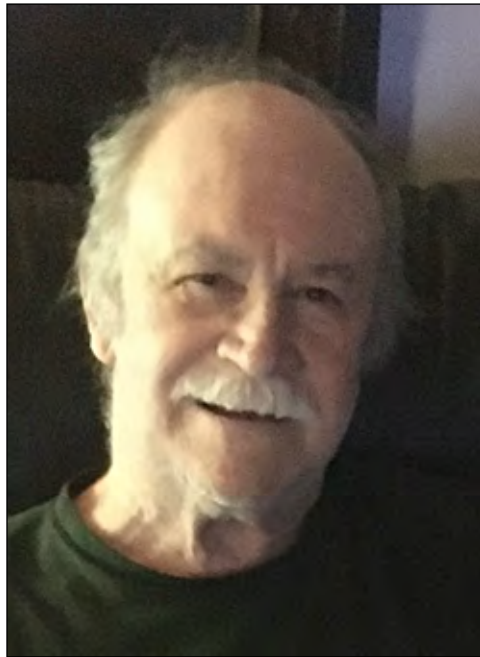
GERARD (JERRY) PAUL MOLLEUR

CORINTH – Jerry P. Molleur, 69, of Corinth, died August 19, at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon, N.H. He passed peacefully with his wife and daughter by his side. He courageously battled mantle cell lymphoma and esophageal cancer over the last year.

He was born February 25, 1952, in Norton, to Theresa (passed April 16, 1995) and Paul Molleur (passed February 23, 1990). He graduated Hardwick Academy in 1970, which was the last class to graduate from that high school. He then moved to Leadville, Colo., to work with his brother clearing popular ski trails out west and starting a family, something he was very proud of. He moved back to Vermont and started his own business as a self-employed logger.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Molleur, and Bailey Vail, his daughter Lynne King (Brian) and his three granddaughters, Felicia King, Caitlyn King and Gabrielle (Gabi) King. His extended family includes Rebecca (Peter), Christina (Zack), Daylan (Heather) and Stephen, and grand-children Roman, Temperance, Adam, David, Liam, Addie and Elizabeth. Also included were his beloved dogs, Tanner, Precious and Sweetie. Their unconditional love got him through some very rough days.

He came from a large Roman Catholic farming family with 14



Gerard (Jerry) Paul Molleur

siblings: Giles Molleur, Pauline Turcotte, Madeline Ducharme, Mutt Molleur, Bob Molleur, Bernard Molleur, Louise Davis, Jack Molleur, Mike Molleur, Dianne Molleur, Helen Lamberton and Dan Molleur. His family meant so much to him and he tried to attend most family gatherings. He really enjoyed catching up and reminiscing about the good times. A special thank you to his close friend Cecil for all of the help provided around the house when dad was too tired or sick to work.

Aside from his parents, he was predeceased by his son David Molleur, daughter Diane Molleur, and his brothers, Marcel and Claude Molleur.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date at the family's discretion.

HAROLD ALMON PATTEN SR.

HARDWICK – Harold Almon Patten Sr. of Hardwick, 89, passed away peacefully on September 2, at Central Vermont Hospital after a long fight trying to recover from a car accident. He was surrounded by his children, third wife, Millie Therien, and loved ones.

Harold was born in Milford, N.H., on July 10, 1932, to Orion and Marjorie (Bills) Patten, deceased.

Harold worked construction, was a mechanic, drove a truck, he was a logger and instrumental in clearing the land for the Mass. Pike. He loved racing, working on cars, and always bragged about his Studebaker Hawk. In his later years, he sold cars and worked on small engines; there wasn't anything he couldn't fix.

Harold loved hunting in his younger days and spending his days fishing, being by the water and in the woods with his children and grandchildren. He was an amazing cook and loved the joy that brought to his family. He passed that joy along to his children.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, second wife, Dolly Cilley (Creighton), 11 brothers and six sisters, his sons David Patten (and wife Rita) and Harold Arthur Patten.

Harold left behind a very large family to cherish his memories: his brother Roland Patten (Peterborough, N.H.), his sisters Shirley Rafter and Eva DeSouza, his third wife, Millie Therien (Stannard), his children, Dennis Gilman (Francetown, N.H.), Harold Patten Jr. and wife Alberta



Harold Almon Patten Sr.

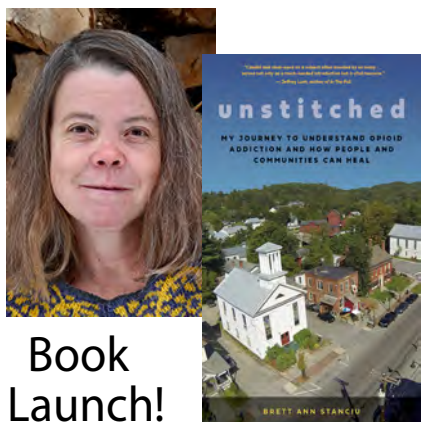
(Hardwick), Debbie Stearns and husband Marc (Goffstown, N.H.), Tammy Dorr (Bennington, N.H.), Richard Patten and wife Glenda (Deering, N.H.), Robert Patten and wife Laurette (Hardwick), Angela Grimaldi (Glens Falls, N.Y.), Cynthia Patten (Westfield, Mass.), Pamela Charette (Rocky Mount, N.C.), Lisa Ferguson and husband Rick (Red Oak, N.C.), Freeman Patten and fiancé Michelle (Williamstown), Michelle Ducker and husband Dustin (Hendersonville, N.C.) and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 5, at des Groseilliers Funeral Home, 97 Church Street, Hardwick. Memories and condolences may be conveyed to the family at dgfunerals.com.

OUR E-MAILS

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Book Launch!

Tuesday, Sept. 14
7 p.m., at the
Hardwick Town House
Brett Stanciu discussing her
new memoir "Unstitched: My
Journey to Understand Opioid
Addiction and How People and
Communities Can Heal"

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FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ON FACEBOOK

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, September 9

GRACE FREE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP. Free online art class every Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m. Join at <https://meet.jit.si/GRACECommunityWorkshop>. Free materials kit available for pickup or delivery. Information: carol@wonderartsvt.org or 802-472-6857.

CABOT HARVEST SUPPER, take-out only, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Cabot United Church, Main St. Red flannel hash, ham, baked beans and more. Bake sale with jams, jellies and more.

Friday, September 10

EVERYONE EATS PROGRAM, free frozen meal, Fridays, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, 4023 Vt. Rt. 15. No pre-registration needed. Information: ereid@capstonevt.org.

Monday, September 13

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Mondays, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace AG Church, 104 Vt. Rt. 16, E. Hardwick. Men's Addiction Group. Information: 802-279-2185.

GRACE presents free, virtual weekly art prompts. Each week GRACE will post a piece of art from their "Outsider Art" collection for people to use as inspiration for their own original creation. These will be available on Mondays at <https://graceart.org/virtual-artcommunity/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmericorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

THE DADS' GROUP, every Monday, 5-6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information: Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or 802-730-3000.

Tuesday, September 14

THE MOMS IN RECOVERY Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com, 802-635-0084.

Wednesday, September 15

EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER, a free meal for the community, Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia

Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. A curbside dinner for the whole family to enjoy. Information or delivery: easthardwickgrange@gmail.com or 472-8987.

Exhibits

PARKER PIE GALLERY, Vermont Green: paintings by Elizabeth Nelson, through Sept. 28. County Road, West Glover.

"STILL LIFE, LIFE STILL" art exhibition, through Oct. 15, Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. Noon - 4 p.m., Wed. - Sun. Outdoor Opening Reception: Sunday, Sept. 12, 4 - 6 p.m. Masks required inside the Gallery. Information: highlandartsvt.org, 802-533-2000.

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

Still Life Paintings Exhibited at Highland Center for the Arts

GREENSBORO – Highland Center for the Arts is presenting "Still Life, Life Still" art exhibition, Wednesdays through Sundays, through October 15. The exhibit is open from noon to 4 p.m.

This exhibition features the still life paintings of Mary Ellen Bartley, Kate Emlen, Tucker Nichols, Jon Redmond, and Margaret Sparrow.

Each artist incorporates the elements of the still life - form, color, texture, and composition - in their work. With their craft, they pay homage to everyday objects.

Masking is required inside the gallery.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Around 75 people attended the free concert by Dana and Susan Robinson held on the Cabot Village Common Sept. 2.

World Music Presented on Sept. 19 at HCA

GREENSBORO – Northern Harmony, a collaboration of ten veteran singers in the present ensemble have studied traditional singing styles firsthand with native teachers in South Africa, Corsica, and Caucasus Georgia, and some are leaders of their own ensembles. The singers, all vaccinated, have been in residence for a week in Marshfield preparing this concert program.

Led by Larry Gordon, Northern Harmony is a performing group under the umbrella of the world music organization Village Harmony, which sponsors singing camps and workshops in New England and many parts of the world.

The program presents a mix of world harmony traditions, including South African songs and dances, traditional polyphony from Georgia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Corsica, contemporary American shape-note songs, including new songs by members of the group, and Renaissance Italian devotional songs.

Touring Europe regularly since 1995, the group has won acclaim for its unique repertoire and command of diverse traditional singing styles. Most of the






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The Hardwick Gazette



PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

Opera House Sets Early Season Concerts

BARRE – The Barre Opera House’s (BOH) upcoming season is set and, in addition to the seven shows that made up the BOH’s signature TD Bank Celebration Series, the recently refurbished historic theater has scheduled several “BOH Presents” events, which will be added to as the season progresses.

On September 25, Tom Rush will perform. He has been credited by Rolling Stone magazine with ushering the era of the singer-songwriter. In addition to his own compositions, his early recordings introduced the world to the work of Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, and Jackson Browne.

October 23, it’s “Classic Stones Live.” This Stones tribute band, featuring eight members, delivers all the raw energy of Mick and company’s shows. From the signature sax solo in “Brown Sugar” to the vocals in “Gimme Shelter,” every last detail is captured authentically.

With more than 20 years as a stand-up comedian, Tom Papa is one of the top comedic voices in the country, finding success in film, TV, radio and podcasts, as well as on the live stage. He’s host of the daily “What A Joke With Papa and

Fortune” on Sirius, has appeared regularly on “Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me,” “Live From Here (the rebooted Prairie Home Companion with Chris Thile)” and in February 2020, Netflix premiered Tom’s fourth hour-long stand-up special, “Tom Papa: You’re Doing Great!” He takes the BOH stage on November 12.

With the Celtic high-energy style as its musical core, Nova Scotian band Còig, winners of the 2020 Canadian Folk Music Awards, shift between century-old tunes of past generations to original compositions employing over a dozen instruments (vocals, fiddles, piano, guitars, banjo, mandolin, viola, bouzouki, whistles, and more). The group will offer its holiday concert on December 11, which has sold out



courtesy photo

“We Banjo 3,” two sets of brothers, will perform at the Barre Opera house on January 22.



courtesy photo

The Nova Scotian group Coig will perform at the Barre Opera House on December 11.



courtesy photo

Comedian Tom Papa will be on stage at the Barre Opera House on November 12.

in Vermont in earlier years as part of The Lane Series and at Pentangle Arts in Woodstock.

“We Banjo 3,” a Galway- and Nashville-based quartet, comprises two sets of brothers, Enda and Fergal Scahill and Martin and David Howley, on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bodhran and percussion, propelled by lead singer David Howley. Collectively the group holds over a dozen “All Ireland” titles and their first album took the “Best Traditional Album” prize from The Irish Times. They will perform on January 22.

On February 12, piano virtuoso and acclaimed recording artist A.J. Croce pays tribute to his late father, the legendary folk singer Jim Croce, with “Croce Plays Croce.” A.J. has

put together a set of Jim Croce covers, mixed with his own works and songs that inspired them both. He performs such timeless gems as “Operator,” “You Don’t Mess Around with Jim,” and “Time in a Bottle” (a song written for A.J.), along with music by artists like Lieber and Stoller, Bessie Smith, and many Americana greats.

Recipients of the 2019 BBC Best Traditional Track award and 2019 RTE Radio One award for Best Traditional Track, Best Group, and Best Album, “Ye Vagabonds” perform in Barre on March 5.

Their traditional songs include vocals and tight accompaniment on fiddle, harmonium, mandolin, bouzouki and guitar.

BOH Presents Events include winter appearances by Vermont’s own “No Strings Marionettes.” On January 23, experience “The Snow Maiden.” Mythical figures, animals, and humans from one of Russia’s most beloved folk tales populate this production.

Alan Doyle, the pride of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, whose charisma and sense of humor and solo work will take the BOH stage on February 19, with his “Beautiful, Beautiful Band.”

“One Night of Queen” with Gary Mullen and the Works returns to the BOH by popular demand on April 11. This re-creation of Freddie Mercury and Queen in concert was one of the best-received shows at the Opera House when they were here in 2018 and tickets were gone two weeks ahead of the performance.

The Barre Opera House offers discount to members, seniors, and students. Order online at barreoperahouse.org or call (802) 476-8188. The Opera House is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired. COVID protocols in place at the beginning of the season include both proof of vaccination and masks. These requirements will be reassessed as the CDC and Vermont State Health Department revise their mandates and recommendations.

Comedy Coming to HCA on Sept. 10

GREENSBORO – The Vermont Comedy Divas Initiative, the Vermont Comedy Divas are supporting the funny in all women.

Everyone is welcome. The Divas’ comedy is generally rated to ages 16-plus. This event is rescheduled from August 20.

The program begins at 6 p.m. For more information, see highlandartsvt.org.

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IN THE GARDEN

Do You Deserve a Medal?

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – As I walked around the garden recently with my wife, Cindy Heath, she turned to me and said “Anybody whose gardens looks great at this time of year deserves a medal.” I allowed that we did not deserve a medal. Wanna get the medal? Here are some tips I have come up with.

First, pull any tall weeds. By now a few vigorous weeds can tower over flowers in your garden if you let them. Pull them before company comes if you don’t want to be embarrassed by your sloth.

I have lots of jewel weed (*Impatiens capensis*) in partly sunny to shady flower beds that have rich, moist soil. It is a native plant, but one that can take over if you let it. I recently removed some

Service website, it is one of just a few native plants that can out-compete garlic mustard, a terrible invasive in our woodlands. So, if you have it and have garlic mustard, you might want to let it survive – and enjoy its bright orange and red flowers that I find cheery.

Next on my list, I’d recommend deadheading flowers that have gone by and are looking shabby. I have a huge bed of Shasta daisies in front of our house, but they were in their prime a couple of weeks ago. Cindy cleaned up the flowers with a pair of scissors in just 10 minutes. It made a huge difference to remove all those spent blossoms. There are still many flowers in that bed that look fine, so we didn’t need to cut it all down.

Bleeding heart is a favorite



courtesy photo

Fall asters can be used to add color where you have cut back faded perennials.

leave the plant in them, you need to soak the pots and plants regularly, generally more than once a week. The solution? Plant them in the ground when you can, or put them into plastic, fiberglass, or ceramic pots.

I can’t plant mums where I’ve cut back that big bleeding heart as I would damage the roots if I dug there. But I can place them in a nice ceramic pot and set it gently in the same area as the bleeding heart, though perhaps a little forward or back from the stubs of the stems. Yes, it is work to do so, but it is worth the effort if you have it in a prominent spot that you (and your visiting friends and neighbors) will see.

In the vegetable garden, many plants are suffering from a variety of fungal diseases. Mold and mildew are common and make

but it grows to be over 6 feet tall. I surrounded the big clump with hardwood stakes a month ago and tied string from stake to stake to support it. Recently I tied another tier of string higher up on the six-foot stakes to prevent flopping.

For some things, I can avoid using string by pushing stakes into the soil at roughly a 45-degree angle, two of them in an “X” pattern. I push the flopper up, then support it with the two stakes. For smaller things I use bamboo stakes; for larger, heavier things, like New England asters that can be five feet tall, I use five-foot, one-inch hardwood stakes. Paint them green if you don’t want to notice them.

What about the lawn? By Labor Day it may be looking pretty shabby. I don’t believe any



courtesy photo

Chrysanthemums are nice fall annuals that will add color to your garden. They are readily available.

that was well over six-feet tall. It was in a bed with tall perennials, and I guess it outgrew them to get more sunshine. In other places, where the competition is minimal, it might only get three- or four-foot tall.

According to the U.S. Forest



courtesy photo

“Henry Eiler” Rudbeckia was tied up twice to keep it from flopping.

flower of mine. It’s a big plant that blooms in early summer in either pink or white. But by now the flowers are long gone, and the leaves have turned yellow. What to do? Cut back the foliage to the ground. Don’t wait until fall or frost to arrive, just cut it back now. Do the same throughout the garden.

What can you do with those empty spaces where you cut back flowers that have declined to the point that they needed to be cut back? Depending on the spacing, you might be able to fit in some chrysanthemums or fall asters. These are sold in bud or bloom in pots in grocery stores, farm stands and garden centers. They will bloom for weeks so long as you do not let them dry out. Fall asters are in the same category as the more common mums: inexpensive and lovely for filling in empty places.

Fall mums and short purple asters are often sold in compressed cardboard pots. Unfortunately, these dry out very quickly. If you



courtesy photo

Pull tall weeds like touch-me-nots to make the garden look better.

leaves ugly. The solution? Cut off the leaves. There are usually newer, undamaged leaves, and new leaves on things like squash and pumpkins are still growing. Once a leaf has mildew, you can’t make it look good, so get rid of it.

Tall flowers are flopping over now, particularly if we get a heavy rain. I grow a black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia “Henry Eiler,” that has gorgeous, unusual blossoms,



courtesy photo

Squash leaves with disease should be cut off.

of us should waste water on our lawns. If you have a sunny yard with sandy soil, your lawn may be looking yellowed and dry. Crab grass, an annual that fills in where the lawn is compacted by foot traffic, is declining or dead by now in most places. My solution? Hope for rain and try to avoid looking at the dead spots. Enjoy looking at that medal-worthy garden of yours!

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Few of Us Can Remember the Stories

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Remember the Almanac Singers?

“Now, if you want higher wages let me tell you what to do:
You got to talk to the workers in the shop with you...”

Much obscured by the calamitous news of this past week – Hurricane Ida; the chaos at the Kabul airport; deadly flooding; all-consuming fires in the West; the extended drought that’s finally calling our irrigated agriculture’s chickens home to roost; the abject and dangerous disintegration of Haiti, Yemen, and Nigeria; the massive release of sequestered methane by thawing permafrost in Siberia; the cleverly designed, brutal abortion law enacted by the Texas legislature and Governor – is the reason for the national holiday we’re celebrating this weekend.

“...I better explain why you got to ride on the union train:
...if you wait for the boss to raise your pay,
we’ll all be a-waitin’ ‘til Judgment Day.”

Just as more and more of us can no longer adequately appreciate the sacrifices and heroics of the Second World War, even fewer of us can remember the stories of the bitter, deadly strikes of the early unions protesting starvation wages and hazardous working conditions of – among many others – miners, migrant field hands, textile mill workers, and garment stitchers.

“You may be down and out, but you ain’t beaten
You can pass out a leaflet and call a meetin’
Talk it over, speak your mind
Decide to do somethin’ about it.”



*Lamoille Family
Center*

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Qualifications: Master’s degree preferred in Early Childhood Education or a related field, experience managing & delivering early childhood services, knowledge of early childhood development and its progressive impact on families as well as of local, regional and statewide resources & industry best practices. Must have experience fostering team work, engaging staff in a supportive environment and have excellent administrative, organizational, & communication skills. Position offers a highly competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, a generous paid time off schedule, and single person health insurance benefits.

Please send cover letter and resume to:
Carol Lang-Godin
Lamoille Family Center
480 Cady’s Falls Rd Morrisville, VT 05661
or clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org

Labor Day, the official end of summer for many, sees most of us turning from relaxed time off and facing a year of school, maybe back to the office, and in many ways – symbolic, as well as real – getting in our winter wood. It’s a day of ribs on the barbecue, a last spin around the lake, and a sigh at the sight of the early-reddening sumac and soft maple. But it’s not just a gift that dropped upon us from above. The path to its creation, just like those of Congressional acts guaranteeing civil rights, is strewn with the bodies of men, women, and children only trying to make a living. Just as in our current climate we’re witnessing the desperate legalisms of a threatened patriarchy, the early days of union formation in the United States struck fear into the establishment.

“Now, boys, you’ve come to the hardest time
The boss will try to bust your picket line...
They’ll raid your meetin’, they’ll hit you on the head
They’ll call every one of you a goddam red”

The Almanac Singers’ pro-union and anti-discrimination stance eventually got them targeted by the FBI. They disbanded around 1942 and morphed some years later into the chart-topping Weavers. Just enough of the bad-boy, anti-establishment attitude hung about them to excite Senator McCarthy and weld me and my pals firmly to their side. I still remember to thank them, and all the martyred leaders of the movement, for my life of labor at 40 hours a week, time-and-a-half for overtime, and benefits. Our job now is to improve on, not let slip, what they fought and died for.

“...out at Ford, here’s what they found...
And down at Bethlehem, here’s what they found:
That if you don’t let red-baiting break you up
And if you don’t let stoolpigeons break you up
And if you don’t let vigilantes break you up
And if you don’t let race hatred break you up
You’ll win. What I mean, take it easy, but take it!”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Burn It, Ignore It

To the editor:

Attached is the email I sent to the super, school board, and the Agency of Education. The new Hazen principal told the students on the first day of school that it is ok to burn the American flag and ignore the National Anthem. Many parents and students have confirmed.

Dear Superintendent Adam Rosenberg and members of the Hazen School Board,

Today was the first day of school for my children at Hazen Union. What should have been a great first day was a huge disappointment for my children after listening to the opening remarks of Principal Jason Di Giulio. This opening assembly should have been a time to welcome students, celebrate kindness, embrace each other’s differences, and enjoy another great year at Hazen. Sadly, this was not how the ceremony went. Jason went off on an anti-American speech rally, telling my children and the community’s children that it is OK to kneel, ignore, and even burn the American flag. He also informed our children that

they can disrespect the National Anthem. He rattled off his sexual orientation and poor treatment by the US military as his reasoning for his anti-American remarks. At no point do my children need to know any of this. They are thirteen years old. Another person’s sexual orientation is none of their business. A person that is holding a position of authority above our children should not be forcing their political hate speech upon our children. That is an abuse of power, it is disgusting, and it is manipulating our children into having the same biased mindset. I do not send my children to Hazen to have this way of thinking shoved down their throat. This is disturbing. I posted on Facebook, hoping my children misheard what was spoken and the outrage I’ve received from students and parents is unreal. This needs to be addressed. I am reaching out to the Agency of Education, the Hardwick Gazette, FrontPorchForum and as many public outlets as I can. Jason Di Giulio needs to resign or be fired!

**Monica Billings
Hardwick**

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TVSC Seeking Executive Director

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Twin Valley Senior Center (located in East Montpelier) is seeking an executive director. This position is 30 hours per week and salary is negotiable depending on experience. Responsibilities include program planning, Meals On Wheels, administration, community outreach, fundraising, supervision of paid and volunteer staff, recruitment of volunteers and overall daily operations of the center. Must be able to pass a background check.

We are a team of staff and volunteers who work together to provide the best services possible to our senior community. The services provided make a significant difference in the quality of life of our senior population. This is an opportunity to serve and give back to your community. Come be a part of our team. Someday we may find ourselves in need of these services.

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Position is open until filled. TVSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer
For more information and a copy of the job description contact Denise Wheeler at (802) 456-8730 or via email at cockapoo@myfairpoint.net

Benefits Coordinator

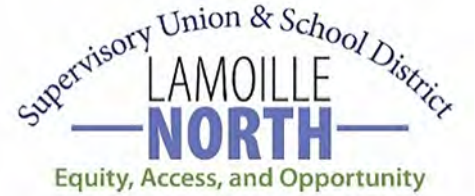
Lamoille North Supervisory Union, located in Hyde Park, is seeking a dynamic and innovative individual to fill our benefits coordinator position. This key member of the human resources team is responsible for benefits administration, managing employee leaves including FMLA, tuition benefit tracking, and a variety of other essential human resource functions.

The benefits coordinator will coordinate open enrollment, respond to employee benefit questions and resolve benefit issues in a timely and friendly manner, onboard new employees regarding benefit options, process benefit enrollment and changes, manage necessary records, perform audits for quality assurance, reconcile invoices and act as liaison with state agencies and vendors regarding employee benefits. The position requires impeccable attention to detail and accuracy with an ability to problem solve and take initiative. The person filling the position will have excellent communication and customer service skills demonstrating discretion and tact. The benefits coordinator strives to continuously improve systems and processes for efficiency and effectiveness.

High school diploma required. Bachelor's degree in a related field and two to three years of experience in Human Resources, or equivalent work experience, is preferred.

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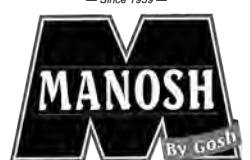
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SPORTS

Richford Clips Chargers with Strong First Half



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Craftsbury's Roean McLellan (#6) wins the ball from Avery Choquette of Richford during play Sept. 3. At left is Dalton Gravel. Richford defeated Craftsbury 4-1.

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – Richford used a strong first half to take down the Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' soccer team last week, 4-1, in the season opener for both teams.

Richford did all their scoring in the first half to outlast the Chargers over the weekend on the road.

First year head coach Sam Jay has taken



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Cole VanWinkle (right) of Craftsbury passes the ball around Richford's Jerrick Jacobs (#3) during play on Dustan Field Friday. In the background are Elis Fernandez (#23), Carter Blaney (#6) and Grayson McNaughton (#3). Richford won 4-1.

over a young and rebuilding program that struggled offensively last fall and admits that there will be an adjustment period as they figure out as a team where players will be best suited position-wise.

"It was an interesting first match and I thought the boys really played well in both halves, but we had all of our speed up front to start and Richford ripped us apart on the back-end and that's on me. We adjusted at halftime

and the results were night and day," said Jay.

Sophomore Dylan Washer put the Chargers on the board midway through the second half in a spirited effort by CA both offensively and defensively. Jas Zendik returned in net for the Chargers with a strong showing after a season at U-32. The up and coming soccer program was ravaged by graduation and transfers last year as they went winless, while scoring only a single goal along the way. Jay sees a lot of athletic potential in his young squad but realizes that it will take small steps, like their strong second half in the loss to Richford, to rebuild confidence lost a season ago.

"With our speed in the back in the second half, the boys were able to build and push forward and they created some really nice chances. I'm really proud of the boys' mental resilience and composure in the second half and it's small victories like this one that we'll use to build on. Were a small school program with a lot of eighth graders and freshman, so they'll be a lot of fluctuation as far as success goes this season. We are exhausting every resource we have as a team to improve every single day and that is a testament to the kids. To become a blossoming flower, you have to start as a green little shoot and that is where we are right now as a team. We have a lot of talented young athletes on this team, though, and they are working hard to grow," said Jay.

Craftsbury is scheduled to travel to Enosburg next Thursday.

Stowe too Much for Lady Chargers in Opener

by Ken Brown

STOWE – Stowe showed why they are the Division III state champions last weekend as they blanked the Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' soccer team in their season opener.

Orly Brant and Iris Cloutier combined to score five goals to lead Stowe to a resounding 9-0 home win over the Lady Chargers on Saturday. Ellie Ortiz also tallied a goal and three assists and Lucia Lovell added a goal and two assists for the Lady Raiders.

"They are just so good and on another level," said head coach Tom Silva. "Their touches and passing were precise and exceptional and that is definitely the best team we've ever played. The girls started out with a lot of energy, but we let a couple soft goals in early and it was an uphill battle the rest of the way," added Silva.

Stowe peppered Craftsbury's defense with twenty-five shots on the day. They barreled through the Division III tournament last fall as a surprising #10 seed and appear to be picking up right where they left off. Emma McIntosh and Parker Reeves made a save apiece to record the shutout. Rachel Bailey was under the gun all afternoon for the Lady Chargers, making 15 stops in the loss.

"It was our first match against an extremely good team, but all in all the girls

kept their head up and fought. Stowe did a great job of bracketing our best players and just shut us down. It is a learning experience and hopefully we can regroup this week and get back to work. The girls have high expectations this season, so they felt pretty down after this one, but Stowe is one of the better programs in Division III and we need to

learn from playing teams like that so we can apply it going forward. We have some injuries to come back from, but we'll get back to practice this week and get ready for some upcoming league matchups," said Silva.

Craftsbury hosted Winooski on Tuesday and is scheduled to travel to Twinfield on Friday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Caitlyn Davison (left) of Hazen and Craftsbury's Haley Smith (right) meet the ball during a soccer scrimmage Sept. 1. Following the play is Maggie Royer (center) of Craftsbury.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Craftsbury's Ida Eames (left) traps the ball as Sarah Collier (right) of Hazen attempts to steal during a scrimmage held on Dustan Field Wednesday. The match ended in a 2-2 tie.

SPORTS

Lady Cats Edged by Oxbow in Opener

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – A shorthanded Hazen Union girls' soccer team ran out of gas late last weekend as they dropped their season opener to Oxbow at Hudson Fields.

Sophomore Tessa Luther scored a pair of first half goals to give Hazen Union an early lead, but Oxbow scored three unanswered the rest of the way to outlast the Lady Cats 3-2 in a Saturday afternoon match. Luther found the back of the net for Hazen Union thirteen minutes into the match on a breakaway and finished a beautiful through ball from Caitlyn Davison twelve minutes later to make it 2-0. Brianna O'Conner pulled Oxbow within a goal with seven minutes remaining in the first half when the Hazen Union defense couldn't clear a corner kick from the penalty box.

"Both teams are pushing through tactical changes for the coming season after adjusting to the losses of seniors, but Tessa did a nice job of capitalizing on our first real opportunity," said head coach Harry Besett. "Caitlyn and Tessa showed great physicality and composure in our second goal and it gave us a huge boost, but

without any substitutions for this match we knew we were in for a marathon and we needed to take every opportunity to conserve energy," added Besett.

Lillian Degoosh found the equalizer for the Lady Olympians with twenty minutes left in regulation and scored the game-winner late in regulation to complete the comeback. Freshman Madeline Kaiser made 14 saves for Hazen Union in her varsity debut. Oxbow made 10 stops on the day in the win as they improved to 1-0 on the season.

"The girls did a nice job of staying organized midway through the second half, but fatigue slowly set in. Our strikers didn't have that extra step to chase down balls late and our defense started to wear down physically and mentally. Oxbow's legs were fresher and they did a nice job of taking advantage of a deep bench. The girls put up a valiant effort without substitutions and we have a lot to build on going into our second match where we hope to have three players off the bench to lean on," said Besett.

The Lady Cats traveled to Blue Mountain on Tuesday and will stay on the road for match-up against BFA-Fairfax on Saturday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen's Baylie Christensen (right) kicks the ball past Richford's Lillian Degoosh (left) on Hudson Field Saturday. Oxbow got by Hazen 3-2.

Trojans Dominate Danville in Season Opener

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – Sophomores Meles Gouge and Brody Moran combined for six goals last weekend to lead the Twinfield/Cabot

boys' soccer team to a decisive win over crosstown rival Danville in their season opener.

Gouge found the back of the net four times and Moran added two goals and two assists as the

Trojans won their home opener on Saturday, 7-0. Lucas Roberts chipped in with a goal of his own and Neil Alexander made three stops on the day to preserve the shutout. Danville's Denver Lindstrom made 11 saves in the loss as they fell to 0-1 on the season.

"They are rebuilding with a very young team, but I have a lot of respect for their program and they'll be a team to be reckoned with in the coming years," said head coach Peter Stratman. "Meles and Brody did a great job of controlling the middle of the field and although we have some new faces in the backfield, the guys did a really nice job of keeping Danville's strikers away from the goal," added Stratman.

The Trojans opened the season without their best defender Alec Moran, who is recovering from injury and, despite playing most of the match without substitutions, were able to dominate possession. Stratman led his program to their first playoff victory in eleven years

last fall and with the early offensive flashes of Gouge and Moran, a fully healthy Trojan team by season's end could lead to a deep playoff run in the Division IV state tournament.

"Meles is just a naturally phenomenal athlete and with Brody's tactical instincts as a soccer player, I think that chemistry will continue to develop throughout the season. The guys did a really nice job defensively in our first match, but we all miss having Alec back there. He is a game-changing type of player with great leadership skills and hopefully his recovery continues to go well and we can get completely healthy as a team. I'm proud of how the guys kept composed in their first match of the season, we moved the ball well, got everyone involved, and it felt good to get the first win under our belt," said Stratman.

Twinfield-Cabot is scheduled to travel to Oxbow on Wednesday before hosting Blue Mountain on Saturday afternoon in Cabot.



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SPORTS



Paralympic Sweep Boat

The Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo Bay was the venue for the Olympic and Paralympic rowing events. A Paralympic sweep boat is pictured coming into the dock after an evening practice run. The rowers (two men and two women) face backwards in the boat. The coxswain faces forward.

photo by Mark McAndrew

Paralympian Rowers Inspire Local Retiree

by Jim Flint

TOKYO – During the last ten days of August, Mark McAndrew of East Hardwick had one of the best jobs in the world. McAndrew arrived in Tokyo on August 20 for the 2021 Paralympic Games. On August 31, he returned home filled with inspiration from the athletes he worked with.

McAndrew, 70, retired from Concept2 in 2017. He had a 28-year career with the Morrisville-based manufacturer of rowing equipment. In 2016, McAndrew represented Concept2 at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The company asked McAndrew to come back for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics to support the athletes who use Concept2 oars.

Concept2 oars are preferred by the majority of Olympic and Paralympic rowers. At the Tokyo Olympics, 97 percent of all medals in rowing were won by competitors using oars built in Morrisville. The oars are custom-made using carbon fiber material and special adhesives.

Each oar consists of a blade, a shaft, sleeve rests, and a handle grip. Any of the components can need adjustment, repair, or replacement. Most of the work that McAndrew did on the oars in Tokyo was during the first three or four days of practice. He also was called on to make final adjustments to the oars right before events.

COVID-19 protocols at the Paralympics were strict. McAndrew took his temperature every

morning and had a saliva test each day. Transportation from the hotel to the rowing venue was by a specific bus. Walkways were one way and there was no sightseeing. He had to remain socially distant from athletes and coaches, yet still work with them.

McAndrew got up at 5 a.m. each day. Breakfast was at 5:30 a.m. He caught the shuttle to the rowing venue at 5:50 a.m. McAndrew was usually the first person to arrive. He stayed at the venue until 5 p.m. then made the 40-minute shuttle commute back to the hotel.

“I did not see a single person without a mask,” McAndrew said. “The Japanese are very good with mitigation. Hand sanitizer was everywhere. I was more concerned about COVID-19 at the Detroit Airport and on my full flight back to Burlington than during my time in Tokyo.”

Twenty-six countries were represented by Paralympic rowers. The United States sent a full nine-member team. Other countries had from one to nine rowers in the competition. McAndrew worked with nearly all the teams and their coaches.

Three Paralympic rowing events were held: Men’s and women’s single sculls, mixed sculls (one male and one female rower), and mixed sweep boats (two male rowers, two female rowers, and a coxswain). Rowers compete according to disability levels. Disability levels are lowest for the athletes in the sweep boats.

All of the Paralympic rowing events are 2,000 meters, which is the same distance as in the Olympic Games. The sculls and sweep boats are 18 to 20 inches wide. In a one-person or a two-person scull, each rower has two shorter oars. In a sweep boat, each rower has one longer oar, which is rowed with both hands.

The sweep boats have a coxswain, who uses a microphone

hooked up to speakers on the side of the gunnels. He or she controls the stroke rate. The coxswain helps to steer the boat by using a cable control connected to the rudder.

Blake Haxton of Columbus, Ohio competed for the U.S. team in the men’s scull event. He is in the PR1 class which represents the most severely disabled athletes. PR1 athletes have no legs

See ROWERS, 19



courtesy photo

U.S. Paralympian Blake Haxton of Columbus, Ohio, finished tenth in the men’s PR1 single scull event. The PR1 class is for the most severely disabled athletes. Mark McAndrew (far right) has provided support for Haxton’s development as a rower since 2014.

SPORTS

Rowers

Continued From Page 18

and little if any trunk functionality. They use only their arms and shoulders to propel the scull forward. A PR1 athlete is strapped to the seat of the scull.

Haxton is a bilateral amputee. During the spring of 2009, he rowed for his high school team and was being recruited to row in college. Tragedy struck. He contracted necrotizing fasciitis, also known as flesh-eating disease. Haxton lost both legs and some of his pelvis, which effectively left him paralyzed from the chest down.

McAndrew has known Haxton since 2014. He first worked with Haxton to adapt a Concept2 indoor rowing machine to meet his specific needs and abilities.

McAndrew ran the para event for the 2014 CRASH B indoor rowing championships in Boston. Haxton won. He went on to Sarasota, Fla., for a developmental camp. McAndrew was there, too.

Haxton continued training and competing. He placed first in both the 2016 and 2021 U.S. trials for men's single sculling. This earned him a place on the U.S. Paralympic teams for Rio and Tokyo.

At the 2016 Paralympics, a

coaching miscommunication resulted in Haxton's oars not arriving at the venue. McAndrew built a pair of oars for Haxton onsite using spare parts. Haxton finished fourth in the men's single sculls.

The level of competition increased for the 2021 Paralympics, Haxton placed tenth in the men's single sculls. He is also competing in the 200-meter sprint canoe event, where he is a medal contender.

Working with disabled athletes at the Paralympics, the Warrior Games, and the Invictus Games, McAndrew has learned to "check his emotions at the door."

"The athletes are focused on what they need to do to do their personal best," he said. "If you focus on that, their disabilities become transparent. You are an extension of their need to get the best out of themselves. That is what has kept me in it."

"The Paralympians are inspiring," McAndrew reflected. "You walk away realizing the remarkable adversity that they have faced. The gift the athletes give is the powerful message of managing adversity. When you focus on what you can do, then you take charge over adversity and are on a path to excellence."



courtesy photo

Rene Campos Pereira of Brazil won the gold medal in the men's PR1 single scull event at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Mark McAndrew of East Hardwick provided technical support for the Brazilian team's Concept2 oars.



courtesy photo

Mark McAndrew of East Hardwick (second from right) provided support for Great Britain's Paralympic team. The four-person mixed sweep team and their coxswain were gold medal winners. The team's coach is fourth from the left.

SPORTS



The Tuesday night league at Mountain View Country Club ended its four-week Legacy Series with a salute to both Roger Brochu and Rian Fried last Tuesday evening. Brochu played in the Tuesday league for many years until he passed in 2017. Fried joined the league in its second year in the mid '80s and also played for a good many years. He passed in 2013.

courtesy photo

Putting Precision Results in Repeat Win

by Patrick Hussey

GREENSBORO – A battle of putting precision decided the August monthly championship held at Mountain View Country Club last Tuesday night as the league also wrapped up its four-week long tribute to former players who have passed.

It was an extremely tight finish, as just over a single putt per man separated first place from last place. A total of 34 golfers turned out for the August championship on Tuesday. In a repeat win from the previous week, the five-some of John Stone, Bill Jenkins, Andy Hunt, Carl Edwards, and Matt Kiley won the monthly championship over six other teams by averaging 14.2 putts per man in the nine-hole event.

It was a perfectly sunny evening as the league completed its Legacy Series, paying tribute to both Roger Brochu and Rian Fried. Brochu was a standout athlete who graduated from Hazen Union in 1974. He excelled in all three sports, including as a tough central back on the soccer teams, a tall inside center for the Wildcat basketball teams and a solid pitcher and hitter for Hazen Union's baseball teams. After graduating, he got a tryout for the Montreal Expos' major league team.

Brochu was also an avid outdoorsman, and both hunted and fished. He was a longtime member of the Tuesday night league until his passing in 2017.

Fried was a local Greensboro resident who started an investment business with partner, Doug Fleer. The two published an investment newsletter called The Clean Yield from their small office across from the post office in Greensboro village. They gained national attention, later specializing in investing in socially responsible companies and helped bring capital to local businesses like High Mowing Seeds and Vermont Smoke and Cure. The Clean Yield investment business he and Fleer founded continues today in southern Vermont.

According to league pioneer Scott Calderwood, Fried retired from softball and took up golf in the league's second year of existence in 1986. His daughter, Dorigen Hofmann, said Rian loved golfing at Mountain View and said one of his greatest pleasures was playing golf in Greensboro. Fried passed in 2013. After Tuesday's round, the players all tipped a glass in memory of the two.

As for the winning group, they were paced by John Stone, who only needed 12 putts in his

Gauthier won closest to the pin on three, leaving his drive just three feet, eight inches from the pin.

round of 39. Jenkins had just 13 putts, Kiley needed 15, and Hunt and Edwards finished with 16 putts each.

In second place, with 59 putts for an average of 14.75, was the foursome of Karl Ferland, Richard Coolbeth, Dave Campbell and Dennis Pudvah. Ferland was the night's putting champion, using just 11 putts despite a three-putt green on six. Both he and Pudvah chipped in on three for zero putts. Then on nine, Coolbeth sank a long chip from 50 yards out to get a zero putt there and help lock up second place. Pudvah ended with 14 putts, Coolbeth 16 and Campbell 18.

There was a two-way tie for third place. Two weeks ago in the Legacy Series, Bear Bessette donated Dona Bessette's longtime putter to former Hazen Union coach Dan Hudson. The putter still has plenty of magic left in it as Hudson used just 13 putts in his round of 41. He joined with Dan Miko, who had 15 putts, and Joe Mulligan, with 17, to finish with 45 putts.

Joining them at an average of 15 putts per man were Dan Gauthier, Brad Ferland, Gary Brochu and Mike Clark. They ended with 60 putts with Gauthier leading the way, shooting a 40 while using just 13 putts. Ferland ended

with 15 as Brochu and Clark both had 16.

John Sperry had the night's low round, firing a 38 with only 12 putts. Rowdy Doyon bested both Karl Ferland and Gauthier by a stroke for the low net, shooting a 43 that netted him a 27. He also had 13 putts, as did Rob Montgomery.

Gauthier won closest to the pin on three, leaving his drive just three feet, eight inches from the pin. Sperry got closest on eight, putting his approach to 13 feet, five inches. On nine, it was Tim Bellavance getting closest with an approach to four feet, one inch.



courtesy photo

The fivesome of (left to right) Bill Jenkins, Andy Hunt, John Stone, Carl Edwards and Matt Kiley, won the August Championship last Tuesday night at Mountain View Country Club. They finished in first place in a battle of putts, averaging 14.2 putts per player to lead all groups. It was the last night of the league's four-week Legacy Series, in which they honored two former players, Roger Brochu and Rian Fried.



courtesy photo

John Sperry (right) shot the low round of the evening last week in the Tuesday night golf league at Mountain View Country Club, firing a three-over 38.



courtesy photo

The Tuesday Night League ended its four-week Legacy Series last Tuesday, honoring both Rian Fried and Roger Brochu.

SPORTS

Cross-Country Teams Launch the Season



Craftsbury cross-country team runners (from left) Leo Circosta, Charlie Kehler, Cormac Leahy and Charlie Krebs practice on Dustan Field last week.



Above: Runners on the Hazen Union cross-country team practice Thursday. Pictured (from left) are Carter Hill, Ella Conside, Khamden Luangrath, Manny Fliegelman, Coach Netdahe Stoddard, Elizabeth Molina, Damian Morrison, Finn Burgess, Eleonora Andrenelli, Marta Mas Garvigo and Jessica Royer.

**Photos
by
Vanessa Fournier**



Noah McKibben (left), Alan Moody (center) and Linden Stelma-Leonard (right) of the Craftsbury cross-country team run during practice Thursday.



Right: Craftsbury cross-country runners Ruth Krebs (left) and Anika Leahy (right) practice last week.



Right: Manny Fliegelman, Finn Burgess, Elizabeth Molina and Evelyn Molina of the Hazen Union cross-country team practice in the school's parking lot recently.

SPORTS

Wildcats Transition to Rugged Capital Division

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys' soccer team will have a new head coach in Allison Paradee and a new home in the Capital Division this fall as they kick off their 2021 season this week.

The Wildcats were 4-4 last season and fell to Mill River in the first round of the Division III playoffs. Paradee replaces Talan Bryant and in doing so became the first female head coach of a varsity boys' program in school history.

"I've been a teacher at Hazen for eight years, so I've known a lot of these kids since they were in junior high. I've thought about getting involved in the athletic program here the past few years, but I never quite had the time. When the position opened up this summer, the timing was right, and I felt seasoned enough here at the school to take on the challenge. I wasn't aware at the time that I was the first female head coach of a varsity boys' program here at the school, but it is always kind of cool to be the first one at something. These kids are amazing

athletes and they've received me well so far. I'm excited for the opportunity and I feel lucky to be their coach," said Paradee.

Paradee's squad lost four seniors to graduation but returns a talented core that includes team captains Reed Kehler and Tyson Davison, along with last season's leading goal scorer, Jadon Baker. Lincoln and Gabe Michaud also return to anchor the backfield and three-sport star Tyler Rivard replaces Ethan Shopland in net.

"Jadon is an amazing offensive player and I think we'll have plenty of support up front around him this year with Reed, Tyson, and Cody Trudeau, who works harder than anybody. Lincoln is a powerful sweeper and Gabe is so versatile that we can put him anywhere back there. Tyler has shown great presence in goal using his size and athleticism. He has no fear and has been a machine so far in practice and scrimmages. We've been focusing on conditioning as well as being more tactical. I want them to play with their heads more, instead of just relying on their raw athleticism. As we

work daily on improving our endurance, sportsmanship, and basic fundamentals, eventually we can mold into the team that we want to become," said Paradee.

The Wildcats leave the Mountain League behind this fall and will enter the rugged Capital Division. It is filled with Division II and III powerhouses but, despite their final regular season record, it should leave them battle-tested for the Division III tournament at the end of the season.

"We definitely have a challenging schedule in front of us, but we need to focus on improving every practice and every game. If the boys continue to work hard on the little things and remember to have fun, we'll eventually come together as a team and they can look back on the season and feel proud themselves for what they've accomplished," added Paradee.

Hazen Union opens up the season at home this Wednesday with their only non-league match of the season against BFA-Fairfax at Hudson Fields.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Sept. 8

4:30 p.m., Twinfield boys' soccer at Oxbow.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.

Thursday, Sept. 9

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer at Enosburg.

Friday, Sept. 10

4:30 p.m., Twinfield girls' soccer vs. Craftsbury, at Twinfield.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer at Harwood.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer at Fairfax.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer at Twinfield.

Saturday, Sept. 11

11 a.m., Twinfield boys' soccer vs. Blue Mountain, at Cabot.

Monday, Sept. 13

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union

Tuesday, Sept. 14

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer vs. U32, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Blue Mountain, at Craftsbury.

Wednesday, Sept. 15

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer at Richford.

Thursday, Sept. 16

4:30 p.m., Twinfield girls' soccer vs. Danville, at Twinfield.

Friday, Sept. 17

4:30 p.m., Twinfield boys' soccer vs. Christ. Covenant at Twinfield.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer vs. North Country, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Danville, at Craftsbury.

Saturday, Sept. 18

2 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer at Winooski.

Monday, Sept. 20

4:30 p.m., Twinfield girls' soccer vs. Enosburg, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Oxbow, at Craftsbury.

Tuesday Sept. 21

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer at Fairfax.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer vs. Oxbow, at Craftsbury.

Wednesday, Sept. 22

4:30 p.m., Twinfield boys' soccer at Craftsbury.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer at Thetford.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Twinfield, at Craftsbury.

Friday, Sept. 24

4:30 p.m., Twinfield girls' soccer at BFA.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer at Oxbow.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union girl's soccer at Oxbow.

Saturday, Sept. 25

4:30 p.m., Twinfield boys' soccer at Danville.
11 a.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer at Burke.

4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Enoburg, at Craftsbury.

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer at Montpelier.

Tuesday, Sept. 28

4:30 p.m., Twinfield boys' soccer vs. Christ Covenant at Cabot.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boy's soccer vs. Randolph, at Hazen Union.

Wednesday, Sept. 29

4:30 p.m., Twinfield girls' soccer vs. Blue Mountain at Twinfield.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer vs. Danville, at Craftsbury.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.

Friday, Oct. 1

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' soccer at Lamoille.

Saturday, Oct. 2

3 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer at Danville.
3 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer vs. Richford, at Craftsbury.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

4 p.m., Hazen Union girls' soccer vs. Winooski, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' soccer at Missisquoi.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' soccer vs. Northfield-Williamstown, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' soccer vs. Winooski, at Craftsbury.