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Wednesday, July 2, 2025

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Volume 136 Number 27

Rodgers, Harple Share Legislative Updates

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Lt. Governor John Rodgers and Representative Leanne Harple joined residents of Craftsbury, Greensboro, Albany and Glover, Saturday, June 28, for a discussion at the Highland Center for the Arts about outcomes of the 2025 legislative session and what lies ahead. After a time to ask questions, former State Representative Katherine Sims led a hands-on activity to help attendees understand the legislative process and how to help make their voices heard in Montpelier.

Liz Steel moderated the event, attended by about 30 people and organized by the Greensboro Communications Working Group and the Craftsbury Freedom and Unity Committee.

Rodgers spoke first sharing that what he hears most from Vermonters is that the state is too expensive, particularly when it comes to

education, housing and healthcare.

The state “hasn’t gone far enough, fast enough,” he said, telling a story about a local

See **UPDATES, 4**

Sims Presents Workshop on Legislature

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Katherine Sims presented a workshop, “How to Follow and Influence Your State Lawmakers” Saturday, following the legislative update program with Lt. Gov. John Rodgers and Rep. Leanne Harple.

She began with an overview of the legislature’s work, what role it plays between national and local governments,

See **WORKSHOP, 3**



Vermont Lt. Governor John Rodgers (from right), former Rep. Katherine Sims and Rep Leanne Harple mingle with attendees before a gathering where Rodgers and Harple shared comments and answered questions about this year’s legislative session.
photo by Paul Fixx

Buffalo Mountain Property Proposed for Community Forest

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The Thursday, June 26 select board meeting began with Rachel Kane, co-chair of the Hardwick Conservation Commission (HCC) telling the board Ken and Chris Davis have listed 318 acres off Wright Farm Road, that the HCC is interested in purchasing. Kane said the trust for public land and the Northern River Lands Trust (NRLT) are ready and willing to assist the town in acquiring this land to create a community forest. Paul Soho of NRLT was also present.

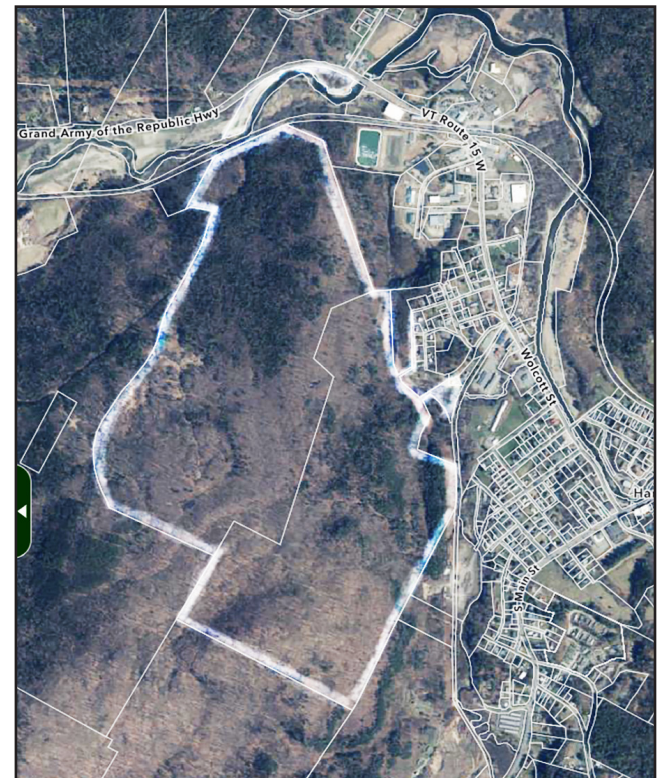
“I believe I speak for most Hardwickian’s, we really love this little mountain as a backdrop to our town. I believe there would be a lot of support for conserving it for public use. We have an amazing opportunity to acquire this land at minimal cost for the town through the assistance of this trust for public land and the NRLT” Kane said.

NRLT recently assisted the Town of Wolcott in creating their own community forest. The role of the trust for public land is in obtaining grants to purchase the land at fair market value, crafting a conservation easement with the town. Ultimately the land is given to the town.

“A significant part of creating a community forest in this way is the decisions on what uses and activities will be allowed on the parcel, which are decided by the town. It could be recreational trails, it could be hiking and biking, it could be nature trails.” Kane continued, saying these things would be decided later on in the process, with a town steering or stewardship committee. She informed the board there is a slight urgency, as some grants have a deadline in the fall.

“This really is an extraordinary opportunity to create a lasting gift to this town,” Kane concluded. The board agreed to put an item on the next meeting agenda to further discuss the

See **FOREST, 5**



The highlighted sections show the Buffalo Mountain Davis properties proposed as a town forest.
courtesy Vermont Parcel Viewer

Independence Day Festivities Scheduled July 3 - 5

by Alex Strand

AREA TOWNS – The Fourth of July is fast approaching in the Northeast Kingdom, with an expected forecast of cooler temperatures and no rain. Below are a few activities available to residents and visitors in the area later this week.

The annual Craftsbury block party takes place beginning at 4 p.m. on July 3, rain or

shine, continuing through a fireworks show at dusk. A free barbecue, music and kids activities are featured, with T-shirts for sale.

The Cabot 4th of July parade kicks off at 11 a.m., on Main Street. There is a rummage sale in the Cabot School gym, a book sale in front of the Willey Building and an open house at the Cabot Historical Society. The parade, hosted by the fire department, includes awards

See **FESTIVITIES, 5**



Volunteers lift a wall of the Habitat for Humanity duplex home, June 24, in Greensboro Bend.
photo by Karen Gowen



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WEATHER WATCH



McAllister Farm cows are grazing along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Friday afternoon. photo by Paul Fixx

Fourth of July Weekend Starts Mild and Sunny; Some Rain Sunday

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Part-two of the heat continued after the last week's publishing deadline and multiple observing stations saw record highs on June 24.

A record high temperature of 93 degrees was set in Montpelier, shattering the old record of 89 set in 1995. Similarly, St. Johnsbury broke its old record of 95 in 2003 with a new 96-degree high for the day.

By Thursday, conditions cooled to below seasonal normals for much of the remaining forecast period, with highs in the low to mid-70s. A swath of rain associated with the arrival of another arriving warm air mass advanced over northern portions of the area on Saturday night and Sunday morning with a large precipitation gradient. Areas south and east of Hardwick reported less than a quarter inch of rain, while parts of East Hardwick, Greensboro and Craftsbury totaled half an inch.

Today's forecast starts with intervals of sunshine as the northeast remains in-between frontal systems. Highs will generally be in the mid-80s. The next cold front approaches Thursday, with scattered showers and thunderstorms midday on, a few of which may be strong with gusty winds. The front exits Thursday night, but a lingering

upper-level low provides enough instability for scattered showers to occur Friday afternoon under cooler conditions. Saturday looks to be the weekend's highlight.

Perfect Independence Day weekend conditions exist for Saturday with mostly sunny skies and highs in the 80s. Sunday will be even warmer with highs in the low 90s, and precipitation chances will be woven in with steady rain possible early Sunday, followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Skies will otherwise be partly cloudy. Another cold front approaches very late Sunday night which will drop temperatures to near seasonal normals once again by early next week. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. High: 84. Low: 59. Wind southwest 5-10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon, some with gusty winds. High: 83. Low: 53. Wind southwest 5-10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Scattered afternoon showers. High: 70. Low: 48. Wind northwest 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny. High: 85. Low: 64. Calm wind.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Rain early, then scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High: 90. Low: 68. Wind southwest around 5 mph.



July 2 - July 8

All Garden Seeds 20% Off		Friday, July 4-6, all mens and womens clothing and footwear 20% off. Socks 25% off.	
Poland Spring 24 Pk. .5 Liter Water \$3.99 405.6 oz.	LaCroix 8 Pk. Sparkling Water \$3.79 96 oz.	Fever Tree 4 Pk. Mixes \$4.79 27.2 oz.	
Kellogg's Assorted Cereals 2/\$6 8.8-16.1 oz.	Prego Pasta Sauce \$2.79 24 oz.	Prince Pasta 4/\$5 12-16 oz.	
Bush's Baked Beans 2/\$5 28 oz.	Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$5.49 15-30 oz.	Vlassic Pickles 2/\$5 16-32 oz.	
Jet Puffed Marshmallows 2/\$3 12 oz.	Hershey's 6 Pk. Milk Choc. Bars \$5.49 9.3 oz.	Nabisco Graham Crackers \$3.49 14.4 oz.	
Keebler Town House or Club Crackers \$3.29 12.7-13.8 oz.	Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese 2/\$5 6-8 oz.	Newman's Fruit Drinks 2/\$5 59 oz.	
Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream \$3.99 16 oz.	Hood Ice Cream \$2.99 48 oz.	
Northwest Dark Cherries \$2.89 lb.	Welch's Red or Green Seedless Grapes \$2.99 lb.	Bi-Color Corn \$2.69 6 ears	

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Media Log

June 22: Suspicious Event, Cherry St.; Mental Health Incident, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, Caspian Ave.; Medical, Maple St.; Medical, Riverside Terrace; Assault, Woodbury St.

June 23: Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Lamaille Rail Trail; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Lower Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; VIN Verification, Caspian Ave.; Traffic Stop, Upper Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

June 24: Medical, Bunker Hill Road; Mental Health Incident, High St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Assist – Agency, High St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

June 25: Fingerprints, High St.; Assist – Public, Riverside Terrace; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist – Public, Lower Cherry St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15-Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Junction Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Medical, Maple St.; Assist – Agency, Spring St.; Directed Patrol, Scott Road; Suspicious Event, Perry Lane Hill; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.

June 26: Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Accident – Injury to Person(s), Craftsbury Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.;

Assist – Agency, Spring St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, Houston Hill Road; Assist – Public, High St.; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Highland Ave.; Suspicious Event, Baker Hill Drive; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Moor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16.

June 27: Assist – Public, Maple St.; Background Investigation, High St.; Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.-Terrace Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Medical, Lower Cherry St.; Suspicious Event, Craftsbury Road.

June 28: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.-Farr St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 14.

June 29: Juvenile Problem, Houston Hill Road; Recover Stolen Vehicle, Spring St.; ATV Incident, W. Church St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

June 30: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Mackville Road.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Ten people used AWARE services between June 22 and June 29. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is (802) 472-6463. A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in

preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

Hardwick Police Stolen Vehicle

Tina Colbeth reported to Morristown Police Department that her gold Ford Escort was stolen from her Morristown residence sometime during the night of June 28. On Sunday, June 29, at 1:45

p.m., Hardwick Police recovered the stolen vehicle at 122 Spring St. in Hardwick. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Morristown or Hardwick Police Department.

Vermont State Police Two-Vehicle Crash

NEWBURY – On June 29, at approximately 6:10 p.m., Troopers from the St. Johnsbury Barracks responded to a two-vehicle crash on Railroad St. in Newbury. Troopers arrived and determined Samuel Mattson, of Marshfield, was traveling west on Railroad St. while driving a 2009 Harley Davidson FXDL. Mattson failed to navigate a corner and crossed the center line, entering the eastward

lane of travel. Cole King, of Newbury was traveling east in his 2019 Chevrolet Silverado when Mattson entered his lane, resulting in a collision.

Troopers were assisted by members of Woodsville Ambulance and Wells River Fire Department. This crash remains under investigation and criminal charges are expected, pending the conclusion of the investigation.

Workshop

Continued From Page One

two-year Vermont legislative biennium timeline looks like for passing legislation and how Vermonters can influence their representatives.

Sims' shared the focus of federal, state and local governments, with state government being responsible for election laws, education funding, state roads, health care, housing, environmental regulations and business licensing, she said. Zoning, town roads, school boards, public libraries and municipal property taxes fall to towns.

Sims' explained the work of a legislator that doesn't end when the January to May session is over and how public servants in state departments work under the direction of the governor year-round. She said Summer is a time for legislators to participate in study committees, offering opportunities for constituents to build relationships with them. Fall is a time to meet legislators in your district and attend community forums, she said. When the legislature is in session, between

January and May there are opportunities to visit the state house, testify and call or email representatives. During election years, she suggested asking candidates where they stand on issues.

Nancy Hill expressed her appreciation for Sims' explanation of the timing of the state's legislative biennium, saying, "after 80 years in Vermont, this is new to me." Education about it should happen in schools, she said.

Sims' walked everyone through a timeline of how a bill can become a law, saying that roughly only 10 to 15 percent of bills ever become law.

She then offered a breakdown of the many ways to communicate with legislators: by email, a phone call, mail, in-person and by giving testimony to committees and social media, with the most effective being in-person where relationships are built. Most importantly, she said it's best to be brief, specific and respectful, say you're a constituent, share a personal story and make a clear request. Don't send form letters with no local connection or get aggressive or partisan, she said.



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Updates

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Center Road issue on a buildable lot where the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) stood in the way of issuing a permit because the planned driveway passed through a wetland.

“We can’t call everything a wetland if we’re going to solve the housing crisis,” said Rodgers.

Harple said she was glad for the great attendance and agreed with Rodgers about the housing crisis, noting that the solution requires infrastructure that most small towns don’t have.

She then turned her attention to the education bill, H.454, because of her experience as a teacher and serving on the House Education Committee, saying “there is lots of concern among Democrats” about it. The bill creates a group to propose three maps with school districts of approximately 4,000 students each from which legislators will be asked to select one. Most of the rest of the education bill will not be able to go forward if the redistricting step cannot be agreed upon.

Harple said her definition of “equity is having a school in your community” and the state’s tech centers are valuable. “Now that H.454 has passed, I don’t want to see it fail, though I am a bit skeptical,” she told the audience.

“The cell phone free bill passed” to keep them out of all schools, she said, expecting it will reduce power struggles between teachers and students.

During the question and answer period that followed Dr. Renée Rossi noted more of those in the room were older and Greensboro has the oldest average age of any town in the state. She said not a lot of younger people are civically engaged and wondered about solutions.

Rodgers said “We’ve failed to create an environment in which high school graduates can live the American dream.” It’s about demographics, with many young people leaving the state, he said. “We need to spend more to attract young people into trade school,” creating opportunities for apprenticeships, “engaging middle school kids in technical careers.”

Harple offered a different perspective, saying, “young people are engaged and need to be asked to participate” in civic activities.

In response to a question from Mary White about flood mitigation and treating tradespeople better, Rodgers said there’s a stigma faced by trade school students, but it’s a viable career path, incurring less student debt. He also mentioned the work of Migrant Justice and that groceries would be more expensive without migrant labor.

Harple said she thinks the tide is turning, with schools celebrating students who attend Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) and go into tech. careers. She added the regular state budget included some funds for flood mitigation.

David Kelly brought up the subject of wakeboats, with Rodgers saying he supports

bans on most lakes and Harple agreeing, except to allow them on Lake Champlain, with the state adding an option for towns to ban them. Rodgers noted “it’s a rich person’s sport, with wakeboats costing over \$100,000. Rodgers said people can make comments on the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) website and ask others to do so, in response to a question from Charlie Peck.

The questions wrapped up with a comment from Scott Rhodewalt about how to share wealth in a more equitable way, particularly with the amount spent nationally on the defense budget and war. Rodgers bemoaned the state’s disheartening lack of influence on federal policy. “Vermont income taxes are fairly progressive now, but people can go elsewhere and income sensitivity is benefitting some who hide their income,” he said.

Harple came back to the education tax, suggesting more progressive taxes would result if non-education expenses incurred by schools were shifted out of the education budget to the general budget. She wrapped up her comments saying there’s a mental health crisis in the last five years that requires attention.

As some of those gathered left, or took the opportunity to talk directly with Rodgers and Harple, about 20 people stayed as Sims shared her observations about the focus of federal, state and local governments.

Organizers provided a wide range of refreshments at the event.



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Forest

Continued From Page One
process and requirements.

Town manager David Upson reported contracts for the damaged retaining wall underneath the pedestrian bridge have been sent to CCS construction.

Transitioning to public works, he reported around 210 feet of sidewalk has been completed. Parts of the repeater have been installed on West Hill for the police department. A heat pump must be installed for the repeater building, however.

The Hardwick Electric Department (HED) report was delivered by Michael Ambrosino, who told the board there will be a public informational hearing July 2 about the pending rate increase. "We hate increasing rates, but as you know, go to the grocery store and there's much less you can buy with what you have, we ran into the same problem with everything we do."

An engineering study is looking at Wolcott hydro dam repairs needed after the second flood. Ambrosino said they're not committing to spend any more on the hydro plant until they receive the results of the study, having already spent probably over a million and half dollars on it.

He said HED is close to ratifying the union contract with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), which will help set rates for the next two years. "It's good for us

because we have a lot of new people, and we want to keep them in the place that we've hired them. They're good people, so we're pretty happy about that."

The department has completed their Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Ambrosino explained it outlines the long term effects of growth and where the department can make improvements.

He said HED is exploring options to better inform the public about outages, because as of now customers are directed to "a site that doesn't have anything."

He also said they are working on customer relations, specifically for new customers.

"It's been a sticking point about how much they have to pay up front, what they get, what if they don't go ahead. So we're rearranging how that happens so that initially when customers come to us, they're not going to hear 'we can't talk to you until you pay us money.'"

Concluding his report, Ambrosino made a special mention of former chairwoman Lynne Gendanken. "I just want to give a shout out to Lynne, she's done a great job. I'll miss her legal interpretation of things," he said. Gendanken has decided not to run for another term a commissioner when her term ends June 30.

The 2025 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was adopted, with the board thaking Zoning and Floodplain Administrator Kristen Leahy for her

continued work on the plan. "It is her baby. We couldn't have done it to this level without her, without the support of the consultants, Neighbor to Neighbor . . . I think this is a very robust local emergency management plan, and it's much needed," said Upson. "I'm so looking forward to not putting it into place," he joked. Chair Eric Remick thanked everyone present, saying "That was something we were shown we needed, twice."

Leahy told the board there will be a free flood recovery writing workshop on July 10 and 17, then another workshop July 7 about flood mitigation and modeling. She encouraged the board to have at least one attendee present in person, as the workshop will serve as a foundation for future decision making.

Leahy said they have closed on flood buyouts for two more homes, one on Vt. Route 14 and one on Sawmill Lane. She expects to close on two more properties from the same locations in July.

The whole of Leahy's update is available via the town website, as well as her regular written report.

The board heard from members of the Hardwick Planning Commission (HPC), recommending it adopt the 2025 Better Connections Plan as an addendum to the Hardwick Municipal plan. Moreover, the HPC

stated they support the dedication of the 2025 Better Connections Plan to the late Meredith Holch, who passed away recently. The board approved both motions unanimously.

In other business, the board approved a second class liquor license for Dollar General. A manufacturers tier-one small cultivators renewal was approved for All Bliss Cannabis LLC.

An informational poster from the Department of Families and Children will be hung on the wrought iron fence on main street for two weeks, for potential foster parents.

The board reviewed and approved the audit engagement proposal by Sullivan Powers & Co., a tax preparation service located in Montpelier.

Irving Fuels bid was accepted for FY26 heating, oil, propane and diesel purchases

The banner application for Circus Smirkus, from August 8 to August 17, was unanimously approved.

Three people have applied for the director of public works position. The board appointed Shari Cornish as a representative for the first round of interviews. After further discussion, the board entered executive session, including Library Trustee Daphne Kelmar and Business Manager Casey Rowell.

Festivities

Continued From Page One

entries. Entries can win for being cheesiest, most historic, most patriotic and for a judge's choice.

Greensboro's Funky Fourth celebration will take place at 10 a.m. on July 5. The parade will include Bread and Puppet Theater, a lawn mower brigade, floats, politicians, cows, horses, dogs and more. A free community picnic will follow the parade, with an accompanying

farmers' market on the lawn below the town hall. There will be a silent auction and dunk tank, with all proceeds going to the Hardwick Area Food Shelf. The Vermont Philharmonic will cap off the celebration at the Highland Center for the Arts in the evening with a free concert.

In West Danville, Joe's Pond will once again set off fireworks at 9 p.m. on July 4. Viewing is available from the community beach or by personal boats.



New patches on the Vt. Route 16 pavement through Greensboro Bend have not yet had new lane marking applied, Friday, June 27.

photo by Paul Fixx



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Plainfield's cooling center was staffed by volunteers Keith Swann, Alex Forbes, Josh Pitts and Sequana Skye during the June 23 and 24 heat advisory, with local temperatures approaching 100 degrees. *courtesy photo*

June Heat Wave Ends School Year Early, Tests Emergency Response

by Paul Fixx

AREA TOWNS – Calais Elementary School students got a surprise ending to the school year when an extreme heat forecast for Monday and Tuesday, June 23 and 24 caused the Washington Central Unified Union School District to announce the closing during the school day on Friday, with Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate writing “This means that today is our final school day and all students will be out for the summer. It has been a wonderful year and we appreciate the hard work and learning that our students have done this year. . . Thank you and have a safe summer.”

In Greensboro, Karl Stein, the town's health officer, who serves on Hardwick rescue and with the Medical Reserve Corps, and Helen Beattie with Hardwick's Neighbor to Neighbor, joined with Keisha Luce, director of Highland Center for the Arts to prepare and open that facility, as a cooling center, staffed with volunteers, during the

heat advisory.

Visitors to the facility were offered food and cool drinks during their visit and had the opportunity to take in the art show on the gallery walls, or use Wi-Fi to connect to the internet.

Transportation was offered from Hardwick through Kristen Leahy at the town office there.

Stein said they were prepared to provide space for up to 500 people to sleep overnight at the HCA, with its backup generator, if power failed.

In Hardwick, the library welcomed visitors to its air conditioned space during its regular hours.

Plainfield's Town Hall Opera House opened as a cooling center from 1 to 6 p.m. both days, with Wi-Fi, an accessible bathroom, and comfortable chairs and tables.

While the cooling facilities were only lightly used, the events gave emergency response networks, created after the last several year's floods, an opportunity to test their ability to respond, said Stein and Beattie.

New Commissioner to be Appointed, Estimation Fee Dropped

by Alex Strand

HARDWICK - Hardwick Electric Department's (HED) June 24 meeting began with approval of previous minutes. General manager Sarah Braese announced that the Town Select Board would be appointing a new commissioner, and commissioner Roger Prevot's final meeting will be the July Select Board meeting. Submissions of letters of intent for the position were due June 30.

The Board changed a policy that required customers to pay \$250 for a project's cost estimate. Before requiring the customer to pay the \$250, they will provide information about the project to help them make the decision about going through with the project,

including general estimates. The motion to change this policy passed unanimously.

Braese presented information on the dam assets and general manager reports.

The board then moved into executive session, as requested by Commissioner Lynne Gedanken. Braese, Controller & Business Office Supervisor Beth Es-sary and Attorney J. Scott Cameron were invited to this session, and no action was taken afterwards.

Gedanken then requested an executive session for a personal matter. After the session, no action was taken, and the meeting adjourned.

The next HED meeting will take place July 22 at 6 p.m.



Volunteers have placed first floor walls for the Habitat for Humanity Duplex Home in Greensboro Bend last week. *photo by Alex Strand*

Walls go up on Habitat for Humanity Duplex Home

by Alex Strand

GREENSBORO BEND – The Greensboro Initiative of Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity® put up the walls and windows on an affordable duplex home in Greensboro Bend on June 24.

The project broke ground May 1, and they expect to complete the duplex within the second half of 2026. As of now, they are running about three weeks ahead.

The walls are made of Benson wood, and the entirety of the project is designed to be energy efficient. They expect to add the roof

by the end of this week.

“We have had tremendous support from several entities,” said Rick Ely, a member of the project's steering community. About 55 businesses and individuals have donated to the project.

Public fundraising is about to begin for the project. A generous donor has agreed to match the first \$25,000 worth of donations. For information on volunteering with the project, contact Jenny Bayles at (802) 533-2959 or email her at jenniferbayles@gmail.com. To donate, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/centralvermonthabitatforhumanity>.

Town Reappraisal has Property Owners Asking Questions

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – At a recent select board meeting, member Danny Hale said he'd been asked a question about how the amount of a property owners reappraisal will affect their taxes. The answer, that tax assessments won't double because a property value doubles, because the board anticipates a significant decrease in the tax rate, didn't fully address the question. In Hardwick, a budget increase of roughly 10 percent factors into tax rates too.

Property owners were mailed reappraisal notices just over a month ago and have now had a chance to meet with representatives from New England Municipal Consultants (NEMC), who serve as Hardwick's assessors and the reappraisal contractor for the Town of Hardwick in 2024, as they had in the 2006 and 2016 reappraisals.

Over the course of 2024, property inspections were conducted. More than half of all improved parcels throughout the community were inspected to verify the

data, according to NEMC in the 2024 Town Report. "NEMC received a great deal of cooperation from the community over this past year and looks forward to the culmination of the project." Inspections continued into the spring of 2025, with notice mailed to each property owner in mid-May.

An informational hearing process has been underway, in addition to the annual grievance appeals process. Instructions regarding the informal process were included in the mailed notice.

According to Town Clerk Tonia Chase, grievances regarding assessed value are now being heard.

Kathleen Sampson said she and her husband Steve, had stopped in to talk with the assessor after the appraisal on their home had increased by \$107,300, from \$115,300 to \$222,600, an increase of 93 percent and said, "They were really good. I felt we'd been given a fair appraisal."

The FY26 Hardwick Grand List (a total of all property values) was estimated in the 2024

Town Report to be \$331,000,000, roughly a 65.1 percent increase from the FY25 grand list value of \$200,471,500.

Those with an increase above 65.1 percent are seeing an increase above the average. That alone doesn't indicate whether taxes on that property will rise or fall.

The Hardwick Town budget increase for FY26 adds 10.6 percent to taxes on each property, so anyone with an increase in property value above about 49 percent will see their taxes attributable to municipal and highway taxes rise.

Details of the figures won't be finalized until the Grand List is finalized, about mid-July, which is also when education tax rates and the local agreement taxes (based on the cost of tax agreements for reduced taxes approved by the town) will be received by the Town Clerk, after which tax bills will be sent to property owners.

Taxes on a \$100,000 home last year were \$1,527. Taxes on a \$100,000 home this year will be approximately \$1,023, but home values increased by an average of 65.1 percent. A home that increased by the average would now be worth \$165,100 and the taxes in the coming year will be about \$1,688.97, or 10.6% higher

To determine whether your home value increased by more or less than the average, multiply your 2024 grand list value by 1.651. If that number is lower than your property's new grand

list value, your property increased by more than the average. If it's higher, your value increased by less than the average.

To determine whether your taxes for the coming year will go up or down, multiply your 2024 grand list value by 1.4927. Your taxes will go up if your new value is higher, they will go down if it is lower.

In determining when a reappraisal is required, a measure of current assessment value compared to recent market sales that have occurred in the community, called the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), is used; It indicates, on average, how close to market value the town's property assessments are. In 2024, that figure, at 67.29 percent, was low enough to trigger the reappraisal, which is required when that figure drops below 80 percent, or above 120 percent.

Another figure, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) measures how equitably property assessments are distributed within a town based on the accuracy and consistency of assessments based on sales data. A COD above 20 percent means many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less. Hardwick's COD in 2024 was 24.26 percent. A COD below 10 percent is considered very accurate, so Hardwick was clearly due for reappraisals to bring property values into line with values that had risen during the pandemic and since the last reappraisal nine years earlier.



Joe Nudell gathers edible chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) mushrooms, said to taste like chicken when cooked, from a dying tree on the Hardwick Trails with a small group that stuck around following a walk he led Saturday, June 28. Mushrooms can appear suddenly, feed humans and animals, sometimes send human minds spinning, have a vital relationship to the trees around them and truly are unique organisms.

photo by Catherine Siefert



Joe Nudell picks violet toothed polypore (*Trichaptum bifforme*) mushrooms during a walk he led on the Hardwick Trails, June 28. This mushroom grows in layered groups on stumps and logs of deciduous wood where hundreds of them can eat away at tree stumps and logs, decomposing the dead wood.

photo by Catherine Siefert

Complaints Allege Senators Violated Ethics Rules

by **Corey McDonald,**
VTDigger

MONTPELIER – Ethics complaints filed with the Vermont Senate against Sens. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, and Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, allege they used their positions on a critical committee negotiating the final form of a wide-ranging education bill to advance provisions that benefited the private schools they are associated with.

Beck, the Senate minority leader, is employed as a teacher at St. Johnsbury Academy. Bongartz, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, served almost two decades on the board of Burr and Burton Academy.

The complaints, filed with the Senate's Ethics Committee by Friends of Vermont Public Education board member Geo Honigford, allege that both senators violated ethical standards set forth in state law by negotiating this session's major education reform bill in a committee of conference, which was charged with reconciling differences in the House and Senate versions, despite their associations with private schools, called independent schools in state law.

The Legislature passed the bill June 16, and Gov. Phil Scott is expected to sign it into law.

Honigford, in an email to Senate Ethics Committee members, wrote that the two senators "used their positions to advance provisions that directly benefited the schools they are associated with."

"I believe this crossed a line," Honigford wrote. "Vermonters should be able to trust that lawmakers are working in the public interest, not using their influence to benefit their employers or clients."

Beck, in a phone interview, brushed aside the alleged conflict, saying that "every senator has a connection to their school districts, to their schools."

"They're going to advocate for their schools. I would expect nothing less," Beck said. "That's what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to represent and advocate for our area. I'm no different than that."

"I do happen to work at a school, but there are other people

in the Legislature that work in schools, and we defend our schools and we defend our districts and our towns that make up those districts," Beck added.

Bongartz, meanwhile, in a phone interview, called the complaint filed against him "complete garbage" and an "amateurish attempt at intimidation."

"I just think that bringing this level of attempted intimidation to Vermont politics is something I thought I'd never see in this state," he said. "This is just beyond the pale and completely baseless."

He added that the "problem is that I understand independent schools, I understand the critical role they play in the areas they serve, and they don't like that."

"They don't like the fact that I'm an articulate voice for something that they don't like," he said.

Earlier this month, Bongartz, Beck, Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, and three House members served on the Committee of Conference that shaped the final contours of H.454, the landmark education reform bill set to transform the state's public education system.

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

The final version of the bill requires that a task force set to craft new school district boundaries include at least one option that maintains the current supervisory union and supervisory district administrative structure, which would support the continuation of historic tuitioning arrangements with independent schools. In a press release announcing the ethics complaints, the Friends of Vermont Public Education alleged that both senators either fought against, or advocated for, changes that would benefit the independent schools they work for.

Bongartz, for instance, fought to set the threshold for public tuition eligibility for independent schools at 25 percent, "a number many observers couldn't explain," the release said.

The organization noted that Bongartz, through his company, Gubb and Bongartz Nonprofit



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

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

Consulting, worked on behalf of the Maple Street School in Manchester in 2021. This school, "one of his clients, has 33 percent of its students publicly funded," the release reads.

"A higher threshold, like the 51 percent number proposed by the House, would have cut off their public dollars," the group alleged in their press release. "The lower threshold preserved them."

Bongartz in an interview said he has not had any professional contact with the school since his work was concluded in 2021.

Beck, meanwhile, pushed for increased funding for independent career and technical education centers and high schools, including a provision allowing independent schools like St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndonville Institute, which operate such centers, to set their own tuition rates for public school districts who send students there, according to their release.

No similar language applies to public high schools with career and technical education centers in

the bill, though the legislation does not specifically address how the amount paid to them will be set. Legislators plan to take on that task during the 2026 session.

"St. Johnsbury Academy stands to lose significant taxpayer support under the bill's new funding formula," the release reads. "Beck's efforts helped insert carve-outs and funding increases that will cushion that impact and protect the school's revenue." Beck downplayed that allegation, saying that he was simply "advocating for the status quo."

Public and independent career and technical education programs in Vermont are allowed to set their own tuition rates, he said.

"If I had gone in and tried to get something new, like some special good deal for St. Johnsbury Academy, maybe that would be a different story," he said. "But, effectively, all I was advocating for is the status quo, which is that they get to be able to set their tuition as a CTE center, just like a public school CTE does."

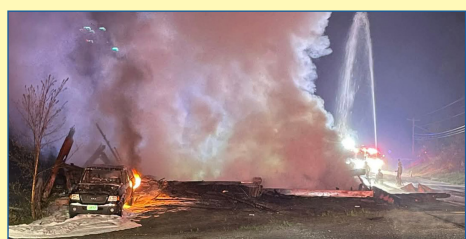
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EDITORIAL

All People are Created Equal

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, I'm recalling the first Independence Day, July 4, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the separation of the 13 American colonies from Great Britain. While not a law in the traditional sense, it articulates the philosophical and political justifications for independence, including Enlightenment ideals and grievances against the British monarch.

Almost 250 years have now passed and the first principle of that declaration continues to guide us, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [now people] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The country has expanded its view of who now has those unalienable rights as the years have passed; to former slaves, indigenous people, women, foreigners, those with all gender identities, those with disabilities, and others. Essentially recognizing that "all" actually means everyone as long as they don't infringe on the unalienable rights of others.

We leave government to do the infringing, and this one, in less than six months, has turned DEI on its head, tested the outer limits of protections afforded to immigrants and those seeking asylum here, has canceled funds approved by earlier congressional acts and now stands prepared to reduce funding for programs that support many of the most vulnerable Americans, while extending tax cuts that mostly benefit the rich. And, many provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act being considered in Congress as I write this, won't take effect until 2028, just in time for the next President to be blamed.

I'm further reminded of the Declaration of Independence section saying, "Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

Creators of this document could not have seen the future, where many in Congress loudly protest the loss of civil rights across many classes of people, including the deportation of both foreign nationals and citizens, without the due process to which the U.S. Constitution and legal precedent entitle them. They certainly saw the disposition to suffer, while it's sufferable.

As this Independence Day approaches, look at your friends, relatives and fellow citizens, as you remember, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

On Friday, July 4, the 249th anniversary of the day we remember then, ask yourself whether they are suffering and whether you can take personal responsibility for it.

Do you consent to being governed as you are being governed?

If not, recall further, "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it."

Paul Fixx, editor

LETTERS FROM READERS

Obliterated

To the editor:

Obliterated: the right of the people through their elected representatives to decide if their country should go to war.

Obliterated: the independence of Congress as a separate branch of government which has the sole right to declare war. The servile minions who took an oath to defend the Constitution failed to do so, preferring to kowtow to a vengeful megalomaniac to avoid being primaried.

Obliterated: Trump's campaign promises not to embroil America in foreign wars.

Obliterated: the truth, eviscerated by hyperbole and devious language. To describe an unprovoked attack on a sovereign nation, which is illegal under international law, as a "one off," or a preemptive strike to force peace, also illegal in this situation, is 1984 totalitarian double speak at its worst.

**Bob Hawk
Walden**

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Welch Amendments to Tax Bill Aim to Protect Health Care, Support Rural Hospitals, Food Assistance Programs

by Sen. Peter Welch

WASHINGTON, D.C. – I have proposed changes to President Trump and Senate Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which will pay for tax cuts for billionaires by kicking millions of Americans off Medicaid and closing rural hospitals, cutting food assistance programs and tanking the economy.

My changes to the Republican tax bill would protect Vermonters' access to health care, food assistance and other critical programs. The proposed changes include provisions to prevent harm to rural hospitals, strengthen access to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, block cuts and policies that weaken the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other food assistance programs, protect home energy

efficiency tax credits and the home efficiency workforce and support federal public defenders.

My changes to the Republican budget resolution will protect access to health care and support rural hospitals. I have proposed requiring the Finance Committee to rewrite the bill to prevent harm to rural health care and the fiscal wellbeing of rural hospitals; proposed requiring the Finance Committee to exempt managed care programs operated by state governments like Vermont from any changes proposed to state directed payments; requiring the Finance Committee to strike any changes to provider taxes, including changes that would impact states like Vermont with Medicaid expansion; requiring the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to make it easier to verify eligi-

bility for the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits, and expand special enrollment periods under certain circumstances.

Other amendments to defend food assistance programs, proposed requiring the Agriculture Committee to strike any cost-shifts of administering SNAP to states, which would kick American families off the food assistance they need and strain state budgets; proposed an amendment to strike administrative cost-shifts for SNAP; proposed an amendment to adjust the Thrifty Food Plan for cities, counties, and regions where the price of food is 10% higher than the national average; proposed an amendment that places a floor on SNAP allotments to households instead of a ceiling; proposed requiring the Agriculture Committee to rewrite the bill to allow volunteer work to qualify under SNAP's work requirements.

Another amendment to protect programs and government services proposed requiring the Finance Committee to rewrite the bill to maintain the energy efficient home improvement tax credit at current levels through 2028; proposed an amendment to strike the repeal of several

home energy efficiency tax credits, including credits for home energy, rooftop solar, energy efficient homes for homebuilders, and more; proposed striking language in the bill that would rescind funding for state-based contractor training grants, as required in my HOPE for HOMES Act, passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act; proposed striking language in the bill that would institute taxes on international remittances.

I have proposed an amendment to dedicate funding for residential reentry centers, which are needed in Vermont and an amendment to dedicate funding for the federal public defenders program, which is currently underfunded.

I have been an outspoken opponent of the Republicans' tax bill, the OBBBA, which Republicans are advancing through a reconciliation process without Democratic support. The bill threatens access to health care and cuts food assistance, and I have sounded the alarm about how this bill will add more than \$4 trillion to the national debt and tank the economy.

U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.) is a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Copley Birthing Center to Close Nov. 1

To the editor:

In the coming months Copley's Birthing Center will continue to welcome new families and babies until the planned closure date of midnight November 1.

Last week we shared the difficult news that the Copley Birthing Center would be closing later this year. In the coming days our birthing families, who are impacted by the closure date, will receive information to help guide them through our transition.

Some patients will deliver before our Birthing Center closes. Some patients will deliver after our closure date. They will need to decide if they wish to continue to receive their prenatal care at Copley and select one of our partner hospitals for their birth experience, or transfer all of their pregnancy related care to another hospital.

It is important to know Copley is committed to continue to provide prenatal and postpartum care in the Women's Center, even after the Birthing Center closes. A transition working group comprised of clinical staff, including a midwife and an OBGYN, are working out the

details on which specific services we will continue to provide at Copley, and work with our partner hospitals to ensure a seamless, complete and safe birthing experience.

We are committed to supporting our current patients who will deliver after our closure date by providing resources such as support for transportation. We thank you for your unwavering support of our teams in the Women's Center and the Birthing Center. We honor the deeply personal and lifelong relationships that are formed during one of life's most meaningful moments.

The Copley Women's Center will continue to welcome current and new patients for women's healthcare including prenatal and postpartum care, annual exams, screenings, contraceptives, family planning, menopause care and gynecological surgery.

Copley is Lamoille County's nonprofit community hospital. Copley's core services include emergency services, diagnostic imaging, general surgery, orthopaedics, and women's health and pediatric services. In addition, Copley provides a variety of specialty care, including cardiology, oncology, pulmonary medicine, neurology, and rehabilitation on its campus in Morrisville. Copley has been named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital and one of the Top 50 hospitals in New England based on patient satisfaction. For more information, visit www.copleyvt.org

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ANOTHER OPINION

We're About to Find Out, Yet Again, How Terrible the Legislature's Ethics Regime Truly Is

by John Walters

EAST MONTPELIER – Hey, look: Somebody filed an ethics complaint against two state senators!

We wouldn't know this, of course, except that the complainant announced the action in a press release. You'd never hear anything about it from official sources, because the Senate's ethics process is a black hole from which no light can ever escape. Likewise the House's process, but that's another story.

The complaint was filed by Geo Honigford of Friends of Vermont Public Education. The targets, familiar to devotees of this here blog, are Sens. Seth Bongartz and Scott Beck. Honigford points out that both men have strong affiliations with private schools receiving public tuition dollars, and both lobbied aggressively for the interests of those schools in recent negotiations over public education reform.

I suppose you could think of Senate President Pro Tem Phil Baruth as an unnamed co-conspirator, since it was Senate leadership that chose to install Bongartz and Beck on the House-Senate conference committee on education reform. Or maybe his right hand, Senate Majority Leader Kesha Ram Hinsdale, could be included as well. She must have had a role in choosing two pro-private school senators to the committee.

Oh wait, Ram Hinsdale is chair of the Senate Ethics Panel, which will consider Honigford's complaint. Right, right, probably best to leave her name out of it.

It'll be simple for Ram Hinsdale to stuff a pillow over this complaint until it gives up the ghost, because the Senate Ethics Panel is not answerable to anybody outside of the Senate itself.

Stop snickering, I mean it.

The panel receives complaints. It doesn't release *any* information about the complaints; it doesn't even publicly acknowledge *receiving* complaints. Its meetings are behind closed doors. The only information about its deliberations is in a brief report filed at the end of each biennium, which does not identify complainants or the accused or offer any information about what they're accused of doing.

The report for 2023-2024 is three paragraphs long. It lists seven complaints received. One was referred to the Senate Sexual

Harassment Panel, so we can infer that it had something to do with sexual harassment. Four "were dismissed and closed" by the Panel because "there was not probable cause" to proceed. Two were received last October and were "kept open for possible further consideration" as of December 31, 2024.

That's it. That's all we know. Honigford's complaint will be reduced to an equally vague sentence in the Ethics Panel's next report, due on December 31, 2026.

And the next thing Honigford can expect to hear is . . . nothing. Well, nothing about the proceeding itself. I know from personal experience; I was, to the best of my knowledge, the first person to file an ethics complaint against a legislator, and I didn't hear boo from the House Ethics Panel until it had completed its consideration, which apparently consisted of a private meeting with the target of my complaint. I was not notified of the meeting or given the opportunity to testify or present evidence beyond my complaint. The only thing I got was a letter after the fact, informing me that the matter had been closed.

I suspect that Honigford harbors no illusions that his complaint will get anywhere. That's why he issued his press release: to get the matter before the public eye. And he got what he wanted: both Vermont Public and VTDigger posted stories about the complaint.

The House and Senate panels have very high bars for ethical violations. You can't be guilty of an ethical breach if you introduce or advocate for a bill that serves your interests, unless you uniquely benefit from passage of a bill. Say, for instance, you're a lawmaker who's also a political blogger. You'd be in the clear if you introduced a bill that exempted bloggers' income from state taxes, or gave them a generous property tax exemption for home office space, unless the bill were written in such a way that you were the only one who benefited, or benefited to a unique and demonstrable degree.

As far as can be told, neither Bongartz nor Beck would gain any direct fiduciary benefit from H.454. That's not true for the institutions they have served long and well; those institutions will benefit significantly if H.454 goes into effect.

But according to the Legislature's own standards, that's

not an ethical violation. I expect Honigford's complaint will wind up as a statistic in the Senate Ethics Panel's enumeration of complaints "dismissed and closed by the Panel." But at least Honigford will have brought the issues surrounding Bongartz and Beck's activity into the light, and that's a worthwhile outcome in itself. And the most we can hope for, given the Legislature's attitude toward its own ethics.

John Walters is the sole author of The Vermont Political Observer, readable for free (but donations cheerfully accepted) at thevpo.org. Walters has had a long career in print and broadcast journalism. He's been an observer of Vermont politics since 2011, including a three-year stint as political columnist for Seven Days. He lives in East Montpelier with his loyal spouse, two house rabbits and two cockatiels.

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VOICES OF SPIRIT

Living Fully is all About Love

by Virginia Lapierre

MORRISVILLE – A few weeks ago, in the space of 24 hours, I received both the joyous news that my first granddaughter was born and later the heartbreaking word that my father had died. Having both of these life-changing events happen so close to each other has been an incredibly powerful experience for me.

The profound love and joy I felt for my granddaughter's birth was matched only by the profound love and grief I felt at my dad's passing. Life and death, joy and grief, gain and loss, it has been a lot to process. As I have continued to reflect on these experiences, I have yet to find enough words to explain everything that I have felt and thought over the last few weeks. The one word that I seem to come back to when talking about either event, is love.

Loving and caring for my dad at the end of his life was similar to loving and caring for my grand-

daughter at the beginning of hers in many ways.

Neither person could get around by themselves or take care of their basic needs.

Neither one could communicate clearly or be reasoned with when caregivers couldn't understand what they wanted.

And neither my dad nor my granddaughter, at these vulnerable times of their lives, could consciously give us anything in return for the love and care we showed them. And yet, the time I spent caring for my dad and my granddaughter was such a precious time to me. Why? Perhaps because it allowed me to personally experience the kind of love that God has for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by grace you have been saved." Before we could worship Him, before we could give Him our time

or money, before we could go to church or say a prayer, God chose to love us by making a way for us to be with Him. The most well-known Bible verse of all time, John 3:16, says just that: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Most people reading this article will not have gone through the exact same experience that I have just had, but I would bet that everyone I know can relate to it in some way. The beautiful moments in nature or with family and friends fill our hearts with joy and wonder. The uncertainty, loss and suffering in our own lives, or what we see on the news every day, brings us such sorrow and heartache. What if the secret to walking through both types of moments is to do so in love?

When life is easy and beautiful, can we express love and gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us?

When the days are hard or

scary, can we hold tightly to the love that God has for us and trust that He will see us through?

And when we see suffering or injustice in the world, rather than be discouraged or let it rob us of our joy, can we bravely speak out against evil and serve others in love?

Paraphrasing Jesus' words in John 15:35, love is the hallmark of a Christian life, and everyone will know who his true disciples are when they see the love we have for each other.

I can no longer take care of my father, and it won't be long before my granddaughter will be able to take care of herself, but there will always be people around me who are hurting or lonely or in need of love.

As long as I am able, may I continue to show God's love every day.

Virginia Lapierre is a deaconess at the Lamoille Valley Grace Bretheran Church, Morrisville.

WEEKS GONE BY

HARDWICK CAMP, M. W. A. TO CELEBRATE FOURTH

From the Hardwick Gazette, July 2, 1925

Home Town Celebration With a Good Baseball Game and Sports At Prospect Park in Afternoon.

A great many towns have their plans practically perfected for the observance of the glorious Fourth of July, with interesting programs of various kinds and forms, but none without a ball game. The Hardwick Camp, No. 7519, M. W. of A. [Modern Woodmen of America] have decided to stage a home town celebration, with not an elaborate program, but with few sports, such as foot races, potato and three-legged races, throwing baseball, etc., and it is hoped a tug-o'-war will take place at two and three o'clock at Prospect Park on July 4th—next Saturday, to which everybody, but more especially those who have not made any definite plans as to where they would go, and to those who plan to remain at home, whether in this town of or any of the nearby towns, are most cordially invited to come to Hardwick on the. Fourth and help the Woodmen properly observe this day.

There will be two prizes each for the potato race, the three-legged race, the 100-yard dash, the circling of the bases in the quickest time, throwing a baseball at a mark back of second base. Prizes have been donated

by the different merchants in town.

Just a word now in regard to the present M. W. of A. baseball team, which is really the town team. It has been decided to confine the personnel of this team to M. W. of A. members, especially when playing strictly Woodmen Camp teams, and when playing other teams its equal.

Baseball is conceded generally to be the great national game of this country, and to make an effort to revive it in Hardwick, is the object of the M. W. of A. in organizing the team it has, with George T. Angell as manager. The Camp will not under any circumstances pay any officer, member or player any salary for services, neither will it secure a position for outside player, who may desire to play on this team, but the Camp does solicit the applications for membership in the Camp and thus secure players, who have an equal chance with others to try for positions on the team. It is the intention in thus stating this position taken by the Camp that it means to try and give the fans some good baseball this summer, and that it means business it has assumed the debt on the uniforms of the old town

Special for the Fourth

Bunting, per yd.....	6c
100 Prs. Ladies' White Shoes.....	29c pr.
More Overalls.....	98c pr.
Lot Ladies' Hats.....	29c ea.
Turkish Towels.....	11c ea.
\$5.00 Ladies' Sweaters.....	\$1.98 ea.
\$4.00 White Skirts.....	49c ea.
More Fibre Silk Hose.....	10c ea.

**Hundreds of other Bargains
for Friday**

at the

Surprise Store
C. B. CROFT, Prop'r

Hardwick, Vermont

and manager ask of those interested is their hearty support. Some of games will be played on Saturday afternoon, others during midweek, starting at about 4:30 o'clock, and playing at least seven innings, an on midweek it will give the merchants and clerks, whose places of business close at five o'clock during the summer, an opportunity of seeing a home team with all local players in games against visiting teams. Will the fans do this much for baseball in Hardwick?

We realize that it is quite a little distance to the park, but how long does it take for an auto to take you there? Two to five minutes, and no need to have to walk. The West End entrance only, should be used in entering the grounds and the Wolcott Street exit in leaving the grounds.

Everyone is invited to attend the Fourth, take part in the sports and have a regular home town celebration of the same kind. Ice cream and soft drinks will be serve on the grounds.

Let's go!

The M. W. of A. team expects now to play the Fletcher team in that town next Sunday afternoon.

team, and therefore it asks the support of local fans.

Several of our neighboring towns are having a baseball revival of the strictly local-player proposition and it is having its good results. The local manager is doing all possible to secure a good schedule of games and is securing several dates for the near future, and all the Camp

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

What if an Alien Species . . .

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – In midsummer, the sun works its way around to the back of the house and a little before sunset floods the back porch with light and heat. This evening is no exception. Hot as it is, though, I know I’ll miss it when in a few weeks it slips out of sight around the northwest corner of the house for another 11 months.

It’s very quiet in the yard, with rain moving softly toward us from the Adirondacks. There’ll be some thunderstorms in it, which’ll have Kiki lying under my desk till the booms go away and the rain stops dripping from the eaves. Even the song sparrow that’s nested somewhere in the dooryard and filled the daylight hours with its sort-of music seems subdued.

I can never use the word, “dooryard,” without thinking of my mother. An incurable romantic and amateur poet, she nurtured lilacs and loved “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” the lament for the assassinated president. She didn’t make too much of it, as Whitman’s sexual proclivities were severely frowned upon in our family; but she shared it with me and kept a copy of it hidden among the pages of a book of poems by Kipling (approved by the guardians of family morals).

Earlier today I was sitting back and enjoying the song sparrow’s enthusiasm, when there was a contribution from a bird I didn’t recognize. I fired up my cell phone, activated the treasured Merlin app, and asked it for an identification. Yellow warbler. Huh. Nice to have it around. And it got me thinking again about something that’s kept popping up in my head for decades now.

What if an alien species from a planet without flying creatures were to arrive on Earth some summer day and notice all the obviously animate objects flitting about, perching, calling, and taking off again? Whatever would they make of them? These people, they’d likely be thinking, can just fly from place to place.

If they’d arrived about 65 million years earlier, they’d have seen the flying creatures’ ancestors, great reptiles that scaled down after the asteroid collision and started over. Those who doubt this narrative should take a look at a newly hatched great blue heron or sandhill

crane chick. Ontogeny does indeed recapitulate phylogeny.

What would we make of our world if suddenly it were bereft of birds? The loss might be felt less in the metastasizing urbs and strip malls of much of modern America, but out here in the hinterlands it would be grievous. I’ve already felt it a bit as our insects have begun to disappear, because the phoebes which used to drive me nuts by nesting on the light fixtures in the garage, over the back door, and even on the hinges of the casement windows, are gone. I spotted one flicking its tail on the ridge of the garage this spring, but that was it. My cars don’t seem to mind not being spotted with white poop, but I miss them and their little high-pitched calls.

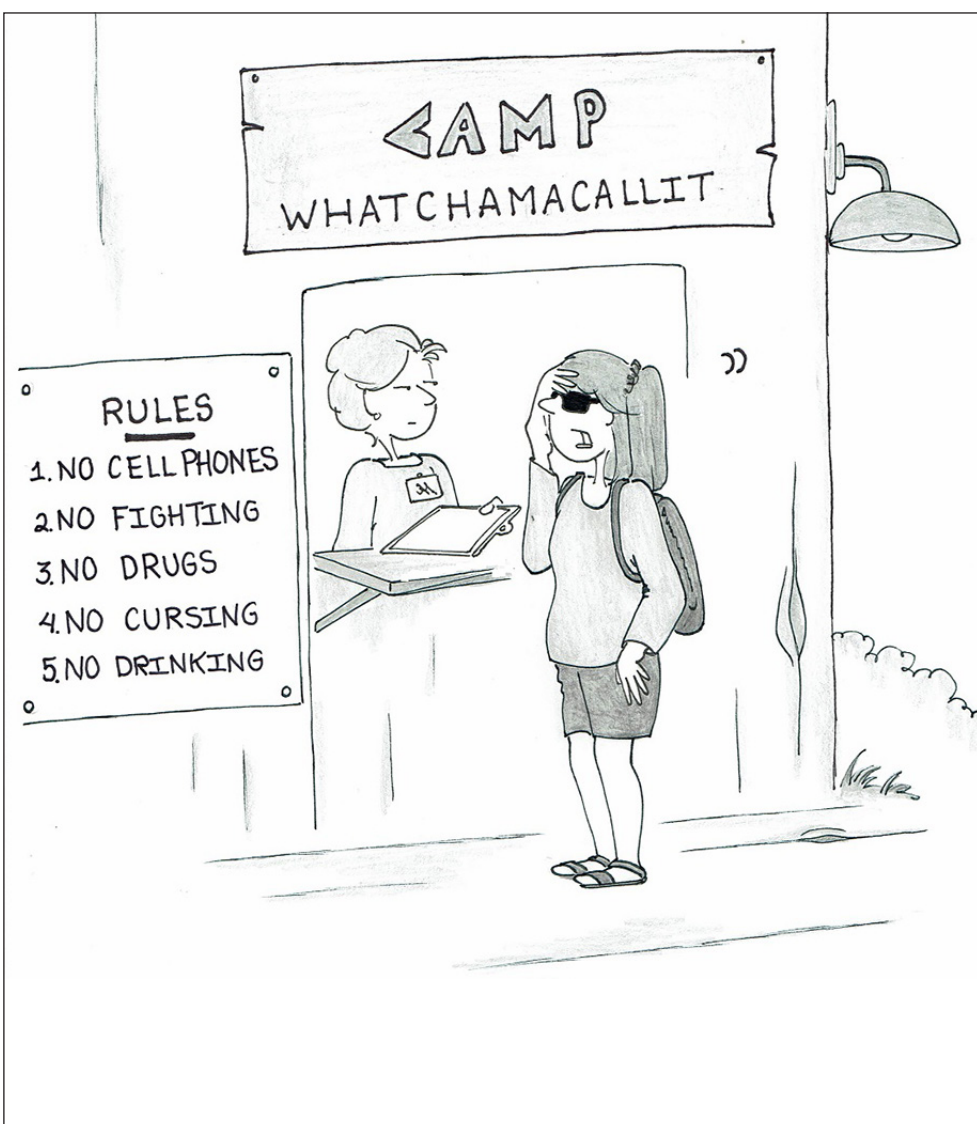
My childhood home was in an Albany neighborhood of brownstones converted to “flats” about two blocks from the state capitol. There still were lots of horses then, delivering everything from bread and milk to ice. This meant there was lots of horse manure in the streets, which in turn meant there were lots of sparrows working it over for bits of oats. Pigeons, too, that roosted in the cornices of old buildings. I picked one up one day; it had a broken wing from a collision with a car. I kept it in a large cardboard box until it was healed and ready to go. That pigeon came back every few months, perched on my shoulder for a while, and left again.

We moved to Syracuse a few years later, on the edge of what seemed a vast green infinitude. The choruses of crows, shouting warnings from elm trees as we kids tiptoed across cow pastures on our hunts for big brown trout in limestone-saturated brooks, became an almost constant background. The brooks, the trout and the elm trees are all gone now. But I’m sure the crows have adapted somehow.

There’ve been so many birds over the years: the barred owl in my swamp constantly asking, “Who cooks for you?” and getting Kiki growling; a pair of sandhill cranes whose eerie cries carried for miles across tundra on Victoria Island at 71-degrees north; a flock of common terns, approaching at eye level like old torpedo bombers to protect their island rookery; wild turkeys foraging through my backyard.

It’s difficult to imagine a world without them. The result, if I’m successful, is bleak beyond belief.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“I’M STILL TRYING TO DIGEST RULE NUMBER ONE!”

MEETING MEMO

<p>Wednesday, July 2 Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, July 3 Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, July 8 Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st Floor. Information: (802) 249-6004, Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.</p> <p>Wednesday, July 9 Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Town Clerks</p> <p>Cabot: cabotvt.us Calais: calaisvermont.gov Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com Greensboro: greensborovt.gov Hardwick: hardwickvt.org Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net Walden: waldenvt.gov Wolcott: wolcottvt.org Woodbury: woodburyvt.org</p>
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IN THE GARDEN

Milkweed is not a Weed at All

by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

NORTHFIELD – Milkweed may seem like a weed because of its name, but it’s actually an incredibly important plant.

The leaves of milkweed are the primary food source for monarch caterpillars. The flowers provide nectar for the adult monarch butterfly and countless other pollinators and insects.

The monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), Vermont’s state butterfly, is a species at risk with a declining population due to loss of habitat, climate change and other factors. Planting milkweed and protecting existing milkweed can help support this species.

Milkweed can grow in a wide variety of environments from roadsides and abandoned lots to the edge of fields, meadows and even in manicured gardens. This native, perennial powerhouse is an adaptable plant that should be embraced in almost any landscape.

One easy thing to do to encourage milkweed to grow is to only mow what is really needed to use. Leaving infrequently mowed meadow areas provides an opportunity for milkweed to flourish. Cutting back to mowing once per year, or once every few years, is a great way to do more good by doing less.

Another thing to try when milkweed appears in a garden is just to leave it and let it grow. Try to get used to the idea that even if you didn’t plant it, it could be beneficial, so you can leave it in certain sections of the garden.

When milkweed is happy, it tends to grow in colonies, so try to embrace this as well. It is providing many benefits by being there, perhaps more than other common ornamental plants.

Milkweed can also be sown as plants, plugs or even by seed. There are multiple species of milkweed that are adapted to different conditions.

Buy milkweed plants from local nurseries that sell native plants or order seed online from native plant nurseries. Try to find seed that has been collected as close as possible to your area to support local plant genetics.

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) grows in a variety of conditions from dry to medium-wet soils in full sun. It tolerates poor soil and can grow into large patches by underground rhizomes. This species grows two- to three-foot tall, and about 12 inches wide. Its pink-mauve clusters of flowers are fragrant and showy.

True to its name, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) grows in medium to wet soils, but can tolerate some variation. It grows 3- to 4-foot tall, preferring full sun. This taller milkweed has thinner leaves than common milkweed, and it also likes to naturalize.

While lovely and highly attractive to pollinators, gardeners should reconsider planting the orange-flowered butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) in gardens. It has been added to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife’s list of “Rare and Uncommon Native



Swamp milkweed, which is taller with thinner leaves than common milkweed, grows best in full sun and medium to wet soils.

photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Vascular Plants of Vermont,” which means that planting butterfly weed with genetics from other parts of the U.S. may interfere with local genetics of this threatened species. However, if this plant is already in your garden, there is no need to pull it up.

Together, with little changes

in landscape maintenance and mindset, we can help protect and build habitat for the monarch and many other important pollinators and insects.

Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape architect from Northfield.



The leaves of the milkweed plant are the primary food source for monarch caterpillars.

photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue



Hazen Union Drama Club students Will Helms (left) as the Magistrate, argues with Sadie Gann (right) as Lysistrata about a women’s role in the war during “Lysistrata,” performed June 16 and 17, at the Hardwick Town House. In back (center) is Malakai Bigelow-Talbert as Athenian.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

OUR E-MAILS

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IN THE GARDEN

Helping to Keep Gardens Healthy

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Every gardener wants a healthy, productive garden whether they're growing vegetables, berries or flowers. While some problems are outside our control, there are a number of things to do to help keep a garden healthy all summer long.

Start with healthy soil. Have a soil test done. Taking a sample is easy, and the test is inexpensive.

While testing soil before planting is ideal, it can be done at any time. The results can tell about soil pH, available phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), micronutrients and more. It will recommend nutrients needed to benefit the plants so there is no waste of time and money applying unneeded fertilizer.

A soil test will also recommend amendments that can be added to soil before or after the growing season. For more information, see go.uvm.edu/soiltest.

The second thing to consider is light. Most edible crops require full sun for at least six to eight hours daily. Low light can result in slower growth and lower yield. If a yard receives insufficient sunlight for the plants to grow, consider switching to an elevated bed or containers, which can be set up in the best growing location.

When purchasing starter plants, it's easy to underestimate how much space they will eventually need. Plant according to their mature size to allow sufficient room for growth.

Overcrowding in the garden makes plants compete for available water, nutrients, room to grow and light. One plant may block the sun from others. Overcrowding may make plants more susceptible to diseases and other problems and make it difficult to spot them early on.

Be sure to take into account a plants' need for water. What nature provides may be sufficient for an in-ground garden, but when



When putting tomatoes and other starter plants in the garden, allow enough space between plants to avoid overcrowding, which may lead to competition for available water, nutrients and light and increase susceptibility to diseases and other problems.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit



When watering crops such as blueberries, a good, deep soaking is more beneficial to plants than frequent, shallow watering.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit

growing in raised beds or containers, or during dry periods, supplemental watering can make the difference between a healthy garden and a lack of flowers or poor harvest.

When watering, a good, deep soaking is more beneficial to plants than frequent, shallow watering. As an alternative to manual watering, drip irrigation can help conserve water through less evaporation, get water to the roots where it's needed and help keep the soil's moisture level more consistent.

Applying a layer of mulch on the surface can help retain moisture in the soil. In addition, mulch can help keep soil and roots cooler during excessive summer heat.

Mulch will also help discourage the growth of weeds and can make those that do appear easier to pull. Weed regularly, before they get large enough to compete

with what you're growing. Never let weeds go to seed.

Create a compost pile to recycle yard waste and kitchen scraps. Compost can also be used as topdressing to help suppress weeds as an alternative to other types of mulch. For more information on composting, see go.uvm.edu/the-dirt-on-compost.

For those who need help identifying or dealing with a problem or just have a question about home gardening, consult the volunteers at the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline. Call (802) 656-5421 (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) or submit questions online anytime from April to October at [/go.uvm.edu/gardeninghelp](http://go.uvm.edu/gardeninghelp).

Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.



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THE OUTSIDE STORY

Study Shows Native Cherry Trees Better Support Native Moths



Promethia caterpillar



Promethia Silkmoth

by Vermont Center for Ecostudies

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Native plants are great and all, but what if all they have at the garden center is a closely related, non-native species imported from Asia or Europe? Will it matter to our insect friends if you fudge the sourcing just a little bit?

For a research paper published in May in the open-access journal *Ecosphere*, Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) staff biologist Desirée Narango and her co-author Katherine Straley decided to find out.

Together they reared more than 950 *Promethia Silkmoth* (*Callosamia promethea*) caterpillar larvae, which specialize on *Prunus* trees and shrubs (cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines, apricots and almonds) in the Northeastern United States. They raised caterpillars on leaf material from 14 different *Prunus* tree species commonly found in Massachusetts, from both trees growing wild (whenever possible) and cultivated landscaping trees (like street trees). They also included *Prunus* species native to Western Massachusetts, species native to other North American ecoregions, and species native to Europe and Asia, plus two non-*Prunus* plants as controls. They put this material into little aerated containers with the larvae and watched what happened.

The results were clear: tree species identity does make a difference.

The larvae grew slower, were smaller, and had higher mortality on non-native species such as Okame Cherry (*P. incisa*), Red-leaf Plum (*P. cerasifera*) and Sweet Cherry (*P. avium*). The larvae had the highest performance on their preferred host, Black Cherry (*P. serotina*), a native species commonly found in Western Massachusetts. That held true even if the tree was planted and not wild. Encouragingly, the caterpillars also fared similarly on other local Western Massachusetts and non-local (i.e. Canadian or coastal) native cherries like Fire Cherry (*P. pensylvanica*), Chokecherry (*P. virginiana*), Sand Cherry (*P. pumila*) and Maritime Plum (*P. martima*).

Narango and Straley believe the high performance on Black Cherry is due to its more ideal foliar nutrition, such as higher foliar water and nitrogen content, or lower defensive compounds. The non-native species commonly used in the Northeast might also be a poor substitute for native caterpillars because they have a foliar chemistry that our native species are not adapted to feed on. In addition, gardeners have selected for tree species that are pest-resistant and actively deter insect feeding, inadvertently reducing resources for beneficial native insects.

These results are not just relevant to *Promethia* moth

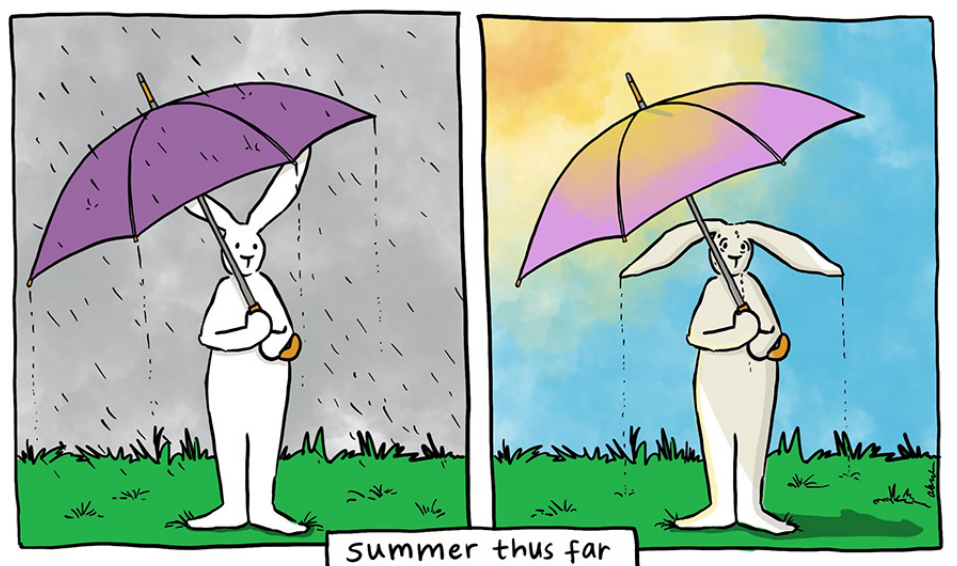
populations, but also bird species, since caterpillars are a critically important food resource for insect-eating birds. Moreover, while the *Promethia Silkmoth* doesn't feed as an adult, and so isn't a pollinator, Narango believes these results have implications for other specialized caterpillar species that grow up to be pollinating butterflies and moth species. In their paper, Narango and Straley call for more studies that compare insect performance on native, near-native, and non-native species, to help inform what species we select in landscaping and restoration to support biodiversity conservation.

What does that mean for your garden or urban planning? First, if you want to see one of these beautiful moths around try planting native Black Cherry. Second, if you

want to support insects and birds more generally, stick with your local native plant species whenever possible, and never buy “pest-resistant” plants from nurseries that use systemic pesticides. Finally, the data so far suggests that it's okay to experiment with species from nearby regions, especially as we see warming average temperatures and altered soil conditions in our cities and suburbs.

Narango did this research as a David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She wrote the paper as a staff biologist at VCE, and continues to do similar research on how you can manage and restore gardens, parks, forests, and farms that serve as vibrant habitats for insects, birds and other wildlife.

In My Nature by Abrah Griggs



OUR COMMUNITIES

Talk on Ukraine, July 9

GREENSBORO – A talk, “Ukraine and the Climate of War and Peace,” by Adrian Ivakhiv will be presented at the Highland Center for the Arts, Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m. He will discuss how the Russo-Ukrainian war is an environmental war and how can the Ukraine response to the war teach us about resilience and identity in the emerging multi-polar world disorder. In this audio-

visual presentation, Ivakhiv will discuss the Ukrainian experiences of the war, ecocide, geopolitics, and his collaborative work with over 30 Ukrainian scholars and artists on the book “Terra Invicta: Ukrainian Wartime Reimaginings for a Habitable Earth” (2025). The event is free and open to the public

Donations will be accepted to support civilian defense initiatives in Ukraine.

Teen Jewelry Making, July 10

HARDWICK – Thursday, July 10, at 11 a.m., area teens may gather to make jewelry to sell at the Hardwick Farmer’s Market Youth Market on Friday, July

11. The library will provide all materials. Ages 12-18. For more information, please contact jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or 472-5948.

Dog Communication, July 11

GREENSBORO – A program on dog communication and safety will be presented by Deb Helfrish from Gold Star Dog Training, at the Greensboro Memorial Library on Friday, July 11, at 5 p.m.

This multimedia presentation will test dog-reading skills and will demystify canine communication, reveal common dog-human misunderstandings and explore how all can live safely and happily

together. At the end of the program, the audience engages in several interactive exercises to practice reading dog body language. Participants will also have exclusive free access to a curated online resource of supplementary learning materials. This is a human-only event: leave canine companions at home. Library programs are free and open to all ages. Call the library for more information at (802) 533-2531.

Beerstadt Fest Features Four Breweries, July 11

ST. JOHNSBURY – On Friday, July 11, from 5 to 8 p.m., the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Beerstadt Fest will celebrate its fourth year. The event is held rain or shine under tents in the back garden of the Athenaeum with four area breweries including Dirt Church, Hill Farmstead, Kingdom Brewing and Red Barn Brewing. Admission is free for those not drinking beer. Soft drinks and water are free. Food will be available for purchase from Rocky’s NY Style Hot Dogs. Live music will be provided by Tom Stamp. Tickets provide up to ten beer samples.

The Beerstadt Fest was inspired by the central work in the

Athenaeum Art Gallery, Albert Bierstadt’s “The Domes of the Yosemite.” The painting, given to the Athenaeum by Horace Fairbanks in 1873, fills the rear wall of the gallery. Its restoration in 2018 was made possible by hundreds of donors as well as state and federal grants, and it continues to draw visitors from around the country and the world. Since Bierstadt means “Beer Town” in German, the name of the Athenaeum’s renowned artist inspired the creation of this event.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased online at the Athenaeum website, or contact Scott Davis at sdavis@stjathenaeum.org or (802) 745-1393.

Game of Logging Level I, July 12

DANVILLE – Women Owning Woods (WOW) Vermont is hosting Game of Logging Level I to help develop chainsaw skills on Saturday, July 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This class for women is the first in the series and focuses on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell and understanding hinge

wood strength. Each person in the class will cut down a tree.

Participants must bring a safety helmet with a face shield, eye and ear protection, chaps, as well as lunch, water and snacks for the day. If appropriate equipment is not available, reach out. Bringing a chainsaw is recommended but not required. Class size is limited to 10. The cost for this class is \$200 for WOW participants. Contact Vermont Coverts for the registration link by emailing lisa@vtcoverts.org or call (802) 877-2777.

Creative Aging Art Show and Lunch, July 9

EAST MONTPELIER – The Twin Valley Senior Center is asking seniors to bring their art for an art show and free lunch on Wednesday, July 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All forms of art can be brought for display: paintings, drawings, quilts, rugs, pottery, poetry, scrapbooks

and photos. Any creative expression is welcome and encouraged. There will be information about the Creative Art Care Kit program.

The center is located at 4583 US Rte. 2. For more information, call (802) 223-3322 or email director@twinvalleyseniors.org

Tai Chi Classes Begin July 27

EAST MONTPELIER – A new beginners class in fall-prevention Tai Chi will start Friday, July 27, 9:15 a.m., at the Twin Valley Senior Center. This is Sun-style short-form which is known as Tai Chi for Arthritis, a form of slow moving exercises to improve balance, walking and

mental concentration. There is no fee for the classes and all ages are welcome. No registration required. The class will run for an hour. For more information call (802) 223-3322 or email idyne@aol.com. Twin Valley Senior center is located at 4583 US Route 2, East Montpelier.

Storytelling is Universal, Jeudevine Event, July 31

by Alex Strand

HARDWICK – On July 31, at 6 p.m., the Jeudevine Memorial Library will host a community storytelling event with Samara Anderson.

Anderson began telling stories through an event called Exptempo, and has wanted to maintain group storytelling since. She, through storytelling, has found that group settings encourage people to come together and generate vulnerability and genuine connection. A lawyer by trade, she didn’t begin engaging with storytelling and mindfulness until around 2015.

She began hosting events when she decided to tell a story at the Monkton Library, and was met with such support from the community that she has decided to host an event in every library in Vermont. All 187 of them. “People come together, they’re laughing, they’re crying, there’s hugging, there’s this amazing magic that happens,” said Anderson.

“In this time of disconnection, everyone’s a Republican

or a Democrat, everyone has taken sides.

When I host these events, there are no sides. Everyone is just a human and they’re sharing this experience of being human, and it’s universal.”

Her events are not scored by judges, unlike some other storytelling groups. She has little to no rules for who can tell stories. Recently, she has allowed accommodations for those who need them, allowing people to take a seat as they tell a story, or use notecards. This opens up the world of storytelling to more people.

“What I’m finding is the smallest communities have the most connection, they rally around their library,” she said.

In Hardwick, stories can range from five to seven and a half minutes, and can be about anything. Anderson has found that most of her events are about half local people and half storytellers that she knows. There is still space to sign up. Interested storytellers can email her at anderson_samara@yahoo.com.

BIRTHS

Bryce Morley Mayo

A son, Bryce Morley Mayo, (Farnham) Mayo of Cabot, June 6 was born to Braiden and Erika at Copley Hospital.

Mason Earl Gillen

Krista Sawyer and Kasey of a son, Mason Earl Gillen, born June 20 at Copley Hospital.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

OUR COMMUNITIES

Dinoman Presents Space, July 2

MARSHFIELD – Wednesday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m., (rain date July 6). Dinoman will present an educational science series on dinosaurs. The presentation will take the audience through the solar system and beyond. The eight classical planets are visited and inves-

tigated as well as Pluto, gravity, and the incredible cold of space. Dinoman uses dinosaurs, meteors, comets, liquid air and goldfish to give students a unique view of the heavens. More information at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Vermont Air National Guard F-35 Independence Day Flyover

by Lt. Col. Meghan Smith

VERMONT – In celebration of Independence Day, the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Fighter Wing will conduct a regional flyover on July 4, honoring the spirit of the holiday and the enduring support of communities across Vermont and upstate New York. "Independence Day is a time to celebrate our nation's founding and honor those who've defended it throughout history," said Brig. Gen. Henry Harder, Vermont Deputy Adjutant General. "This flyover is a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our servicemen and women, past and present, and a way to thank the communities who continue to support them." Beginning at approximately

9:45 a.m., four F-35 Lightning II aircraft will soar over towns and cities across the region, aligning with numerous local Independence Day parades and celebrations. "We're asked throughout the year to support flyovers for events across the nation, and while we can't accommodate every request, this 4th of July flyover allows us to reach many communities at once," said Col Michael Blair, 158th Fighter Wing Commander. "This flyover is a chance for our Airmen to connect with the people we serve, a visible reminder that we're your neighbors, your teammates, and part of the same communities we fly over."

For additional information, contact (802) 660-5451 or meghan.smith.5@us.af.mil

Circus Minimus, July 9

MARSHFIELD – Wednesday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m., the One-Man Circus-in-a-Suitcase will give everyone an opportunity to participate as an entire circus emerges from Kevin O'Keefe's suitcase: tent, band, lights, the ringmaster Steve Fitzpatrick, the officious Mervin

Merkle, the Bumbilini Family, the Magician to the Stars Clyde Zerbini and Keefer, a boy trying to run away and join the circus. However, the most important performers emerge from the audience.

More information at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

McCaffrey, What Not String Band, July 10

MARSHFIELD – Thursday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m., led by central Vermont singer, producer and multi-instrumentalist Colin McCaffrey, the What Not String Band will perform. This time around he'll be joined by Eric O'Hara on pedal steel and dobro, Jens Hybertson on fiddle, Eli

Goldman on bass, and Matt Flinner on mandolin. They play classic old country and western, bluegrass, swing and traditional fiddle tunes. There will be a book and bake sale, and food vendors, too.

More information at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Innovation Webinar, July 10

EAST MONTPELIER – Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) leaders will present a webinar on July 10 from noon to 1 p.m., "Power Supply: Navigating for the Future." The focus will be on the sources of VEC's power, including hydro, solar, wind, and nuclear. Participants will discover how the co-op is planning its power purchasing strategy for the future while keeping cost, safety, reliability, sustainability and member

preferences in mind. Questions and conversation will be with VEC's Andrea Cohen, leader of government affairs and member relations, and Dan Potter, power planning analyst. For those who cannot make the live session, register to receive a recording of the session.

Learn more and register here at vermontelectric-coop.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Rdma8bW6Q4KNwldUVrtd3Q



The group attending a mushroom talk on the Hardwick Trails Saturday, takes cover on the porch of the Hazen Union School cabin during a brief downpour as Joe Nudell (left rear) shares mushroom facts, including, "What's safe and what isn't?" "Where and when are the best places to look?" And "Why does it look like that?" photo by Paul Fixx

Rock Painting, July 15

HARDWICK – Tuesday, July 15, at 2 p.m., paint and decorate rocks at the library's community garden plot at Hazen Union High School. Leave the rocks in the garden or take them home. Ages 5 and up. For more information, please contact jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

River, Family Program, July 16

MARSHFIELD – Wednesday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m., learn about and celebrate the Winooski River through exploration, games, crafts and fun with Ange Gibbons. More info at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Soul and Blues, July 17

MARSHFIELD – Thursday, July 17, at 6:30 p.m., Dave Keller and his band will perform original Soul and Blues-inspired songs. There will be a book and bake sale, and food vendors, too. More information at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Sock Monsters, July 17

HARDWICK – Thursday, July 17, at 11 a.m., all ages are welcome to come make sock monsters. For more information, contact jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Colorful World of Butterflies, July 22

HARDWICK – On Tuesday, July 22, at 11a.m., Jerry Schneider will present slides of local butterflies. Participants will then take part in a butterfly t-shirt craft. Cotton t-shirts available for \$5, or kids may bring their own. Ages 5 and up. For more information, contact jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or call (802) 472-5948.

Lawn Games for All, July 23

MARSHFIELD – Wednesday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m., there will be lawn games for all ages including pickleball, badminton, nine-square, corn hole, bocce, and croquet. More info at jaquithpubliclibrary.org or 802-426-3581

Pajama Story Time, July 23

HARDWICK – Recommended for ages 5 and under, pajama story time will begin at 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 23. Wear pajamas and join in for books, songs and more. For more information, contact jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

EDUCATION



From left, Robert Herdling, Shianne Charette and Molly Paire of Cabot and Eva Small and Aemilia Terrone of Craftsbury, participated in VSAC's GEAR UP college and career readiness program that brought together 32 students from nine schools for a residential leadership experience. Over the course of two days at the Randolph Campus of Vermont State University, students took part in team-building challenges and reflection focused on integrity, motivation, working smarter, learning from mistakes, asking insightful questions and embracing new experiences. *courtesy photo*

GMTCC Holds Completion Ceremony

by GMTCC

HYDE PARK – Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) held its 2025 completion ceremony on June 10 for a class of 55 students from the four area high schools it serves.

The event was held indoors at the Lamoille Union Gymnasium due to inclement weather.

The evening was an opportunity to celebrate a year of learning, skill development, real-world co-op working opportunities and community service, which

many of the GMTCC programs provided throughout the year.

This event celebrates the culmination of students' dedication to acquiring real-world skills across the Tech Centers' 14 technical programs.

Graduates from Hazen Union School in Hardwick are Megan Cane and Alec Larrabee, Business Administration; Brendan Moodie and Gavin Stratton, Electrical Technology; Marissa Langmaid and Carrick Wright, Engineering; and Greg Patoin, Forestry/Land Management.

Stanger Graduates

APPLETON, Wis. – Lawrence Main Hall Green. Alex Stanger University's Class of 2025 was celebrated in grand fashion at a Commencement, held June 15 on the more than 350 graduates who walked the commencement stage.



Keith Gibson of Northfield has taught instrumental music for grades 4-12 at Twinfield Union for the past 22 years. He is retiring with a total of 42 years in education.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Marie Langmaid of North Danville is retiring after being the kindergarten teacher at Walden School for the past 32 years. Her total years in education is 43.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

BUSINESS BRIEFS



An open house was held on June 29 for Harley Papineau of East Hardwick, for the grand opening of her new hair salon business called Glam'n Groom which is located at 4 South Main St., Suite 4 in the Hardwick Inn. She is opening on July 1 and can be reached at (802) 397-1317 for appointments. Papineau graduated from Hazen Union School in 2021 and from the study of Cosmetology and barbering at O'Briens Aveda Institute in Williston. She has worked at The Repair Shop for the past three years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Lisa Sedore (left) of Craftsbury has been teaching third grade at Hardwick Elementary for the past six years. She is retiring after a total of 20 years in education. Gerard LeBlanc (right) of Wheelock is retiring after working as a custodian at Hardwick Elementary for the past 15 years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org
ads@hardwickgazette.org

OBITUARIES

Patricia Marie (Courchaine) Lanphear

BURLINGTON – Patricia Marie (Courchaine) Lanphear passed away at the University of Vermont Medical Center on Saturday, June 28, surrounded by her loving family following a long and courageous cancer battle. Born July 2, 1954, to Elizabeth (Greaves-McNaney) and the late Edward Courchaine in Morris-town with a head full of fiery red hair, Pat was the eldest of five children and grew up in Elmore where she attended the Elmore Mountain School and Peoples Academy.

Pat married the love of her life, Calvin Lanphear, on a sunny March morning in 1971 and together they raised three daughters at their home in Hyde Park. Pat embodied loyalty, love and above all, family. She was a mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend to countless throughout her life.

There aren't enough adjectives to describe the woman we all know and love as Pat (aka Woman, Momma, Mommy, Gramma, Moses, Granny, etc.). Her children and grandchildren described her as selfless, resilient, loving, brave, stubborn, crafty and heroic. She was giving, of her time and love, to those individuals and organizations that meant so much to her. She volunteered hundreds of hours to many community organizations, including the Hyde Park Home Dem (the Halloween parties were legendary), Lamoille County

Field Days (best French fries in the state), paper dolls (hence the crafty) and Lamoille Area Cancer Network (the heart and soul of the silent auction tent).

Pat retired from Johnson State College in 2021 after 30 years of service where she was the "Gramma away from home" for so many students fortunate enough to cross her path. You could find her baking, cooking breakfast, laughing and decorating for every holiday to ensure the students felt right at home.

She was the heart of her family: a devoted wife of 54 years, a steadfast mother and the kind of grandmother every child dreams of. Holidays and special events were where she shone. Hand making Christmas PJs, filling Easter eggs long after her grandchildren were grown, creating the best posters for the many basketball games, not to mention the annual trips to Santa's Village and weekends at Camp. Her rustic camp on Buffalo Mountain, with its double-seater outhouse, was her "home away from home" where countless sugaring seasons fed the bellies of pancake lovers as far West as Seattle and as far East as Italy. Camp also meant quiet weekends where she and Calvin slowed down and spent time with their family.

Pat is survived by her devoted husband Calvin, daughters Allison (Ben) Austin of Kennesaw, Ga.;



Patricia Marie (Courchaine) Lanphear

Kelly Jean (Jason) Picard of Hyde Park and Michelle (Dylan) Laflam of Greensboro Bend; grandchildren Abigail and Anna Kate Austin, Kyle and Kolby (Gabriella) Picard and Chloe and Sullivan Laflam; special great-grand

fur baby Lulu; her mom Betty Courchaine and siblings Mark, Holly (Phid) and Scott (Annmarie). She will also be deeply missed by her many nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws. Holding a special place in her heart is her childhood best friend Gloria Paine and niece and friend Katrina Lanphear. Pat was predeceased by her father Ed, brother Chris, in-laws Helen and Wyman Sr., Wyman Jr., Pete, Carole, Joe and Wanda, and special nephews Kirk and Keith Lanphear. A celebration of Pat's life will be held at the American Legion in Hardwick, on Saturday, August 16, from noon to 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Pat's memory will be lovingly accepted by the Lamoille Area Cancer Network. Online condolences and memories of Pat may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.

WEEKEND SERVICES

Hardwick

UNITED CHURCH OF HARDWICK. 216 South Main Street. 802-472-6800 for information. Sunday Service, 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Livestreaming. Communion Service first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, Music Director. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Masks optional. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 39 W. Church St., 802-472-5979. Office hours Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. All invited; all welcome. Sunday 10 a.m. Rite II Service with music. Coffee hour immediately following service. ST. NORBERT CHURCH, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Par-

ish, Father Raj Madri, S. Main St., PO Box 496, Hardwick, VT 05843; mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net; 802-472-5544. Office Hours: Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Confessions before Masses. HARDWICK BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 296 S. Main St. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon; Thursday 6:30 p.m. For transportation or information call 802-472-5294. THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, 9:30 a.m. children's story; 10 a.m. children's service, 10:30 a.m. The Act of Consecration of the Human Being. Information: thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

East Hardwick

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, (NACCC). Worship led by Jim Casavant, Interim Pastor, 11:00 a.m. TOUCH OF GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, corner of Rts. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick; Sunday a.m. worship, 10 a.m.; 9 a.m. adult Sunday School and Prayer. Thursday Prayer at 5:30 p.m. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Albany

ALBANY METHODIST CHURCH. Route 14, Albany, Vt. "Join us in getting to know Jesus and the life He gives." Sunday services: 10 a.m. Worship and Sunday School.

Cabot

UNITED CHURCH OF CABOT. Tel. 802-563-2278. Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. Light refreshment and fellowship immediately following service. All welcome.

Card of Thanks

The Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association is so thankful to so many who gave and helped in supporting the Scholarship Fund, the Masters Memorial Golf Tournament and the alumni Reunion.

A successful and joyous Alumni Weekend was made possible by everyone's attendance, participation and kindness. There were ninety-two golfers on Friday at MVCC and over 175 people at the beautiful Brochu Pavilion on Saturday. Thank you all.

Donations of door prizes, funds and services: Kimball House B&B, Holmes Plumbing, Tracy's Clip Joint, Rite Way Sports Shop, Dona's Car Store, House of Pizza, Cabot Creamery, Riverside Cycles, Mountain View Country Club, House of Troy, Jim LeCours Maple Syrup, Rick Norcross, Gail Luther Handmade, Fradette Maple Syrup, Hill Farmstead Brewery, Rich Ahern, Woodbury Golf Course, Barre

Country Club, Ryder Brook Golf Club, Copley Country Club, Federated Auto Parts, Lamoille Valley Ford, Calderwood Insurance, Twin State Ford, Joyce Twing, David Bellavance, Peregrine Tree Work, La Famille LeCours, The Clark Family, Class of 1979, Greg Lussier, Sonja Smith Bourbon, Union Bank, The Village Restaurant, Rick Phelps, Greg Barcomb, Dale Rowell, Kathy and Bob Fair, Dan and Sue Hudson, Darwin Thompson, Jarred Brochu, Lola Foster Smith, Macy Molleur, Bear Bessette, Mike and Sally Brochu, Pick and Shovel – Newport, Jeff LeCours, Nancy Shepard, Rick Renaud, Dan LeCours, Dave Stratton, Roger LeBlanc, Judy Strong, Marsha Ainsworth, Steve Slayton, Sybil Messier, Doris Delaricheliere, Janet Houston Slayton, Leo Lecours, Teddy Foster, Lorrie Curtis, Karen Hall, Patricia Brochu, Jaxson Hussey and Patrick Hussey.

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Lamoille Unit Docket No.: 25-PR-03024

In re Estate of: Franklin Nutt Jr.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Franklin Nutt Jr., late of Wolcott, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: June 23, 2025

Signature of Fiduciary: Ashley Applegate
Executor/Administrator: Ashley Applegate, c/o
Maple Haven Law, PLLC
P.O. Box 32
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 477-3434
email: sarah@maplehavenlaw.com

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: July 1, 2025

Name of Probate Court: State of Vermont - Superior Court

Address of Probate Court:
Lamoille Unit, Probate Division
P.O. Box 570, Hyde Park, VT 05655

Benefit Concert for Dogs, July 11

GREENSBORO – Justice For Dogs will host a special benefit concert featuring Josiah Dyer, a country music singer-songwriter, at the Highland Center for the Arts, Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m. All proceeds will support the rescue and care of local dogs and cats.

Dyer, from Maine, has an authentic country music sound and lyrics. Most recently, Dyer took home three awards at the North American Country Music Association International competition in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Tickets are available at highlandartsvt.org/

Two-Piano Concert Benefits Chorale

BARRE – A two-piano concert, “Oh, Summer Rhapsody!” featuring two Vermont pianists will be presented at the Barre Opera House on July 20 at 4 p.m. Mary Jane Austin and Alison Cerutti have been friends and colleagues for years and will come together on the same stage, each on her own grand piano. This performance will benefit the Mad River Chorale.

The program includes Mozart’s Sonata for Two Pianos in D major, K.448, Mozart’s most famous composition for two pianos; Ravel’s “Ma mère l’Oye” (Mother Goose Suite); and Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, groundbreaking as one of the first fusions of jazz and classical music.

Mad River Chorale conductor Mary Jane Austin has a musical life in Vermont and abroad, where her interests range from recital work and full-scale opera productions to teaching and choral conducting. She has been the conductor of the Mad River Chorale since 2018, after a long tenure as a collaborative pianist for the organization. Discovering a love for opera while studying with opera legends Claudia Pinza, Maurizio Arena,



Mary Jane Austin

Enza Ferrari and Warren Jones, she worked at the summer Italian opera program EPCASO as a répétiteur and coach from 1994 to 2016.

Alison Bruce Cerutti is a pianist based in Northfield, who frequently performs as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Vermont and Canada. She studied with Louis Moyse for eight years and accompanied his flute master classes in Vermont and France. As one of Vermont’s busy collaborative pianists, Alison has performed with the Mad River Chorale, the Winooski Valley Festival, All-State Music Festival, the Unadilla Theatre, Music-COMP, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Counterpoint, and TURNmusic, for Women of Aeronautics and in the 2015 production of “A Fleeting Animal.” She teaches students of all ages at her home in Northfield, where she lives with her family and two cats.

Tickets may be ordered online at barreoperahouse.org or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The Opera House is located at 6 North Main Street.



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Wedding Policy

The Hardwick Gazette provides space for engagements and wedding news as a free service. Wedding announcements and photos should be received by our office within two months of the ceremony. Photographs supplied will be returned when accompanied by a SASE. Use of engagement and wedding information, as well as accompanying photographs, is at the discretion of the editors.

For information about advertising in the Wedding & Party Planner call The Hardwick Gazette at 472-6521!

4th of July Parade

Friday, July 4, 2025
Main Street, Cabot

The parade steps off at 11 am sharp!

Grab the parade entry form online at www.CabotVermont.org/July4

Pre-register for the parade and you might just win a cash prize!

Cash prizes for the Cheesiest, Most Historic, Most Patriotic & Judges' Choice entries.

Other holiday happenings until 2 pm.

8am–Rummage Sale, Cabot School Gym
9 am– Book Sale, Willey Memorial Hall

Food vendors, village businesses & Cabot Historical Society open

Event parking is available at the Elm Street lot. Shuttles will operate from 9 am to 2 pm.

Handicapped parking is reserved at Cabot School, Gym Rd.

The Cabot 4th of July celebration is possible with support from the Cabot Community Association, Cabot Fire Department and the Town of Cabot.



THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE



Caspian Lake Swim Lessons

Youth, Guard Start, Adult Programs

July 21-25
July 28-August 1

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

TeachAmericaToSwim.com

Preston, Friends Present Dynamic Show, Seamless Coordination

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – A truly impressive group of musicians came together with legendary singer-songwriter Leroy Preston for an engaging concert at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro last Saturday evening, all with credentials of performing and recording in their long careers with many nationally famous artists. Preston himself has significant name recognition, judging from the full house, for his bands Asleep at the Wheel and the Unknown Blues Band. With Michael Zsoldos on saxophone, Clyde Stats on bass, Lucas Alder on drums, Paul Asbell on guitar and Chas Eller on keyboards, they gave a dynamic show in both their seamless coordination and their individual improvisations in the 15 numbers they played, almost all original Preston compositions. Guest singer Taryn Noelle added to the mix with her beautiful voice.

They began with a piece sung by Preston, “Eugene is in the Bottle (and he won’t come out tonight),” a rather sad drinking song about a man dealing with a relationship gone south. There was a bluesy New Orleans feeling in the next selection, “There Was No One There But Me,” which

described going back to someplace in one’s past but finding no one there to “ease my pain and set me free,” which Preston sang with his warm, expressive voice and commanding stage presence.

“You’re My Heartache” was a shuffle in its upbeat rhythms, but its lyrics were about a man unable to get over a lost love, always “alone with regrets in the morning and evening.” In “The Tunnel,” Preston got the audience to snap their fingers in sync with him in a tune about going home on the subway but enduring a mundane life every day. “If I Had Something to Drink” seemed slightly tongue in cheek about needing alcohol to face renewing a relationship with a woman. Taryn Noelle joined forces with Preston for “I Wonder” in well-blended voices about a person who has been disillusioned in the past and says, “Your love may be rue, but I wonder.” Noelle’s enunciation was very clear and her phrasing brought out the emotions of the words.

“The Train” song had the pulsing rhythms of a locomotive, while the analogy was that “my baby thinks he’s a train,” suggesting that her lover is perhaps too fast moving, always on the go. The driving beat slowed down at the end of the piece, like a train coming into a station. “Let Me Go Home Whiskey” was an old Asleep at the Wheel number, which



Renowned singer-songwriter Leroy Preston (center right) is joined by (from left) saxophonist Michael Zsoldos, Clyde Stats on upright bass, vocalist Taryn Noelle, drummer Jeff Salisbury, guitarist Paul Asbell and keyboardist Chas. Eller. Preston co-founded Texas swing band, Asleep At the Wheel, performing selections from his 2024 album, “I Got Here From There” Saturday at Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. photo by Paul Fixx

gave Zsoldos a chance to really wail on his saxophone improvisations.

After the intermission, the band returned to play “City Side,” a poetic evocation of the pleasures of urban life but tinged with sadness over a failed marriage. “Big Black Heart” narrates the shock of discovering the darker side of the woman he was connected to, “behind those white lies.” “Careless Man” refers to an unfaithful husband who cheats on his wife, with the line, “Breaking hearts is an easy thing for a careless man to do.” It combined a catchy melody with well crafted lyrics.

Taryn Noelle returned to sing “Full Moon,” a love song with strong rhythms. “Bump Bounce Boogie” was great dance music, another work from the days of Asleep at

the Wheel, which Noelle and Preston sang together harmoniously. “Has Anything Changed” with the last piece in Preston’s most recent album, “I Got Here From There,” and it had complex feelings about an ex-wife’s new marriage in the same town, to whom he still is conflicted by lingering love.

After receiving a heartfelt standing ovation from the audience, the band played a classic favorite (though not by Preston), Route 66, as an encore, with the amusing refrain, “Get your kicks on Route 66.” That highway runs from Chicago to Los Angeles, through quintessential America, but now it is something of a ghost road, superseded by faster interstate options. But nostalgia never dies.

Show Evokes Old Turn-of-the-century Music Hall, Vaudeville

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro was the venue for the Happenstance Theater’s tribute to Vaudeville, “Pocket Moxie,” performed last Friday night. Dressed in turn-of-the-century costumes, the five players evoked the old music hall and variety shows of the traveling troupes that brought light entertainment to cities, towns and villages all across the country, such as the Hardwick Town House and the Hyde Park and Haskell Opera Houses. The Happenstance Theater consisted of Gwen Grastorf, Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell, Sarah Olmsted Thomas and Alex Vernon.

The term vaudeville originated in France, traced to a tradition of satirical songs based on popular tunes going as far back as the 15th century in Normandy. It had its heyday in Europe and America during the Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries, until it gradually lost out to recorded music, radio, movies and finally television. But vaudeville provided the background training for many actors and actresses who went on to

highly successful careers in theater and film, such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Lillian Russel and W.C. Fields. Hardwick’s own Vermont Vaudeville of pre-Covid days demonstrated how the medium could be revived and attract sold-out houses to a wide spectrum of audiences.

The troop began by entering the stage in a row as if on a train, complete with a tooting whistle, for vaudevillians lived a vagabond life on the road, one described as half gypsy and half suitcase. They sang about coming to the next town to perform. A second song was something of an advertisement for “Pocket Moxie,” always helpful when things go wrong. It was the custom to have ads interspersed between the acts of a show. A few jokes were exchanged about the hotel they were staying at, followed by yet another advertisement, this time for tooth powder. A short skit featuring an ax seemed a little ominous, but then a woman dressed like an alpine maiden named Hildegard of Bingham, came out and did a spoof on yodeling.

A ventriloquist scene with Alex Vernon and Woodie the puppet was amusing, as were songs and dialogue around a stuffed cat held by one of the women. Mark Jaster then played the “Londonerry Air” on a bending saw

with a violin bow, as well as “Danny Boy,” both quite accurately on the notes. The Alpine maiden appeared again, but her yodeling was cut short by the classic vaudeville censor, a long wooden cane with a hook that dragged her out of view.

Alex Vernon came on as a magician with a series of silly tricks, including trying to hypnotize one of the women, turning her into a chicken and a monkey. A second volunteer from the audience was treated for headaches by placing a wooden box with a crank handle over her head. More jokes about the hotel and then another advertisement where one of the women put her face in a hole of a placard with a bathing suit below.

A kind of barber shop quintet brought all the group together for coordinated dances and a song with a nice melody. A Spanish flamenco dancer was accompanied by castanets off stage, while the next skit was a mock altercation between Vernon and Jaster planting small flags on supposedly disputed territory. An advertisement for Pablum Pattys claimed that they were good for you.

Quite clever was the baby sister blues act, with two of the actresses standing behind and manipulating two puppets of small girls in dresses,

with their feet on a table, dancing and singing together. A caricature of Hamlet’s famous soliloquy “To be or not to be,” was quite funny. Jaster played the guitar in a nice rendition of an old favorite song, “Shine on Harvest Moon,” in which the whole troupe joined in, while Vernon animated a very small Pierrot puppet. Then there were even more jokes about the hotel and its bad food.

The longest act in the show was of a cook and two waiters setting a fancy dinner table. They went through some ridiculous antics arranging the tablecloth, the silverware, plates and cups just right, but then rapidly pulling the tablecloth out from under the utensils, leaving everything intact, as well as absurdly juggling meatballs the cook had brought out. The final attempt to yank the tablecloth off the table ended with everything on the floor. Their last number was the haunting tune, “The Melody Lingers On,” and they exited in a line tooting the train whistle, just as they had entered at the beginning of the show.

All of the performers were clearly having fun giving the audience a taste of old-time vaudeville with its varied comic acts. The performers continue their New England tour by going to Maine this week.

EVENTS

Thursday, July 3

MAGIC THE GATHERING TOURNAMENT, for ages 12 and up, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Saturday, July 5

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Teens and adults both welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Tuesday, July 8

BUILDING A COMIC STRIP, 2 p.m., for ages 7 and up, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

gov or (802) 472-5948.

Wednesday, July 9

DEATH CAFE, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Thursday, July 10

WRITING WORKSHOPS for those affected by flooding, 7 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Information: (802) 472-5948.

TEEN JEWELRY MAKING, 11 a.m., for ages 12-18, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Gather to make jewelry to sell at the Hardwick Farmers Market youth market. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Friday, July 11

COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St.) All ages and abilities welcome.

Tuesday, July 15

PAINT AND DECORATE ROCKS, 2 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library's community garden plot, Hazen Union School, Hardwick. Ages 5 and up. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Wednesday, July 16

CELEBRATE THE WINOOSKI RIVER through exploration, games and more, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Thursday, July 17

DAVE KELLER and band perform original Soul and Blues-inspired songs, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Book, bake sale and food vendors. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

MAKE SOCK MONSTERS, 11 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All ages welcome. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Thursday, July 17

JERRY SCHNEIDER presents slides of local butterflies, 11 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. For ages 5 and up. Butterfly t-shirt craft. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.
See EVENTS, Next Page

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KEN BROWN'S BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Vermont Sweeps Twin State Classic

MIDDLEBURY – Vermont's top high school seniors took to the diamond once more over the weekend, sweeping a doubleheader from New Hampshire in the 2025 Twin State Baseball Classic at Forbes Field in Middlebury.

Vermont took advantage of their pitching depth from all divisions to sweep the twin bill on Saturday 11-0 and 10-8. St. Johnsbury Academy's (SJA) Cage Thompson did it all for Team Vermont, including the game-winning single in the top of the tenth to seal the nightcap, earning him Most Valuable Player honors.

SJA teammate Will Eaton set the table for the game-winner with a single and a stolen base.

Thompson took to the mound in the bottom half of the tenth to strike out the side, earning the save with three scoreless innings.

Thompson, Eaton, along with Blue Mountain's Kason Blood combined for seven hits in the nightcap.

In the opener, SJA's Rex Hauser struck out four in two innings of work and went 2-2 at the plate with a pair of RBI to power Vermont to the shutout win. Hauser finished his incredible career as the first high school athlete in state history to earn Gatorade Player of the Year honors in both basketball and baseball.

The three seniors ended their high school baseball careers on a high note, leading the Hilltoppers to the Division I state championship over top-seeded Mount Anthony, 9-7.

BFA-Fairfax's Ryan Sheehan pitched two scoreless innings in the night-cap to combine on a two-hit shutout along with Hauser, Tanner Swisher (Green Mountain), and Lyndon Institute's Wyatt Mason. Sheehan nearly led the Bullets to a Division III state title defense under head coach and Hazen Union alum Mike Brown this past spring. Fairfax took top seeded White River Valley to extra innings in the Final Four before falling 3-2 in eight innings. Sheehan will follow Brown's footsteps and attend and play for VTSU-Lyndon this coming fall. Brown played

for the Hornet baseball team for four seasons and is a Lyndon State Hall of Fame inductee.

Wildcats Sharpening Their Skills this Summer

LAMOILLE – Several Hazen Union baseballers will be taking to the diamond this summer as Wildcat head coach Shaun Allen and his young team will look to get over the hump next year.

Soon to be seniors Grayson McNaughten and Owen Skorstad will be playing for Lamoille in the 18 and under league this summer. McNaughten earned First Team honors and Skorstad Second Team honors in the rugged Capital League in what was a tough season for the Wildcats.

Ten players from both Hazen and Craftsbury Academy have committed to playing summer ball including, Avery Loomis (Lamoille), Will Halperin, Jon Sicard, and Chayse Newell for the 16 and under St. Johnsbury squad.

Busy Summer for Twinfield-Cabot Hoops

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot basketball team is looking to ride the momentum of a breakout season last winter with a full slate of summer league games against some of the best programs in the state.

Second year head coach Kris Bador and his young team brought the excitement of high school basketball back to Marshfield and Cabot last year with a 19-win season that took the team back to the Barre Auditorium for the first time in almost a decade. Bador earned Mountain League and VPA Division IV Coach of the Year honors for the Trojan's stellar season and is hoping to ride that momentum into the summer against some stiff competition. They have already scrimmaged New Hampshire powerhouse Woodsville and have summer league games scheduled against

Division II Spaulding, Lyndon Institute and U-32. Bador will test his team against the very best early next week when they square off against defending Division I champion Burlington and Coach of the Year BJ Robertson.

"I've been fortunate to develop some relationships with some great coaches who run elite programs in both Vermont and New Hampshire. The boys didn't like how the last seconds of the season ended last year, and they have all approached the offseason ready to work and want to be challenged. I was so impressed with how we looked against Woodsville last week and this team is looking forward to the challenge of the schedule we've set up this summer. The success that we had last winter was the result of hard work and dedication by some great kids, coaching staff, parents and incredible support by the community. We have to keep putting in the work and stay

healthy if we're going to get to where we want to go," said Bador.

Bador will return his entire team next winter, including a healthy Sam Churchill in the middle and the versatility and athleticism of Sam McLane, both coming off injuries. He also returns one of the most dynamic senior backcourts in the state in Tej Stewart and Eli Russell. Russell led the team in scoring, earning him Vermont Outstanding Underclassmen (VOU) honors. Stewart had another dominating season earning his third straight VOU selection, as well as First Team All-Mountain League honors. Bador also will have the services of one of the most athletic sophomores in the state on the hardwood or the pitch in Omar Miksic-Knibb.

"This is such a special group of kids on and off the court. We all can't wait for the season to get here and then want it to slow down when it does. Last year our success was new to us and probably to our opponents as well. We won't sneak up on anybody next season, so we are working on creating our identity right now against some stiff competition. This is a tight group who pushes each other, and I encourage that to continue into the fall onto the soccer field. With continued hard work and a little luck, this group can accomplish something special in multiple sports," said Bador.

Bador and his coaching staff of Jordan Moore, Ed Berry, Connor Spencer and volunteers are also continuing to reinvigorate basketball at the youth level in

the area through AAU, along with the Twinfield-Cabot Basketball Camp that will run from August 4 to 7. Lady Trojan head coach Jack Whalen will join Bador and his staff for the camp. Former University of Vermont great and current Washington Wizards NBA assistant coach T.J. Sorrentine will make the trip to talk to campers, players and coaches. Bador had 45 campers last season and already has nearly 60 signed up this summer.

The Trojan's run at a championship last season and the excitement for this upcoming season has infused even more interest into Bador's program this summer and he is excited with what he is seeing at the youth level.

"Develop, develop, develop. Our middle school and junior varsity teams are full and talented, and it's our job to make sure these kids get the development they deserve. Our varsity boys are not only working hard in the classroom and on the court but also giving their time to these young kids to mentor them. These kids look up to them and it's great to see them give back. I've been fortunate to have a great relationship with T.J. for a long time and for him to come speak at our camp is exciting for everyone. I'm so fortunate to have great people in this community to coach and support this program and feel so lucky that they let me coach these special kids," said Bador.

Bador's Trojans will travel to Burlington High School next Monday for a pair of scrimmages.



Craftsbury Academy Senior

Craftsbury student Evan LaMare was the only senior on the Hazen Wildcat baseball team this spring.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

KEN BROWN'S RUNNERS ROUNDUP

English Captures Birdland 5K

MONTPELIER – Hazen Union's Maxfield English bested a 62-competitor field last week to win the Birdland 5K in the Onion River Outdoors Race Series.

English crossed the finish line first with a time of 22:25.7, well ahead of runner-up Luke Miller's time of 23:22.6. English, a teacher at Hazen, is also the head track and field coach for the Wildcats, as well as the cross-country head coach at Craftsbury Academy.

Anna Milkowski was the top female finisher with a time of 27:23, blitzing the field by nearly two minutes.

Next up for local competitors in the Central Vermont Runners Series will be the 45th Annual Bear Swamp Run in Middlesex on July 12, followed by the Barre Heritage Trail 5K on July 26.

Caspian Challenge Set to Run Later this Month

GREENSBORO – The 14th Annual Caspian Challenge is taking registrations for their 6.8-mile loop around the historic Caspian Lake on July 27.

The popular race also offers a 5K out and back run/walk, with competitors starting at the Ballfield in Greensboro (Lake Shore Road and Breezy Avenue). Runners can register at greensboroassociation.org/calendar/caspian-challenge/. Registrations will be accepted up until July 26. Race day registration is open from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m., cost is \$15 online, and \$20 on race day. The race is sponsored by the Greensboro Association. All proceeds go to support the Greensboro Community Meals Program. Eric Hanson is once again the Race Director.

The Greensboro Challenge attracted nearly 100 runners and walkers last summer, with Hazen Union's Maxfield English besting the field in a time of 41:59. Emma Podolin claimed top female honors with a time of 49:09. Carson Collins was the 5K winner with a time of 20:09 and 8-year-old Ruthie Podolin stole the show in the women's category with a top time of 25:58.

Hilltoppers Shine at Nationals

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – Former Vermont Gatorade Track and Field Player of the Year Andrew Thornton-Sherman beat his own state record and teammate Sydney Schoenbeck earned All-American honors as St. Johnsbury Academy's (SJA) track and field programs wrapped up another stellar season with national competition late last month.

Thornton-Sherman put a cap on a sensational high school career with a 13th place finish in the New Balance Nationals, breaking his own state record in the 800m with a time of 1:49.98. The soon-to-be Harvard University freshman set the state record last spring at Nationals with a time of 1:50.64 in Bloomington, Iowa. He teamed up with Emmett Johnson, Joel Thornton-Sherman, and former Craftsbury Academy champion Charlie Kehler in Philadelphia to finish 11th in the 4x1-mile relay. Johnson is the reigning Division I cross-country champion and will attend UMass Amherst in the fall.

At the Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene, Oregon, Schoenbeck earned an eighth-place finish in the girls' heptathlon to earn All-American status. The soon-to-be SJA senior captured top five finishes in both the 100m hurdles and long jump events.

Adventure Racers Visit Hardwick Trails, Outdoor Center

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK, CRAFTSBURY – Adventure Racing World Series (ARWS) teams from the U.S. and Canada made stops on the Hardwick Trails last Wednesday and Thursday as part of the seven-day, 475 mile 2025 Endless Mountain Adventure Race: Les Verd Monts.

The race made a full circuit of Vermont with 290 miles of biking and 90 miles each of trekking and paddling. It began with 35 teams, June 21, near Middlebury, heading south to Rutland, then east across the state to Fairlee for a Lake Morey kayaking stage, then to Barre, Cabot, Hardwick and Craftsbury before heading to the Canadian Border near Richford, with a finish in Burlington.

The orienteering style-race is all about navigation to checkpoints without GPS. At

each orange flagged checkpoint the teams of two to four people punched race passports to mark their passing, said one of the race organizers, Abby Perkiss.

A four-person team from the premier division, Canadian Team 4 Hour Fuel, was the first team to pass through Hardwick, reaching the fourth and last Hardwick Trails checkpoint on their bikes just before 2 p.m. Wednesday.

One of the final two-person teams, NYARA-Ubuntu, didn't reach the next stop, at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, until just after 8:30 a.m. Friday, more than a day and a half later.

Now in its third edition, organizers Perkiss and Brent Freedland with Rootstock Racing, based in Philadelphia, set the Endless Mountain course to explore "Vermont's rolling mountains, lush forests, majestic waterways, iconic gravel, and twisty single track," they wrote. "This year's race provides the perfect setting to challenge veteran adventure racers, and it offers an accessible entry point to those eager to take on their first expedition race." Teams "will be called upon to work together to meet the challenges that only expedition racing can bring – challenging overland navigation, wild terrain, sleepmonsters, and weather that can tame even the most hardened outdoor enthusiasts," said the organizers. "It is in those moments where the best stories are written."

Weather offered a challenge for the race's first two full days, featuring record temperatures in the high 90s, with a heat index over 100 in most of Vermont.

Teams were required to carry all their required emergency supplies, food and equipment, which could be exchanged at



The Endless Mountain Adventure race team Silent Honey Badger with members (from left) Phil Nichols, Shelley Johannesen and Kevin Poirier completed the Hardwick Trails map and compass stage after 9 p.m., last Thursday. The teams carry everything they need and are on the clock 24 hours a day during the 7 day race, catching sleep as they can.

photo by Kirsten Oliver.

predetermined transition areas, following a leave-no-trace ethos. Teams who might not have the expertise to navigate Class III whitewater in a packraft were able to portage around those sections, but were scored behind other teams that navigated those sections.

A shortened course allowed those teams with less experience, or fewer members, to skip optional sections.

Team 4 Hour Fuel, a mixed team with two men and two women, finished first, in 147 hours, 43 minutes and 28 seconds, almost 10 hours ahead of the next competitor, earning them \$3,000 plus free entry into the ARWS World Championship to be hosted in British Columbia, by Expedition Canada, Sept. 22 to Oct. 6.

Most teams completed the course, with the last, WildStyle, finishing seven days, one hour, seven minutes and eight seconds after they started..



Trust the Compass, a team participating in the Endless Mountain Adventure race, "Les Verd Monts" stop at the Hardwick Trails kiosk behind Hazen Union School, Thursday, June 26. Checking their maps are (from left) Kristian Randt, Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois and Robbie Fulton. The 8-day race that began June 21, took teams through 475 miles of biking, paddling and trekking.

photo by Helen Beattie

Gray, Farrell Capitalize on Double Feature Night

BARRE – Double Features were on the menu Thursday at Thunder Road International Speedbowl. Double features for some meant strategy was thrown to the wayside with the foot to the firewall, to others it was patience, a strong brake pedal and eyes up.

The Late Models were just some of the superstars showcased on Double Feature night, starting off with a green-to-checkered affair in their first of two 50-lap feature events. Highlighted by a mid-pack scuffle between Cooper Bouchard and Kaiden Fisher, with Fisher careening through the infield grass, Bryan Wall Jr. proved his Memorial Day Classic win was no fluke en-route to Victory Lane with point leader Jason Corliss and Chris Roberts rounding out the first podium.

Feature No. 2 saw a change in lead stars out front with Thunder Road's two most recent Flying Tiger champions leading the Late Model fray in Brandon Gray and Kyle Streeter. The rookie front row saw Gray get the jump but Streeter held close. Through it all, Gray persevered, coming from his own mechanical-interruptions in feature No.1 to claim his first Late Model victory.

The Flying Tigers had a rough start to double feature action with a lap six pile-up involving Matt Ballard, Rich Lowrey and Cam Gadue in turn one. Logan Powers led from the start to take down his first career Flying Tiger win over multi-time champion Jason Woodard and Chris Laforest. The Tigers kept true to form for feature No. 2 with Travis Patnoe looking to have a career day before Ballard reeled him in. Ballard, with Cooper French and Lowrey in tow, moved into the lead on lap 23 and never looked back. French and Lowrey rounded out the second podium.

The Street Stocks had the hardest night of

all four Thunder Road divisions. Feature No. 1 seemed to be in the hands of Jason Kirby but three caution spells made for a hard pull on the Road Warrior alum, as it did for point leader Dean Switser Jr. Patrick Tibbetts made the most of the caution periods to climb up to the winner's circle for his first checkered flag of the season.

Feature No. 2 was no nicer to the crunch bunch with a big backstretch pile-up ending the day for championship hopeful Nate Brien and last week's first time winner Tyler Wheatley on lap 10. The redeeming qualities came back in full with a head-to-head battle between young Walker Fitch and Derek Farnham on the return to green. The two fought hard at the front until Farnham overtook the youngster to lead lap 19 and kept pace for the win.

The Road Warriors put on two lightning-fast 20 lap shows. Derrick Mann ran away with the first trophy dash over Mike Slingerland and Cayden Green and looked poised to do so again in Feature No. 2.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local ompetitors)

Late Models – Feature #1 (50 Laps)

- 6. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
- 12. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott

Feature No. 2 (50 Laps)

- 4. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
- 13. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

Flying Tigers – Feature No. 1 (40 Laps)

- 6. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
- 21. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

Feature No/ 2 (40 Laps)

- 8. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
- 16. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

Street Stocks – Feature No. 1 (25 Laps)

- 1. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield



Barre's Logan Farrell (middle) won his first Flying Tiger event at Thunder Road on Double Feature Night, flanked here by fellow Barre-Boy Chris Laforest (left) and Waterbury Center's Jason Woodard (right).

photo by Alan Ward



An all-too-familiar look after the last year, with a new division's car in the background. Late Model Rookie of the Year title chaser Brandon Gray got one step closer Thursday night with his first career Late Model win.

photo by Alan Ward

- 6. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield

- 22. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

Feature No. 2 (25 Laps)

- 2. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

- 14. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield

- 18. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

Road Warriors – Feature No. 1 (20 Laps)

- 3. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield

Feature No. 2 (20 Laps)

- 3. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield

Tuesday Trivia Anything but Trivial

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Another session of trivia at Harry's Hardware and the Den drew just four teams, Tuesday, June 24. Team names seem to be a highlight of the competition led by Joe Nudell and Harry Besett. The week's winning team seemed to suggest an inside track, calling itself Harry + Joe, without either Harry or Joe playing on it, though the final tally might seem to indicate otherwise. They missed the first two rounds, but scored high 7s in rounds 3 and 5, with a 6 in round 4.

The Luddites were back again after missing the second trivia outing. Far and a Whey dropped a spot to third after their second place outing June 14, tying with a new team, Harry's Nardware .

The usual format had five questions with answers suggesting a common theme, also to be guessed for bonus points. The first round was quintessentially Vermont, with questions like: "What Channel Island is the warmest place in the British Isles, due to its southerly location" and a hint: "One of the 13 original colonies was named after

Rank	Team #	Team Name	Score
1	4	Harry + Joe	22
2	2	Luddites	18
3	1	Far and a whey	16
4	3	Hairy's Nardware	16

Results of the Tuesday night trivia competition at Harry Hardware and the Den in Cabot, June 24 show less than 50% correct responses with 42 possible points. *courtesy photo*

this Island." All the category's answers named cow breeds.

A subsequent question yielded the answers President Garfield, Sylvester Stallone, Felix Leiter, Tom and Hobbes, to arrive at the category answer Cartoon Cats.

The final round began with the stumper of a question, "In what country did it become illegal to sell chewing gum in 1992? The answer is Singapore, but the answer required sussing out "the etymology of the country name" to identify the theme. Thus Singapore yielded Lion City, Malay and the rest were no less obscure. with Harry + Joe scoring just 2 points and the others with less.

Trivia at the Den will continue irregularly with a call to the venue being the only way to find out if the game is on for future Tuesdays.



2025 Masters Memorial champions (from left) were Arron Molleur, Brian Niemi, Nate Brown and Ted Benoit. They shot 5 under par 39, tying two other teams, and won in a card count on Friday, June 29. as part of the alumni weekend.

courtesy photo

Bike Race, Run, Duck Race, July 26

GLOVER – Glover Day will be held July 26 with a run, walk or ride bike to sponsor the Shadow Lake Dam Repairs. The events include the Tour de Glover Bike Race, 5.5 Mile Run, 5K Race, 2K Kid's Race, Foot Race and the Duck Race.

The annual "Tour de Glover" Bike Ride consists of a 12.6 mile trek across a wide variety of terrain: dirt roads, Class 4 roads, two climbs, and three downhill descents.

Runners and walkers, line up for one of the other races offered. There is a 5K Race (line up at town shed) and a 5.5 mile Run-Chamberlain-Run walk-run option (starting at the Landmark).

For children 12 and under there is a 2K Race (starting at Still Hill Bridge). Races Start at 9 a.m. sharp. Kids 2K race starts at 10 a.m.

For more on the races, times and registration visit gloverambulance.org/gloverday or sign up on the day of the races starting at 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.