THE Hardwick Gazette

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Wednesday, July 30, 2025 — hardwickgazette.org — Volume 136 Number 31

Elementary School Lobby Roof Supports Cut

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Workers at Hardwick Elementary School Wednesday morning discovered the roof of the lobby facing South Main Street had a noticeable sag in the supporting above where doors and windows had earlier been removed. An engineer onsite from John Turner Consulting (JTC) quickly evaluated the situation as the roof continued to sag and recommended placing three vertical wooden columns as temporary supports.

It appears at least one of the lobby roof supports under a steel beam that spans the lobby was cut Tuesday after windows containing PCB caulking were removed, according to OSSU Director of Operations Joe Houston. Houston has been overseeing work at the school, which involves removing windows in eight classrooms along the driveway and windows and doors in the lobby entrance. Other work involves taking up flooring in the lobby, classrooms and in the corner music room on that side toward the parking lot.

Workers at the school had been removing windows in the classrooms, where instructions were to cut the vertical dividers between them, which were not structural, said Houston. Three vertical supports between the lobby windows and doors were structural and were not to have been removed, but portions of all three were not in place Wednesday morning before 9:30 a.m.

Houston said it had been clear to him that the lobby supports were

See ROOF, 5



Enviro Vantage workers prepare to install plastic sheeting over the damaged Hardwick Elementary School gym lobby facade. On the day before, there was an issue with the PCB remediation work and the abatement contractor cut some structural members that they were not supposed to causing damage to the lobby roof structure. An engineer developed a temporary solution by placing three wooden supports to hold up the structure until a permanent fix can be developed. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*



Hutson Michaud of East Hardwick was named Holstein Reserve Junior Champion with his winter calf at the 2025 Lamoille County 4-H Youth Dairy Show, July 19, in Johnson. *photo by Holly Ferris*

Hadley Michaud Named Grand Champion, All Breeds

JOHNSON – Hadley Michaud was named Grand Champion of All Breeds with her three-year-old cow, Dreamroad BSD Victorious CC. She showed the cow as a two-year-old in last year's show, also winning this same award.

Hutson Michaud, East Hardwick, earned Holstein Reserve Junior Champion honors with his winter calf. Both showed at the 2025 Lamoille County 4-H Youth Dairy Show, held in conjunction with Lamoille County Field Days, attracting a larger than usual turnout with 30 exhibitors, some of whom showed animals in more than one class.

The show, hosted by University of Vermont

See CHAMPION, 3

New Fire and Town Trucks Approved

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – The select board approved two large vehicle purchases at its July 9 meeting that consisted of a mixed agenda.

Continuing discussion from prior meetings, Chief Dave Brochu Jr. of the Greensboro Fire Department informed the board he found a used, but like-new, base model firetruck with a top-mount pump for $495k. The board approved the purchase, contingent on financing arrangements after board member Ellen Celnik suggested approving the purchase, as prices continue to rise.

Road Foreman Tom Camarra proposed the town replace its current F530, with a standard cab and pick up body, for a heavier-duty F550 with a crew cab and dump body. He said the benefits of a smaller dump truck include use for small hauling jobs, and it could navigate areas too small for a ten-wheeler.

After comparing bids for an F550 versus an F350 truck, member Mike Metcalf felt that an F350, equipped with a crew cab and dump

See TRUCKS, 4

Website, FEMA Work, Planning, Fill Agenda

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – Pay increases, a new Woodbury website, development of a Lake Watershed Action Plan, the usual flood response work, land use planning and a number of issues and concerns involving town residents and Swenson Granite took the select board's attention at its July 14 meeting.

A pay increase was approved by the select board for the town clerk to $30 per hour and for

See WEBSITE, 6



Vittoria Albertini cools herself after finishing the 5K women's walking race in the 7-13 age group of the Caspian Lake Challenge, held Sunday..
photo by Naomi Ranz-Schleiffer

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Police Report

Hardwick Police

Media Log

July 20: Animal Problem, Belfry Road; Medical, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15; Directed Patrol, Center Road; Traffic Stop, Cottage St.; Traffic Stop, Terrace Hill Road/Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

July 21: VIN Verification, Dutton Road; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Assist – Agency, Maple St.; Assist – Agency, Central St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15; Alarm, Vt. Rte. 16.

July 22: Fingerprints, High St.; Found Property, S. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Houston Hill Road; Suspicious Event, Evergreen Manor Drive; VIN Verification, Craftsbury Road; Theft, Wolcott St.; Medical, Alpine Heights.

July 23: Medical, Maple St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, W. Church St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Kellogg St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16/Vt. Rte. 15; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Alarm, Buffalo Mountain Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S/Carey Road; Traffic Stop, Elm St./Spring St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Union St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

July 24: Alarm, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Assist – Agency, Carey Road/Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, Slapp Hill; Assist – Agency, Mill St.; Wanted Person, Mill St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Mackville Road; Traffic Stop, N. Main St./Church St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Buffalo Mountain Road; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Carey Road; Mental Health Incident, Wolcott St.

July 25: Suspicious Event, High St.; Theft, N. Main St.; Lost Property, Hardwick; Accident – TCNR, Vt. Rte. 16; Suspicious Event, Cherry St.; Medical, Maple St.

July 26: Theft, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Citizen Dispute, N. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

July 27: Theft, N. Main St.; Alarm, Industrial Park Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Fire Hazard, Vt. Rte. 14 S.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Thirteen people used AWARE services between July 13 and July 27. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

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July 30 - August 5

Pennsylvania Peaches and Nectarines are in.

New Shoes in from Merrell. Stop in and check them out.

Wide Awake Ground Coffee or K Cups $4.49 11-12 oz. or 10 ct.

Kellogg's Mini Wheat or Raisin Bran Cereal $3.49 13.3-16.1 oz.

Rice-A-Roni Side Dishes 2/$3 6.5-7.2 oz.

Cabot Mac & Cheese Dinner 2/$4 6.25 oz.

Food Club Salad Dressing 2/$4 16 oz.

Cholula Hot Sauce $3.49 5 oz.

Ghirardelli Brownie Mix $3.99 18-20 oz.

Nabisco Family Size Oreo Cookies $4.79 18.12-18.71 oz.

Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts $5.49 16 oz.

Planters Mixed Nuts/Peanuts or Cashew Halves $5.49 8-10.3 oz.

Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Bars $2.99 10.4 oz.

Simply Done 6=18 Paper Towels $10.99 365 s.f.

Simply Done 12 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue $9.99 314.6-317.2 s.f.

Newman's Juice Drinks 2/$5 59 oz.

Stonyfield Smoothies $1.79 10 oz.

Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/$5 5.3 oz.

Lactaid Milk $3.99 64 oz.

Daisy Sour Cream $3.29 24 oz.

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream $3.99 16 oz.

Hood Ice Cream $2.99 48 oz.

Klondike 6 Ct. Bars $3.79 27 oz.

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Police Report



Cabot firefighters don SCBA gear and practice on an obstacle course, July 24, under simulated stressful circumstances to ensure they are prepared for real-world emergency operations. photo courtesy social media

Cabot Fire Department

Firefighters Simulate Conditions for Training

by Cabot Volunteer Fire Department

CABOT – July 23, Cabot Fire Department training focused on the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standard 1404. This standard emphasizes hands-on training using Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) conducted under simulated stressful circumstances to ensure firefighters are prepared for real-world emergency operations.

By adhering to NFPA 1404 training requirements, fire departments can ensure their personnel are well-prepared and equipped to handle the challenges of firefighting and other emergency operations that require respiratory protection.

Champion

Continued From Page One

(UVM) Extension 4-H and the Green Mountain Moovers 4-H Club of Morrisville, took place July 19, at the Lamoille County fairgrounds, with Kingdom Country Farmers 4-H Club, East Hardwick, attending.

Show placements included Jersey, Senior Champion and Grand Champion: Hadley Michaud, East Hardwick, with her three-year-old cow; Hutson Michaud, East Hardwick, with his Spring calf ; and Hadley Michaud, East Hardwick, with her three-year-old cow.

In addition to winning trophies (fitting and showmanship) or rosette ribbons (conformation), each of these champions received an additional prize donated by local businesses. These included feed buckets, brushes, hoof polish and other items. For winning the Grand Champion of All Breeds Hadley Michaud was awarded a halter and bag of grain.

William Kelly, Winchester, N.H., was the official judge with Nicole Verchereau, Morrisville, serving as the show announcer. Palmer Hunt of Franklin-Lamoille IBA in Jeffersonville checked in the animals. The show was organized by Holly Ferris, UVM Extension 4-H educator for Caledonia and Lamoille Counties.

Hardwick Police

Motor Vehicle Crashes, Outstanding Warrant, Shoplifter

On July 19, at approximately 7:51 p.m., Alex Maldonado of Greensboro Bend was arrested for driving under a criminally suspended license. Maldonado was cited to appear in Caledonia County Superior Court Criminal Division on August 18 at 8:30 a.m.

On July 21, at approximately 9:40 p.m., Jayden Wheeler, of Wolcott, was involved in a single motor vehicle crash involving two loose horses on the roadway in the area of 2138 Vt. Rte. 15 W. The vehicle sustained minor contact damage to the front driver's side headlamp and quarter panel. Both horses were successfully recovered and are reported to be in good health, only sustaining minor injuries.

On July 24, at approximately 1 a.m., the Hardwick Police, while assisting the Vermont State Police, determined that an involved party in this incident, Timothy O. Magee, of West Glover, had an outstanding warrant out for his arrest. This was a cite and release warrant for a credit card fraud investigated by the Morristown Police Department. Magee was issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Lamoille Division, for Friday, July 25. He was never taken into custody and released from the scene.

The store manager at Tops Friendly Market reported a shoplifter on June 25 at about 4 p.m. The store video surveillance captured Joie Miller, of Hardwick, stealing two six packs of beer from the establishment. Miller was issued a citation to appear on August 25 in Caledonia Superior Court, Criminal Division, for the charge of retail theft.

On July 28 at 9:30 p.m., Hardwick Police responded to Rte. 15 E in Hardwick for a report of a two-vehicle crash. The operator, Ann Gilcris, of Hardwick, was operating a Honda CRV and was turning left into her driveway. As Gilcris was turning left the operator of the second vehicle, Craig Devenger, of West Danville, who was operating a Ford Edge, came around the curve and collided with Gilcris. Both vehicles sustained minor damage and there were no injuries.

The Hardwick Police Report is based on information provided by the police and is not a comprehensive list of police activity. Individuals named in the police report are presumed to be innocent until they plead or are found guilty in court.

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Weather Watch

Fall-Like Forecast Period; Some Warming By Sunday



Canadian wildfire smoke settles over the hillsides looking from Hardwick Farms Road toward the east. *photo by Dawn Gustafson*

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK — The calendar is showing July, but the upcoming forecast period will quickly transition to conditions that feel like mid-September. This comes in the wake of a week where temperatures were all over the place, with some highs approaching 90 degrees and a comfortable night where lows dipped to the upper 40s. Smoke settled in on Saturday, creating some unhealthy air quality conditions, before being washed out on Sunday morning with a deluge of rain. Rainfall totals of around an inch of accumulation were observed at our local weather stations.

Heat and humidity built in the wake of that rain, as high temperatures returned to the upper 80s for Monday, with Tuesday looking at similar highs.

A wave of low-pressure riding along a southward-moving cold front crosses northern Vermont Wednesday afternoon and evening. Showers and thunderstorms appear likely during that time. That front slows as it moves southward, with lingering clouds for Thursday. Things will feel much cooler. High pressure builds through the remainder of the period, with clearing conditions starting Friday and the set up for what looks to be comfortable highs and lows as we move into a spectacular weekend.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Showers and thunderstorms by afternoon. High: 82. Low: 57. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High: 70. Low: 48. North wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Becoming mostly sunny. High: 71. Low: 44. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny. High: 74. Low: 52. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny. High: 79. Low: 56. West wind around 5 mph.

Tyler Molleur, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, CPEN, NRP, is a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, and Lecturer, Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services. He has been reporting on local weather conditions since he was in the eighth grade at Craftsbury Academy.



Weather Watch, Warning Explained

by Vermont Emergency Management

VERMONT – On July 25, Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) explained the difference between a Weather Watch and a Weather Warning from the National Weather Service, with pizza as an example.

A Watch means all the ingredients are present but there's no pizza. Conditions are favorable for something to happen — but nothing's in the oven yet. It's the time to be alert and get prepared. A Warning means the pizza is here. It's too late to pick toppings. A weather event is happening or about to happen and now is the time to take action.

Trucks

Continued From Page One

body, would be adequate and should cost less. The board also examined the difference in cost of upgrading to a diesel engine. Camarra told the board a diesel truck could easily fuel up at the town garage, thus getting better mileage, and the diesel vehicle would have a higher trade-in value.

After more discussion, the board approved the purchase of an F350 truck from Lamoille Valley Ford.

Camarra reported the crew has been working on Salls Road, cutting trees and brush, ditching and replacing culverts. Gravel crushing at the pit is almost finished.

Some members of the public were present to voice concerns about the poor condition of Black's Point Road. Board Chair MacNeil said, as a Class 3 road, it must be maintained such that a pleasure car can navigate it. Christie King said the road hasn't been graded by the town in at least four years, and a pleasure car cannot really get through safely at this point. King said she heard the fire department is not required to travel down the road for fear of damaging equipment, a major concern for residents in the area.

Chris Philips said he's concerned about emergency vehicle access. It was suggested that widening the road from from ten to twelve feet would be an improvement, and with some grading and gravel the road would meet Class 3 requirements. The town reserves the right to trim or cut trees within its 45 foot right-of-way, making this option viable.

In other business, the board welcomed back Treasurer Brett Stanciu, who had been on sick leave since November.

Scribe and FEMA oordinator Josh Karp said he has almost completed reimbursement requests for the 2024 flood. Karp is sending VTrans his resume as required, hoping to be approved soon to serve as the Municipal Project Manager for the Breezy Avenue bike and pedestrian scoping study.

Dan Predpall reported FEMA is paying KAS Engineering to put together a scaled down version of their Wilson Street drainage improvement project. It would still be designed to handle a 100-year flood event, and would begin at the top of the town parking lot instead of up behind residences on Wilson Street. The cost of the revised project is expected to be around $200k, less than half of the original proposal. Predpall said a local contractor may be able to do the job for less, and if the town did some of the construction management, there could be some savings.

The board discussed the proposed position of town administrative assistant. It was noted the assistant town clerk is a separate position, and likely does not have the capacity to assist with grants. Celnik said grant coordination would be an important part of the new position. The board asked Karp to write a full job description.

Christine Armstrong said all town employees should have clear job descriptions and clear benefit packages identified because the voters need this information, as they are the ones who ultimately approve the proposed budget. Armstrong also suggested that a committee be formed to review outside appropriation requests, similar in structure to the ARPA committee of a few years ago.

Roof

Continued From Page One

not to have been removed, saying it appeared there had been miscommunication somewhere with workers removing the lobby windows and doors..

Window and door caulking in the eight classrooms and lobby is the cause of the work to remediate high levels of PCB chemicals in the school,

Last week Houston was working with the three contractors involved to identify solutions and ironing out responsibility to pay for the remedial work now required to lift the lobby roof back into place, install new structural supports, assess damage to the roof's waterproof membrane and evaluate whether any damage had occurred to supports at each end of the beam. He said all of the contractors were working well together and suggested there was a chance issues with the roof and lobby front wall could be resolved for the first day of school, August 25.

The vertical lobby supports had been cut by the abatement contractor Enviro Vantage as they removed the offending PCBs during work they were contracted for by JTC. Workers from Energy Efficiency Investments (EEI), who were onsite to replace building parts that had been removed, were able to construct the recommended vertical supports and install them by about 11 a.m. Wednesday, according to Houston. A plastic interior barrier was visible in the lobby, which was there to protect the rest of the school's interior from PCB contamination during the mitigation process.

The area was covered by plastic Thursday to protect the interior of the lobby from the elements as work inside continued.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical compounds, formerly used in products whose production is now banned. Work by Enviro Vantage to remove the materials tested to have PCBs was about a week behind schedule, said Houston, but EEI has been able to work around that, staying on target with much of their work.

The problem with high levels of PCBs was identified when testing of air samples from the school revealed elevated levels in some rooms. JTC was then engaged to test materials on an EPA list of materials sometimes known to contain and emit PCBs Testing of window caulking revealed the highest levels of 15,000 parts per million (ppm), which triggered the need to test all the listed materials and remove any testing about the 50 ppm level. That included caulking in the eight classroom windows, plus the lobby windows and doors. Floor tile in those areas tested at 300 ppm, triggering its replacement too. Walls in the music room testing about 50 ppm and are being encapsulated with an epoxy coating, which will not allow PCBs to penetrate into the room.

Soil tested outside the building, along the driveway also tested high, so it will be removed and replaced after other exterior work is completed.

Houston said the goal was to have the heavy construction completed before the beginning of the school year and most of that is on track. "There's room for hope on that," he said. If the lobby can't be used at the start of the year, the gym has enough other exits to be usable by students, but capacity would likely be limited and not usable for community gatherings.



Workers for Dennis White Interior Contractors, a subcontractor of Energy Efficient Investments, assemble a temporary exterior wall in advance of window frame removal at Hardwick Elementary School, July 24.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



An Enviro Vantage technician, in full protective suit and respirator, adjusts containment plastic as part of ongoing removal of PCB containing materials from the window wall of Hardwick Elementary School July 26.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Tax Rate Set, Assistant Town Clerk Hired

by Raymonda Parchment and Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO - At a special select board meeting, July 23, the FY25 municipal tax rate was set at $0.7964.

The state's homestead education tax rate for Greensboro is $2.0210 per $100 of assessed property value, with the non-homestead education rate set at $1.9452. Combining the local and education tax rates brings the total homestead tax rate to $2.8174 and the total non-homestead rate to 2.7416 (All tax rates are per $100 of assessed property value.)

All select board members were present to set tax rates, along with the town clerk, and treasurer Brett Stanciu for the 4 p.m. meeting.

Stanciu explained the calculations that led her to recommend the FY25 tax rates based on the general budget of $1,380,321 and $1,005,132 highway budgets that were set at town meeting, and estimated revenues from the Current Use program, state payments in lieu of taxes and other income.

Town residents are required to pay school taxes of $1,367.48 on properties exempted from tax through local agreements, which include taxes on the Tolman Corner ballfield and taxes on the first $40,000 of property value for disabled veteran property owners.

Mike Metcalf made the motion to set the local tax rate, with Judy Carpenter seconding. Ellen Celnik and Tim Brennan joined them in voting for the motion, with Select Board Chair MacNeil abstaining.

Stancio and Brennan offered to review the letter that will accompany the tax bill so tax bills could be sent out this week.

In other business, the board agreed to sign a contract for fuel oil at $2.79 a gallon with Packard Fuel.

Following an executive session, they voted to hire Brandy Smith as an employee for two days a week at $30 per hour, which is the same rate she has been paid as a contractor. Again MacNeil abstained.

Greaves told board members that she has hired Sharon Fialco as an assistant town clerk for two days a week starting in August.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Annual GHS Presentation Features Maple Syrup Bubble

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Historical Society (GHS) will hold annual meeting featuring a presentation by historian Tim Breen. Monday, August 4, at 7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall,

Breen's topic, "The Great Maple Syrup Bubble," reconstructs a lost Eighteenth Century world of social reformers and ambitious entrepreneurs. During that time, many Americans began openly criticizing the enslavement of Africans, particularly in the Caribbean Islands, where the majority of household sugar was manufactured. As a way to undermine that cruel trade, people in northern cities argued that large-scale production of maple syrup might cut demand for cane sugar. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

Website

Continued From Page One

town listers with $25 for the chair and $20 for the other listers.

The select board learned from volunteer John Reid that the new Woodbury website he worked with volunteer Alex Peltz to design, will be online soon and has been completed on budget. Ben Witte is implementing it and will be maintaining it. Reid noted it will be easier to navigate, the information on it will be kept up to date and it will meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for accessibility.

A presentation on the Lake Watershed Action Plan for Woodbury Lake and Sabin Pond was given by Lucas Goldflus and Dan Koenemann with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD). They said work will focus on Woodbury Lake and Sabin Pond and the upstream lakes, Greenwood and Valley Lake. They will study the watershed and assess the quality of brooks and wetlands whose waters flow into the lake. Town roads within the lake watershed will also be looked at. As part of the project's Lake Wise program they will work directly with interested lakeshore property owners to address how to maintain shorelines to minimize erosion and other forms of pollution.

A kick-off meeting with town officials will happen soon and a community forum will be held later to share the work, especially with lakeshore landowners.

Skip Lindsay's recovery officer's report noted most of his attention is now on work related to July 2024's flooding. The last of the 2023 flood repair work on Town Highway 23 and 24 bridges has finally started, with work expected to take less than two weeks, he said. Mitigation projects using leftover FEMA funds from the original bridge project estimate, have also begun.

Alfie Larrabee reported the road crew has finished two of the County Road culvert projects, as well as one on Blake Hill Road.

The board approved a final draft of the RFP for a town hall roof replacement that was prepared by Lindsay, selecting a middle gray color. Board members Chris Casey and Lizzy Higgins will come up with a list of roofing contractors to send the RFP to.

Lindsay is working on RFP's for basement waterproofing and new windows in the town office that he hopes to have for the next select board meeting after Casey and Higgins review the window options.

Grant agreements for two future road projects were signed by the board. The first provides $200,000 for a new box culvert to replace the old culvert where the Kingsbury Branch passes under Valley Lake Road in the village. The second is for a project yet to be determined.

The culvert's design estimate came to $278,000, which would leave $78,000 to be covered by the town. Michael Gray will contact Nate Sicard, the design engineer, to get an updated estimate. Sicard will develop the RFP to be sent out in the late fall. In-stream work can't begin until after July 1, so work on the culvert will not start until FY27, allowing funding to be included in the FY27 budget.

Larrabee said the road crew has begun work on King Pond Road funded by a FY25 grant. Other roads are being graded and mowed as weather permits.

The roadside mower may be causing damage to the hydraulic pump on the bucket loader needed to run the mower, said Larrabee. The pump is a costly replacement and a lengthy flow test for the pump is required to diagnose its health. Larabee said he will get an estimate for the test.

The August 11 select board meeting was set to hear from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) about a Regional Future Land Use Map that CVRPC has been developing as part of its new Central Vermont Regional Plan.

The board awarded the winter sand contract to Gravel Construction for $9 a yard at the pit in Wolcott, or $17.75 if delivered.

The owners of 30 still-unregistered dogs will get personal phone calls, said Town Clerk Robin Gouin.

Higgins brought up a letter from a town resident about a trash can damaged by the road crew. Larrabee said it was an old issue that he thought had been resolved, but he'll buy a trash can to replace the damaged one.

Higgins shared that she received a note saying the property owner is satisfied with the town's work replacing a culvert on Cabot Road.

Casey had talked with the owner of goats that had been grazing on a neighbor's property who said they'd compensated the neighbor and found a new home for the aggressive male goats.

Gouin said she'd received complaints about trash at an Ainsworth Road property and the Vermont Department of Health had received a similar complaint that had been sent to Casey, the town health officer. Board member Diana Peduzzi said she thinks the trash may have been cleaned up.

The select board received a complaint from a resident that the Town Animal Control Officer (ACO) had left a threatening note on their door. Peduzzi has contacted ACO Ed Dumas to hear from him about the note.

Peduzzi drafted a letter to Swenson Granite Company some time ago to raise the issue of payments from the company for the wear and tear of Cabot Hill Road caused by the heavy trucks. The quarry is now shipping out large truckloads of grout in addition to the usual granite blocks. The new entrance to the quarry is about half a mile from the old entrance, which means that much more road is being worn down by those trucks. She will resend the draft letter to the board members for discussion.

Following an executive session, in which the board discussed labor needs for the town road crew, it asked Larrabee to make a decision on his future, by the next meeting in two weeks.

The meeting can be watched at hctv.us.

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An aerial view of the duplex home being build by Habitat for Humanity's Greensboro Initiative shows the exterior envelope completed. Tours will be available during the annual Greensboro Bend Block Party, August 9, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. *courtesy photo*

Roof Finished, Tours Available, Aug. 9

by Habitat for Humanity Greensboro Initiative

GREENSBORO BEND – The Habitat for Humanity duplex home now has a shingled roof, with labor and materials donated by Vermont Construction Company. August 9 is the annual Greensboro Bend Block Party from 3 to 7 p.m. and initiative volunteers will be there. Tours of the duplex will be offered from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Over the past two weeks, volunteers working under Site Supervisor Bill Hardy and John Mackin, have framed in the interior walls, which are now ready for the electricians and plumbers. Volunteers will be needed again in August to construct porches and decks.

The public phase of the fundraising campaign has been kicked-off with an offer by a local donor to match the first $25,000 in donations dollar-for-dollar. Donations can be made at by selecting the Greensboro Initiative via the Habitat for Humanity website. Call volunteer coordinator Jenny Bayles with questions at (802) 533-2959 or email jenniferbayles@gmail.com. Register to volunteer at volunteerup.com

Applications Open for Flood Recovery Funding

by Carly Berlin, VTDigger, Vermont Public

VERMONT – Communities impacted by the devastating floods that swept through Vermont in July 2023 can now apply for a cut of long-term federal disaster aid.

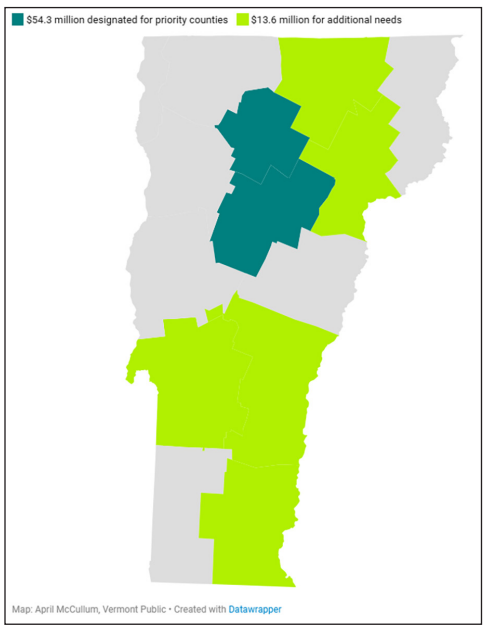
State officials have opened the application process for nearly $68 million in federal recovery money allocated to the state late last year. Officials hope to funnel the majority of the funding toward housing development outside of flood-prone areas.

"We recognize that housing is a crisis across the whole state, and especially in these flood areas," said Nate Formalarie, deputy commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, which is administering the federal block grants. "If future storms are to come, we need to have places to put people."

A state analysis found that Vermont has over $350 million in unmet flood recovery needs tied to the 2023 storm alone, with the bulk of that need stemming from costly damage to public infrastructure like power, wastewater and transportation systems.

But state officials plan to direct more than 60% of the federal disaster aid, over $41 million, toward housing development. Smaller portions of the block grant will be set aside for infrastructure projects, flood-mitigation efforts, future planning and program administration, according to a state action plan approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Asked why officials opted to channel much of this funding toward housing specifically, Formalarie emphasized the state of Vermont's extraordinarily tight housing market and the loss of homes to flood damage and property buyouts. The pot of money available to the state pales in the face of the overall need, he said.



Federal rules require that the majority of Vermont's 2023 flood recovery grant go to projects in Lamoille and Washington counties. State officials plan to direct more than half of the funds to housing development.

"There is a need to replenish some of these housing options in these communities that are getting flooded year after year," he said. Applications for infrastructure that supports new housing development will get considered as part of the housing category for funding decisions, he added.

The feds' rules dictate that the majority of the disaster funding must flow to Lamoille and Washington counties, which were both particularly hard hit by the flooding two years ago. State officials have earmarked the remaining funds for unmet flood recovery needs in Caledonia, Orleans, Rutland, Windham and Windsor counties. The funding must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents.

This type of federal funding isn't a given after a disaster strikes. Unlike immediate relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which can start flowing right after the president declares a disaster, Congress has to take action to appropriate these more flexible, long-range funds. The money allocated to Vermont came out of a disaster aid package that federal lawmakers passed in December.

This form of disaster aid also offers a rare opportunity to build new housing outside of the floodplain. While FEMA's aid programs generally tie a homeowner to rebuilding on the site of their damaged home, for instance, or buy them out with no guarantee of an available home to move into, these more flexible funds can allow a community to create homes where they didn't exist before.

Barre City, which has been hit repeatedly by major floods in recent years, has a long list of housing projects it's considering as it puts together an application for the disaster funding, said City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro. One major priority is financing the infrastructure for new homes at the proposed Prospect Heights development, an undeveloped site near the city's downtown.

The city also wants to jumpstart the revitalization of the flood-prone North End neighborhood, using some of the funding to build affordable homes at a park outside the floodplain, Storellicastro said. Redeveloping a long-vacant downtown building and funding more home elevations are also on the list, he added.

Between all of those projects, the city plans to apply for around $30 million from the federal funding pot. As Barre loses dozens of homes and property tax revenue to buyout-takers and lingering flood damage, the funding could make a meaningful difference, Storellicastro said.



Barre City on July 12, 2023, after flooding of the Stevens Branch, visible on the right side of the image.

courtesy of Vermont Agency of Transportation

"That would be a big step forward, not just to address the housing crunch, but to help the city's tax base," he said.

State officials are asking municipalities and local organizations interested in a shot at the funding to submit pre-applications by Aug. 5, with full applications due in late September. A citizen board will review them according to a rubric and make recommendations to Lindsay Kurrle, secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and Gov. Phil Scott, who will have a final say on application decisions.

The state hopes to begin awarding funding before the end of 2025.

This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.

Mitigation, Planning Grant Applications Submitted

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Town officials have their eye on a portion of the $68 million in federal recovery

funding applications Vermont officials are now accepting. Pre-applications for one mitigation project and one planning project were being prepared by town officials to be submitted yesterday.

After learning that the application window was opening, Hardwick coordinated with the state last week, said Kristen Leahy in her role as the town's resilience and adaptation coordinator.

"Last week, we met with state representatives to confirm alignment and support for our intended applications ahead of the submission deadline. This meeting served as a final coordination step," she said.

In parallel, Tracy Martin, Hardwick community development coordinator, identified funding and secured a grant writer to assist with preparation of the materials.

More information will be available after the applications have been submitted," she said.

The applications being submitted by Hardwick will be for a share of the $13.6 million allocated to all Vermont towns outside Washington and Lamoille counties.

Despite millions of dollars of 2023 and 2024 losses following flood events, and the need for funding to meet recommended needs to prepare Hardwick for future weather events, the town has not been classified as "most impacted," and won't qualify for the bulk of the new funding directed to Washington and Lamoille Counties.

Hardwick has been actively coordinating with state officials for several months in preparation for this opportunity, said Leahy.

"We've participated in four public meetings, reviewed each version of the three program drafts and compiled extensive documentation of our flood-related needs.. As a result of this sustained engagement, Hardwick was designated as a state-Identified Most Impacted Community, a significant recognition given our exclusion from HUD's formal 'most impacted' list," she said.

Leahy said Hardwick remains committed to pursuing all available pathways to support long-term recovery and future resilience in the town.

Greensboro Association Distributes $47,000 to Local Organizations

by Greensboro Association

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Association's (GA) Grants Committee has distributed $47,000 to local organizations and non-profits in the greater Greensboro community through a combination of its annual grants program and community relief grants.

This year's grants were awarded to organizations supporting educational initiatives for all ages from preschool at Four Seasons of Learning and Craftsbury Saplings to placed-based education programming at OSSU with the Center for an Agricultural Economy. Grants also support pre-college summer programming for area high schoolers at Sterling College; provide food access through SNAP funding at local farmers markets, food purchasing for food pantries and food share boxes, and seeding the Greensboro Community Meal program.

Grants also support the Greensboro Free Library, Greensboro Fire Department, Greensboro Historical Society, Hardwick Rescue and AWARE; programming at the Craftsbury Community Care Center, Greensboro Nursing Home and for Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism to publish local news in The Hardwick Gazette. Grants include Circus Smirkus programming in partnership with local entities, the annual Greensboro Bend Block Party and provided support for Pollinator Friendly Greensboro in establishing a series of pollinator gardens in collaboration with the Greensboro Conservation Commission at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trailhead in Greensboro Bend.

In addition, monies from the GA Community Relief Fund were used to support the purchase of two automated external defibrillators (AED) that have been placed at Smiths Store and Willey's Store. In partnership with the Pleasants Fund another AED was purchased and placed at the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

The Greensboro Association, whose mission is to advance initiatives that connect and enhance the greater Greensboro community, protect the lakes and environment and support a vibrant local economy, raises money each year through its membership for area organizations, non-profits and community-groups that are working on projects that directly impact the greater Greensboro community.

"Supporting and strengthening our local community is at the heart of what the Greensboro Association is all about," said Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, president of the GA. "We continue to see the immense impact that working with local organizations and other volunteer groups to support food security, education, environmental protection, health and social services, and arts and cultural programming has on creating a vibrant and more resilient community that benefits us all. Our grants program not only provides project grants and operational support, but we look to seed initiatives, provide matching funding, and find creative ways to leverage local resources to support our greater Greensboro community. This year the GA even hosted a grant writing workshop for local leaders and grantees," she added.

For a complete list of this year's grant recipients and more information on the Greensboro Association's grant program, visit the Greensboro Association website, greensboroassociation.org.



Community members gather on town hall green for one of Greensboro's weekly community meals. *courtesy photo*



Attending the first week of "Teach America to Swim" swimming lessons at Caspian Beach for Level-1 (from left) are Matteo Hunt, 6; Sawyer Moore, 5; and Sawyer Slack, 6, listening to their instructor Sabrina Keller, founder and owner of the program. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*

THANKS
FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE



Jasper Hill's Withersbrook Blue was second place for Best of Show at the annual American Cheese Society Awards.

photo courtesy Jasper Hill website

Jasper Hill, Cabot Garner American Cheese Society Awards

by Alex Strand

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Vermont creameries won big at this year's annual American Cheese Society competition, taking home 49 ribbons. Jasper Hill swept the competition, taking second best of show honors for its Withersbrook Blue. They gathered eight first place ribbons, two second place and four third.

Cabot Creamery scored first for salted butters with Euro Style salted butter, and second place in the same category with regular salted butter. Cabot's Creme Fraiche also took first place. They gained six first place ribbons, four for second place and five for third.

The competition took place in Sacramento, Calif., featuring cheeses from across the continent. The judges evaluated cheeses based on technical and aesthetic qualities of each cheese.

For the full list of Vermont winners, visit vtcheese.com/acs-2025-award-winners/.

Trump Releases Federal Education Funds

by Corey McDonald, VTDigger

VERMONT – The Trump administration on Friday announced the release of the remaining $18 million in federal education funding for the Vermont's Agency of Education and the state's local school districts.

Vermont Education Secretary Zoie Saunders, in a press release issued on Friday, said the agency will begin their regular process for distributing the funds to school districts on Monday. "Vermont school districts will now be equipped to begin the school year knowing they have the resources to staff critical positions," Saunders said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Education announcement comes less than a month after the agency first announced it was withholding more than $6 billion in funding for six federal grant programs nationwide. The federal government withheld roughly $26 million from Vermont school districts that help fund after-school and summer programs, and English language instruction.

"Vermont school districts will now be equipped to begin the school year knowing they have the resources to staff critical positions," the state's education secretary Zoie Saunders said in a statement.

A portion of those dollars also helps fund Vermont's adult learning centers, institutions which offer residents a path to earn a high school diploma or GED certificate, as well as English language classes and workforce development programs.

In the statement, Saunders called the release of the dollars "a positive development for our most vulnerable students."



Zoie Saunders, interim secretary of education, speaks during Gov. Phil Scott's weekly press conference held at the Central Vermont Technical Center in Barre on Tuesday, June 11. photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

"Vermont school districts will now be equipped to begin the school year knowing they have the resources to staff critical positions and provide the meaningful and tangible opportunities that these dollars represent," Saunders said. "Vermont schools deserve to have confidence that they will be supported with resources that have been promised."

The release of the funds ends weeks of uncertainty for the state's school districts. School board officials set their fiscal year 2026 budgets assuming the federal funding would be in place. Then on June 30, just hours before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, when the funds have historically been made available to states, the Trump administration announced they were withholding the money pending a review.

The transfer of the money to the state also brings to an end a brief hiring freeze implemented in the state's Agency of Education earlier this month. With the federal funding restored, the agency "now has the flexibility to begin hiring for vacant roles," said agency spokesperson Toren Ballard.

"Let's be clear: Today the administration solved a problem of its own making by finally releasing funding for our public schools that it illegally and unconstitutionally withheld," Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-VT, said in a release on Friday after the Department of Education's announcement.

Two weeks after the funding freeze was announced, Attorney General Charity Clark joined 24 other states in a lawsuit against the Trump administration for "unlawfully freezing" those federal funds.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced it was releasing some of the funding allocated for Vermont, roughly $6.5 million, specifically for afterschool programs.

But districts and adult learning centers were kept in limbo, with more than $18 million in funding still withheld. The Winooski School District, for example, relies on those federal funds as a high-poverty district.

Sarah Haven, the director of finance and operations for the Winooski School District, said the district was thankful the funding was being restored and was "once again supporting local budgets."

"We're relieved to move forward without disruption and hope that future decisions will protect the stability our educators, students, and families rely on," Haven said. "We look forward to a wonderful school year."

Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile, Jamestown Canyon Viruses

by Vermont Department of Health

AREA TOWNS – Health officials are recommending Vermonters take steps to prevent mosquito bites after the first positive results of mosquito testing this year have detected two viruses in the state. West Nile virus was detected in St. Albans and Jamestown Canyon virus in Rutland. This is the first year Vermont is testing for Jamestown Canyon virus, which can cause illness in people similar to other mosquito-borne viruses.

There have been no human or animal cases of mosquito-borne illnesses reported so far this season. Health officials encourage people in Vermont to protect themselves from mosquito bites and the potentially dangerous diseases they can spread.

Mosquitoes are tested for three viruses that can be spread through the bite of an infected mosquito: West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, and this year, Jamestown Canyon virus.

Most people who are infected with these viruses do not feel sick, but they can lead to serious illness, such as inflammation of the brain, called encephalitis. Symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or a rash. Anyone who has symptoms should contact their health care provider.

The best protection is to prevent mosquito bites by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors. Limit time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are more likely to bite. Use insect repellent labeled as effective against mosquitoes. The EPA has a tool to help find the right repellent. These products can also protect you from tick bites.

Other preventive measures include getting rid of standing water, including flowerpots, buckets, barrels, wading pools and other toys and containers.

Cover strollers and outdoor playpens with mosquito netting, and fix holes in screens and make sure they are tightly attached to doors and windows.

Since 2002, there have been 17 confirmed human cases of West Nile in Vermont. EEE, or "Triple E", which is more deadly, caused illnesses in two people in Vermont last year, one of whom died. Last year, significantly higher numbers of mosquitoes tested positive for EEE virus in more areas of the state than in any previous years. Vermont has not had any reported cases of infection with Jamestown Canyon to date.

As part of the state's annual surveillance efforts, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets collects mosquitoes throughout Vermont, which are then tested at the State Public Health Laboratory each week. As of July 24, more than 46,000 mosquitoes have been collected.

Horse owners should consult their veterinarians and make sure their animals are up to date on vaccinations for West Nile, EEE, and other diseases spread by infected insects or ticks. Horses cannot spread these viruses to humans or other horses, but the infections can cause neurologic disease and death in unvaccinated animals.

Learn more about mosquitoes, the diseases they spread, and how to prevent bites by visiting HealthVermont.gov/Mosquito.

Hannaford's Recalls Blondies Due to Mislabeling

SCARBOROUGH, Me. – On July 22, Hannaford Supermarkets issued a recall for its private brand blondies purchased from the bakery department at all stores due to mislabeling.

The 15 oz. four-pack of Hannaford Blondies, purchased through Monday, July 21, may be missing the "walnuts" allergen specification on its label. The recalled products have a UPC code of 04126877040.

Customers should check their storage and freezer areas for this product and not eat the product if they have an allergy to walnuts. The items may be returned to your local Hannaford for a full refund. There have been no reports of illness or injury. All unsold impacted products have been removed from sale.

For more information or to answer any questions, contact the local Hannaford or Hannaford Consumer Relations at (800) 213-9040

Fairy Fest, Saturday, July 26
Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro



Jett Jacobs of Irasburg pets the pony, as Dave Kelley, stable boy for the Fairy Queen, holds Snow White.



Georgia Webb, 8, of Montpelier, is assisted by Sarrah Samsara, one of the many magical creatures situated throughout the tent of potions, fairy dust, flower crown making and photo ops.



Some of the many characters roaming throughout the Highland Center for the Arts grounds, July 26, for the Vermont Fairy Festival included (from left): Samuel Babcock as Prince Samuel, Ted Fullard as a Wizard and Bard Wiley as Wiley Delisa.



Marion Millard, 5, of Walden rides on a broom under the big magical tent during the Fairy Festival at the Highland Center for the Arts, July 26,

Photos by
Vanessa Fournier



Right: Iris DeMello, 7, and her brother Cody DeMello, 3, of Westfield pose with a gnome cut-out as they entered the Vermont Fairy Fest, Saturday at the Highland Center for the Arts.

EDITORIAL

Unfounded ICE Rumors Raise Questions

A relatively routine traffic stop at Hardwick's Jiffy Mart on Mill Street last Thursday, at about 11 a.m., generated a whole host of rumors and concern among Hardwick residents and others visiting the area.

A Hardwick police cruiser and officer was seen behind a car with no driver and an open door, while a woman and child were standing near the cruiser and reported to be talking with the officer. At that time three Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles, two black and one brown, were reportedly seen with as many white shirted and badged men, at least some of whom were reported to be armed. It was suggested an unidentified person in the back seat of one of the Jeeps was likely an immigrant.

Assumptions were made that the men in white shirts were with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which a report coming into The Gazette said was confirmed by checking one of their badges online. It was also reported that one of the Jeeps had an Arizona license plate.

It seemed an important story so we began investigating and interviewing those we could identify as having seen or been involved. First on the list was Hardwick's Police Chief Michael Henry, but it took us some time to reach him for a comment.

Before then we heard of a group of people reported to be Mexicans, who made themselves scarce upon learning of the Jeeps rumored to belong to ICE. Another worker at a Hardwick apartment was reported to have left for an errand and never returned that day, leaving the job undone. He too was reported to be Mexican.

The person who called us to report they'd seen ICE agents at Jiffy Mart said they'd watched for a while and were then shooed away by officers.

It obviously didn't take long for the rumors to raise concern among those in the area.

When Henry was reached, he pointed us to a press release indicating the incident involved a Glover resident who was found to have an outstanding warrant and the plainclothes officers were with the Vermont State Police.

The incident raises a number of questions that I find interesting. First, how has federal policy changed that a relatively routine traffic stop generated immediate assumptions that plainclothes law enforcement officers represent ICE, particularly since many reports of ICE activities, at least outside border areas, seem to suggest they've been heavily protected and masked.

Second, how is it that brown-skinned people in this area are almost automatically assumed to be Mexican despite those making that assumption having no direct interaction with them. They could just as easily be from almost anywhere in Central or South America, or even some Southeast Asian countries.

Third, it appears that brown-skinned people in the area, who might already have had reason to avoid law enforcement personnel, have developed a communication network that keeps them informed of places they might want to avoid.

For many years people in this area who speak Spanish have helped transport farm workers without vehicles to doctor's appointments and then offered to take them shopping. I'm told by one of those volunteers that the farm workers often ask to be taken to shop at places they feel safe, so there's been some concern among them well before the present federal administration took office. It seems only recently that other area residents might first assume ICE agents are in the area.

Here at the Gazette we do our best to assume nothing and report only confirmed fact, so, despite putting in quite a few hours of very limited time because I thought we had a whopper of a front page story, we ended up with nothing that counts as real news.

On the other hand, it's not every week that the lobby roof at Hardwick Elementary School starts to collapse.

Paul Fixx, editor

Aspenhurst

1.
Blessed indeed
Is the water
Of Caspian Lake,
Where the ripples
Blown by a gentle wind
Carry the soft
Fragrance of snow.

2.
On warm summer's day,
Let us cast off our clothes
And cover our weary skin
In the clear cool water
Of long melted winter.

3.
On a sunny July evening,
Let us peel potatoes
And shuck ears of corn
In preparation for a picnic
With friends on Barr Hill.

4.
On a windy morning,
Let us all lie in bed
Windows open to the air
Listening to the little waves lapping
Those rocks, these trees, this shore.

5.
The holiest place
I've found up North
Is this water ringed
By green mountains,
Protecting the peace
With line upon line
Of heaven heaving earth.

Jarrod Ingles
Boston

Ingles spent time with his friends Ted and Kaitlin Hasen at their family's house on Caspian Lake.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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

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

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

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ANOTHER OPINION

Preserve OSSU School Boards, Preserve Local Democracy

by Laura Cannon

HARDWICK – We won't always agree with every decision our school boards make, but we should all agree on this: they must exist. Without them, we lose local democracy, community involvement, and taxpayer oversight. Whether you're from Hardwick, Greensboro, Woodbury, Stannard, Wolcott or Craftsbury, one thing is clear: our communities value local control, community-based education and local school board representation. We care deeply about where and how our kids learn and we want a say in it.

The Rural Schools Community Alliance (RSCA), a coalition of community and municipal groups, school boards and educators, has fought hard to preserve these values in the current legislation. Thanks to their efforts, the new law, Act 73, recognizes Supervisory Unions (SUs) in addition to Supervisory Districts (Sds), giving rural voices a chance to be heard.

But RSCA can't do this alone. Now it's our turn.

If OSSU is eliminated and replaced by a large supervisory district as favored by the governor and Vermont Agency of Education, our local school boards would vanish. Decision-making power would shift to a distant, centralized board potentially overseeing 4,000-plus students. Town-level representation would disappear. Budget decisions and school closures would happen without our consent. [Editor's note: The proposal includes creating local school advisory committees to provide community input on budgeting and school improvement plans. While the advisory committees would not have a vote, they are intended to ensure local voices are heard and considered within the larger, regional district structure.]

Under a supervisory union structure, by contrast, existing school boards and their articles of agreement would be retained. Budgets stay local. Voices stay local. Though it could entail mergers or boundary shifts (e.g., merging with Lamoille South, Caledonia Central, or others), we keep a seat at the table. We keep our say.

Some, such as the Vermont School Board Association argue supervisory unions (SU) open the door to privatization. That's a distraction. The real threat is centralized power in sprawling districts, where towns lose control. SUs allow for shared efficiencies, collaboration and cost effective shared services, without silencing community voices. That's the balance we need.

Act 73 established a redistricting committee who has been appointed and is already beginning their work, with three proposals due in December and a vote by the legislature in January. We must act now to influence the outcome. We are not powerless and there are knowledgeable members on this committee who understand rural concerns. Talk to your school board. Call your legislators. Let them know: We want to stay in a Supervisory Union. We value local decision-making.

Much of Vermont is rural. Our education system should reflect that and be accessible for rural families. Without community-based schooling, transportation challenges and long bus rides may force young families like mine to leave Vermont's small towns at a faster rate than they already are, further accelerating small-town economic decline. Consolidation of school governance means disappearing civic engagement and our diminished ability to influence important decisions about education in the future: that's what we risk if we let our school boards go.

This is a fight for more than education. It's a fight for our communities. It's a fight for democracy.

Laura Cannon is a Hardwick resident and parent of two preschoolers. She is a speech-language pathologist and a member of the Rural School Community Alliance. For more information visit vtruralschools.org

Local News Matters Even More Now

by John Walters

EAST MONTPELIER – Local news has always mattered. It's the only way we can keep in touch with our town and city governments, school boards, high school sports, arts and community events, not to mention road construction, floods, fires, crashes, and crime. But it matters even more now, at this moment, than it ever has before.

That's because larger media outlets, such as daily newspapers, radio and TV, have shrunk to an alarming degree. Local outlets, including weekly newspapers and digital-only operations, occupy what would otherwise be news deserts, places with little to no news coverage at all. These deserts would include most of Vermont if not for the valiant efforts of our local papers and digital outlets.

Take, for example, The Hardwick Gazette, a nonprofit whose governing board includes little ol' me. The Gazette serves 11 communities from Plainfield to Craftsbury, from Wolcott to Cabot. The Gazette's service area falls between the catchments of three longtime dailies: The Barre Montpelier Times Argus, The Newport Daily Express, and The St. Johnsbury Caledonian-Record. Each of those papers used to consistently reach beyond their home bases to cover the towns in between. They rarely do so anymore, because it's all they can do to report on their core communities.

So for the residents of those 11 towns, it's The Gazette or pretty much nothing at all.

At the same time, The Gazette is part of a national movement into nonprofit journalism. Ad sales just can't sustain a significant news operation anymore. Nonprofit is the future. It's a very promising future, but the movement is still in its infancy. Success or failure is in the balance.

After more than 130 years as a locally owned business, The Gazette became a community-operated nonprofit last year. It's largely dependent on reader support. And it is in the middle of a major fundraising campaign this summer. It's vital that this drive is a success, to get us through the coming months and build a solid financial foundation for the future.

If you live in The Gazette's service area, I urge you to make a donation. If possible, become a monthly contributor at $5 or $10 a month, or more if you can afford it. If you live elsewhere, please donate to your local news outlet. Vermont is blessed with a large number of local papers and digital platforms with long and storied histories. All are struggling, either to succeed as for-profit businesses or as newly organized nonprofits.

It's a difficult transition, and these organizations' staffs aren't necessarily equipped for the new challenges of running as a nonprofit. It's a new and different skill-set for print journalists. Besides, they're working as hard as they can just to get the news out there.

At the same time, there are very promising developments all across the country. In June, I attended a national conference of the Institute for Nonprofit News, an organization dedicated to developing nonprofit journalism. I can't tell you how many people I met who inspired me. They are putting their energy and creativity to work, and offering new ways to engage with their audiences and generate the income they need to give their communities the news coverage they deserve.

Just one example. I met the editor-in-chief of The Harpswell Anchor, a paper on the Maine coast. His service area has a population roughly twice that of The Gazette, which is still awfully small. (General consensus was that The Gazette was the smallest operation represented at the conference. I paid my own way, in case you were wondering.) And yet The Anchor has built a very strong financial base. They are a success, and they are paying back their donors' investments each and every day with news coverage that otherwise wouldn't exist.

It can be done. News outlets everywhere are coming up with ways to increase reader engagement, attract major donors and grant support, and even boost advertising in ways that an old-fashioned print newspaper couldn't dream of. Some have even ventured back into print, and made it pay off.

But you, Dear Reader, are the key link in the chain. If you depend on the local weekly or digital outlet to find out what's going on in your community, it's time to close the circle by supporting the service you rely on. No more can you assume that advertisers will float the enterprise. They are part of the equation, but gone are the days when advertising was the single biggest source of funds for news.

It's a new day. It's full of promise. Please join in the effort, and help make it a reality.

John Walters weekly media roundup, "News You Should View," has taken the week off. He's been very busy with non-blog-related work lately. In particular, there's been a lot of activity around his duties as a board member of The Hardwick Gazette. *This post reflects that involvement and broader thoughts about the importance of local news, which is the bread and butter of "News You Should View."*

Weeks Gone By

Local Lumps, July 30, 1025

Miss Helen Jackson is employed in East Burke.

Albert Cox has been in Bangor, Me., this week.

Miss Isadel Clark is camping at Caspian Lake for a time.

Mrs. Benjamin Watt of St. Johnsbury is a guest at Fred Taylor's.

Junior Clark of Hyde Park is renewing acquaintances in Hardwick.

Mrs. Cleon Day and child are visiting in Worcester for a few weeks.

James Mackie is very ill this week and is being cared for by two trained nurses.

Miss Rosie Dasti of Milford, Mass., is visiting her cousin, Mrs. Luigi Zecchinelli.

Mrs. Conway Leavens of Morrisville and children are guests at the George McLeod home.

E.F. Dow and Edward Roberts of Newton, Mass., are guests at Wallace Dow's this week.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Celley of Brattleboro visited at C. L. French's the first part of the week.

Mrs. George Chase and two children of Brattleboro are visiting at the Grant home on Pearl Street.

Harry Bole, who has been ill at the home of his parents on Spring Street, is much better at this time.

M. J. Couhig is improving his stoneshed by installing a new 10 x 10 compressor and a 30 h. p. motor.

Rev. Petersen and family, Mr. Louis Swenson and Mrs. Will Montague spent Tuesday at Lake Willoughby.

Word has been received here of the death of Thomas Ryan, a former resident of this place at Fletcher, July 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Stevens of Kansas City, Mo., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Davis. Mrs. Stevens is a sister of Mrs. Davis.

Rev. and Mrs. L. H. Stoughton and two daughters, Miss Margaret and Miss Elizabeth, are in camp at Jackson, N. H., for this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Donlin, who have been on a motor trip through the southern part of New England, arrived home the first of the week.

Mrs. Arthur Carr of Montpelier was a guest of friends in town the latter part of last week. Mrs. Carr will be remembered here as a former resident.

Among the week end visitors at Frank Archer's were, Joel Cady, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown and Mrs. Florence Smith and daughter, all of Melrose, Mass.

Last Tuesday evening the "hello" girls tendered a tin and aluminum shower to one of their number, Miss Minnie Carr, at the home of Mrs. Guy Estell. Refreshments of ice cream and cake were served and the guest of honor was the recipient of a large number of useful gifts. The evening will be one long to be remembered by Miss Carr.

It has been definitely decided, weather permitting, to pull off the great married men's game at Prospect Park next Tuesday afternoon, August 4th, at 6:00 o'clock, and at least five innings will be played and seven, if possible. The game is called at that hour to allow all those taking part in game time to get there after 5:00 o'clock, and also to allow the fans, including clerks and merchants, whose stores close at 5:00 o'clock, an opportunity of attending. If those who do attend do not see more fun to the square inch in a game of baseball than ever before, we miss our guess. There will be a great list of material to pick from and several names have been added to the personnel of each team since last week's list published in these columns. Nine of the best players will be picked from this game to play the single men at a latter date. The single men are already somewhat worried over the result of this prospective meeting.

For the Record

In response to the June 25 story, "East Village Advisory Committee Announces Potential Grant," Sandra Vitzthum, a Montpelier architect has indicated that Plainfield's Planning Commission Chair Will Colgan has said permanent yurts, wheeled homes and tents are allowed in Plainfield if they have zoning and wastewater permits. And, while there should be one parking space for every residential unit, the requirement may be waived by the Development Review Board for all permitted and conditional uses in the Village District.



Village Restaurant owner Lynn Delericheliere cleans off a table during a busy lunch hour last Friday. *photo by Paul Fixx*

Business Briefs

Vermonters Still Recovering from COVID-19 Job Losses

by Alex Strand

AREA COUNTIES – The Public Assets Institute, in its recent brief, showed that Washington and Orleans are among the counties that have yet to recover from loss of jobs during COVID-19.

Caledonia and Lamoille have both reportedly recovered, according to the institute.

Vermont still maintains the 3rd lowest unemployment rates in the country, at just 2.6% in May of 2025. The national average was far above this, at 4.2%.

Washington added the second most jobs since COVID-19; Caledonia added the third most jobs. As the years go on, more counties are set to recover, said the report.

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Yankee Notebook

Universal Explosion of Growing Green

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The roof ridge of my house runs almost exactly east and west. I canted it about three degrees off, to 267 degrees west, so as to orient long face of the house due south with a slight nod to the morning sun for earlier solar heat, and on hot days in summer, an earlier relief from the afternoon sun. Thus, on the morning of the equinox, if it's sunny, the shadow of the western peak of the roof points just about directly west. At the moment it's pointing farther less south every day. That's both good news and bad: The heat's bound to break soon, but the darkness is encroaching.

Meanwhile, most of the windows are wide open, and the interior design of the house somehow draws fresh air (if there is any) in through the bedroom windows, funnels it down the hall, and exhausts it through the back door. Lovely!

As I sit at my desk here in the office on the north side of the house (I ain't as dumb as I look), the window at my right shoulder shows me what's going on outside. A tall, perfect spruce on my neighbor's land shows me whether the wind is blowing, and how hard. The patch of sky above the trees, hazy at the moment with forest fire smoke, is variously cloudy, blue, gray, brooding, damp. Its every aspect influences my mood here inside. The afternoon sun that a month ago flooded the back porch with light and searing heat now shoots only a modest swath of light at the window.

But most of all at this time of year is a universal explosion of growing green. My son-in-law mows my lawn and leach field only twice a summer. They may look a little ragged by suburban standards, but I can see the blooming daisies out there even in the dark. To mow them would seem the work of a brute. My side yard, once a dense spruce thicket, is now a riot of infant meadow where songbirds love to sit and sing, if the racket coming out of it is any indication. There are even two patches of marsh grasses taking advantage of hidden springs. Out back there's the trace of an old road leading up to a now-overgrown beaver dam. That gets mowed, too, so that I can stroll up there now and then, listen to the trickle that becomes a brook and runs all the way down to the Winooski, and watch the tiny minnows that have lived there since long before I came along, and I hope will remain afterward. It's pleasant, too, to reflect that some of the molecules of water I'm watching dance past may end up resting at last, no one can know how much later, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

A few years ago my late wife and I foolishly agreed to let a logger into our woods in return for the cost of removing a few big white pines near the house that my wife felt might fall upon us some stormy night. Before-and-after photos show what a big mistake that was. But a walk up the old road toward the beaver dam now reveals new life springing up where the overstory once inhibited its growth. I'll never see them to even adolescence, but a bank of young spruce and fir are reaching skyward and elbowing each other for space. I'd hate to have to walk through them. Halfway up the road, a young beech is looking pretty lusty. I can't see him from the house except in the fall, when his copper stands out from all the somber greens around him.

The soil here, thanks to the wetlands above us, is pretty moist. I've had a couple of weeping willows planted on the slope to take advantage of it, and, in the way willows will, they've become trees in almost no time. The four red oaks that I had planted hesitantly (I'm afraid that when they get big they'll be toppled in the wet soil by the windstorms we know are coming) are kind of peeking around inside their wire cages and seem to be deciding whether to go for it.

I love to visit arboretums. There's a world-class one in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, where I also go to visit familiar spirits like Longfellow, Whittier, and Nathaniel Bowditch. There's another in one of the parks of Boston's so-called Emerald Necklace. There's even a rustic one-man attempt at one at the Shaker Village in Canterbury, N.H. These few plantings here in my yard are my feeble attempts at one. I hope whoever comes next will honor them.

My favorites, northern tamaracks, are at the foot of the daisy field, in an arc around my old dog's grave, where I often go with a lawn chair and a tot of whiskey to talk with her. They love damp soil and cold, and grow right to tree line in the Arctic. In the fall, their short needles turn a copper brown and fall off. In winter, they look dead. The symbolism is irresistible. About the time mud season passes and the shadow of the house moves south, they very timidly turn a pale green. Here we go again!

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"GENOCIDE, AISLE 5."

Meeting Memo

Tuesday, August 5

Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Plainfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 6

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

Thursday, August 7

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

Monday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 12

Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: (802) 249-6004 or Energy.Coordinator@Hardwick-VT.org.

Wednesday, August 13

Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us
Calais: calaisvermont.gov
Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
Greensboro: greensborovt.gov
Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
Walden: waldenvt.gov
Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

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Voices of Spirit

The Neighborhood of God Depends on You

by Rev. Joe Welker

EAST CRAFTSBURY - I wouldn't be a Presbyterian pastor if I didn't occasionally mention Presbyterian pastor, Mr. Rogers. For decades, Mr. (not going by Rev.) Rogers had a PBS show filmed from a Pittsburgh studio, "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." You can pinpoint exactly where it was filmed in Studio A at WQED, but of course, it was not presented as a precise location. "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" was a place that could have been anywhere. To viewers it felt like both nowhere and everywhere.

His neighborhood was not just the people who happened to be around us, though that is as good a starting point as any to find our neighbors, even if they are puppets. Part of the genius of Fred Rogers was that, without telling a single person on the air he was a Presbyterian minister, or even a Christian, he presented the kingdom of God as not a particular place with a particular land, but a state of mind; not a neighbor-dom, but a neighborhood.

In the Gospel of Luke, this was news to a religious lawyer who sought self-justification (Luke 10:29). After Jesus summarized the commandments by teaching to love God and love your neighbor as yourself, the religious lawyer asked him, "And who is my neighbor?" Christ responded by telling the story of the Good Samaritan, who helped a beaten man by the side of the road while the priests walked on. The story turned the question around; whether someone is your neighbor doesn't depend on them, it depends on you.

How many of us are little spiritual lawyers in our own minds, seeking self-justification that we're the Good Guys and they're the Bad Guys? Challenging that idea is the truth that we've all played all characters in the Good Samaritan story before. We've all been the priests who looked away, we've all been the innkeeper who needs some convincing to help out and we've also all been the man beaten in the ditch in some way. And if we're lucky, we have (through no real goodness of our own) been the Good Samaritan at least once before. I believe almost every child has been a Good Samaritan in some precious way before they reach kindergarten, if only to a bug. Maybe that's why "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" was made for them.

Crucial to the story, Jews and Samaritans in Christ's day did not get along. When we think of who the Good Samaritans might be in our personal world, think of someone who is physically closest to you who you just know is deeply, deathly wrong about the big questions. Based on the deification of our politics, the modern name of this parable would likely be "The Good Liberal" or "The Good Trump Supporter," someone just fundamentally wrong about the universe. But in this time and this place, the wrongness of Samaritan beliefs isn't the point.

Instead, it's our hidden beliefs that are on trial. Jesus tells us that he can tell who our god is based on who we do and don't help. Is your god your politics? Is your god your religion? Is your god a business that you have to get back to? Is your god your family? Is your god your pride? Your comfort? Your time? When those are our gods, and those are just some of them, suddenly we'll find the amount of true neighbors we have shrinks to the people we feel comfortable with, who are in our religion or can share our politics, who don't cost anything to help. Soon, our world becomes a pretty small and exclusive neighborhood.

Jesus didn't come to abolish the law, and he didn't come to abolish the idea of neighbors, as if there are no differences between us. He came to fulfill what it means to be a neighbor. He didn't come to abolish morality, but to establish the neighborhood of God among all of us.

Perhaps the even fuller question beyond "Who is my neighbor?" becomes, "What do you need to do to nurse your neighbor back to life, physically and spiritually? Who is within your power to help that needs it?"

While that may be simple, simple doesn't mean easy. The bar here of "loving your neighbor as yourself" is one that is impossibly high. Are any of us always just as concerned with meeting the needs of others to the same degree as we are with meeting our own needs? Of course not. Yet the fountain of life is always there to drink from. The moments we take the risk to really love a neighbor at risk to ourselves, are those moments we really are neighbors, truly living in God's neighborhood, nourishing the soul in an undeniable way more than we knew was possible.

I know we've all lived in that neighborhood for at least a moment. Then we develop amnesia. Eventually, we might think it was just a TV show, as real as a make-believe land with puppets and a nice guy in a sweater.

But if we're feeling guilty about not helping our neighbors more, we haven't quite gotten it yet. Guilt is not the point of the gospel. The starting point is that we are sinners in need of salvation. Sure, this is bad news to many of us. But that's not the endpoint nor the full news. The point of the good news, which proclaims Christ has taken on sin in our stead, is an invitation to live in the life that can only be experienced when given away. True living is in the life given for others, to be the thing that gives itself away so that others might be nurtured. That is the Neighborhood of God.

So let us ask ourselves not only, "Am I a neighbor?", but, "What do I need to do to give my neighbor life?" Wash, rinse, repeat; wash their wounds, rinse your hands, repeat over and over again. And when we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves, we can turn to Christ as our constant true neighbor, showing us mercy when we are wounded and bloodied and left for dead, asking that we take care of the wounded until he comes again, where he will repay us far more than we could ever spend.

Rev. Joe Welker serves the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. More of his writing can be found on indwelling.net.



Protesters Saturday, July 26 brought a wide range of homemade signs to share concerns about federal policies affecting families at the "Families First" protest. Visitors from Derby; Proctor and Concord, N.H. joined Hardwick, Woodbury and Greensboro residents. *photo by Marcy Chong*

THANKS
FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

In the Garden

Summer Gardening Means Something New Daily

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – The celebration of summer is underway, bringing with it peak gardening season. Every day there's something new to harvest and enjoy. Perennial flowers are in bloom. Blueberries and tomatoes are ripening. Soon you'll be offering extra veggies to the neighbors.

Warmer weather also brings with it some challenges in the garden.

High heat and lack of rain can turn a garden from lush to distressed fast. Plants in pots are particularly susceptible since their limited volume of soil will dry out faster, and the temperature of the soil in the pot can rise quickly.

While a gentle summer rain can be refreshing, it's important to have a plan to keep plants watered and their roots protected from excessive heat during those days when Mother Nature sends unrelenting sunshine and temperatures.

Soaker hoses and drip irrigation are a great help, but if there is not a system already in place, the garden needs to be monitored provided water as needed.

Water generously early in the day. If possible, water the soil rather than foliage for maximum benefit. Don't be tempted to water a little every day. A deep soaking as needed is far more beneficial since it allows the water to seep into the ground.

Several inches of mulch on top of the soil will help lessen moisture loss due to evaporation, keeping moisture levels more consistent. It will also provide insulation and keep the soil temperature cooler.

Hold off fertilizing a garden during hot, dry weather when plants are under stress. Once conditions are more favorable, apply fertilizer if needed according to package directions.

It may be unfair, but weeds don't seem to mind the adverse conditions summer can provide. Unwanted volunteers in the garden will take full advantage of procrastination and crowd carefully tended plants. Weeds will absorb water and nutrients in the soil and further stress the plants in a garden.

Consider doing garden maintenance in cool, early morning hours.

Perhaps the most effective way to combat weeds is by hand pulling. It is labor intensive, but even doing a little at a time will get the job done. If there's room between plants, using a tool such as a stirrup hoe can make the job quicker and easier. Above all, don't let those weeds go to seed.

Whatever method you chosen to remove weeds, consider adding a layer of mulch on top of the soil.



Adding several inches of mulch on top of the soil will help lessen moisture loss due to evaporation, suppress weeds and provide insulation to keep the soil temperature cooler. *photo by Deborah J. Benoit*

In addition to its other benefits, mulch will discourage new weeds from growing and can make it easier to pull those that pop up in the future. Purchase mulch by the bag or order it in bulk by the cubic yard for delivery from a local nursery.

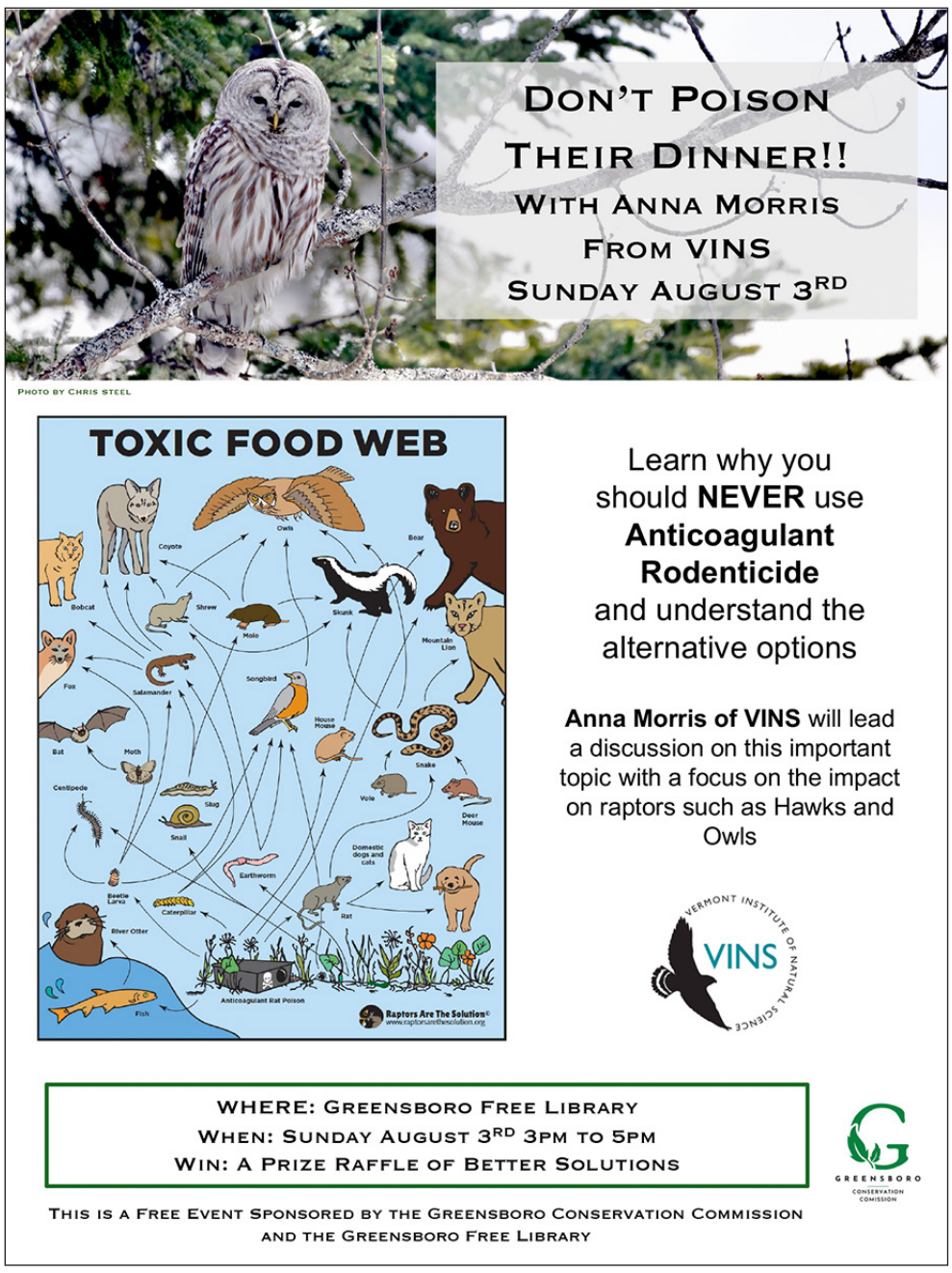
Plants under stress are more susceptible to pests and diseases. Keep an eye out for problems.

For help identifying or dealing with a problem, or for answers to general gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners Helpline at (802) 656-5421 (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. through October 30) or online year-round at 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.



To prevent weeds from competing with garden plants for water and soil nutrients, weed the garden regularly throughout the summer, removing weeds by hand or with a stirrup hoe or other weeding tool.
photo by Deborah J. Benoit



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



The Outside Story

What Makes Blueberries Blue?

by Rachel Sargent Mirus

EAST CORINTH – Every summer I go blueberry picking and I notice the many colors of blueberries, from the luminous indigo of unpicked berries on a bush, which turn nearly black after handling, to the deep red-purple stain they leave on fingers and fabric. What makes these berries so colorful?

This little fruit owes its multi-colored identity to two separate ways of generating color: a pigment and a structural effect. Like many eye-catching berries, blueberries contain pigment chemicals that selectively absorb some light wavelengths, reflecting the other colors back to our eyes for us to see. They also have a waxy layer, or bloom, that scatters and reflects blue light.

Dr. Rox Middleton, a researcher who studies the optical properties of plant-based materials, has investigated the blue of many fruits that have a wax bloom, including blueberries. Blue is an excellent advertising color for attracting fruit-eating animals, many of whom have vision that is sensitive to this hue. However, blue pigments are rarely seen in any fruit. The kinds of molecules that reflect blue light tend to be metabolically expensive, making the color impractical for many plants to produce.

Instead of blue pigment, blueberries contain pigments from the anthocyanin family, a group of hundreds of plant-based chemicals that contribute to red, purple, or black colors in fruits. Anthocyanins can also be blue. Anthocyanins change with pH, so they can shift from red to purple to blue if the liquid they are immersed in changes from acidic to basic. These anthocyanins give blueberries their underlying dark color that is then covered by a wax bloom.

This wax layer is created when "the [wax] molecules turn up and move to where they're energetically relaxed," Middleton said, which means they naturally come together in a stable, organized structure, forming crystals. The wax on blueberries gives the berry its distinctive velvety blue surface, but under a microscope the crystals that compose the wax are a hodge podge of tiny tubes. "They look like rolled up cinnamon sticks, curled up but not completely," Middleton said.

These tubular crystals create blue through a "structural color" effect. Structural colors are created by physical shapes that are tiny enough to interact with light waves, causing effects such as constructive or destructive interference or selective scattering. These types of interactions essentially sort the light waves that reach our eyes, so we see some colors but not others. They can create the impressive effects from the brilliance of green peacock feathers to the rainbow swirls on a bubble.

The blue of blueberries is the result of those tiny tubes in their wax bloom scattering light in the blue range of the visible spectrum, reflecting it back for us to see. We often see blue from a very specific set of blue wavelengths, but the waxy bloom of blueberries reflects wavelengths from blue into ultraviolet light, actually peaking in the wavelengths of "near ultraviolet," below the range perceived by humans. It's possible that birds, many of whom can see ultraviolet light, use the mix of ultraviolet and blue light to recognize blueberries.



Blueberries

In blueberries, the colors that aren't scattered pass through the wax layer and are absorbed by the dark anthocyanin pigment in the berries' skin, so we can't see them. Without that dark backdrop, the blue might not be visible: unripe blueberries look pale green because the anthocyanin pigment hasn't accumulated, but the wax bloom is already present and scattering blue light. The blue of a blueberry wax bloom is a delicate effect: the light scattering is translucent and therefore much less visible without their pigment layer, and the wax can easily be rubbed off, so they lose their blueness entirely. Both the wax bloom and the pigment work together to create the distinctive blue of ripe blueberries.

Fully understanding the structural color mechanism is complicated and Middleton has many future questions to pursue. "These wax shapes are beautiful, but much more confusing. It's an invitation to ask: what's really going on?" they said.

I know that the next time I pick blueberries off our bushes, I'll appreciate their variety of hues even more, knowing the complexity that makes them possible. But I'll still pop them into my mouth!

Rachel Sargent Mirus is a teaching artist and writer living in East Corinth. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

TOWN OF GREENSBORO
Request for Proposals
Excavation and Trucking Contractor Services:
Improvements to North Shore Road.

Date Issued: Wednesday 7/30/25 **DATE DUE:** Monday 8/11/25, 4 p.m.
Contact for information: Tom Camarra, Greensboro Road Foreman (802)533-7149
Submit bids to: townclerk@greensborovt.gov or drop off at the Greensboro Town Offices.

INTRODUCTION
The Town of Greensboro ('Town') is requesting bids for improvements to North Shore Road.
Work must be coordinated with Town Road Foreman and comply with Vermont Municipal Road Standards.
Contractor must sign a FEMA-compliant contract with Town.
Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

SCOPE OF WORK – North Shore Rd. Improvements
1. 650' of ditching including stone lining. Ledge hammering will be required, please list separately as a per-hour rate.
2. Replace 24"x40' steel culvert with 36"x40' steel culvert.
3. Installation of Type I/II stone on inlet and outlet of new culvert.
4. Contractor will supply all stone.
5. Town will supply culvert.
6. Contractor responsible for traffic control and appropriate signage.

Thank you for bidding on this project

Housing and Conservation: Finding Balance and Solutions

Thursday, August 7, 7-8:30 p.m.

Highland Center for the Arts

A conversation with Gus Seelig (Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board) and Tracy Zschau (President and CEO of the Vermont Land Trust).

Co-sponsored by Headwaters Community Trust and Craftsbury Outdoor Center

visit www.headwatersnek.org or www.craftsbury.com for more information

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Our Communities

Art, Walk, Story, Aug. 2

by Hardwick Trails Committee

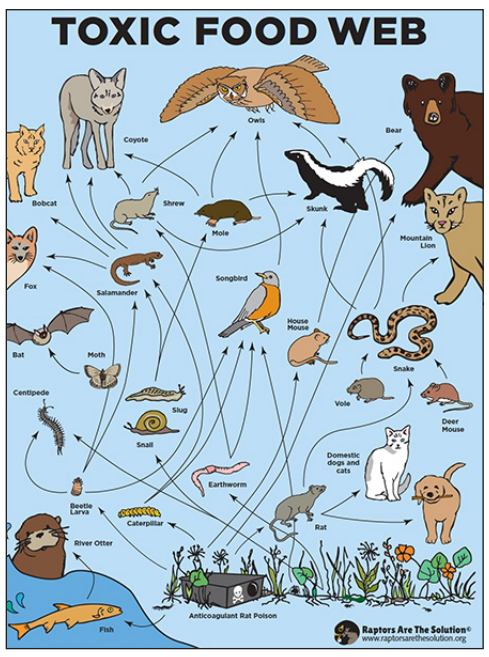
HARDWICK – Artist and iIlustructor Brittany Lumsden-Berry will lead an "Art, a Walk and a Story by the Brook" experience for children to age 10, Saturday, Aug. 2, on the Hardwick Trails. Children will paint walking sticks and try them out on the Trails. This is not a "drop-off" event. The Hardwick Trails Committee sponsors this free event. For more information contact Norma Wiesen at (802) 472-6517.

Don't Poison Dinner, Aug. 3

by Greensboro Free Library

GREENSBORO – "Please Don't Poison Their Dinner" will be presented on Sunday, Aug. 3, 3 to 5 p.m., at the Greensboro Free Library. The presentation will describe why anticoagulant rodenticide should never be used, and how to understand the alternative options.

Anna Morris from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science will lead a discussion with a focus on the impact on raptors such as hawks and owls. There will be a raffle to win safer solutions for controlling rodents without endangering companion animals, small wildlife or raptors.



The library is located at 53 Wilson St.

Pollinator Garden Tours, Aug. 5

by Pollinator Friendly Greensboro

GREENSBORO – Pollinator Friendly Greensboro is hosting tours of two gardens Tuesday, Aug. 5, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Green Mountain Monastery, 420 Hillcrest Rd, Greensboro. At 11 a.m. visit Lynette's Native Plants, 281 The Bend Road, Greensboro Bend. The gardeners and others will be on hand to talk about the gardens and answer questions.

Housing and Conservation Talk, August 7

GREENSBORO – Thursday, August 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Arts, join the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Headwaters Community Trust for a conversation with Executive Director Gus Seelig of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and Tracy Zschau, Vermont Land Trust President and CEO to explore approaches to balance Vermont's needs amid ever changing economic and ecological conditions.

For more information, visit headwatersnek.org or contact Rick Morrill, Treasurer of Headwaters Community Trust, Inc, treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

Community Barn Dance, Aug. 8

CABOT – On Friday, August 8, an evening of English barn dances will be held for the community in the Willey Building, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.. Live music will be provided by local musicians. Non-dancers are welcome to come and listen.

English dances are similar to American contra dances, but with some different figures and less swinging.

All ages and abilities are welcome. Ceilidh dances have no gender roles and are well-suited to families. Karen Mueller-Harder will teach and call all the easy to learn dances.

Admission is on a sliding scale, with nobody turned away for lack of funds. Water is provided, or bring a water bottle. Admission is half-price for those who bring a portable fan to share.

Block Party, Aug. 9

GREENSBORO BEND – The annual Greensboro Bend block party will be at Our Community Park, August 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Bleeding Hearts Family Band and there will be a basketball tournament for ages six and under and up to age 18. Other events are being planned. Hot dogs and hamburgers, bottled water and ice cream will be furnished. Bring a side dish and a nonalcoholic beverage and lawn chair.



Paul Ruta and his team from Black Horse Farm take 2022 event attendees on a horse-drawn wagon ride around the community orchard at Atkins Field. photo by Kent Shaw

Farm, Food Celebration, Aug. 1

by Center for an Agricultural Economy

HARDWICK – There will be a celebration of farms and food with the Center for an Agricultural Economy and the Hardwick Farmers Market, August. 1, 3 to 6 p.m., at Atkins Field, 140 Granite St.

Afternoon events include horse-drawn wagon rides, baby goats, a performance by Circus Smirkus at 3 p.m., live music by Indigenous Entertainment, family-friendly activities, farmers market vendors, prepared food and dessert vendors and cocktails by St. Johnsbury Distillery. The event is free.

For more information, contact Lylee Rauch-Kacenski at the Center for an Agricultural Economy, 802-472-5362 or Lylee@caevt.org.

Cabot Church Supper, August 9

by Cabot United Church

CABOT – Saturday, August 9, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., the Cabot United Church will offer a chicken barbecue dinner. Take-out and dine-in are available with delivery available for the homebound, The meal includes the chicken, macaroni and cheese, salads and a desert. The supper is by donation with proceeds benefiting the church's fuel fund. For home deliveries, call (802) 426-3783.

Efficiency Vermont Seeks Feedback on Programs

by Efficiency Vermont

VERMONT – Every three years Efficiency Vermont creates a plan for the rebates and services Vermont needs to help save money on energy, and lower greenhouse gas emissions in the state. This document is called the Demand Resources Plan (DRP), and it is overseen by the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

To develop this plan, Efficiency Vermont asks Vermonters to help by taking the survey at efficiencyvermont.com/feedback

Efficiency Vermont is primarily funded by an Electric Efficiency Charge (EEC), which supports programs that reduce Vermont's overall electric costs for all ratepayers. it does that through rebates and incentives on energy efficient products, technologies or projects; education, advice and technical support; training for contractors, retailers and other trade organizations; and engagement with supply chain partners (such as global manufacturers or national retailers) to ensure energy efficient products are sold in Vermont.

Delivering On A Promise
Dead River Company
Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel
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189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
(802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276

Obituaries

Susan Marie April



Susan Marie April

WATERBURY CENTER – On July 20, Susan Marie April, of Waterbury Center, passed away after a battle with cancer at 76. She was a great friend to many, a wife to one for 51 years, a grandmother, a sister and a mother to two children.

Susan was very creative in all her endeavors, such as making clothes for her children when they were little, which turned into a small business (It's Sew Special) for several years that included other items like Christmas tree skirts and tote bags. She liked to cook and try to make variations on what she started. After she was married, Susan and her family lived in Massachusetts for a few years then moved to Charlotte in 1985. She enjoyed camping with the family and ski trips with friends. She was involved with community theater groups, including with Lyric Theater. In her later years, Susan enjoyed going to casinos to gamble with friends and also with scratch tickets. She enjoyed volunteering with AARP on Fraudwatch and advocacy work.

During her work career, Susan was a graduate of Champlain College followed by Castleton State. She worked in the data processing field at several places and finished her career as an IT Specialist with the USDA.

Susan is survived by her husband Bill in Waterbury Center; her brother Gary Smith (Lucinda) in Woodbury; her sister Lynn DePalma (Joe) South Carolina; her son Jason April in Denver, Colo.; her daughter Diana April in Idaho; and her grandson Tobi April in Waterbury Center.

Any donations in her name should be made to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England or to the Oncology Dept. at Central Vermont Medical Center who made her life a little easier at the end.

There will be no funeral service at this time but a private family celebration of life will be held later.

Business Briefs

Prophecy Chocolate Grand Re-Opening, August 3

MORRISVILLE – The Prophecy Cafe will be re-opening its doors at its new location in Morrisville with a celebration on August 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the new seating area. After that, the cafe will be open every Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. New chocolate drinks have been added to the menu. Browse the new selection of handmade artisan crafts, eat a tamale (or two) and bring a friend to soak up the moment.

The Prophecy Cafe is located at 27 Winter St.



Protesters on both sides of Hardwick's South Main St., Saturday, joined in a nationwide "Families First" protest for families who have been affected or will be, by federal layoffs, cuts to essential services and the random danger of unidentified, masked strangers handcuffing and kidnapping community members to unknown locations without due process, wrote organizers.

photo by Paul Fixx



A rainbow appeared in the north over West Church Street following a torrential downpour Thursday, July 17 during the United Church of Hardwick's annual auction.

photo by Paul Fixx

Our Communities

Intersecting Housing, Conservation, Forests Series Begins Aug. 7

by Rick Morrill

GREENSBORO, CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Headwaters Community Trust present a speaker series exploring the intersection of housing, conservation and forests in Vermont. Three events explore the topic and the role that forests can play in helping to find solutions. Housing and Conservation: Finding Balance and Solutions will begin the series on August 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Highland Center for the Arts. Gus Seelig, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board executive director and Tracy Zschau, Vermont Land Trust president and CEO ,will explore approaches to balance Vermont's needs amid ever-changing economic and ecological conditions.

Second in the series, Beyond the Illusion of Preservation: Balancing Forest Values, will be presented October 16, 7 p.m., at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. A team of New England-based forest researchers developed a report, "Beyond the Illusion of Preservation," exploring how the region's forests can be managed to meet a full range of societal values and needs. Author Dr. Caitlin Littlefield will explain the report's findings, recommendations and the role forests can play in addressing many of our most pressing challenges.

Third in the series, Forests to Homes: How Forests can Support Housing Solutions, will be presented October 29, 7 p.m., at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Maura Adams from the Northern Forest Center to will describe how innovative wood products and building reuse can be part of housing solutions.

For more information, see headwatersnek.org/ Rick Morrill is the treasurer of the Headwaters Community Trust.

Share The Road

VERMONT – A recent VTrans public service announcement said, when you get behind the wheel, you share Vermont roads with many different kinds of vulnerable road users, from motorcyclists and e-bikers, to farmers on tractors and drivers with disabilities.

Vulnerable road users are people at the highest risk for fatalities in traffic crashes. These road users are motorcyclists, pedestrians, cyclists and other non-occupants, which means they are outside a standard vehicle. These road users are subject to outdoor elements that may increase susceptibility to harmful events in traffic crashes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, (FARS), the proportion of U.S. traffic fatalities for vulnerable road users was 28 percent in 1980, and increased to 34 percent by 2019.

Vermont is working hard on our Safe Systems approach to roadway safety. A Safe System Approach means a roadway design that emphasizes minimizing the risk of injury or fatality to road users. It takes into consideration vulnerable road users and the possibility and likelihood of human error.

Chamber Players Introduce Imaginative Variations

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – The third concert of the Craftsbury Chamber Players season took place at the Hardwick Town House last Thursday evening and focused on three Eighteenth- to early Nineteenth-Century composers, namely Mozart, Boccherini and Beethoven.

The "Trio in C Major, K.548 for Violin, Cello and Piano" was written in 1788 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) and featured Mary Rowell, Frances Rowell and Inessa Zaretsky on the above order of instruments.

It started with an Allegro movement that immediately had a delightful melody precisely stated, full of light with a kind of internal illumination. A second melody was then introduced and imaginative variations ensued each time the themes were brought back. The following Andante cantabile lived up to the singing voice of the notation, with a slow tempo having a restrained subtle interplay between the piano and the strings. The final Allegro sped up the momentum, bright in mood but complex in the scoring. Zaretsky's feeling touch on the keys was particularly fine and the trio's integrated playing most enjoyable.

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) was something of a child prodigy on the cello for which he could compose pieces that brought out the wonderful potential color of that instrument. His "Trio in F Major, Op. 6, No. 4, 698," written in 1769, for two violins and cello, began with an Allegro moto in a light melody with morphing variations. The Lento. con espressione had the first violin contrasted with the second violin and cello, while the third movement, Tempo di Minuett, Trio, had jogging rhythms with sliding octaves. Mary Rowell and Katherine Winterstein on violins and Frances Rowell on cello gave a very sympathetic interpretation of this piece.

After the intermission, the Craftsbury Chamber Players performed one of the greatest works from the early years (1803) of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), the "Kreutzer," "Sonata on A Major, Op. 47, for Violin and Piano." This piece had a fascinating history in that it was originally composed for a virtuoso violinist, George Augustus Polgreen Bridgetower (1778-1860), whose father was descended from an African prince before being enslaved in the West Indies while his mother had roots in the Polish aristocracy, at a time when slavery was the unquestioned economic base of most colonies in North and South America.

The Adagio Sostenuto-Presto started out slowly but quickly accelerated into a gorgeous melody that developed with great drama in Beethoven's typically monumental scale, with variations in stops and starts, echoing and paralleling the two instruments masterfully in slight-of-hand transitions. The Andante con variatione continued with another beautiful melody in lively permutations, several times pushing the violin to the heights of its range, while the piano explored different fluttering rhythms with rapid fingering on the keys. The Finale-Presto had two joyous themes which well displayed Beethoven's complex musical architecture. Katherine Winterstein on violin and Inessa Zaretsky on piano melded together in continuous coordination that brought the sophisticated audience to their feet for a standing ovation at the conclusion of the piece.

The next concert by the Craftsbury Chamber Players will have on the program Four Traditional Folksongs for Quartet, Two Songs by Johannes Brahms, Three Songs by Inessa Zaretsky and a Quintet by Mozart. There will be a preconcert talk about the pieces at 6:45 p.m. For more information, call (802) 586-0616 or go online to ccpvt.org.



Musicians (from left) Mavis MacNeil, Roy MacNeil, Andrew Koehler and Annie Rowell will perform songs from "Abbey Road," Sat., August 9, at Highland Center for the Arts. *courtesy photo*

Birdhouse Band Plays "Abbey Road" Tribute

GREENSBORO – The Birdhouse Band celebrates the Beatles with a performance of the 1969 album, "Abbey Road" at the Highland Center for the Arts, Saturday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. Local musicians Andrew Koehler, Mavis MacNeil, Roy MacNeil, and Annie Rowell, with special guests Randy Bulpin and Andrew Palumbo, stay true to the original record.

The concert will open with some of Birdhouse Band's standard repertoire followed by the full "Abbey Road" album.





Feurzeig Plays Greensboro in Concert

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – Composer-pianist David Feurzeig came to the Greensboro United Church of Christ Friday evening, July 18, to give a concert and help support the Greensboro Land Trust. Feurzeig, a professor of music at the University of Vermont has been touring and giving free performances in all Vermont towns, since 2022, as part of his personal effort to reverse the negative effects of climate change. Greensboro was the 84th of the 252 municipalities he intends to visit in his admirable project, "Play Every Town."

By bringing a varied program of classical, jazz and popular music to a local level, he hopes to expand the audiences for great music, to build community through shared, live experiences and to stimulate awareness of the increasing inescapability of severe weather due to human caused damage to the planet.

He began with a piece by Elizabetta Gamborini, "No. 11 from Songs and Lessons Op. 2," written in 1748, a short but bright and lively tune. Domenico Scarlatti (1668-1757) wrote numerous sonatas for the harpsichord, and his "Sonata K. 84 in C minor" was typical of his airy style with interesting rhythms and textures that almost suggest visual images of Portugal and Spain, where he lived for much of his life after leaving Italy. The "Twelve Variations" on the simple tune better known today as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was composed in 1781, the same year that Greensboro was chartered. The work started with a statement of the melody and then flowed on to more rapid multiple notes a movement in a stately pace, one with more rococo flourishes, a section with jazzy elements, runs up and down the keyboard, overlapping notes, rolling rhythms, a slower tempo with more feeling and finally an upbeat finale. Mozart himself was known for his ability to play spontaneous improvisations.

Frederick Chopin (1810-1849) was a master of solo piano pieces with engaging melodies, and his "Nocturne in E minor, Op. 72, No. 1" had an appropriate darker, moody ambiance of late night meditations, written in 1827, the same year that the Congregational Church where the concert was being held was constructed. Feurzeig was joined by Laila Kromash, a young violinist living in Greensboro, in two numbers: the "Perpatuo Mobile" of Carl Bohm (1894-1981) and "Over the Rainbow" from the 1938 film, "The Wizard of Oz," composed by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg, which coincided with the 1938 hurricane that devastated New England in general and Vermont in particular.

Kromash demonstrated impressive skill on her instrument in both tuneful works. "La Cathedral engloutie (The Sunken Cathedral)" by Claude Debussy (1862-1918), based on a Breton legend of a drowned church off the coast of France from which one could hear music at low tide, was written in 1910. The piano takes one on a dreamy journey evoking this mysterious place, with rising volume and strong chords that then subside, having fine harmonic passages, juxtaposing the high and low registers of the piano.

Bela Bartok (1881-1945) was an early collector and recorder of Central European folk music at the beginning of the Twentieth Century and his "Six Romanian Folk Dances" breathed the freshness and energy of those indigenous traditions. They ranged from melodies with a certain longing feeling to them, to dances one could visualize peasants enjoying, to more ethereal realms, culminating in the last selection which was quite wild.

Feurzeig's own work, "Bela's Blues," was a homage to Bartok cast in a slower jazz mode. The "Kitchen Rag" by Steve Sweeting had imaginative variations in the style of Scott Joplin.

Feurzeig's wife joined him on violin with a great tune in the Polish mazurka form, in which the audience participated in singing along with the players. The last offering of the concert was "Happy Birthday Martin," written by Cliff Jackson and David Feurzeig in celebration of the life of Martin Luther King. It had a jazzed up version of "We Shall Overcome" in the score. For an encore, he gave "The Jungle Drums" by James P. Johnson, one of his favorite pianists.

Feurzeig very generously gave all the donations to this concert to the Greensboro Land Trust.

His next concerts will be at the Ryegate Corner Presbyterian Church, Sunday, August 17 at 2 p.m., the Old South Church, in Windsor Friday, August 22 at 7 p.m. and the Norwich Congregational Church, Saturday, August 23 at 3 p.m.



The annual Dog Party will be held at Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury on August 2.
courtesy photo

Dog Mountain Summer Dog Party, Aug. 2

ST. JOHNSBURY – Dog Mountain, home to the Stephen Huneck Gallery, will hold its annual Summer Dog Party on Saturday, Aug. 2, from noon to 4 p.m.

The day's festivities include live music from The Barnyard Incident, eats from Alburritos Food Truck, and Rocky's New York Style Hotdog Cart.

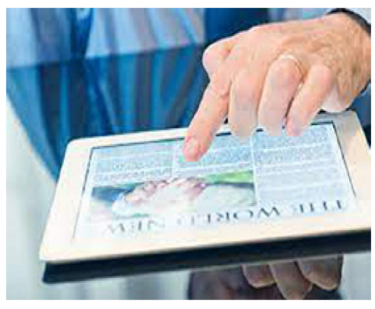
Dogs can participate in an agility course and dog contests, while their human companions can enjoy lawn games, a raffle and a bounce house for the children. Visiting families and their dogs can explore the grounds, the Dog Chapel and the Stephen Huneck Gallery.

The Summer Dog Party is free to the public and will be held rain or shine. A free shuttle will run between the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center and Dog Mountain throughout the afternoon. The shuttle is wheelchair accessible and dog-friendly. For the full shuttle schedule and pickup details visit dogmt.com/events.



Maya and Brent McCoy of Greensboro present their show "Her Majesty's Secret Service" at the Caspian Lake beach, July 24, through the Greensboro Free Library family summer program "Color our World." The event was sponsored by the library, Greensboro Association and Vermont Dept. of Libraries.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

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Neave Trio Demonstrate Genuine Passion, Deeply Moving

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Neave Trio were the guest performers at the second concert in the Summer Music from Greensboro series on Tuesday evening, July 22, at the United Church of Christ. Their name derives from a Gaelic word signifying "bright" and "radiant" and they certainly lived up to that description. Founded in 2010, the artists were Anna Williams on violin, Mikhail Veselov on cello and Eri Nakamura on piano. They have played at impressive venues around the world and been artists-in-residence at a number of universities. All superb musicians, they demonstrated consummate coordination and genuine passion that was deeply moving in its level of excellence.

The program consisted of works by Clara Schumann, Dora Pejocevic and Cecile Chaminade, three women composers of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries who broke through the long-standing barriers for females to have careers in classical music. All three were celebrated pianists in their day and toured widely in Europe. Their individual success should give us an inkling of how much we have lost in artistic, intellectual and spiritual development over thousands of years of the suppression of one half of humanity.

Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896) was the devoted wife of Robert Schumann (1810-1856) whom she married despite the objections of her father. With her husband's tragic mental decline in the 1850s, she became the breadwinner for her family through her concertizing, and she developed a close friendship with Johannes Brahms (1835-1897), whom Robert had encouraged from an early age. Her "Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17," is among her finest works, written in 1846. Its four movements proceed with intense momentum, starting with the Allegro moderato, which is quintessentially Romantic in its rich emotion and sublime lyricality. The well harmonized melodies are shared among the instruments in interesting relationships. The Scherzo: Tempo di Menuetto featured some wonderful passages that brought out the color of the cello, while the Andante had a slower pace with exquisite feeling. The final Allegretto had a non-stop force with a fine melody imaginatively developed in the complex intertwining for the piano, cello and violin, building up to a well crafted ending.

Dora Pejacevic (1885-1923) was born in Hungary of Croatian descent and studied piano, violin and composition at several different conservatories. Her "Piano Trio in C Major," written in 1910, had a sweeping flow right from the beginning in the Allegro con moto, with the three instruments conversing in a well explored melody. The Scherzo Allegro had interesting skipping rhythms with a second sparkling theme as it developed. The third section, Lento Allegretto had lovely moments with rolling piano textures and a warm feeling. The Finale, Allegro risoluto was earnest in its onward flow and had dramatic chords that led to a well prepared climax.

Cecile Chaminade (1857-1954) was an acclaimed pianist and composer during her long life, touring widely with regular visits to England. From a very young age she was seen to have great promise by both Georges Bizet and Ambrose Thomas. She went on to write some two hundred works, including songs, chamber pieces, orchestral suites, a symphony, a ballet and an opera, but is best remembered for her piano music, which has been described as having gentility, elegance and charm.

Her "Trio No. 2 in a minor Op. 34" for piano, violin and cello displays her talents to a fine degree, beginning with an Allegro moderato that right off had strong rhythms, soaring up in an engaging melody with a lot of feeling. Jumpy rhythms in the piano contrasted with the flow of the strings making for intense sections that brought forth the total integration of the players. The second movement, Lento, had a stately slower tempo, the theme unfolding like a flower, with a series of featured solos by each of the instruments in turn, giving the theme a complex development. The final Allegro energico lived up to its notation with interesting transitions as the lovely melody evolved. This was a truly passionate performance entirely expressing the emotion of the music and well deserved the spontaneous standing ovation it received.

The next concert will be on August 5, with the Manhattan Chamber Players in a program of two flute quartets by Mozart, a serenade for flute, violin and viola by Beethoven, violin and cello pieces by Gliere and a duo for flute and viola by Devienne.



Alice Howe and Freebo play in concert on the porch of Grace United Methodist Church in Plainfield on Wednesday, Aug. 6. *courtesy photo*

Summer Music from Greensboro
presents
The Manhattan Chamber Players

Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

The Manhattan Chamber Players' flute quartet (violin, viola, cello and flute) will perform works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Reinhold Glière, and François Devienne. "As precise an ensemble as you'd ever want to hear…" ---*The Boston Music Intelligencer*

Greensboro United Church of Christ
165 Wilson Street, Greensboro, VT 05841
Tickets at the door: $22. Children under 18: free.
www.SummerMusicFromGreensboro.net

Alice Howe, Freebo Play at Outdoor Concert

PLAINFIELD – Alice Howe and Freebo will present an outdoor concert, Wednesday, August 6, at 7 p.m., from the porch of Grace United Methodist Church.

The open-air concert brings together decades of songwriting talent and stage presence as the duo offers a performance blending Howe's vocals with Freebo's fretless bass stylings.

Best known for his ten years playing bass with Bonnie Raitt, Freebo has toured and recorded with including John Mayall, Ringo Starr, Crosby Stills & Nash, Maria Muldaur and Dr. John. For the past twenty-five years, he's been writing and performing his own original music.

Alice Howe is a lifelong singer and songwriter who recently had the honor of being named Best Female Artist at the International Acoustic Music Awards. Freebo and Alice have been working as a duo since 2017. He produced her latest record, "Circumstance."

Admission is by pay-what-you-can donation. Reserve a seat online at plainfieldartsvt.org or buy tickets at the door. In case of rain, the concert will move indoors to the historic Plainfield Opera House.

The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~
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Barnes Paintings are Window into Another World

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – A painting is like a window into another world and Ben Barnes can certainly create paintings with startling immediacy and great presence. He is currently having an exhibition of three dozen of his works at the Third Floor Gallery in the Hardwick Inn.

"Happy Place" has a simple enough subject: a camping trailer in a broad field, but everything is in exactly the right place in a beautifully proportioned composition. Our eyes go first to the modest blue and white trailer on the middle left but then are drawn to the distant tree line. Two chairs in the field have a welcoming quality and evoke thoughts of where we love being.

"My Dad's Bear" juxtaposes an old broken down truck in the woods with a stuffed teddy bear sitting inexplicably on the rear bed. The reflected light off the surface of the truck and the filtered light of the forest are very carefully rendered.

"Sunny Ford" shows a tractor that dominates most of the canvas, but Barnes doesn't include all of it, cutting off the back end on the right and a little of the front on the left so as to play with the edge of the frame and make a bolder, more dynamic composition.

"Rock River" conveys one of the more difficult substances to paint convincingly, namely moving water. Here the dark rounded rocks in the foreground contrast well with the whitish sand area in the upper center and the sky reflected in the water.

While most of Barnes' works are landscapes and townscapes, he has a number of still life pieces in the show. "Palmolive" is of a kitchen sink with a bottle of dishwashing soap that gives the title, combined with red and white roses in a vase on the left, a pair of knives on a magnetic rack on the right and a glass juicer above, all well balanced.

"Mis Tape," a bit of a visual pun, assembles several objects on a table with a radio-tape recorder and some loose tapes in their cases in front, carefully constructed.

"Land Line" is another still life with an old black phone, a pair of glasses and flowers on a small table, the focus contained by the surrounding dark areas.

"Green Foyer" depicts multicolored lilies with a chair on one side and a stairway on the other, harmoniously composed.

"Exposed Wiring" refers to open electric lines on the bare wooden walls of a shop, with various tools attached to it in carefully painted detail. "Screwdriver Rack" and "Three Hammers Hanging" continue the tool rack theme with the rhythm of a well ordered composition.

"Pot of Gold" is a painting taken from Barnes' own home in St. Johnsbury, looking across the street towards the former Family Dollar store right after a rainstorm. A double rainbow arches across the sky, catching a unique fleeting moment with the beautiful effects of natural light.

"A Corner of the Connecticut" has the curve of the river on the right echoed in the curve of a dirt road in the center of the painting, leading our eyes across the deep green growth of fields in July into the background, bathed in the magnificent light of a summer day. "Farmroad" similarly has a dirt road with grass in the middle running up and out of sight through lush hayfields, with lovingly painted grass and the road surface. "Little Barton River" has water flowing over flat pieces of rock, caught in the sunlight, very challenging to paint.

Barnes has long been fascinated by abandoned vehicles such as in "Wheelock Iron," which has a black truck, a red tractor and a trailer for transporting cows out in an overgrown field, all three forms overlapping in a rhythmic sequence with the play of light upon them and a kind of nostalgic ambiance.

"Hartwell Dapple" gives us a blue and white GMC truck viewed from the front, with mottled sunshine coming down through the trees in balanced areas of light and dark.

"Squarenose" is yet another truck that has seen better days, again only two thirds included within the canvas so as to make it more interesting and less static. "Lowell Three" has actually four abandoned automobiles, including an older Buick-like car, a truck barely visible behind it and another truck and regular car further to the left, all transformed by the alchemy of summer's light.

"Field Apples" features a bushy tree in the upper right amid a field that flows away to a further tree line and hills, with a blue sky and small clouds all enchantingly bucolic.

"Franklin Phone Company" is a dramatic street scene, a good example of how Barnes takes an ordinary place and makes it extraordinary through his intense seeing, exacting sense of proportion, attention to detail and delight in the ever changing affects of sunlight. He also plays here with a rhythm of repeated reds, starting with the phone booth on the left and continuing in the main diagonal thrust of the overall composition to an American flag on the building, then to a Coca Cola sign on the distant convenience store.



Ben Barnes' painting "Passumpsic." Barnes' show at the Hardwick Inn's Third Floor Gallery is there now and continues into September.

courtesy photo from the artist

"Masterful! Pink Lady and her Little Green Neighbor" compares two urban houses, a large Victorian on the left and a newer smaller house on the right, with a strong impression.

"Alpha Warner's Tavern" shows one of the oldest houses on Hardwick Street, formerly the residence of the Baroness von Carlowitz and still in her family. With snow on the ground and roofs, it captures the winter light and blue shadows in an excellent composition. Somewhat saddening is "Settlement," a striking painting of the old stone foundation of a former house with trees growing up from the basement. The hill farms of Vermont were some of the first to go in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century. All the work of clearing the land and building a home came to nothing, sometimes after hardly a generation or two. This painting is powerful both visually and emotionally.

"Switchboard" is an interior view of an old telephone operator's station, with light coming in a window and contrasting sharply with the dark areas inside.

"Town Common" has two white steeple churches next to each other and a third building just beyond them to the right, with a Civil War monument and American flag on a pole to the left, all rhythmically positioned.

"Plainfield Village" is a twilight scene looking up towards the bridge over the river and U.S. Route 2, with Positive Pie on the right, catching the light of those furtive moments of dusk perfectly.

"Boulder Beach" is dominated by a large rounded boulder covered with lichen on the left with water flowing around it on the right, a bold juxtaposition of two opposites.

"Old West Road" has a skillful play of diagonals between the road on the right and the farm buildings on the left, with meticulously painted detail of the siding and roofs.

"The Fall of the Andersonville High Drive," in West Glover, is a large horizontal work having a white house and red barns stretching across the middle of the canvas, with a bright blue sky and billowing white cumulus summer clouds above. The whole composition is held down by a red tractor in the foreground, all the elements stunningly balanced.

"Summer Street" is another urban picture, with a playground and some public building in the background, at that magical time of evening just before darkness falls.

"Project" is again an ordinary scene most people would hardly glance at, a car with its hood up in front of a home garage, but here made special by a shaft of sunlight coming down through the trees on the left.

"Pigeon Hill" has an old Italianate house with an overgrown lawn, all anchored by the vertical shaft of a tree in the right center, coherently structured.

"Cornstalks" is a winter landscape with the stumpy short remains of cut corn in rows with long barns and a house in the distance, a powerful horizontal layout.

See PAINTINGS, next page

Paintings

Continued From Previous Page

Corn" is quite the opposite, picturing the bright green of newly planted corn with its first leaves in early summer, and brown earth between the rows.

"Jim's" was a large work dramatically composed; our eyes are directed first from the corner of a gray clapboard house with a porch on the left (which belongs to someone named Jim), to the right on a diagonal to a white church with a steeple, located in East Albany. Leftover snow by the distant tree line and barren branches indicate it is early spring. Nice touches are a red ladder leaning against the house, high grasses in the foreground painted in careful detail and a car in front of the church altogether a superb work of art.

This exhibition will continue through the end of July into August and September.

Olive Ylin, show organizer. has her office on the third floor of the Hardwick Inn down the hall to the right from the east stairway.

Fairy Festival, Saturday, July 26
Highland Center for the Arts, Greensoro



A large crowd mingled with fantasy characters in a whimsical landscape at the Highland Center for the Arts Vermont Fairy Festival, July 26, in Greensboro.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Aurora Cronin, 7, of Lowell has her palm read by Rosanne Hickey during the Fairy Festival at the Highland Center for the Arts Saturday.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Emily Kimball of Hardwick holds her magical 13-year-old buff Orpington rooster "Blessing" that anyone could pet during their Highland Center for the Arts Fairy Fest journey. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*



Linden Boyer, 9, of Walden makes a giant bubble during his adventure through the Highland Center for the Arts Festival Saturday.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Brittney Malik plays a Mermaid during the Vermont Fairy Fest held July 26 at the Highland Center for the Arts.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

Painting with Wool Features Needle-felted Paintings

REVIEW

by Cheryl Luther Michaels, community journalist

EAST HARDWICK – "Painting with Wool," the current exhibit at James Teuscher's White Water Gallery in East Hardwick Village, features needle-felted paintings by Christine Foster and hooked wall hangings by Marie LaPré Grabon. This two-artist show will be on exhibit on Sundays through August 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at other times by appointment. An opening reception for the artists was held July 20 with music by Joseph Grabon.

This show is Christine Foster's first experience sharing her felted art with the general public. "The gallery opening," she said, "was amazing with over 50 people. It's a great example of neighbors supporting neighbors. We are so lucky to live in this community where we have respect for each other. It was a real feel-good experience." Before this, Foster, who lives in Stannard, had never thought of selling her work, she explained.



"Moon Shadows," felted wool by Christine Foster

photo by Cheryl Michaels

LaPré Grabon is an award winning multi-media artist, who lives in Hardwick and is known throughout New England for her drawings, collages, acrylics and oil paintings. Inspired by taking an online course, offered by GRACE during the pandemic, she has recently focused on creating hooked wall hangings. LaPré Grabon, who said she loves texture, explained, "When I took this course in rug hooking, I immediately fell in love with the process, the materials and the creativity."

Foster also loves working with wool, having been a knitter, a weaver and a spinner. Because both artists draw inspiration from nature as well as from wool fabrics and yarns, they blended their works to create a cohesive and thoughtful exhibit combining texture, color and subject matter.

Both artists practice Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese form of exercise, and attend the local Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes sponsored by the Council on Aging. Foster's work reflects her desire to interpret those movements into felted paintings. "Some of my paintings are focused on roots as a metaphor for being strong and grounded as well as opening up to the sky and possibilities." In her piece, Moon Shadows, the movement of the tree is a reflection of her Tai Chi work. Noting that she is also inspired by the beautiful area we live in, Foster explained the piece shows "the reflection of the moon, with no end to the depth."

LaPré Grabon may be a rug hooker but as she explained she "doesn't hook rugs and her works are not traditional." Working with a large embroidery hook, she creates her hooked wall hangings out of bulky wool yarn and fine strips of wool that are hooked and sewn onto a linen backing. To add color and texture, her more recent works include unusual materials such as velvet, banana silk from Australia and decorative quills made by rolling and sewing two strips of wool. Her love of texture and experimentation is clearly reflected in her work.



"Turtle Dreams," hooked wool by Marie LaPré Grabon

photo by Cheryl Michaels

Most pieces in the exhibit are for sale. The prices depend on size and how long it took to create the piece.

Caspian Music Series Begins Aug. 3

GREENSBORO – The Caspian Music series begins August 3, with a concert that features works by Hayden, Schumann and Causson.

The Caspian Festival Orchestra will continue to be a full orchestra rather than a snaller chamber orchestra, so the season will end with Mendelssohn's "ltalian Smphony" and Beethoven's "Violin Concerto in D major," August 24.

All concerts will be presented at the Highland Center for the Arts.

A chamber music concert, Sunday, Aug. 3, will feature Hayden's "String Quartet in C Major," (the "Emperor") performed by the Callisto Quartet; Schumann's "Canonic Etudes for Oboe and Cello" and Chausson's "Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet" featuring violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Philip Edwards Fisher.

The Sunday, Aug. 10 concert is themed "Timeless Conversations," and consists of combinations of instruments playing Beethoven's "String Trio Op. 9," Benjamin Britten's "Phantasy Quartet for Oboe, Violin, Viola and Cello" and Dvorak's "Sextet in A Major" as well as shorter pieces featuring Robert Boyd on the guitar.

Paul McShee will conduct the Festival Orchestra Sunday, Aug. 24, as they play "Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Major," featuring Solomiya Ivakhiv, as well as Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 4," (the "Italian") Soprano Andrea Nalywajko will perform Handel's "O HadI Jubal 's Lyre" from his oratorio "Joshua," as well as an oratorio from the Eighteenth Century Russian composer Dmytro Bortnianskyi's opera "Alcide."

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Summer Concert, Aug. 3 at Monastary

by Social Band

GREENSBORO – Sunday, August 3, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Social Band will be performing at the Green Mountain Monastery, located at 420 Hillcrest Road. The program will include songs of birds, cicadas, crickets and bees. Featured works include pieces by Sara Doncaster, Betsy Brigham, Don Jamison and Michael Kellogg (aka Clyde Powers).

Social Band is a Burlington-based chorus that performs a cappella choral music, encourages new compositions especially by local composers. Social Band organizes programs themes, weaving poetry and song together.

Admission is by donation. Green Mountain Monastery is the home of Sisters of The Earth Community.



Marie LaPré Grabon hooks a wall hanging with wool on linen fabric, Sunday, July 27 at James Teuscher's Whitewater Gallery in East Hardwick.

photo by Cheryl Michaels

Events

Wednesday, July 30

NATURAL DYING WITH PLANTS: a talk with Prin VanGulden, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

FOREST HEALTH UPDATE with Vermont Coverts, noon to 1 p.m., on forest, parks and recreation with Josh Halman. Register at vtcoverts.us to join the meeting.

COLORS OF THE WILD, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Explore some of the differences in animals' visual experiences. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Thursday, July 31

BOOKMAKING, with Tule Fogg, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org, (802) 586-9692.

MAKE SUMMER SNACKS, like watermelon pizza, s'mores dip and more, 11 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, for ages 12 to 18. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

STORYTELLING EVENT with Samara Anderson, 6 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Stories can range from 5 to 7 mins. and can be about anything. Information: anderson_samara@yahoo.com or contact the library, (802) 472-5948. Open to the public.

GREEN MOUNTAIN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL presents "Woman to Woman," 7 p.m., Greatwood Dining Hall, The Creative Campus, Goddard, 123 Pitkin Road. Tickets at theaterengine.com.

Friday, August 1

GREEN MOUNTAIN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL presents "Woman to Woman," 7 p.m., Greatwood Dining Hall, The Creative Campus, Goddard, 123 Pitkin Road. Tickets at theaterengine.com.

Saturday, August 2

GREEN MOUNTAIN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL presents "Woman to Woman," 7 p.m., Greatwood Dining Hall, The Creative Campus, Goddard, 123 Pitkin Road. Tickets at theaterengine.com.

HARDWICK TRAILS EVENT, Art and Nature for Kids (making a walking stick), with Brittany Lumsden-Berry. All welcome.

Sunday, August 3

GREEN MOUNTAIN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL presents "Woman to Woman," 2 p.m., Greatwood Dining Hall, The Creative Campus, Goddard, 123 Pitkin Road. Tickets at theaterengine.com.

QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER, 6 p.m., Brassknocker Farm, East Craftsbury. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org or (802) 586-9692.

PLEASE DON'T POISON Their Dinner presentation, 3 to 5 p.m., Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson St., with Anna Morris of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Learn how to safely control rodents.

Monday, August 4

COMMUNITY READ THROUGH of Macbeth with Peter Gould, 6 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org, (802) 586-9692.

Tuesday, August 5

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

See EVENTS, Next Page

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Events

PROGRAM, 10:30 a.m., for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.
NEW LOST NATION performs old-time music, 6 p.m., Cabot Village Common, 148 Main St. MexiRico Autentico food truck will be on hand. Information: cabotarts.org/summer-music-series
POLLINATOR GARDEN TOURS, 10 a.m. at the Green Mountain Monastery, 420 Hillcrest Road, Greensboro and 11 a.m. with Lynette's Native Plants, 281 The Bend Road, Greensboro Bend. Hosted by Pollinator Friendly Greensboro.
CONCERT BY The Manhattan Chamber Players' flute quartet, 7:30 p.m., Greensboro United Church of Christ. Tickets at the door.

Wednesday, August 6

OLD-TIME JAM SESSION, 6 - 8 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org, (802) 586-9692.

Thursday, August 7

FAERIE GODBROTHERS PERFORM, 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Americana, bluegrass, jazz and more. Book and bake sale and food vendors. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Friday, August 8

COMMUNITY BARN DANCE, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Willey Building, Cabot. All ages and abilities welcome.

Saturday, August 9

CHICKEN BARBECUE DINNER, Cabot United Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Take-out and dine-in. Donations benefit the church's fuel fund. If you need a home delivery, call (802) 426-3783.

Ongoing Events

PLAINFIELD FARMERS MARKET, 4 to 7 p.m., Fridays, 13 Mill St. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.
HARDWICK PEACE (& Ceasefire) VIGIL, Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).
MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. First, third and fifth Saturdays. Information: (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com
FRIENDS OF THE JEUDEVINE LIBRARY, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.
OLD-TIME JAM SESSION, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities encouraged to attend. Jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.
COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Sharyn Salls at (802) 472-6566 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS for Young Adventurers, first and third Mondays, Craftsbury Public Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.
EARLY LITERACY STORYTIME, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.
TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.
TAI CHI CLASSES, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.
CRAFTING GROUP on Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.
MAGIC ON TUESDAY. A group of young people get together at The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games gin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.
PARENTING GROUP, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.
COMMUNITY SUPPER, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick.
COMMUNITY DINNER, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, every Friday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free and open to anyone in the greater Craftsbury area and neighboring towns. Hosted by students in the Food Harvest and Conservation class. Students will give brief presentations at 5:30 covering a couple components of the menu they create.
STORYTIME, PLAYGROUP ON FRIDAYS, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.
MENDING CIRCLE MEETS, every third Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction and snacks will be supplied.
BOOK CLUB meets the second Thursday of each month, 1:30 p.m., the Flower Basket, Main St. Hardwick. Hosted by the Galaxy Bookshop. Call the Galaxy or stop in to reserve a copy of each month's book at 20% off for book club members. Tea and other drinks and small treats for sale.
HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB, every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. A time to read published haiku, brainstorm some Vermont kigo, or season words, and write your own haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.
TRIVIA NIGHT, at the Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. A limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.
MEDITATION at Craftsbury Community Care Center, the second and fourth Fridays, 3. to 3:45 p.m., 1784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Offered by Nancy Milholland. Open to all and sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.
HANG OUT ON THURSDAYS, at the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, 2:45 p.m. - 6. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, or just spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen Union's Community School Coordinator Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information: Vvelzis@ossu.org.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 5. Cabot Public Library. Ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.
OUTDOOR STORY & ACTIVITY TIME, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Cabot Rec Field Pavilion. Join Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM, Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 5; Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime; Friday, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Program. Greensboro Free Library. Information: (802) 533-2531.
PILATES, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common. Mondays (level 1), 9 a.m., Wednesdays (Mat Level 2), 9 a.m.; Fridays (level 3), 9 a.m.
MENDING MONDAYS, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.
DANCE, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.
COMMFIT, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.
QIGONG, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.
CRAFTFIT, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.
ALL LEVELS TAIJI, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Fridays, Intermediate Taiji, 10:15 a.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.
CHAIR YOGA, Wednesdays, 9 a.m., Traditional Yoga, 5 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.
CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, open 10 a.m. - noon.
FOOD SHARE, noon to 2 p.m., United Church of Craftsbury.
CRAFTSBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m, on the Common.
LEGOS & LISTENING, 3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.
TAMING KNOTWEED, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Offered by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission. Bring water, bug spray, gloves and assorted clippers andshovels.

Exhibits

BEN BARNES, NEK landscape artist, at the Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St. on the third floor, through September.
PERENNIAL INSPIRATION: Floral Art from a Mother and Daughter," artwork from Natalya Zahn and Anci Slovak, Woodbury Community Gallery. Exhibit up until the end of August.
ARTWORK BY CHRISTINE FOSTER and Marie LaPre Grabon, on exhibit at White Water Gallery, East Hardwick, through August 3. Features needle-felted paintings and hooked wall hangings. Gallery hours: Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. Information: (802) 563-2037.
PAINTINGS OF THE LANDSCAPE and creatures of the Northeast Kingdom by James Hudson, through September 2, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

Hardwick

Enjoy furnished third-floor bedroom in spacious in-town home shared with welcoming family. Shared bath, no smoking, hypoallergenic dog considered, no other pets. $600 plus utilities. (802) 863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

Cabot

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

Local All-Stars Lead Lamoille to State Babe Ruth Title

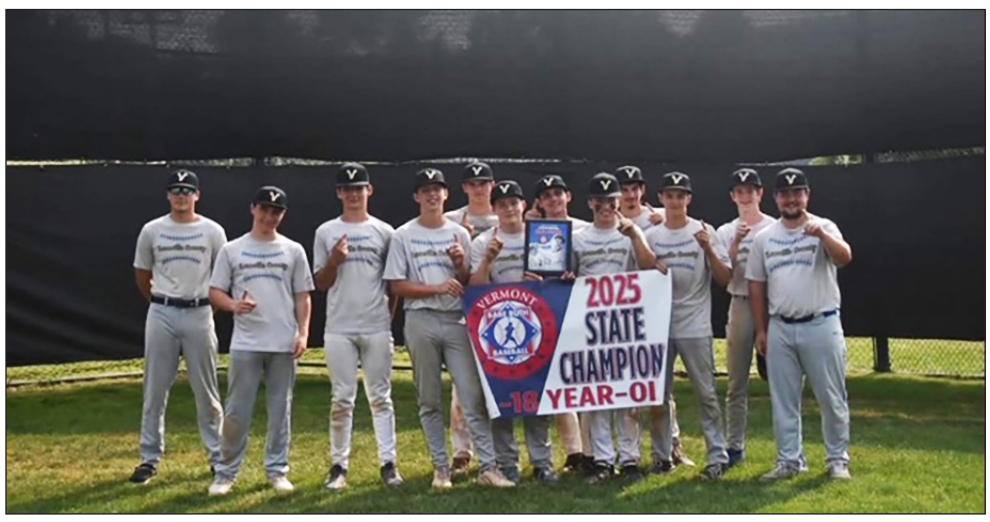
by Ken Brown

NORTHFIELD – A pair of Hazen Union Wildcats helped power the Lamoille summer baseball team to the Babe Ruth 16-18U State Championship over the weekend on Garrity Field at Norwich University.

Incoming Wildcat seniors Grayson McNaughten and Owen Skorstad helped the Lamoille 16-18U Babe Ruth team finish off a spectacular championship run with a weekend doubleheader sweep of Northfield. Lamoille's offense exploded for eight runs in the final two innings of the opener to break open a one run game to win going away 11-6. They kept their foot on the gas in the nightcap to capture the state title in blowout fashion 12-3. BFA-Fairfax ace and Vermont Twin-State selection Ryan Sheehan earned the win in game one, with Alex Hudson and Camden Strong closing the door on Northfield in relief. McNaughten earned the win in game two, with Strong finishing in relief. Strong was an All-Mountain League First Team selection for Peoples Academy (PA) this past season.

McNaughten and Skorstad are coming off stellar seasons for a young Hazen squad that struggled in the rugged Capital League this past spring but will look to improve next season behind their two senior leaders. McNaughten was an All-Capital First Team selection for the Wildcats after batting .380, belting four doubles, swiping 12 bases, and driving in a team-high nine runs on the year. He also anchored a green pitching staff with a team best 35 innings pitched, striking out 42 batters. Skorstad also earned Capital League honors for Hazen after leading them in both batting average (.420) and stolen bases (29).

The 2025 16-18U Babe Ruth State Champs were made up of a star-studded cast of ball players from Hazen, BFA-Fairfax, PA, and Lamoille, including Lancer Capital League First Team selection Ryan Germaine. Head coach and Lamoille alum Caleb Bezio's goal of raising interest in summer baseball in the surrounding communities exceeded all expectations this summer, winning a state title in just the program's second year of existence. He gives credit to the returning players from last season, as well as recruiting newcomers this season to mold the type of chemistry that leads to team success. He aimed to create a fun and competitive atmosphere for his players that could create memories and friendships to last a lifetime.



Local Hazen Union Wildcats were part of the Babe Ruth state championship team. The team includeds (from left) Assistant Coach Peter Abair, Alex Bolio, Ryan Sheehan, Bryant Matton-Wright, Grayson McNaughten, Ryan Germaine, Brandon Allen, Camden Strong, Alex Hudson, Owen Skorstad, Ben Turner and Head Coach Caleb Bezio. Missing were Seamus Burgess and Tegan McLean. courtesy photo

"I really enjoy coaching baseball, so giving the time to coach these kids in the summer is an easy choice. I wanted to give the opportunity for players around the area to play competitively where they don't have to travel 40-50 minutes. I want to build baseball back up in the area and young kids seeing teams like this have success is a really good start. Having kids from different schools on the team makes it more interesting and creates connections that they otherwise may not have ever had. As a former player, I think it makes it more fun for everyone as some of these guys might be playing against each other in high school next spring. We saw more teams in the area having success at different age group this summer and it's our goal to have baseball thriving again in this area," said Bezio.

Soccer Surging in Green Mountain State

by Ken Brown

BURLINGTON – With high school soccer programs around the state readying to open up official practices in less than two weeks, the reigning NCAA Champion Catamounts and Vermont Green FC semiprofessional team has interest in the sport at an all-time high.

The Twin State Lions Cup clash featuring neighboring states top senior soccer players has always been a late summer reminder of high school soccer season being right around the corner. Although New Hampshire may have put a damper on the 50th edition of the boys and girls Lions Cup matches with a clean sweep in Hanover over the weekend, the Vermont Green's recent title run and UVM's first ever national title defense has the sport buzzing as the dog days of summer approach.

Soccer interest in Vermont usually fades in late October with the crowning of high school state champions across the state but extended well into the holiday season last year with the UVM men's soccer team's historic run to the program's first ever NCAA Division I National Championship. The Catamounts stunned #13 Marshall in sudden-death overtime in Cary, NC to cap off an improbable championship run through the College Cup last December, earning UVM its first national title in a team sport in school history. It truly was a Cinderella story for the Catamounts as their championship journey covered over 7,000 miles of travel, knocking off #7 Hofstra, #2 Pitt, and #3 Denver along the way. They became the first school from the America East to capture a national championship and the first unseeded team to lift the College Cup in nearly two decades. The Catamounts officially begin their title defense at Virtue Field in Burlington against Sacred Heart on August 21.

If that wasn't enough to light the fire of soccer enthusiasts new and old around the state, enter Vermont Green FC and their own historic run to a first ever USL2 National Championship. The Green outlasted Alabama's Dothan United in penalty kicks 4-2 Sunday night at Virtue Field to advance to the championship match. UVM's own Niklas Herceg continued his elite play in net for the Green, saving two penalty kicks in the shootout, earning him Man of the Match honors. The 6-foot-6 German also earned NCAA Tournament Defensive Most Outstanding Player honors for the Catamounts in the College Cup Final eight months ago. In just their fourth season in existence, the Green have become a hot ticket this summer, becoming a weekly sellout in Burlington throughout their 16 home games during the regular season before having to having to add 200 plus seats to meet the demand during their current championship run. High level soccer from the Green is strictly a bonus for a fan friendly experience at Virtue that includes a European style section led by The Green Mountain Boys, local food trucks and sponsors, and free Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

Herceg and the Green improved to 15-0-3 on the season and will host Seattle's Ballard FC on Saturday at 7 p.m. for the right to raise the

Julian Mercy Receives Shooting Sports Award

PAWLET – Members of eight 4-H shooting sports clubs met in Pawlet for a weekend of friendly competition in several disciplines, culminating in an awards ceremony on Sunday, July 20.

There were two recipients of the Sean Tillotson award, Julian Mercy, Hardwick, and Isaac Osinchuk, Springfield. Mercy is a member of the Green Mountain Shooting Sports 4-H Club. Both 4-H'ers have qualified to compete on state teams at the National 4-H Shooting Sports competition in Nebraska in recent years.

The recipients of this award, chosen by jamboree participants, demonstrate good sportsmanship, enthusiasm and a willingness to assist and encourage fellow competitors at the annual jamboree. These are the qualities that were embodied by Sean, a National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador and member of two Vermont shooting sports 4-H clubs at the time of his passing several years ago at age 17.

The 2025 Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports Jamboree, sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H, took place, July 18 to 20, at the Ross Gravel Pit. The Oxbow Mountain Shooting Sports Club, Pawlet and Pownal Valley 4-H Sharpshooters, Pownal, hosted the event.

Overall high scorers included, Senior, Julian Mercy, Hardwick (first); Archery, Senior, Julian Mercy, Hardwick (third); Hunting, Wildlife, Senior Julian Mercy, Hardwick (third); Pistol, Senior, Julian Mercy, Hardwick (first); Rifle, Senior, Julian Mercy, Hardwick (third); Shotgun, Senior, Julian Mercy, Hardwick (first).

Caspian Lake Challenge Start



Racers in Sunday's Caspian Lake Challenge walking and running race are heading to the left for the 6.8 mile lake loop, with 5K competitors behind them, headed to the right. Ninety-six competitors from 7 to over 70 started the race in a drizzle with 93 finishing as heavier rain began to fall, soaking finishers and race officials equally.
photo by Naomi Ranz-Schleiffer

Caspian Challenge Draws Almost 100 Walkers, Runners

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – The 14th Annual Caspian Challenge Road race drew almost 100 runners and walkers to its 5K and 6.8 mile Lake Loop road races, Sunday, July 27.

The day began as racers lined up for an 8:30 a.m. mass start going both directions on West Shore Road near the Tolman Corner ballfield.

Kent Hanson sent the racers off in a light drizzle that continued throughout the race, getting heavier after the first half of the field had finished.

Racers opting for the 5K course began heading to the north on a relatively flat course toward Aspenhurst, except for the bump before and after Cook Hill Road.

Lake loopers immediately turned the corner onto Breezy Avenue for a long downhill into town, then onto East Craftsbury Road toward an uphill water stop at Highland Lodge.

Runners and walkers taking the 5K course turned around just after Aspenhurst, with thoroughly drained Charlie Kehler returning to finish at the ballfield just seventeen minutes and eight seconds after the start. Kehler turned in roughly five and a half minute miles, taking the win for the 14-19 age group. Following him were Stewart Hickman (14-19) and Tim Briglin (50-59).

Holly McCormack turned in a time of 27:17.1 to finish for the 5K women in the 50-59 age group, besting Molly Fox-Epstein (30-39) and Julia Spero (14-19)



Jack Leger (left) and Sydney Shaffer, respectively winners of the men's and women's 6.8 mile races around Caspian Lake receive their awards and prizes from race official Kent Hanson, Sunday, July 27 at the Tolman Corner ballfield where the race began and ended. *photo by Paul Fixx*

Brian Lacasse (60-89) was the only male opting to walk the 5K course, finishing in 38.30.3.

More women chose the 5K walk, with Gillian Spero (40-49) returning in 34:50.4, followed by Carren Panico and Jody Day.

After Highland Lodge, the Lake Loop course headed downhill and onto North Shore Road for a series of ups and downs leading back to the start. The top three finishers in the men's division finished within a minute of each other with Jack Leger taking the win at 41:16 in the 20-29 age group as he ran a hair over 6 minute miles. Next was Maxfield English (40-49) at 41:54.9 followed by Colton Niemi (20-29) at 42:13.6.

The women's race wasn't near as close as Sydney Shaffer (30-39) returned in 46:47.3, Claire Wigglesworth (20-29) in 49:36.7 and Emma Palumbo (20-29) in 52:08.7.

Bananas and ice cream from Kingdom Creamery were available for all finishers and prizes were awarded to all age group winners, with the top male and female runners flipping a coin to choose a Highland Lodge stay going to Sydney Shaffer and a Jasper Hill Cheese gift certificate going to Jack Leger.

The race, sponsored by the Greensboro Association, has been growing steadily, with 105 registered this year, 92 last year and just 79 in 2023, said Hanson. "There were no reports of any medical problems or emergencies." $1,815 was raised for the Association this year.

Complete age group results are available at webscorer.com by searching for "Fourteenth Annual GA Caspian Challenge."



Will Carroll (left) and Max Sowles celebrate their finishing at 1:05 in the 6.8 mile lake loop for the 14-19 age range at the Caspian Challenge Sunday. The race is sponsored by the Greensboro Association.
photo by Paul Fixx

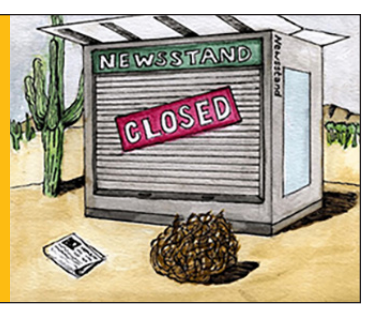


Vittoria Albertini cools herself after finishing the 5K women's walking race in the 7-13 age group.
photo by Naomi Ranz-Schleiffer

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Ken Brown's Sport Nuggets

Successful Summer for Trojans as they Prep for Camp

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot boys basketball wrapped up an intense summer hoops season with some highly competitive contests against division II Spaulding and U-32 as they prep for their summer ending Twinfield-Cabot Youth Hoops Camp next week.

The Trojans made it back to the Barre Auditorium for the first time in nearly a decade this past March in head coach Kris Bador's second season on the sidelines. A last second shot by Danville's Kohl Guinard denied Bador's young squad a chance to capture their first state title since the legendary Chad Copeland led the program to back-to-back division IV championships in 2011-12. Bador returns his entire team next winter and he didn't let them rest on their laurels this off-season as they squared off against predominantly Division II programs, an undefeated Woodsville team across the border, and defending Division I champion Burlington.

"We competed against U-32 and Spaulding last week, the boys continue to play well together, and we were very happy with both outcomes. We're implementing some new sets on both sides of the ball. Sam McLane and Sam Churchill are really starting to turn it up off of their injuries from last season, and as a group we are really starting to click. This group continues to work at staying healthy, hungry and humble. We had a great summer with the kids working extremely hard, and it's important that they bring that same work ethic to the soccer field this fall. We're really excited for Youth Camp; it's a big week for us and youth basketball in the community. The youngsters who signed up are getting a big surprise this year with who's coming in!" said Bador.

Twinfield-Cabot Youth Hoops Camp starts next Monday and runs through Thursday. The camp is co-ed with grades 3-5 training from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and grades 6-8 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Hauser Heads to College Ranks on High Note

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) two-sport star Rex Hauser, put a cherry on top of an incredible year, leading his St. Johnsbury Post 58 baseball team to a state title in Legion ball over the weekend.

Hauser earned the win on the mound with six-and-a-third innings of work and belted a triple as Post 58 beat Essex 8-3 on Sunday to claim their first Legion State Championship at Maxfield Sports Complex. The 6-foot-6 right-hander earned Tournament MVP honors and was joined on the All-Tournament team by Hilltopper teammates Declan Kendall, Will Eaton, Joe LeBlanc, and Adrian Mitchell. SJA won the Division I baseball championship earlier this spring. Hauser made state history in his senior season at SJA, being named Vermont Gatorade Player of the Year in both basketball and baseball. He will attend the University of Maine in the fall with the intent to play baseball.

Renfrew Loses Out in Tech, Brown Takes Cup

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – A crowd filed into White Mountain Motorsports Park Saturday night for the second round in the Late Model Series. The kid's bike and scooter giveaway called in the kids and families to experience a fun night at the races.

The Flying Tigers got Saturday's showcase off and running with Nate Hamblett taking the lead under the green flag. A stalemate battle for fourth between Logan Powers, Tyler Pepin, Matt Potter and Shane Sicard finally broke by the halfway point with Sicard running away to chase down Hamblett. Without the aid of a caution flag, Sicard could only settle for second with Nate Hamblett walking away for his second career Flying Tiger win and Luke Peters rounding out the podium.

After powering through to win segment one, Garrett Labounty found himself on the outside looking in in the second 15-lap segment for the Late Models. Brett Jackson took off from the point to lead segment two until Cody LeBlanc took aking over the lead on lap-5. Point leader Nick Miller followed teammate LeBlanc on the outside lane with LaBounty trying desperately to keep pace as laps dwindled out.

In Dwarf Car segment racing, Jason Wyman took down segment one in dominant style and found his way to third by lap two in a fight with Chad Dufour. The two veterans duked it out for second before leader Dan Brofman said "No thank you" and slid out of the way on the high side. Wyman quickly took over the top spot and never slowed, taking the perfect score of two for winning both segments with Dufour and Jeff Ainsworth earning second and third.



In an unscripted Kid's Night at White Mountain, coupled with a kid's bike and scooter giveaway, the Dwarf Cars got in on the action. In Victory Lane were (from left) Jeff Ainsworth (3rd), winner Jason Wyman and daughter Mariah on her seventh birthday and Chad Dufour (2nd). photo by Johnny Racer

Aiden Young and Jason Ball started side-by-side to bring the Strictly Minis to green with Ball taking the edge. A mirror full of J.J. Goodbout, the local boy, took over the lead as point leaders Jacob Roy, Donnie Baumgardner and Tyler Thompson began to hunt him down. Baumgardner got the better of his fellow point chasers but ultimately had nothing for Goodbout who took down his third win of the season with Thompson rounding out the podium.

Quinny Welch with a plus-5 earned in heat race qualifying started off the New Hampshire Governor's Cup 100 from the point, but following the lap-14 caution for Richie Brown's shut down Chevy Camaro, it was all Jimmy Renfrew Jr. Renfrew took command and never looked back through a series of single car spins, a turn one pile-up from the back of the field and a hard hit for Dylan Payea in turn two that brought out the red flag. What came next was a sixty-lap green flag run that saw Renfrew absolutely lambaste the field en-route to the New Hampshire Governor's Cup win at the line.

A spirited battle between Gabe Brown and Kasey Beattie for second lit up the final fifteen circuits with Brown taking second and Beattie finishing third on the track. In post-race technical inspection, Renfrew's No. 00NH Chevy Camaro failed the coil-bind test as officials discovered travel-limiting suspension. Brown was awarded the win with Beattie second and opening series winner Justin Prescott in third.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS
(local competitors)

Late Models
13 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick, Vt.

Flying Tigers – (35 Laps)
7. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield, Vt.
11. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott, Vt.



After a spirited battle for second place with Kasey Beattie (#45NH) in the closing laps, Gabe Brown (No. 47NH) took the New Hampshire Governor's Cup after apparent winner Jimmy Renfrew Jr. failed post-race inspection. photo by Johnny Racer

Fielder and Lady Cadets Add to Awards Haul

by Ken Brown

NORTHFIELD – East Calais native Caitlyn Fielder and her record-breaking Norwich University women's lacrosse team continued to stack up the awards and honors last week, adding several from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA).

Fielder and her Lady Cadet team were selected as a 2025 IWLCA Honor Squad, exceeding the 3.20 GPA threshold required for selection. The former U-32 star was also honored individually, along with seven of her teammates for maintaining a 3.50 GPA or higher. Graduating senior and former Stowe standout Ellie Moriarty joined Fielder on the 2025 IWLCA Division III Academic Honor Roll. Neris Archambault, Carlie Henning, Celine Juneau, Julia Proto, Athena Merck, and Leocadia Clark (Rice Memorial) rounded out the distinguished honorees for Norwich.

The dynamic duo led Norwich to a program record 15-win season this past spring, advancing to the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Final Four for the first time in over a decade. Fielder had a monster sophomore season for Norwich, leading the team in goals scored with a career-high 47. The speedy midfielder also recorded 10 hat-tricks for the Lady Cadets, including five goal games on three different occasions throughout last season. Fielder has now scored 85 career goals in just 33 games and joined Moriarty as a GNAC First Team selection back in May. Moriarty capped off a brilliant career for Norwich with a team leading 39 assists, ranking in the top 65 nationally. The senior attacker holds the all-time assist record for the Lady Cadets with 96.

Norwich head coach Ian Thomas was named GNAC Coach of the Year in his fourth season at the helm after leading his squad to the most single season wins in program history.

Norwich will look to follow up their historic season when they get back to GNAC play next February at Sabine Field in Haynes Family Stadium.

Midseason Championships are Sunday Drive for Dragon

BARRE – For the first time in recent memory, a Thursday came and went in Barre that was not affected by the rainy-wrath of Mother Nature as A sunny afternoon greeted the fans and teams of Thunder Road, all in preparation for the Midseason Championships.

The Flying Tigers got Thursday's feature racing off with a bang following the popular autograph session. A blown tire for point leader Sam Caron called out the first caution on lap 15 of the extra-distance 50 lap trophy dash. The big one came on lap 21 with nine cars involved in a turn one calamity that included championship hopeful Logan Powers. Back under green, Kevin Streeter and Mike MacAskill faced off at the front. The two veterans fidgeted with the lead, back and forth until MacAskill finally took the edge all the way to victory lane. A hard-charging Robert Gordon took second with Streeter rounding out the podium.

Scott Weston and young Hayden Morris brought the Street Stocks to green for their extra-distance 35 lap Midseason Championship event. While Morris slid back, another rookie in Tyler Wheatley quickly took over the point in a ten lap side-by-side battle with Weston. One dust-up along the frontstretch wall ruined the night for Connor Rueda, but otherwise the field was set, with Wheatley taking down his second win of the season followed by Morris and Hayden Bushey across the line.

Rookie Trevor Jaques and Stephen Martin led the Late Models under the green flag with a mirror full of Scott Dragon. Dragon took over the top spot around Martin on lap nine just before a chain reaction on the frontstretch ended the night for Stephen Donahue and Scott Coburn. Dragon took off from position number one on the return to green flag racing and never looked back in the final sixty-five laps to walk away with the Midseason Championship over Martin and point leader Jason Corliss.

The Road Warriors finished off the night with a customary wild exclamation point on the evening. Nick Copping and Bill O'Connor showed the way early but it was Cayden Green who quickly took over the top spot and looked to run away with it. Unfortunately, the lap 23 caution for the stalled newcomer Shoshawna Mastin on the bottom of turn one ended Green's run for the win. A wild last restart saw Derrick Mann launch into a three and four wild frenzy to take the lead and the win over another first-timer Anthony Benoit and Taylor Sayers rounding out the podium.

Thunder Road Int'l Speedbowl crowns its first champion of 2025 Thursday, July 31, on Portable Toilets Night. Along with the annual Port-a-Potty Grand Prix, the Squier Cup Triple Crown for the Late Models is on the line. The Flying Tigers, Street Stocks and Road Warriors are also back in action with a 7 p.m. post time.



In Midseason Championships victory lane for the Late Models were (from left) Jason Corliss (3rd), winner Scott Dragon and Stephen Martin (2nd).
photo by Alan Ward

For more information, contact the Thunder Road offices at (802) 244-6963, media@thunderroadvt.com, or visit www.thunderroadvt.com.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS
(local competitors)
Maplefields/Irving
2. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
12. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
Flying Tigers – (50 Laps)
16. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott
Street Stocks – (35 Laps)
11. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield
19. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield
DNS 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
Road Warriors
9. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield



Derrick Mann (No. 27) flew through the bottom lane in the Road Warrior nightcap to the Midseason Championship night with just one lap separating him from his eventual win. *photo by Alan Ward*