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Wednesday, August 6, 2025

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Volume 136 Number 32

Walden Man Denies Federal Gun, Drug Crimes

by Mike Donohue

BURLINGTON – A Hardwick area man, who officials say is part of a sprawling police investigation that included a double homicide of two drug dealers in the Northeast Kingdom two years ago, pleaded not guilty Thursday to a federal drug and gun charge.

Hunter Patten, 25, of Walden, is charged with possession of a .22-caliber Llama pistol on Oct. 15, 2023, while being an unlawful user of and addicted to controlled substances, according to his federal indictment.

Federal Magistrate Judge Kevin J. Doyle agreed to a verbal request by the defense to continue the detention hearing in U.S.

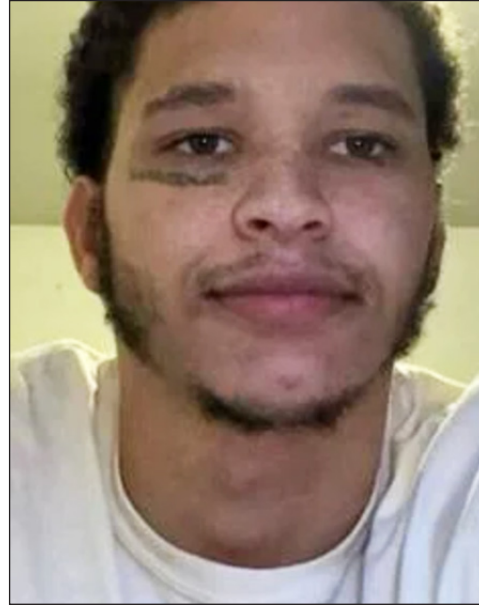
District Court until Tuesday.

Defense lawyer Karen Shingler and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Turner acknowledged during the court arraignment that the new federal charge was part of a bigger ongoing state investigation.

Among the people attending the brief court hearing was a veteran Vermont State Police detective, who is the lead criminal investigator into the fatal shooting of Jahim “Debo” Solomon, 21, of Pittsfield, Mass. and Eric “E” White, 21, of Chicopee, Mass. Their families and police said the two men were in Vermont to sell drugs.

Solomon and White were shot dead in a home on Eden Road in Lowell on Oct. 12, 2023, police said.

See **CRIMES, 5**



Jahim Solomon, 21, of Pittsfield, Mass., seen in this family photo, was fatally shot on Eden Road in Lowell on Oct. 12, 2023, police said.

Vermont State Police photo



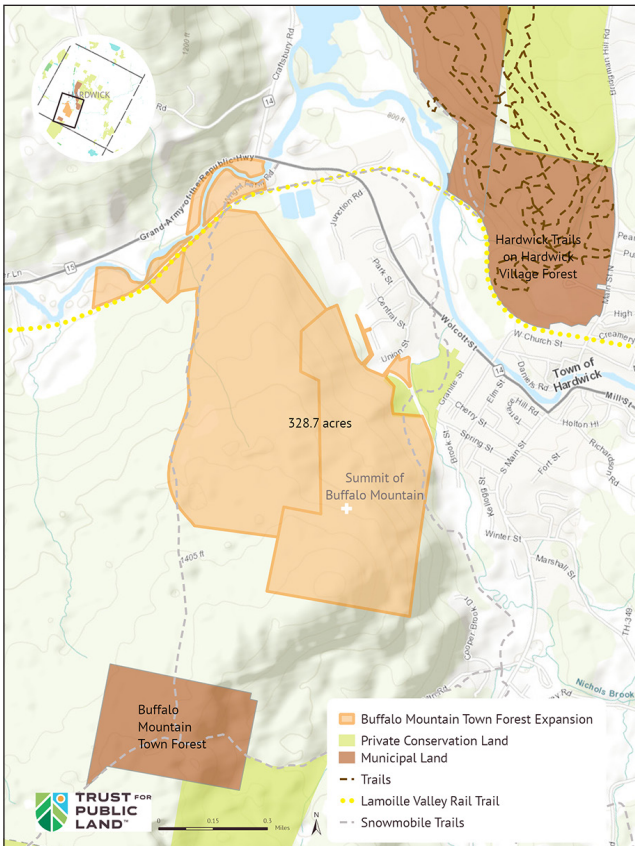
Eric White, 21, of Chicopee, Mass., seen in this family photo, was fatally shot on Eden Road in Lowell on Oct. 12, 2023, police said.

Vermont State Police photo

Buffalo Mountain Purchase Being Explored

by Alex Strand

HARDWICK – The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has begun the process of purchasing a 318 acre plot of land at the peak of Buffalo Mountain and surrounding it. The land, if purchased, will be owned by the town itself. The



The Trust for Public Land and Hardwick residents are exploring the purchase of 318 acres that includes Buffalo Mountain's peak and land on both sides of the Lamoille River that borders the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. map courtesy Trust for Public Lands

project was approved by the Hardwick Select Board on July 10.

The plot is made up of two adjacent parcels, one being 179 acres with frontage on either side of the Lamoille River and on either side of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, with access from Wright Farm Road, which runs along the western edge of the parcel. The other is 140 acres, containing the summit of Buffalo Mountain, with access from three roads in the village center.

The parcels are currently owned by Ken and Chris Davis, and listed for sale at \$545,000.

“The whole process is really community driven. I would say the three of us will probably guess that there will be trails, that tends to be a way that people want to get outside, but it's really up to the community,” said Hannah Redmon, a project manager at the Trust for Public Land.

Funding for the project will come from federal funds, the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and from private funding. The town will need to put up about five percent of the total project cost.

“It's a very good deal for the town,” said Jack Travelstead, chair of the Northern Rivers Land Trust Board of Trustees.

The purchase of the property by the town could support community engagement, quality of life and flood resiliency. “In the Northeast Kingdom, we've seen some really huge flooding events in the past few years that have been really destructive to communities. And this

See **PURCHASE, 4**



The Great Brook was in flood stage, July 10, 2024, at 8:30 p.m. A presentation of a 2025 Great Brook study requested by Plainfield Emergency Management Plainfield was scheduled at the Town Hall Opera House last night. social media photo

Community Discussion Shows Collaborative Spirit

by Raymonda Parchment

PLAINFIELD – Residents came together, July 28, to discuss Plainfield's future, part of a three-part process directed by community organization Plainfield Forward. In an effort to engage area residents in identifying important priorities for the town's future, over a 100 attendees gathered at the historic Haybarn Theatre for a town-wide brainstorming session.

Facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), Executive

See **DISCUSSION, 3**

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Warrants, Found Bike

HARDWICK - On July 30 at approximately 3:25 p.m., Joel Sargent turned himself in, knowing he had a warrant. He was taken into custody at the Hardwick Police Department. Sargent had four warrants in Vermont. Sargent was transported to Northeast Regional Correction Center in St. Johnsbury.

On July 31, at approximately 6:10 p.m., a resident of Church Street reported that she had a bicycle locked to her fence and it had been there over a week. Hardwick Police removed the bike, and they have it at the police station. The bike is blue and has a brown helmet with it. If anyone has any information or if it is your

AWARE Report

HARDWICK - Thirteen people used AWARE services between July 27 and August 3. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

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.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual

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

Lyndonville Police Department Operating Vehicle after Criminal Suspension

LYNDONVILLE - On July 22, a Lyndonville Police Department patrol officer stopped a motor vehicle on S. Wheelock Road. The operator was found to be operating after

criminal suspension due to a prior DUI related action. Douglas Tucker, of Hardwick, was cited into Caledonia Superior Court with an arraignment date of September 22, at 8:30 a.m.

Hardwick Police Media Log

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.

Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Traffic Stop, Creamery Road; Traffic Stop, Rte. 14; Alarm, Buffalo Mountain Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15-Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15-Junction Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Granite St.

July 28: Threats-Harassment, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Medical, Upper Cherry St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Wanted Person, High St.; Medical, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15 E.

July 29: TRO-FRO Service, Chapin Lane; 911 Hangup, Mountainview Road; Motor Vehicle

July 30, Fingerprints, High St.; Alarm, Depot St.; Wanted Person, High St.; Assist - Agency,

See MEDIA LOG, next page



August 6 - August 12

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Country Time Lemonade Mix
\$3.69 19 oz.

Post Great Grains Cereals
\$3.99 14-16 oz.

Classico Pasta Sauce
2/\$5 15-24 oz.

Prince Pasta
4/\$5 12-16 oz.

Minute Rice
2/\$5 12-14 oz.

Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes
99¢ 4 oz.

Bumble Bee 4 Pk. Solid White Tuna
\$7.99 20 oz.

A-1 Steak Sauce
\$4.79 10 oz.

Filippo Berio Olive Oil
\$7.99 16.9 oz.

Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter
\$3.79 16 oz.

Stauffer Animal Crackers
2/\$5 14.5-16 oz.

Arm & Hammer Cat Litter
\$10.99 20 lb.

7th Generation Dish Soap
\$3.69 19 oz.

7th Generation Dishwasher Detergent
\$5.79 42-45 oz.

Cottonelle 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue
\$8.99 154-179.4 s.f.

Kleenex Facial Tissue
\$2.19 60-70 ct.

Cabot Bar or Shredded Cheese
\$2.99 6-8 oz.

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

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WEATHER WATCH



A hazy sun over Hardwick, Sunday, August 3, peeks between two roofs on Brush St. through wildfire smoke that's been carried in from western Canada. photo by Paul Fixx

Seasonable, Mostly Unchanged, Warming Into Weekend

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK –While Tyler takes the week off, the big news of the last several days is almost perfect Vermont summer weather, with relatively moderate daytime temperatures in the 70s to low 80s and nighttime temperatures getting into the 50s, though one night last week touched the 40s in some places.

The big news is the persistent presence of smoke from Canadian wildfires that mostly settled in the unhealthy range for sensitive groups, though occasionally reached into the unhealthy range for all Monday and early Tuesday. Air quality has dropped into the moderate range as this is being written early Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday looks similarly moderate with the prospects for later in the week unknown due to the variability involved.

Sign up for air quality notifications at enviroflash.info/signup.cfm and an air quality map is

available at airnow.gov.

The week continues seasonably, warming toward 90 into the weekend with mostly light south winds through the forecast period. With that introduction, know that this forecast applies to Hardwick and may differ some, even in nearby towns.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Daytime high around 80. Overnight low near 58. Light south wind.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High: 80. Low: 58. Light south wind.

Friday: Partly cloudy. High: 83. Low: 60. Light south wind.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. High: 85. Low: 62. Light south wind. Sunday: Sunny. High: 89. Low: 64. Light south wind.

Paul Fixx has no special training in weather forecasting, but doesn't like to be surprised while boating, swimming, walking, hiking and biking outdoors so has studied various weather forecasting sources for many decades.

Discussion

Continued From Page One

Executive Denise Smith began the discussion by sharing some general information about their organization.

“We only work where we're invited, we need to be invited by the select board, but we work on behalf of the entire community. We're here to serve the entirety of Plainfield tonight,” Smith stated.

Community members reflected on the many changes to Plainfield's landscape in the wake of the 2023 and 2024 floods, like the closure of Goddard College and, of course, the floods. “The good news is, our community came together,” said select board member Betsy Ziegler.

After an introduction to the overall process, attendees had a chance to voice their thoughts

about the challenges Plainfield currently faces, as well as the town's assets.

Food insecurity, the ever present housing shortage and flood damage were amid the chief concerns. Assistance with federal funding was also a concern. One resident said the lack of affordable childcare makes it difficult for young families to settle in the area.

“We have a tremendous amount of debris in the village, and we are waiting for FEMA to make a decision about 29 possible buyouts. We need to think about what our village is going to look like and how many people are going to be living here,” said an attendee.

However, residents lauded the town's lively arts scene and community spirit, local agriculture, as well

as the library. Residents also highlighted that Plainfield has a strong community of “young folks” moving in, with a desire to get involved. A community garden, more parking, debris cleanup, broadening town roads, a town land trust and affordable housing are just some of the many action ideas thrown out at the meeting.

The group broke for a community dinner before beginning forum discussions, divided by categories; housing, road and infrastructure access, community spaces and events, and vitality.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development will accept input via online and written surveys until Sept. 5, and those ideas will be incorporated into the themes from the community that will be shared at a Sept. 17 meeting.

Media Log

Continued from previous page

Lamoille Rail Trail; Transport, High St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St. Motor Vehicle Complaint, Spring St.; Parking Problem, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Elm St.

July 31: Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15 W; VIN Verification, Bunker Hill Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Odor Investigation, Kellogg St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Suspicious Event, Church St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16; 911 Hangup, Michaud Farm Road; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 16.

August 1: Medical, Maple St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Depot St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Lower Cherry St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Main St.; Traffic

Stop, Wolcott St.-Union St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.-Terrace Hill Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Granite St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Granite St.

August 2: TRO-FRO Violation, High St.; Threats-Harassment, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Slapp Hill, Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Holton Hill; Traffic Stop, Mill St.-Sumner St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Vandalism, Hopkins Hill Road; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Granite St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16.

August 3: Medical, Terrace Hill Road; 911 Hangup, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

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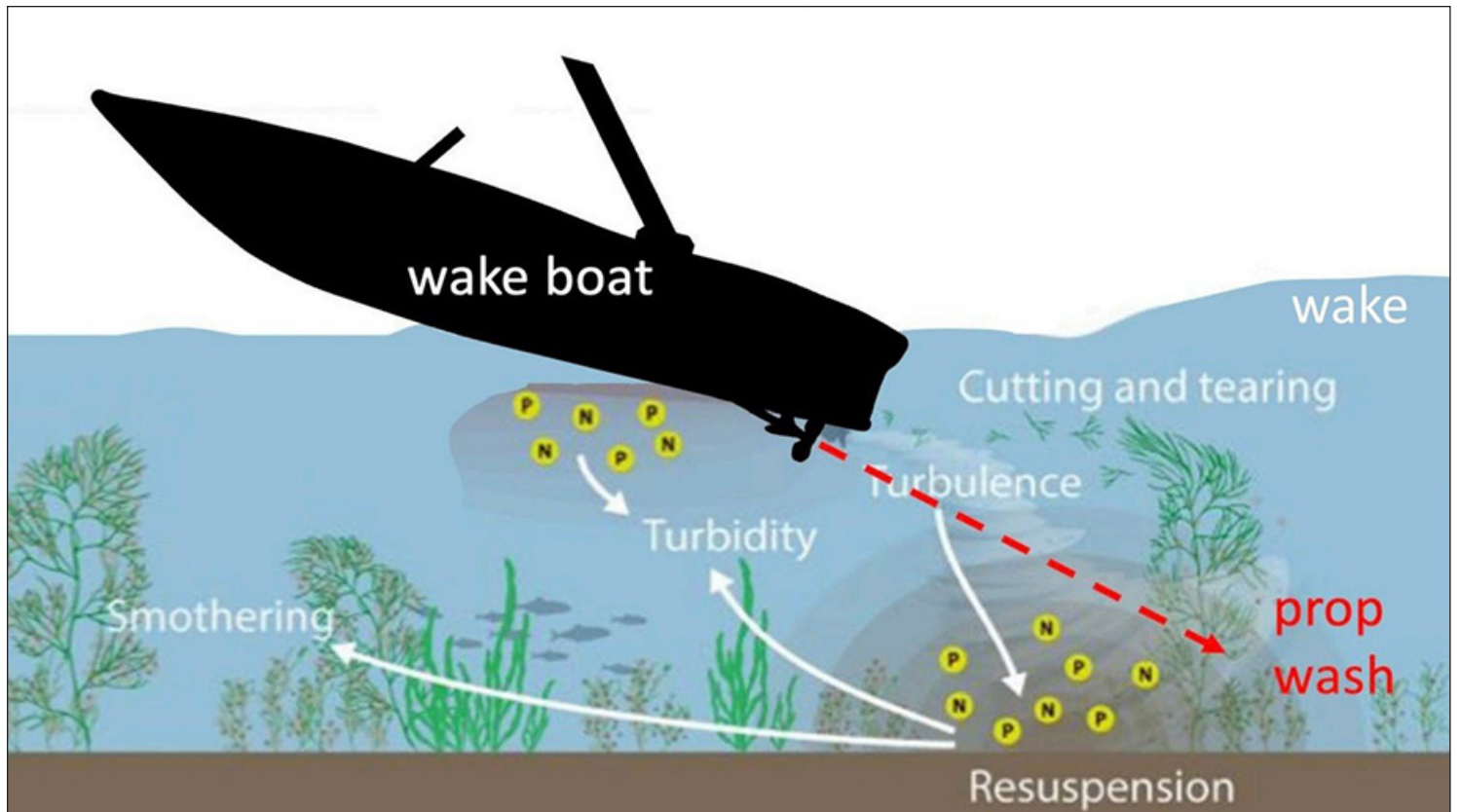

Wakeboat Rulemaking Concerns Caspian Lake Users

by Paul Fixx

NEWPORT – Greensboro residents have been paying close attention to a proposed rule revision for wakeboats that raises the minimum required area from 50 to 100 acres, reducing the number of lakes on which wakeboating is permitted from 30 to 18. Under the proposed rule revision, wakeboats would no longer be permitted on nearby Joe’s Pond in West Danville and Shadow Lake in Glover, but would continue to be permitted on Caspian Lake in Greensboro.

Greensboro residents Stew Arnold and David Kelley, who have been closely following the process attended an Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) pre-rulemaking meeting, July 31, in Newport where an ANR presentation of the proposed changes was followed by topical conversation about the various provisions of the changes being proposed with time for public comment. Arnold had attended a similar meeting the previous evening in Barre as well.

In an email message to area residents early in July 30, Leanne Harple wrote, “Last night, the same meeting was held in Barre and was attended by many wake boat owners and supporters, both in person and online. They voiced strong opposition to the proposed changes. It is essential that the ANR also have the opportunity to hear from those who support the proposed new regulations and who understand the real impact that wake boats have



Wakeboats operate at a high angle directing propwash toward the lake bottom and creating large wakes that can erode shoreline, disturbing nesting habitat for birds and fish. *courtesy Lakes at Stake Wisconsin*

on small lakes-including shoreline erosion, damage to fish habitats, the spread of invasive species, and their overall incompatibility with shallow, narrow bodies of water.”

Arnold said he proposed a special rule that would allow wakeboats to be banned on any lake that had not yet seen a wakeboat and heard comments in support of the proposal from those with similar concerns about others of the 18 lakes the new rule would permit wakeboats on.

Caspian Lake has not yet seen a wakeboat, despite their being unregulated until the initial rules went into effect before this year’s boating season. That’s been helped in part through a Hardwick

Electric Department prohibition on the launching of wakeboats using the boat ramp owned by them at the Caspian Lake Beach and the limited access to launch a sizeable boat elsewhere on the lake shore.

A provision of the current rules requires cleaning of a boat’s built-in tanks used to store water as ballast when a wakeboat is moved to another lake, to reduce the possibility of transporting invasive species of plants and animals to uncontaminated bodies of water.

Caspian Lake has a long-standing program of greeters at the boat launch who help to educate boaters on cleaning their boats, and a wash station to facilitate that cleaning, which has helped Caspian Lake to remain uncontaminated by invasive plants and animals. Kelley said he had concerns about the transport of invasive species between lakes and made several comments, including the suggestion that the rules don’t adequately “incorporate a definition of decontamination” for wakeboats, which “are almost impossible to clean.”

He also said, “by weakening an already weak rule, the new proposal potentially creates more pressure on the 18” remaining lakes. “Clearly the change is an acknowledgment of the problem,” Kelly said.

During the initial wakeboat rule-making DEC had received petitions from ten lakes requesting

restrictions on wakeboats. Those petitions were dismissed “out-of-hand” according to Kelley, “creating cynicism about the whole process.” He said the state has a history of setting high standards surrounding recreational use of state resources based on his experience working with ski areas, but this process is different, he said. Greensboro chose not to appeal dismissal of its petition in environmental court, instead following this new round of rule-making, said Kelley. He is “Hopeful that comments will be heard and the proposed rule will be revised in keeping with this round of public comments.”

“If you look at data on the spread of invasives in Vermont over the last 30 or 40 years, they continue to spread,” said Kelley. “If we’re not careful it will be a disaster.”

He suggests the best course for the state to follow would be to give authority to municipalities as they did with Greensboro for shoreline protection. The town has developed standards that serve the area well, maintaining the lake’s Class A1 water quality, Kelley said he thinks the town could come up with a rule that would work.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is accepting written feedback on proposed use of public waters rule changes until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19 at ANR.WS-MDLakes@Vermont.gov.

Purchase

Continued From Page One

property is on the Lamoille River, and there has been flooding in Hardwick. So any opportunity that we have to conserve streams that are flowing into the rivers, there’s a good bit of floodplain in this property,” said Redmon.

The land has not been logged since the 1970s, said Paul Cillo. The property is close to the elementary school as well. “I think having Buffalo Mountain as a community forest with accessible trails, if that’s where we end up, just creates a perfect laboratory for young up and coming citizens, as they learn about the environment,” he said.

In September, TPL will receive an appraisal and contract for an ecological assessment. A steering committee to be established in October will oversee the purchase and initial ownership of the land. It is hoped the purchase can be completed by 2027.

The mountain frames the background of many scenes in Hardwick. “I was just in the new library yesterday. And when you go into the new children’s room and look, Buffalo Mountain is right there. It’s actually beautiful to be able to do that,” said Cillo. “It’s a significant land form right near the village, so it’s iconic in that sense.”

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Crimes

Continued From Page One

Their bodies were found about a mile apart in the town of Eden in nearby Lamoille County about two weeks later, records and Vermont State Police have said.

At least seven people have been charged in federal court as part of the investigation into the fatal shootings, drug trafficking and gun trading.

Vermont News First reported in December 2023 that Theodore "Theo" Bland, 29, of Burlington, was the main person of interest for the double fatal shooting. He was among three people eventually indicted on federal charges in the case, and a subsequent indictment now has Bland facing a possible death penalty for the two deaths, officials said.

Defense lawyer David Sleight of St. Johnsbury, on behalf of Bland, said he was in Washington, D.C., earlier this summer to petition the U.S. Department of Justice to forgo capital punishment in the deaths of the two drug dealers.

Bland, formerly of Stowe, has pleaded not guilty to all the felony charges and is being detained pending trial.

Vermont State Police have been seeking Patten since the federal grand jury returned the indictment on June 12. Patten agreed to surrender on Wednesday. He is jailed at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans Town.

Patten refused before his federal court hearing Thursday to submit to a drug test when he met with Pre-Trial Services. As he was escorted from court, his mother shouted from the audience to him to take the drug test.

Patten, a Hazen Union High graduate, did tell the court that he has been treated for narcotics addiction in the past. Doyle noted Patten spent time at Valley Vista, a residential drug treatment facility in Bradford.

Shingler asked for 90 days to investigate all aspects of the federal case and to consider filing pre-trial motions. Doyle set a deadline of Oct. 29.

Shingler, a former state prosecutor, may have an uphill fighting for Patten's release. Unlike state court, where judges routinely don't take action against defendants that fail to show for court, commit crimes while on pre-trial release or routinely blow off conditions of release imposed by the court, the federal system addresses those failures head-on.

Turner filed a motion seeking Patten's detention pending trial on grounds he was a risk to flee and was a danger for both the community and himself.

Turner noted that Patten has been addicted to controlled substances since at least 2023.

"The defendant has possessed and traded firearms multiple times during the preceding 24 months despite his ongoing use of controlled substances," Turner wrote.

He noted Patten has a history of failing to appear for state court hearings. He also has been charged in state court with crimes that happened while he was out on pre-trial conditions for earlier cases, Turner said.

Hardwick Police had at least two recent incidents where Patten was uncooperative and fled from law enforcement, including driving recklessly at more than 100 miles per hour on a motorcycle, to avoid pending state arrest warrants. Records show.

Hardwick Police Chief Michael Henry responded to a report of two men passed out in a vehicle in a parking lot on May 21, court records show. The men eventually regained consciousness, and the driver got out of the car to talk with the police. He later returned to the car and locked himself inside with Patten in the passenger seat, records show.

Attempts to get them to open the doors failed, and the driver fled, almost hitting a Hardwick Police officer, Turner's motion noted. The police pursuit was eventually abandoned due to safety concerns regarding the rate of speed.

One day later, Hardwick Police encountered Patten while they looked for another suspect at a local residence. Patten was standing in a garage at the home and said the suspect was in the house before closing the garage door.

As the officers headed to the back door and prepared a plan to find the suspect, they heard the garage door opening and saw Patten flee on a motorcycle. Pursuing officers clocked the motorcycle at more than 100 mph, but soon dropped the chase, Turner said.

"Patten's history demonstrates a failure to abide by court conditions of release or to appear for court proceedings when summoned. Additionally, Patten's use of controlled substances has led to his commission of multiple crimes involving drugs, firearms, and thefts that have created a risk to the safety of the community," Turner wrote.

"Patten's recent flight from law enforcement also highlights the risk to the community if he is released. For all of these reasons, there is no condition or combination of conditions that will reasonably assure the safety of the community or Patten's future appearance for proceedings," he said.

Church to Celebrate Homecoming, August 10

by Greensboro United Church of Christ

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro United Church of Christ will host a homecoming celebration on Sunday, August 10, and invites the wider community to take part in a day of worship, fellowship and food. The morning begins with a worship service at 10 a.m., followed by a southern-style barbecue picnic on the church lawn.

This year's gathering coincides with the return of Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters, who resumes his ministry after a three-month sabbatical. Members, friends, former congregants and anyone with a connection to the church are encouraged to attend as the community marks this new season of ministry together.

Founded in the early 1800s, the Greensboro UCC has been a long-standing part of the Northeast Kingdom's religious and civic life. Its white-steepled sanctuary has hosted generations of baptisms, weddings, memorials and



Patty Sunday-Winters (left) and Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters, of the Greensboro United Church of Christ, visit Fort William, Scotland during Ed's three month sabbatical from the church.

courtesy photo

community events. The congregation is part of the United Church of Christ, a Protestant denomination known for its emphasis on inclusion and social justice.

To help organizers plan for the barbecue lunch, attendees are asked to RSVP by calling the church office at (802) 533-2223 or emailing greensborochurch@gmail.com.



Linda Ramsdell (left), president of Headwaters Community Land Trust and Craftsbury resident, visits with Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas outside the Genny in Craftsbury, July 31.

courtesy photo

Secretary of State Visits with Headwaters Community Trust

by Vermont Secretary of State staff

MONTPELIER – Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas visited with Linda Ramsdell, president of the Headwaters Community Trust, on July 1, as part of a statewide listening tour following the upgrade of her office's online business filing system.

The listening tour follows her office's improvements to an online business filing system. The goal of said changes was to make registration with the office as easy for small businesses as possible.

She also visited The Fitness Warehouse VT in Newport and 802 Notarize in St. Johnsbury on the same day.

The three recently formed businesses across the NEK were selected by the Secretary of State's office for visits, with the chance to offer direct feedback to Secretary Copeland Hanzas about their interactions with her office and state government in general.

Headwaters Community Trust, founded in 2024, works to use the community land trust model to alleviate housing insecurity in Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, Greensboro and adjoining communities.

Food Pantry Supporters Hear About Local Needs



Leanne Harple speaks to a gathering of people interested in the work of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry Saturday, July 19. photo by Alex Strand

by Alex Strand

GREENSBORO – Over 30 donors and friends of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) came together at a Greensboro home on Saturday, July 19, to hear from Director Stella James, Vermont State Representative Leanne Harple and Vermont Foodbank Manager Carrie Baker Stahler.

Harple opened the meeting by introducing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program. “This was a program of the Vermont Food Bank that was established through Act 34,” she said.

“The Vermont Food Bank, you probably know, is the state’s largest hunger relief organization, provides 12 to 15 million pounds of food to hungry Vermonters throughout the state, and in 2024 was able to use \$700,000 of their \$1.3 million state appropriations to support this program, Vermonters Feeding Vermonters, in its FY26 budget, the state appropriated \$500,000 to support continued investment into this program, which will provide grants to the Vermont Food Bank to purchase local food from farms for distribution,” said Harple.

The program provides locally grown food from farms and to food shelves, senior centers and schools.

Harple also explained the Crop Cash and Farm Share programs. “When SNAP recipients spend their benefits at participating farmers markets, they receive matching funds from the

Crop Cash, funds which effectively double their purchasing power,” she said. This program also boosts farmers. More information is available at vtfarmtoplate.com.

Stahler then shared what she deemed the bad news. Federal funding for food banks under the current administration has reduced the available funding and food.

“There are several ways that policies in the federal government are impacting people’s food security. There are some really direct ways, through reductions in funding to food security programs. There was a local food to schools and child care program where the money was rescinded,” she said.

The Big Beautiful Bill Act restricted funding to SNAP, or food stamps. The cuts included added paperwork, restrictions for asylum seekers and changes in calculations. “So, over time, less and less people will be on the program because they hit speed bumps,” said Stahler.

James, who recently became director of the Hardwick site, then shared what day-to-day interactions at the Hardwick location look like, as well as the yearly numbers. In 2024, they served 836 households, 63 towns, 2,400 individuals and 300 people through home delivery. They have sites in Hardwick, Albany and Craftsbury, as well as a satellite site at the Hardwick Health Center.

“We’re open six days a week, and we serve anyone who comes through our doorstep with a need, so anyone can come with professed need of food, and we will give them a share of meat, produce, shelf stable, goods, dairy and it costs a lot of money,” said James.

People visit the pantry for a range of reasons, including life transitions, large families or emergencies.

“And for me, success is when someone comes to me and asks for help,” she said, “and success as a

pantry is being able to provide that in a timely way, in a way that really meets that person’s need.”

She hopes to provide local towns with a sense of abundance, even in the face of federal cuts. James called upon the crowd to make donations of either money, time or food.

“We’re giving people enough energy to then focus on something else in their life that really needs the attention. No one should have to go home to bare cupboards,” said James.



People visit the community park in Greensboro Bend at the 2024 block party. courtesy photo

Block Party, Basketball, Open Houses, Aug. 9

by Bend Block Party Organizing Committee

GREENSBORO BEND – Greensboro Bend will host the annual Block Party at the Community Park, Saturday, August 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., sponsored by the Bend Revitalization Committee and the Greensboro Association. New this year is an open house and tours of the former Methodist Church and Habitat for Humanity duplex home under construction.

The picnic will begin at 5:30 p.m., with musical entertainment by local artist Jean Miller and the Bleeding Hearts Family Band. Hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled by volunteers, and ice cream will be provided at the Community Park. Bring a lawn chair, a drink and a side dish to share.

Activities kick off at 3 p.m., with an event to test basketball skills and drills for ages 6 to 18. All skill levels are welcome. Sign up at the event where there will be prizes.

Also at 3 p.m., there will be an open house at the new Habitat for Humanity duplex. Members from the Greensboro chapter of the Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity organization will be on hand until 5:30 p.m. to show community

members around, answer questions and provide more details of the fundraising efforts.

There will be a second open house at the former Methodist Church from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The church was chosen as one of seven community-led building revitalization initiatives to participate in the Vermont Village Trust Initiative (VTI). VTI provides technical assistance and partial funding for work to repurpose the building to enhance community capacity and economic vibrancy. Working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Vermont Community Foundation and the Vermont Council on Rural Development, local volunteers will be on hand to discuss possible futures for the building with community members.

From 5 to 5:30 p.m., Lynette Courtney will be sharing the vision for native pollinator plantings at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail trailhead. At the Mural Garden, find out what plants are being used and how to help. Funding for the gardens has been provided by the Bend Revitalization Initiative and the Greensboro Conservation Commission.

To volunteer or for information, contact Jane Johns, (802) 533-7083 or Diane Cloutier, (802) 533-7049.



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Wildlife Vaccine Drop Underway to Prevent Spread of Rabies

by Vermont Department of Health

WATERBURY – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, in coordination with the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, began an annual rabies vaccine bait drop, August 1, to help combat rising rabies rates in wildlife.

The vaccine, in the form of a sweet-smelling oral bait that is attractive for raccoons and skunks to eat, will be dropped from low-flying airplanes in rural areas, by helicopter in suburban areas, and placed on foot and by hand from slow-moving vehicles in residential areas.

In the local area, rabies bait drops are scheduled to occur in Hardwick, Stannard, Walden, Wolcott, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Cabot, Calais, Marshfield, Plainfield and Woodbury.

Statewide, the rabies bait distribution will deliver approximately 762,000 rabies vaccine baits in areas of Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans and Washington Counties.

Officials say that the bait drops, now done twice a year, help slow the spread of the rabies virus among wildlife, but that it takes time for enough animals to become immune. So far this year, 32 animals in Vermont have tested positive for rabies, 20 of which were raccoons. In 2024, 66 animals were rabid, which was a 74% increase from 2023 and a 69% increase from the 15-year average of 39 rabies cases reported annually in Vermont since 2010.

"Rabies cases have been rising in Vermont in recent years, and this year is no exception," said Natalie Kwit, DVM, state public health veterinarian with the Health Department. "Over time, the increased frequency and scope of these bait drops will help protect people and domestic animals

who may come into contact with wildlife."

Without treatment, rabies is fatal to both humans and animals. The virus is spread primarily through the bite of an infected animal. In Vermont, rabies is most often detected in raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks. Pets and livestock can also get the disease, especially if they have not been vaccinated for rabies.

The vaccine bait packs are not poisonous and are not harmful to people, pets or wildlife. When an animal bites into the bait, vaccine releases into their mouth and they develop immunity from rabies. Humans and pets cannot get rabies from contact with the bait, but are asked to leave the bait undisturbed if they encounter it. If contact with bait occurs, the contact area should be immediately washed with warm water and soap.

Each bait carries a toll-free number that people can call if they have additional questions concerning bait contact. If your pet or a child brings one home, let officials know by calling the Vermont Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437) or call the toll-free number printed on the bait.

Follow these guidelines to keep your family, pets and livestock safe: If you see a sick or strange-behaving wild or stray animal, or if you are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the Vermont Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES).

If you are bitten by an animal, wash the wound well with soap and water and contact your health care provider as soon as possible.

If your pet or farm animal was bitten by a wild or stray animal, contact your veterinarian. State law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies, even barn cats. Rabies is rare in vaccinated animals.

Always feed pets inside the house and keep them indoors at night. If they are outdoors during the day, keep them on a leash or in an enclosed space. Pets that roam



These are rabies bait blister packs.
They contain a rabies vaccine for wildlife to eat.

A bucket of Rabies Bait Blister Packs of the kind you might see a low-flying helicopter or airplane dropping over the next few weeks in Vermont. The baits contain an oral rabies vaccine for raccoons and skunks and don't harm people or pets according to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) and Vermont Health Department, who arrange for the drops and ask that they be left for wildlife to eat. photo courtesy Vermont Department of Health

free are more likely to be exposed to rabies.

Do not touch or pick up wild or stray animals, even young animals, or try to make them into pets. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it.

For more information, including a complete list of towns where the bait drop will take place, see the Rabies Vaccine Bait Drop Fact Sheet at healthvermont.gov. Learn more about rabies in Vermont at HealthVermont.gov/Rabies.

Morrison Celebrated for Land Protection

WOLCOTT – The Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT) celebrated their newest Wolcott easement on Sunday, July 27, from Bill Morrison on his 286 Pond Brook Lane acres near Wolcott Pond.

NRLT Board Chair Jack Travelstead thanked Morrison for his two years of participation in the easement process: assessing the property's conservation values and developing the easement in perpetuity to protect his land from development. Protection of the Morrison

property includes its forested land, one mile of Wolcott Pond Brook, extensive wetlands and a well-managed internal road system for timber management.

Morrison remembered his early impression of the surrounding forest, which had been heavily logged professionally for the previous 20 to 30 years. He said that despite the logging, the woods "looked to me like the forest primeval with the murmuring pines and the hemlocks. It looked like an ancient forest."



Kim Lipinski came to the Jeudevine Library's storytelling event from Hyde Park, July 31, to tell a story about her first job out of college that involved a plot twist and flying across the country with her rabbit disguised as a cat on the flight. photo by Diane Grenkow

St. Johnsbury Hospital to Shutter Two Programs

by Henry Fernandez, VTDigger

ST. JOHNSBURY – Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury announced upcoming cuts to staff and two hospital programs on Tuesday, joining other medical facilities across the state making similar announcements. The cuts, which will take effect Sept. 30, include five positions: three in occupational medicine and one each in community health coordination and physical therapy, the hospital said in a press release this week. These staffing cuts come on top of three administrative positions cut earlier this year. The hospital will be shuttering its occupational medicine office that works “onboarding new employees with physicals and immunizations,” transferring partial services to Northern Express Care, which operates three walk-in clinics in northeastern Vermont. Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital will also be ending its partnership for ear, nose and throat care with Littleton Regional Healthcare, transitioning patients to the hospital’s own providers. “I want to emphasize that these reductions are in no way a reflection of performance or dedication — they’re about ensuring that our organization remains strong and resilient for

the communities we serve,” the hospital’s CEO Shawn Tester said in the release.

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital is one of the Northeast Kingdom’s largest providers of health care. According to regulator Green Mountain Care Board, the hospital is in the mid-range of its peer facilities across the state, with over \$120 million patient revenue, the sixth highest in fiscal year 2024.

In the Thursday release, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital officials said more may be needed to ensure the hospital’s financial future, including adjustments made to employees schedules like reductions in overtime, “efficiency improvements” for hospital technology, and a review of certain employee benefits for “identify potential savings with minimal impact, including early retirement options for those who qualify.”

“In order to assist in lowering the cost of health care for Vermonters, while keeping essential services local, we must find savings,” Tester said. “These difficult decisions are necessary to ... preserve our ability to serve the Northeast Kingdom well into the future.” In the release, the hospital blamed “rising labor and supply costs, reduced reimbursement rates and regulatory budget requirements,”



Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury.

photo by Erin Mansfield/VTDigger

for the cuts.

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital is not the only hospital or medical system facing similar issues.

In June, Brattleboro Hospital laid off hospital leaders to address a \$4 million hole in its budget. The University of Vermont Health Network announced it would be cutting 77 positions in the same week Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital announced its cuts.

These layoffs come as Vermont’s

health care leaders look to address the systemic challenges, an aging population and a large number financially challenged hospitals, of a “badly broken” health care system that have resulted in increasingly high health insurance costs. The cuts also come as hospitals brace for the impacts of the Trump administration’s incoming cuts to Medicaid insurance. “NVRH isn’t going anywhere. We’re here for the long haul and we’re deeply grateful to our entire team for their commitment,” Tester said.



Craftsbury firefighter Steve Perkins (kneeling) shows children and their adults how a fire extinguisher works, outside the Craftsbury Public Library at the end of Firetruck Story Time, July 11. Earlier Perkins and a teen recruit (standing right), showed the equipment they use to fight fires and Children’s Librarian Paula Davidson read books about fire and firetrucks. *courtesy photo*



The Greensboro Community Garden provided free fresh produce to Smith’s Store in Greensboro Bend. The shelf will be available in the chiller throughout the month of August. *photo by Raymonda Parchment*

EDITORIAL

I Know What I'm Doing Better Than Those Who Created the Rules

In a year and a half of editing The Hardwick Gazette, I've discovered that a huge amount of information doesn't really rise to the level that makes it news. Much of it is about unrelated subjects and even several tidbits that are somehow connected don't together reach the level of being newsworthy. Every now and then though, something happens that creates a common thread between a pile of them that draws my attention.

That subject is dogs, their owners and the public places they visit.

Today's letter to the editor from Kathy Swanson creates a bridge between several of those ideas when it comes to dogs. Her harrowing tale of an accident with a dog while she was biking on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) sent her to the hospital with an injury that will require a lengthy convalescence.

I've biked on the LVRT a fair amount and have had few difficult interactions with dogs. The rule reads, "Dogs are permitted on the trail. Pet owners must have control of their animals at all times."

Most dog owners have their pets leashed, or seem to have them under control, but there are some I've had to yell at and a few I've had to kick at. For the most part dog owners seem more concerned that I might hit their treasured pet and move to the side of the trail, or off of it, sometimes even facing their domestic beast away from a rider.

Hardwick Trails offers Trail Etiquette directed to dog owners that is more restrictive than for state rail trails, saying, "Dog owners! Help the trails remain dog-friendly. Hardwick's Dog Control ordinance says dogs must be on a leash, and clearly under the verbal or non-verbal control of the owner. [Owners must] immediately remove the dog's fecal matter and dispose of it."

Again, most dog owners there respect that trail etiquette, but there are some who will say words to the effect of, "my dog's friendly," or something similar. That expression completely disregards the listener, or their dog's possible response to another dog. The person their friendly dog is approaching may be deathly afraid of dogs, or that kind of dog, for any number of reasons. The approach of even a friendly dog may terrorize them or provoke a response from their dog through no fault of the dog or the dog owner, but preventably so if the dog is leashed and a respectful distance is maintained.

I'll only briefly touch on the subject of dog feces, which, though they might be easily flicked off the trail with a stick, are often found encapsulated in small green or black plastic bags and left trailside for the poop fairy to collect at some unknown future time.

At the Caspian Lake Beach the rule reads, "Dogs must be on leash." There's no ambiguity there, yet not all dogs are. Of course, their owners say they're the friendly ones despite the presence of unpredictable people, most especially small children.

I'm relatively sure the same thinking applies to owners and their dogs that applies to those of us who sometimes travel above the speed limit in our cars; because, of course, I know what I'm doing better than those who created the rules.

Paul Fixx, editor



A seaplane flies low over Caspian Lake after taking off near Winnimere last weekend.
photo by Dawn Gustafson

For the record:

Last week's story "Tax Rate Set, Assistant Town Clerk Hired," reported "Greaves told board members that she has hired Sharon Fialco as an assistant town clerk for two days a week starting in August." July 30, Town Clerk Kim Greaves said the minutes of the meeting from which that information came will need to be revised because Fialco had not accepted the position, but had been offered it.

Last week's story, "New Website, FEMA Work, Planning, Citizen Concerns Fill Agenda," should have shown the Woodbury Town Clerk's name as Robin Durkee.

In Last week's story: "Caspian Challenge Draws Almost 100 Walkers, Runners," references to Kent Hanson should have been to Eric Hanson.

Last week's edition of "Weeks Gone By" showed a date of July 30, 1025, which is only slightly earlier than the 1838 date of the Gazette's founding. The correct date should have been July 30, 1925. "I promise a front page story when we obtain time-travel capabilities," says Reporter Raymonda Parchmen (who was not the source of the error.).

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

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

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

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

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

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ANOTHER OPINION

How to Flex Your Flood Preparedness Muscle

by Sen. Anne Watson

MONTPELIER – It has been heartbreaking to see flash flooding occur in Vermont for the past three summers, and increasingly around the country as well.

I, for one, do not want to let this kind of news begin to feel normal. This is not the Vermont I grew up in. It is already hotter and wetter from climate change, and there are a number of things we can do as individuals, homeowners and renters to be prepared for the next natural disaster.

What the last three years have taught me is that flooding and erosion can impact anyone anywhere in Vermont, depending on what areas receive intense rainfall. So it's important that we are all prepared for that possibility.

Every choice we make matters. The choices we make right now will affect how prepared

we are for our next natural disaster. Here are some practical steps you and your family can take to be better prepared for potential flooding events. Some of them may apply to you, some may not, but these are taken directly from Vermont Emergency Management's website:

Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains in your home.

Ensure your home is ready. Where possible, minimize damage from basement flooding by elevating utilities and materials that could be damaged by limited basement flooding.

Anchor fuel tanks to ensure that they do not wash away, which can create a safety and environmental issue inside or outside of the home.

Develop a family emergency kit, which could include food and water, medications, a first aid kit and a flashlight with extra batteries, among other things.

Make a family communication plan. Designate an out-of-state relative as a central point of contact.

Be prepared to turn off electrical power when there is standing water, fallen power lines or before you evacuate. Know how to safely turn off gas and water supplies before you evacuate.

Contact your insurance agent or local government to discuss flood insurance coverage.

Other recommendations from ready.gov include: knowing evacuation routes, safeguarding documents and planning with your neighbors.

Also, if you have not signed up for VT-Alerts, which, according to the state's website, is "used to notify the public of emergency situations," such as evacuation information, severe weather advisories and roadway interruptions, now would be a great time to do that.

You can sign up by following the instructions on the VT-Alert website. WCAX reports that only 90,000 Vermonters have signed up to receive these alerts, 14% of the state's total population. I would highly recommend doing so to anyone living or working in Vermont.

Finally, I'll add one recommendation of my own. Since we know these events are driven and exacerbated by climate change, we all also have an obligation to do what we can to reduce our

fossil fuel consumption.

Thankfully, most renewable alternatives are much cheaper to operate than their fossil fuel counterparts. Maybe this means taking the bus or carpooling; leasing or buying an EV or plug-in hybrid; or adding a heat pump, pellet stove or another renewable heating system.

For each of us the solutions may look different, but it's important that we are all looking to take that next step toward the ways in which we can reduce carbon pollution.

Meanwhile, the Legislature will continue to have more work to do this next session to protect and prepare Vermont for potential natural disasters. This includes ensuring that Vermont's dams are safe and that we are protecting our wetlands to help prevent and reduce the risks from these kinds of events in the future.

We all have a part to play. We can all make a difference to ensure that our families and neighbors are safe and able to weather the storms that we know are likely to continue on into the future.

This commentary is by Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington. She is chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. She has served in the Vermont Senate since 2023 and was previously Montpelier's mayor from 2018 to 2022. It first appeared in VTDigger, August 2

LETTERS FROM READERS

I Love Dogs, But . . .

To the editor:

It's been three weeks since I went over the handlebars on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and fractured my femur because of an uncontrolled dog. I'd been felled by a ten pound canine that had darted from the weeds on the side of the trail. What started out as an easy bike ride on a beautiful Vermont summer day to be followed by pizza on our monthly date night, turned into a 911 call and three titanium screws holding my leg together.

Our summer travel plans are gone and I'll have to endure at least six months of pain and rehab. I was a competitive cyclist back in the day and I can't emphasize enough how important riding my bike is for my mental and physical well-being. The prospect of months of inactivity and discomfort is traumatic not to mention making work difficult.

The accident could have been so easily avoided if the dog's owner had been responsible and obeyed the law:

"Pets are allowed on the trail provided they are under the control of their owner at all times. For their own protection and that of other users and wildlife, dogs should be leashed," from the LVRT Management Plan.

Complying with these laws is

a matter of courtesy, responsibility and legal obligation.

How many times have you heard, "Don't worry my dog doesn't bite," or "She hates leashes?" While some owners think their dog may be well-behaved and obedient, dogs are dogs. They're unpredictable. They don't know any better but their owners should.

While losing a summer is tragic for me, I know it could have been much worse. What about the person that has no insurance? A broken neck? A spinal cord injury? These are very real possible scenarios.

As I write this, a cyclist friend is recovering from broken ribs as a result of another unleashed dog incident on the LVRT.

Please let this letter be a reminder to always have your dog under control, whether on the Rail Trail or anywhere else, as a matter of safety, courtesy and law.

If there can be an upside, I experienced a prompt, warm and professional rescue by Northern EMS and Lamoille Ambulance Services and thanks to the occupational therapist, I would have never known how handy a two-foot shoehorn could be! It may not seem like it but I still love dogs!

**Kathy Swanson
Craftsbury Common**



Republic Services workers of Burlington, contracted by the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) accept waste during a hazardous waste drop off at the Hardwick Town Garage, August 2. Forty-four cars for 50 households brought hazardous waste to drop off Saturday.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

WEEKS GONE BY

Weeks Gone By Hardwick Gazette, August 6, 1925

Fresh Air Children Arrive on Special Train

HARDWICK – No more perfect weather could have been ordered on the morning of the arrival of the one hundred and a half of Fresh Air Children from the crowded tenements of New York, the great metropolis of this country, than that of last Friday morning. The special train arrived about an hour late from schedule time, it being about 9:30 o'clock, when the children were all unloaded and escorted to the opera house, nearby, for distribution.

Nearly five hundred people were assembled about the station and yard to greet the tired and hungry little army, and considerably dirty from the long, hard ride, having left New York City the night before at about 8:00 o'clock. But great was the joy depicted on many a little face, both white and colored, as they sighted their friends in whose homes they remained last year for two weeks. Only one child was at all ill, and that mostly homesickness. One or two other such cases were in evidence, but as soon as they got into the right home and had an auto ride and a good, substantial meal, they were all right. As we see them rolling by in cars and playing with native children, then the thought always comes that it is a well-worth-while object.

The committee in charge, with Rev. Kelley and Mrs. Tims, acting as leaders, in a very short time, got the children into the hands of the proper parties, and the Craftsbury lot of about thirty, tagged with blue cards, were immediately separated and taken in autos to the various homes in those villages, while the Woodbury lot were taken in cars and delivered safe and sound.

Of course, the little colored children attracted the most attention, but no one was apparently more pleased than J. B. Grow to find the same little girl he and

Mrs. Grow entertained last year among the lot. Blaine has been ill for about three weeks, but a telegram to New York by Mrs. Grow had brought about the arrival of the same dark complexioned little girl, and Blaine's joy was great; others were equally as pleased to receive the reinvented little folks.

It was a very orderly little army of children, and they were in charge of a man and his wife, also another gentleman, and while they said they were kept busy all the way on the trip, yet nothing developed during the journey to make it all a hardship. They, too, could not help but feel pleased to think the children were to be so well placed as they saw the sunny smiles break over the little countenances, as each one or more were claimed by those who are to entertain them in Hardwick and vicinity for two weeks.

They were also an unusually clean lot of children, with generally a few more of American parentage than last year, but of various nationalities as a rule.

That they will enjoy two weeks in Vermont and in Hardwick and vicinity, goes without saying and everyone is doing everything possible to make their visit an enjoyable one.

Rev. Charles W. Kelley is in charge of the Fresh Air Children and all contributions of money and clothing should be sent to him, as well as all complaints.

New contributors to the fund are as follows: W. H. Taylor, \$7.00; Mrs. G. N. Norcross, \$3.50; Mrs. O. W. Shepard, \$3.50; John Gallagher, \$3.50; Mrs. W. A. Dutton, \$5.00.

This story is reprinted exactly as it appeared in 1925.

Wapanacki Trout Club Dinner Enjoyed by Large Number

HARDWICK – Nearly a hundred members, their families and guests, of the Wapanacki Trout Club partook of a splendid trout dinner at the club house last Sunday.

The company included people

**BIG THREE-DAY
CARNIVAL!**

**at Town Hall
Greensboro, Vt.**

For the Benefit of
CASPIAN LAKE GRANGE AND SCHOOL YARD

Monday, August 10th—The Linnell Entertainers, in original skits, musical numbers and clever dancing. This trio have been Boston favorites for some time and you will not find a dull moment during their snappy program. Entire change of bill for afternoon and evening.

Tuesday, August 11th—The Nellie Gill Players. Evening, "Bought and Paid For"—a very strong comedy drama; Afternoon, "She Had Her Way,"—a comedy written by Mr. Scammon.

Wednesday, August 12th—"Flaming Forests"—a romance of the North Woods. The most spectacular play ever staged. The climax of this great play is a forest fire that sweeps right up to the footlights. Special scenery and effects. Also the big snow scene. In the Afternoon this Company will present a Comedy, "The Pictures No Artist Can Paint". It's a scream and something different than you have ever seen or will ever see again.

COME!—"Something doing" from 12:00 to 12:00, you betcha!

Season Tickets, 75c and \$1.50 Single Admission, 25c-50c
Tickets are Transferrable and are on Sale at Barrington's Store.

from different sections of the state and a few without the state, and all were free in praise of the dinner as served by Mr. and Mrs. Cate, in charge of the club house, and their assistants.

The lake is furnishing some excellent fishing this season at times when the trout are biting and there is every evidence that it is becoming well stocked with fish.

The directors have recently placed orders for several thousand more six-inch trout, to be delivered in the lake this fall, with the expectation that they will be eight-inch or lawful fish to catch, next season, and the club members may look forward to more sport the coming year.

Town News

EAST CALAIS – The next meeting of the Woman's Club will be held at the home of Mrs. Will Peck, Saturday, August 8th. Mrs. Ivan Gray and Miss Sylvia

Bliss have charge of the program. Subject, "Ferns."

Frank LaDoo was in Barre one day the first of the week.

Ivan Gray was in North Calais one day recently.

Joseph Brothers was in South Woodbury one day recently.

Rev. Weston Cate preached at the Union Church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kendall and daughter spent the week end with relatives in Randolph.

Elmer Celley has returned from Massachusetts, where he has been visiting the past week.

Mrs. E. C. Bliss was in Barre the first of the week.

George Balentine was in Woodbury one day recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wheeler have returned to their home here, after visiting their daughters in New Hampshire last week.

Neil Tassie of Woodbury was in town on business Tuesday.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

She Lived Through the Chaos

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – In August of 1945, my family was living in a modest bungalow near the southwestern outskirts of Syracuse, N.Y. I was ten. My father was a missionary priest and traveled most of New York State north of Oneonta and Corning to visit his scattered parishes. With the recent surrender of Germany to the Allied forces in Europe, we anticipated the return of my father’s brother from the armed forces, hoping against hope that he wouldn’t be reassigned to the Pacific Theater, where the allies were smashing their slow, bloody way, at great expense, toward the Japanese home island of Honshu.

The battle for Tokyo was expected to be fierce. In spite of our elation over V-E day in May, we dreaded the coming battles. Losing Ernie Pyle, everybody’s favorite war correspondent, during the Okinawa campaign in April, seemed darkly ominous. Nevertheless, we were hopeful. The “duration,” our term for the length of the war, seemed at last to have an end in sight.

Meanwhile, about 6,500 miles away in Japan, Hideko, a girl my age, had just returned from work camp in the mountains to the comfort of her grandfather’s estate at the northern edge of Hiroshima. The war was not going well for Japan, but there was little of that in the news, and she knew even less about it, though there was gossip now and then that perhaps, somehow, they might lose it.

On Monday morning, August 6, a bright, sunny day, she was relaxing with a paperback lent her by her cousin Hideyuki. At 7:15 a.m. the air raid sirens sounded, so she turned on the radio to get details. Three enemy planes were approaching. That wasn’t concerning to someone who’d seen dozens, perhaps hundreds, going over at other times, headed for different cities. At 7:30 the radio announced that the enemy planes had turned around, and the danger was past. She resumed reading.

What no one on the ground knew was that, in order that the bombers got as far away as possible from what was coming, the 10-foot-long atomic bomb, “Little Boy,” descended by parachute. No one saw it coming. Not that it would have mattered.

About 8:15 a.m., as Hideko recalls it, the room suddenly was filled with a blinding white light, as if the sun had landed on earth. It was followed immediately by a tremendous boom. The sky turned black. The house trembled, shook and began to fall apart. She sheltered next to a pillar, as her mother had taught her to do in air raids, while the roof rained down tiles around her.

When it got light enough to see, she found herself covered with ash and cinders, with bits of broken glass stuck into her skin, and a larger piece embedded in her right foot. Rubble prevented her from moving. She called out; an aunt answered and came to help her get free. Most of her relatives lay stunned under a tree in the orchard.

She never saw her mother again; she’d been incinerated nearer the center of the blast. But Hideko remembered what her mother had drilled into her: Fire follows the explosions. Get to the river to be safe. She wasn’t able to rouse the rest of the family, or get any help for her wounds. The building across from her home started to burn. So she plucked the glass from her body as well as she could and started for the river.

Here she met crowds of survivors also headed for the water, most of them to try to cool their burning skin, which on many was falling off in sheets. People collapsed all around her, many convulsing and dying without any visible wounds. She describes that horrible day in her memoir, “One Sunny Day” (Hideko Tamura).

She lived through the chaos of the next few years, and eleven years later happened to be a contemporary of mine at a small liberal arts college in central Ohio. She was a beautiful woman (still is, as a matter of fact). We kept company for a while, and she even came to my place in the Adirondacks during the summer for some climbing. But that winter we went separate ways and reconnected only after I read a feature story about her lifelong anti-nuclear weapons campaign (of which more next week).

She’s in Hiroshima this week for the last time, at the invitation of the mayor, to commemorate the day that, as she says, she lost her youth, to remember her missing relatives and friends, and to pray that what happened there will never happen again.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“WHY WOULD I CARE ABOUT STARVING CHILDREN IN GAZA? I WANT MY RESORT.”

MEETING MEMO

- 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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ANOTHER OPINION

Interfaith Action Reacts to Homelessness Executive Order

by the Rev. Jay Voorhees

PLAINFIELD – Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) issued a statement on Friday expressing their concerns about the recent presidential executive order, “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets.”

The statement reads: “Vermont Interfaith Action, a grassroots coalition of faith communities and spiritual practitioners who share common beliefs and values about the dignity and worth of all members of our communities, rises to express our concern about President Trump’s recent Executive Order titled ‘Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets.’

“While this order asserts that it is a response to crime and disorder, we believe this is actually about criminalizing homelessness and reintroducing the forced institutionalization of those who are experiencing mental illness. The order draws on community fears around homelessness. It uses uncited and inaccurate “statistics” to justify inhumane changes in how we best address the needs of those who are unsheltered and in need of assistance. This order is broadly written and will be used to harass and harm people on the basis that they are unhoused, regardless of their health or disability status.

“As people from different faith traditions, we are committed to the dignity and respect of all, including those dealing with mental health challenges, addiction, and the lack of affordable housing, which is the ultimate driver of the homelessness epidemic in our country. This order offers no real solution for addressing those problems but instead puts procedures in place to “disappear” those persons from public view. This order is morally unacceptable, likely illegal, and tragically inhumane.

“We align with the statements publicized by the ACLU and the Vermont Center for Independent Living in opposition to this Executive Order, and we call on Governor Scott and all leaders throughout our state to stand up and ensure that the rights of all Vermonters are protected, especially the most vulnerable among us. We call all those who call this place home to stand up and demand that the rights of all persons are protected, regardless of their disabilities, conditions, or economic status.”

Vermont Interfaith Action will be coordinating with service providers and organizations focused on homelessness and mental health to determine further responses to this recent order.

The Rev. Jay Voorhees is coordinating pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, Plainfield.

VOICES OF SPIRIT

What’s the Point? When Work Doesn’t Work

by Jeffrey Pierpont

WALDEN – Every morning, many of us wake up, check our phones and feel that familiar pit in our stomachs. Another crisis. Another tragedy. Another reminder that the world feels heavy, chaotic and uncertain.

And yet, we pour our coffee and get on with the day. Because what else can we do? The bills are due. People are depending on us. And somewhere in that quiet space between sighing and scrambling, we ask ourselves, “What’s the point of all this?”

If you’ve ever felt that way, you’re not alone.

The ancient writer of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes, traditionally thought to be King Solomon, wrestled with that very question. He lived thousands of years ago, but his voice could easily belong to someone burned out in 2025, caught between hustle culture and hopeless headlines.

The words of Ecclesiastes dare to convey what many of us feel but are too polite or too proud to admit: life doesn’t always make sense. Sometimes hard work doesn’t pay off. Sometimes effort doesn’t equal reward. And sometimes, the best you can do still isn’t enough.

The writer of Ecclesiastes looks down the road of work and labor, and instead of offering easy answers, asks three hard questions.

First: “Who am I kidding? I can’t take it with me.”

After reflecting on all the wealth and achievements he’s accumulated, the writer comes to a

painful realization: none of it will last. And worse yet, he has no control over what happens to it after he’s gone.

He writes: “So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. I must leave [all I’ve built] to the one who comes after me.”

We’ve all seen this play out. Consider Dennis Barnhart, the founder of Eagle Computers, a Silicon Valley success story in the early 1980s. On the day his company went public, it raised \$37 million. Barnhart personally gained \$9 million in a single day. But that same afternoon, while driving home, he died in a car accident.

A fortune gained. A life lost.

The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us: No matter how much we achieve, we don’t control the end, or what happens after it.

Work is not the enemy, but when it becomes everything, it disappoints us.

Second: “Is the trade-off worth it?”

The writer in Ecclesiastes asks, “What do people get for all their anxious striving? Even at night their minds do not rest.”

Sound familiar? How many of us lie awake, mentally juggling to-do lists, deadlines, and worries? How many have brought work home, not in our briefcases, but in our bones?

We live in a world that glorifies busyness and burnout. The phrase “I’m so busy” is almost a badge of honor. But what’s the cost?

Journalist David Brooks once wrote, “Work without meaning



Daisies, daylilies, and more, add color in the Greensboro United Church of Christ garden, during late July.
photo by Paul Fixx

creates a vacuum where the soul should be.” When our work becomes our identity, our soul pays the price.

Third: “Is there always a payoff?”

We grow up being told hard work leads to success. But the verses in Ecclesiastes remind us that life doesn’t always play by those rules.

“The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong . . . but time and chance happen to them all.”

Sometimes promotions go to the connected, not the qualified.

Sometimes jobs are lost not because of performance, but because of economic shifts. Sometimes success feels more like a lottery than a reward.

And the writer of Ecclesiastes does not sugarcoat it. He tells us, with blunt honesty, that life isn’t fair. Effort doesn’t guarantee outcome.

And striving doesn’t always lead to satisfaction.

After all this sobering honesty, the writer turns a corner. “God has set eternity in the human heart.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11) There is a hunger in us that work can’t fill. A longing that toil cannot satisfy. Because we were made for something more, something deeper, something eternal.

When we anchor our meaning in the transcendental, not our job, everything shifts. Work becomes worship. Sabbath becomes sacred. Success is redefined.

So maybe the better question isn’t just, “What’s the point?”

Maybe it’s, “Where is my soul rooted?”

Jeffrey Pierpont is Interim Minister of the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

IN THE GARDEN



Trees with unique leaf shapes are like artwork for the landscape, making them a good choice for any yard.

photo by Amy Simone



A flowering crabapple is an attractive addition to any landscape, displaying fragrant flowers in spring leading to berries later in the season for wildlife.

photo by Amy Simone

Trees are Hard-working Plants

by Amy Simone

S. BURLINGTON – Trees are among the hardest working plants in the landscape. Even the smallest yard can accommodate at least one or two of these botanical powerhouses.

Adding a tree will provide habitat and shelter for many animals and beneficial insects. Birds will build nests in the branches and eat the berries, squirrels will tuck the seeds away for winter and a whole host of insects will be attracted by the nectar of its flowers.

Meanwhile, below ground, the tree's roots expand out and down and may capture toxic heavy metals and sediment, preventing them from entering storm water systems. Strategically placed trees can combat soil erosion and minimize water run-off.

During photosynthesis, a tree binds carbon dioxide into sugar, releasing oxygen and storing the carbon in its wood. The tree's leaves filter out air pollutants, thereby reducing smog, acid rain and

cooling greenhouse gas-related temperatures.

Trees are a natural awning, creating a cool, shady area for people to escape the summer heat. The addition of fruit or nut trees will also provide delicious food.

Despite all their attributes, however, the purchase of a tree can seem intimidating. Keep in mind the value of the investment of time and labor by the grower, especially as the caliper (diameter of tree trunk) size increases.

The good news is that younger, smaller trees are less expensive as well as more resilient to transplant stress. Once established, they will grow quickly.

Regarding growth, another concern is their future size. Thankfully, there are options for varieties that do not get very large. Tree-form paniculata hydrangeas, dwarf crabapples and laceleaf Japanese maples are examples of trees with mature heights of less than 12 feet.

If you are looking for a tree to make a big impact but not exceed 20

feet in height, there are several options. Flowering dogwoods, serviceberries and some magnolia varieties, as well as full-sized crabapples and Japanese maples are excellent choices in this range.

With the capacity to accommodate a larger tree, limitations of the light and soil conditions in a yard should match the needs of the trees. Honey locusts provide filtered shade to patios and an oak tree supplies an entire neighborhood of wild creatures with food and shelter. Willow trees will happily absorb excess water from a low area in a yard.

Fruit trees are fun to add to a landscape, offering fragrant spring flowers followed by a bounty of fruit, giving you plenty to share with the animals. There are apricot, peach, pear, plum, cherry and apple varieties with mature heights of less than 20 feet. Look for resistant cultivars

to the most common diseases affecting each species. Likewise, walnut, chestnut and hazelnut trees are both beautiful and productive.

Beyond the deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees, is an entire realm of evergreen varieties. Evergreens are invaluable as shelter and food for animals, as well as for privacy and wind protection people and homes. Again, there are options with mature heights of six to more than 60 feet, as well as a plethora of forms, habits, hues of green and needle types.

Once trees are incorporated into a landscape, follow appropriate steps to plant and care for them. They will repay with benefits that last more than a lifetime.

For information on tree planting and care, visit vtcommunityforestry.org/tree-care.

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



WonderKids Summer Enrichment Camper Owen Allen brushes Paul Ruta's Percheron horses Babe and Rocky during camp at Hazen Union School last week.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Eugene McAllister (left) and Josh Peets (right) from the Just Cut program at The Center for an Agricultural Economy are grilling and taking orders last Friday for local meals of burgers, cole slaw and potatoes during the annual Community Farm & Food Celebration at the Hardwick Farmers Market.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

THE OUTSIDE STORY

On the Edge, Not on the Brink: Northeastern Bulrush

by Michael J. Caduto

READING – Twenty years ago, at this time of year, I found myself walking the margin of a marsh in east-central Vermont with Bob Popp, Vermont’s state botanist at that time. We had traveled to that particular site because it showed promise as potential habitat for the rare northeastern bulrush. This elusive species requires exposed soil at the water’s edge. Just as we were about to depart from the last wetland in the area, Popp called me over to exclaim that he had found what we were seeking, which he recognized by the arching arms of the seedhead that reminded him of an explosion of fireworks.

The northeastern bulrush, which is sometimes called the barbed bristle bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), grows from rhizomes along the margins of ponds, marshes, ephemeral pools, and other wetlands. Stems emerge in areas of intermittently exposed soil where the water is typically between 3 and 16 inches deep. It can grow in a variety of substrates, from rich peat to sandy soils, and prefers sunny, open conditions. The northeastern bulrush depends on fluctuations in the water table and is usually found in naturally disturbed wetlands, such as the edges of beaver ponds and wetlands in river floodplains. When these dynamic wetlands become stable, this species disappears, only to re-establish when the

habitat changes and becomes favorable again.

Mature stems range from 32 to 47 inches high and produce small brown flower clusters, beginning in mid-summer, that extend out from a central point. Each tiny, three-parted flower bears six bristles with barbs that face toward the ground. These protrusions gave rise to its Latin name, *ancistrochaetus*, meaning “hooked hairs.” The northeastern bulrush begins to fruit in late summer. The buff-colored achenes, which each bear a single seed, last until early fall. More often, however, the plant reproduces clonally, spreading vegetatively rather than by seed.

The northeastern bulrush has only been recognized as a distinct species since 1962. The plant has been found in eight states and is endangered throughout its range. It is extremely rare in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and is rare in Vermont. In New England, most populations are found along both sides of the Connecticut River, and in southeastern Vermont and northwestern Massachusetts.

In 1991, with only 13 known populations, the northeastern bulrush was listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as an endangered species. However, in July 2024, with some 150 populations now identified, including numerous locations in Pennsylvania, USFWS proposed removing the plant from the federal endangered species list.

“One crucial part of the



Northeastern Bulrush

northeastern bulrush’s story is that it was federal grants through the USFWS that allowed botanists to search for additional populations throughout its range, leading to the current delisting proposal,” said Vermont’s state botanist, Grace Glynn. “Without federal funding for endangered species work, our understanding of the true abundance and distribution of species like the northeastern bulrush would be greatly lacking.”

Reasons for the proposed delisting of the northeastern bulrush include successful habitat conservation and improved monitoring of known populations. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has used two Recovery Land Acquisition Grants from USFWS to buy and conserve a number of properties containing crucial habitat for it. Active efforts to control invasive species in bulrush habitat have also benefitted the species.

One of the most important laws that has helped to protect the northeastern bulrush is the 1972 Clean Water Act, which was

passed during the Nixon administration. The provisions of this law, which have protected waterways and associated wetlands, have also benefited the kinds of transient wetland environments where the northeastern bulrush lives by cleaning up pollution, decreasing toxic runoff and protecting nearby habitat from development.

The northeastern bulrush is a classic example of an endangered species whose continued existence is the result of resources and conservation made possible by state and federal laws, and funding, that protect thousands of rare species. The next time you’re out along the edge of a beaver pond, or in some other changeable wetland, keep an eye out for a tall plant topped with a seedhead of fireworks – an apropos display to celebrate this species’ journey back from the brink.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading. He is author of “Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England.”



Paving of Center Road between Hardwick and Greensboro was completed Monday, after a break for rain last Friday, in this view toward Hardwick at Hardwick Farms Road in Hardwick Center. All-in-all, the work took Pike Industries five work days and only the center line, now temporarily marked, remains to be painted. photo by Paul Fixx



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OUR COMMUNITIES

Future of Aging Services Info, Aug. 7

by **Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging**

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging will host an online public comment session concerning the

drafted 2026–2029 Area Plan, Thursday, August 7, from 1 to 2 p.m. The plan is a roadmap for how they'll support older adults in the region over the next four years. Join via Zoom at [us/j/83758057513](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83758057513)

Storytelling and Songs, Aug. 8

by **Craftsbury Public Library**

CRAFTSBURY – The Swing Peepers, a musical duo from Huntington, will sing and tell stories for children of all ages at the Craftsbury Public Library, Friday, August 8 at 3:30 p.m. The show will end with free ice cream to celebrate music and stories. For more information, call the library at (802) 586-9683 or email chil-

drenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

John Hadden and Matthew Witten are songwriter-musician-storytellers who play a host of instruments including banjo, ukulele, accordion and harmonica. They often draw audience members into the impromptu stories they tell. Learn more about them and hear some of their songs at their website swingpeepers.com/tunes-videos/.

Second Sunday Ag. Series, Aug. 10

EAST HARDWICK – August 10, Aeden Scribner of Flycatcher Farm will be at the Grange Hall for a composting workshop from 4 to 6 p.m. This workshop, designed for small farms and homesteaders, will teach you the fundamentals of composting to create nutrient-rich soil amendments and reduce waste. Participants will learn how to manage composting systems,

including understanding green and brown materials, maintaining moisture and aeration and dealing with common composting issues.

Attendees will also learn how to apply compost effectively in their gardens. The workshop will be followed by a potluck, all contributions welcome!

The Grange Hall is located 88 Church Street.

Leadership Summit, Aug. 11

by **Vermont Council of Rural Development**

RANDOLPH – The 2025 VT Community Leadership Summit, “Communities in Action!” will take place at Vermont State University in Randolph. August 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Vermont Council

of Rural Development (VCRD) will be holding workshops, panels and networking sessions to show how community leaders can work together to get things done, even when times are tough and resources are limited.

Visit vtrural.org/summit to learn more and register.

Stand Up for Democracy Visibility Gathering

by **Sheila Halpin**

WOLCOTT – A monthly protest to defend democracy will be held the second Tuesday of every month, from 4 to 5 p.m. next to

the Wolcott Post Office. Wave to passing citizens, bring a sign, or don't, bring a chair or flag. Let neighbors know things are not okay in the country right now, and change is needed.

A2VT Performs, August 14

by **Jaquith Public Library**

MARSHFIELD – A2VT will perform at the Jacquith Public Library, August 14 at 6 p.m. The group synthesizes their native

African musical and dance roots with western pop and hip-hop sensibilities. There will be a book and bake sale and food vendors, too. More information at jaquith-publiclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581

Vermont Public Mixer, Aug. 14

CABOT – Vermont Public's show, Brave Little State (BLS), will have a summer mixer at the Den at Harry's Hardware on Thursday, August 14, 5:30 to 8 p.m. The team from Brave Little State will be on hand to meet with fellow

listeners who will be part of a live voting round to shape an upcoming episode of the show.

Tickets include a limited edition BLS Harry's Hardware pint glass. Reserve tickets at (802) 552-4880.

Sabin Pond Watershed Planning Underway

by **Alex Strand**

WOODBURY – The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is preparing a Lake Watershed Action Plan for the Sabin Pond watershed area, which includes Woodbury Lake, Greenwood Lake and Valley Lake. The state of Vermont selected the district to measure the area's water quality and erosion levels on roads, wetlands, streams and lakefront properties in order to find a source of poor water quality.

The project's funding lasts two years, and they began in May. They hope to complete most of the field research this summer. The district also works in a range of other areas including stormwater management, agriculture, dam removals and tree plantings.

“And all of this that we're doing is free to the town and to the citizens, and it's also non regu-

latory, so we're not coming around to find people. We're just trying to look for potential issues that might be reducing water quality,” said district manager Daniel Koenemann.

The research group is made up of four people. An average day, says Koenemann, includes looking at maps to identify problem areas and working with town citizens, select boards and conservation commissions. They then conduct field research along shorelines to identify erosion.

A portion of the project includes Lake Wise assessments, in which the team conducts free water quality tests on lakefront properties. If readers have a property in the Sabin Pond watershed, or have questions about the project, the district encourages inquiries about this project or their others. For a Lake Wise assessment use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/4jsus2jc>.

EDUCATION

Students Excel on AP Exams

by **Paul Fixx**

CRAFTSBURY — Last week Craftsbury Academy (CA) announced that 22 out of 26 students earned a score of 3.0 or higher on their Advanced Placement (AP) exams last school year.

The school offered praise for the students and teachers, saying, “Congratulations to these accomplished students and to the dedicated Craftsbury faculty who teach and inspire our students every day!”

Those 22 students are “already completing college coursework and proving they are ready for higher

education challenges and are building the critical thinking skills that strengthen our communities and workforce,” said the school.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level classes offered in high school. At the end of AP courses, students take exams scored on a scale from 1-5, with scores of 3-plus typically earning college credit or advanced placement at colleges and universities.

Courses offered in 2024-2025 at CA were AP Calculus BC, AP English Language and Composition, AP Environmental Science, AP United States History and AP World History: Modern.

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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

OBITUARIES

Douglas H. Steely

MARSHFIELD, Mass. – Douglas H. Steely, 75, of Marblehead and Greensboro, Vt., passed away at home in Greensboro on June 6, with his wife and daughter by his side. Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of the late Harold F. and Anna C. (Hrycay) Steely.

Doug grew up in Manchester, Conn., the eldest of seven children. A gifted athlete, he starred in baseball and soccer during his school years. He was also a lifelong student, outdoorsman, music enthusiast and voracious reader, developing an encyclopedic knowledge of world politics and history, as well as music lyrics and artists spanning genres from country to hard rock.

After graduating from Manchester High School, Doug attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. While visiting Greensboro, in 1971 with a friend, David Hicock, from Manchester, he met his lifelong partner, Palma (“Pal”) Bickford.

Doug enjoyed professional success in restaurant management and automobile sales, but his greatest passion was for people, politics and music. He treasured his time managing and bartending at The Cellar Door on M Street in Georgetown during the 1970s,



Douglas H. Steely

where he built lifelong friendships and lived at the center of a vibrant cultural moment. Attending Woodstock inspired many oft-told tales as did the era’s protests in D.C.

Doug and Pal traveled extensively. Together they trekked Mount Kilimanjaro, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Torres del Paine, the Annapurna Circuit and along the Great Wall of China. They explored cities around the world, and shared their love of travel with their daughter, who joined them hiking in the Atlas Mountains, exploring Cathar ruins in southern France and adventuring through Istanbul, London, Paris and Marrakech.

In his final year, Doug chose to use Vermont’s Hospice Act 39 to put himself to sleep at home in Greensboro. The choice required deep courage and resolve as well as an acceptance of a different kind of pain, an intense exhaustion that could not be healed and an acknowledgment of an end. Doug was a devoted family man and will be greatly missed by those he leaves behind. In addition to his wife Pal and daughter Erin, he is lovingly remembered by his sister Lois Leber (Peter); his brother Wayne (Lani Bortfeld); his brother Craig (Jennifer Borealo); his sister Kathy Ponte (partner Steven

Cromwell); many Steely nieces, nephews, and cousins; Bickford in-laws Susan, Robert (Elizabeth) and Bickford cousins, David Hicock, Katherine Hicock and Jane (Mark Rudolph); Nick Sowles (Penny) and Tom Sowles (Whitney). He was predeceased by his sister Gail and his brother Brian.

For those wishing to honor Douglas’s life and memory contributions will be gratefully appreciated at the Center for an Agricultural Economy (hardwickagriculture.org) to support their campaign for the Food Hub and at Caledonia Home Health and Hospice (nchcv.org).



A variety of vegetables are available this week at Smith’s Store in Greensboro Bend. Greensboro Community Garden volunteers grew lettuce, string beans, summer squash, zucchini and Swiss chard. photo courtesy social media

OUR COMMUNITIES

Hardwick Seeks Public Input, Aug. 13

HARDWICK – the Town of Hardwick will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m., to hear local concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety improvements along Mill Street and Main Street in downtown Hardwick. The meeting will be held in the Parker Ladd Community Room in the Jeudevine Memorial Library and will also be accessible remotely. Virtual access details will be posted at hardwickvt.gov.

This meeting marks the start of a scoping and feasibility study to evaluate sidewalk conditions,

crosswalk visibility and overall traffic patterns. The town is working with engineering and planning consultants to assess existing conditions and identify opportunities to enhance safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and other users.

This effort builds upon five years of work by the Hardwick Planning Commission to support improved downtown walkability and traffic flow. Input from residents, businesses, and daily users of the corridor will help guide future planning and investment decisions.

Program on Spousal Loss, Aug. 14

CRAFTSBURY – A program on the loss of a spouse will be held Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. The roughly two hour seminar is free to anyone who has lost their spouse. There will be a 35-minute video with practical advice from counselors, pastors and widowed men and

women. A talk with other widowed people about the video will follow. Everyone will receive a booklet with more than 30 short readings on how to live with grief and eventually rebuild a life.

To register for the program, use the link griefshare.org/events/271034. The church is located at 1773 East Craftsbury Road.



Remembrance Gathering

in honor of

Tom Hurst

Nov. 25, 1952-Nov 19, 2024

The Hurst Family warmly invites the Greensboro-area Community to the following events:

Monday, August 11th, 12noon

Pot-Luck Luncheon and Story Sharing

Fellowship Hall
Greensboro United Church of Christ

Following this event, please join us for the Dedication of the Stone Bench

gift of the Greensboro Community
hosted by dear friends at
The Greensboro Historical Society

Tuesday, August 12th, 8am

Memorial Walk around Caspian Lake

Meet at Willey’s for free donuts
Join us for any part of the 7mi walk on the roads around the Lake to commemorate Tom’s hundreds of circumnavigations

Works by Local Artists Displayed Through August

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO - Currently over two dozen members of Caspian Arts are showing their works at the Grange Hall in Greensboro from July through August on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their creations run the gamut from paintings, prints, sculptures, photographs, note cards, fabric designs, jewelry and books.

When first entering the hall, there are a variety of pieces that are available for less than \$100. This includes works by Elaine Cole Kerr (landscapes, notebooks, a calendar and six books), Beth Ann Meachem (small woven designs in boxed frames), B.J. Gray (eight wood burnings on plaques of animals), Michele Sulham (six collages of yarn), Louise Mattson (three tiny paintings), Alexandra Bottinelli (note cards, prints and bookmarks), Nancy Schade (two small landscapes), Sue Tester (photo cards, two paintings), Isa Dehry (animals painted on glass in frames) and Renee Rossi (three paintings).

In the main room Betsy Day has pot holders, hangings and colorful pillows. Victoria Mathiesen is showing two medium-sized paintings, "Summer Morning I and II", with the lush green leaves of plants and Queen Ann's Lace, all in coherent compositions.

Beth Ann Meachem's felted landscapes and three weavings hanging from small sticks have well-thought-out designs.

Over the door panels in painted wood with curving tops by B.J. Gray would enhance any door frame with their colorful depictions of roosters, loons, bats and black birds.

"Lone Dragonfly" is a large painting by Nancy Schade with water

and flowering swamp plants around it, while "Barn Swallows" are of birds and other animals in a very free composition that celebrates life. "Birthdays" is a still life combining a violin, vase of flowers, candle and garden hoe on a table. Two bronze sculptures of a snow boarder and a woman's portrait are very professionally done.

Sharon Scelza's designs have precious stones in silver settings as earrings and other jewelry. Sue Tester has three small photographs of trees by the water, a yacht under sail and a sugarhouse, capturing a special moment.

Two woven or knitted fabric pieces by Marie LaPré Grabon have varied textures, original in conception.

Elaine Cole Kerr has five paintings with frames made by her husband Rod, having subjects, flowers, birds, Bambi and men fishing. Five prints by Lulu Wootton of seed pods, an armadillo, a bird and fish, an octopus and three panels of a woman's legs and feet have bold, well balanced compositions.

Alta Turner's very large fabric tapestry, "Concession (Grudging)" to Alzheimer's is an extraordinary tour de force, the portrait of a young man (James A. Turner) at the time he served as a doctor in the Second World War in the South Pacific. The level of complexity in the weaving is astonishing. Apparently "He wanted badly to forget" his traumatic experiences of the war, "and he did" only at the end of his life with Alzheimer's and death at 85.

Louise Mattson has three paintings of flowers, rich in color with a lot of feeling.

Alexander Bottinelli's large collage, "Bird Series" (plover) has numerous birds floating in space with a light gray background amid a few disconnected objects like glasses and vases, as well as the inexplicable name Joseph in the center, all quite mysterious.



Art Wolfe's River Otter is intended to be wall-mounted. It is on display at the Caspian Arts show this summer at the former Greensboro Grange.

photo by Paul Fixx

Kathy Stark's two medium sized paintings on heavy paper are quite abstract, with interesting patterns and rhythms juxtaposed. The titles, "Selling Water by the River" and "Strange Things Happen When Not Looking" are intriguing.

Three sculptures of a great horned owl, the head of a bull moose and a bald eagle by Art Wolf demonstrate remarkable craftsmanship and have fine details.

Renee Rossi's five small paintings of landscapes stretching from the Arctic to Tuscany, Ireland and elsewhere have a colorful ambiance.

Sharon Moffatt has four pastels of landscapes and townscapes that have fine compositions.

Elizabeth Nelson's four works are "Perfect Summer Night," with a clouded moon and stars, "Early Fall

Morning," having a hovering fog cloud, and two smaller pieces that are more abstract.

Edward Lamary exhibited his exquisite earrings made of different colored woods intricately combined, along with two burl wooden containers for flowers.

Isa Oehry turned old windows into works of art by painting on the glass, here with a hen on its nest, "Fresh Eggs," and another with a happy pig looking out. Anastasia Scollon makes cute creatures out of wool called "Bookish Goggoblins."

"The Green Rabbit Gallery" of Elizabeth Hasen has carefully designed and crafted earrings. Michele Sulham's fiber art makes dynamic landscapes from combinations of yarns.

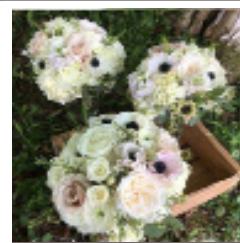


Multidisciplinary Artist Anastasia Scollon's Bookish Goggoblins are on display at the Caspian Arts show in the former Greensboro Grange through the summer.

photo by Paul Fixx

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

Concert has Interesting Combination of Strings, Vocals

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – The fourth concert of the Craftsbury Chamber Players season at the Hardwick Town House had an interesting combination of string and vocal pieces, ranging from Danish folk music going back many centuries to a Mozart String Quartet, lied by Brahms from the end of the Nineteenth Century and contemporary songs just composed this year by a members of the group.

The four Danish folk songs arranged by the Danish String Quartet in 2013 had three sections in the first part, which formed a bridal trilogy characteristic of music performed at traditional weddings in two islands off the coast of Denmark, all scored for the usual ensemble of violins, a viola and a cello. They started off with the first violinist in the higher registers of the instrument with a slow tempo, proceeding to paralleling by the two violins juxtaposed to the cello line at a faster pace. The pleasant melodies then culminated in more agitated rhythms, perhaps suggesting that marriage inevitably has its difficult times. The second section was entitled “The Topped Hen/The Peat Dance,” having more energetic rhythms and faster bowing with a festive mood. Joyce Hamman and Mary Rowell were on violins, Stephanie Taylor on viola and David Russel on cello, giving a well integrated performance to this piece.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) wrote any number of lieder and choral numbers showing his mastery of the human voice, such as his utterly delightful “Leibeslieder Waltzes” and his formidable “German Requiem.” His two songs, “Op. 91 for Alto, Viola and Piano” were a combination of two pieces written 20 years apart (1863-64 and 1884) with a very personal agenda to help two fellow musicians, an unusual source of inspiration for him, based on the verses of two poets. The singer was Katherine Growdon, whose voice was very pure, with expressive phrasing, well coordinated with the rich color of the viola played by Katherine Winterstein and the skillful performance of Inessa Zaretsky on the piano, all in excellent balance. The first poem spoke to the assuaged longing of desire and the second, a “Sacred Cradle Song,” was a curious lullaby appealing to the wind not to awaken a sleeping

baby, who seemed to be the Christ child.

“The Three Songs of Inessa Zaretsky” (b. 1964) for the same trio group was composed just months ago and featured three poems by Iain Main. “Beveled Glass” had intriguing images and strong lyricism; “Communication” repeated the sentiment of wanting to be with another, the music complimenting the words, holding the vocal line like the setting of a jewel. “In Candle Light,” a couple in bed was imagined, tenderly regarding each other before falling asleep, which Growdon gave a sensitive interpretation to, never overwhelmed by the scoring of the viola and piano.

The “Quintet in C Major, K.515” for two violins, two violas and cello by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was written in 1787, and would ordinarily have been a quartet except for the doubling of the viola, an instrument that overlaps the ranges of the violin and cello and thus gains strength in volume by this addition, playing a more prominent role here. Immediately in the opening Allegro we feel immersed in the positive energy of Mozart’s fertile musical imagination, which always has a certain cosmic light that approaches a perfection that is seldom found in any other art. The complex interplay of the instruments show him ever exploring the possibilities of his beautiful melodies, bringing them back each time with constant variations almost like improvisations. The Menuetto Allegretto continued this optimistic mood and momentum, juggling two themes with the different instruments often completing the phrase begun by another in a playful manner. The Andante had a slower tempo with a duet between the violin and viola, while the final Molto Allegro engaged everyone in contrapuntal arabesques. With Mary Rowell and Joyce Hammann on violins, Stephanie Taylor and Katherine Winterstein on violas and David Russel on cello, the players gave a very professional ensemble effect that earned them a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

The next performance of the Craftsbury Chamber Players will take place on August 7 (August 6 in Burlington) and will have a program of works by Rebecca Clarke, George Templeton Strong, Anton Arensky and Clara Schumann. A pre-concert talk about the pieces will occur at 6:48 p.m. For more information, call (802) 986-0616 or go online at ccpvt.org.



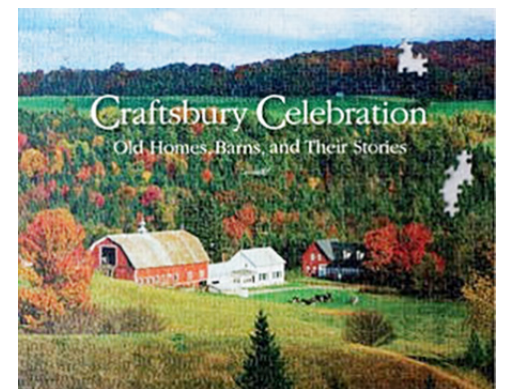
Circus Smirkus Road Show entertainer Scar Nimock (left) performs a forearm stand as Kai Healey (center) and Hazel Goodwin (right) look on, during “Order Up!” at the Hardwick Farmers Market and the Community Farm & Food Celebration, August 1. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Book Release, Craftsbury Celebration, Aug 8.

CRAFTSBURY – Friday, August 8th, at 6 p.m., all are welcome to join at the Craftsbury Public Library for the release party of Craftsbury Celebration.

Long-time Craftsbury residents Thomas Twetten (author) and Harry Miller (photographer) will do some short presentations, take questions and conversation about their lovingly rendered book, “Craftsbury Celebration.” It documents over 70 homes, still in use, built before 1860. Each page tells the history of a home and its occupants and is accompanied by full-color photographs. In addition, there are short essays about various public buildings in town as well as historic photos sprinkled throughout the book.

This book was created as a fundraiser, with all the proceeds from this limited edition book going to another venerable institution in



town, the Craftsbury Public Library. There are only 500 copies of this book, signed and numbered by the author and photographer. There will not be another printing, so this is a valuable keepsake contribution to our area’s history and a great cause to support.

The book is now available for pre-sale and shipping online, <https://www.craftsburypubliclibrary.org/craftsbury-book>. Physical copies can be purchased and picked up at, or after, a book launch.

Francis Colburn Show Available until August 9

CRAFTSBURY – A show “Painter & Poet — The Colburns of Craftsbury” is on view until August 9 at the Craftsbury Historical Society (CHS), located at Common Loop Road. Poet Gladys LaFlamme and artist Francis Colburn spent over 50 summers at their camp on the shore of Little Hosmer Pond where they found creative inspiration. Colburn was among the

very first native-born Vermont artists to paint in a modern 20th century style. CHS has assembled an expansive collection of Colburn’s work for this show.

The Historical Society is open Wednesday and Saturday, May through October, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information visit craftsburyhistoricalsociety.org.

Jazz-lovers Hear Spectacular Concert

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Ellington Collective from Boston came to the United Church of Christ last week on Tuesday evening at to give a spectacular concert to a near capacity audience of some 115 jazz lovers.

The group played over a dozen pieces by Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra that had been carefully transcribed from original recordings to notated sheet music by Bob Freeman of the Berklee College of Music in order to give as authentic a sound as the studio or live performances. Freeman also adapted the tunes to be entirely instrumental arrangements.

The superbly talented musicians in the group were Professor Emeritus at the Berklee College of Music Dan Moretti and Greg Abate on saxophones, Jeff Galindo on trombone, Marty Ballou on bass, Tim Ray on piano and Marty Richards on drums, all of whom had impressive credentials from working with many well-known jazz greats.

Edward Kennedy Ellington (1899-1974) was born in Washington, D.C. and had little formal musical instruction except piano lessons, but already as a teenager he was composing and had his own five piece dance band. In 1923 he moved to New York City and expanded his musicians to 10. By 1927 he was engaged at the legendary Cotton Club in Harlem and he came under the influences of such piano icons as James P. Johnson and Fats Waller.

Ellington began recording and grew in popularity to lead one of the best big swing bands of the 1930s and '40s, adding another seven players to his orchestra. Billy Strayhorn (1915-67) was his chief collaborator and arranger from 1939 through the rest of his career. In all, Duke Ellington wrote some 2,000 compositions, including works for theater, film and full scale concert pieces in a more classical mode. His later concerts at Carnegie Hall in the 1940s, and his appearance at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1956, secured lasting recognition of his tremendous influence and contribution to the development of jazz in the Twentieth Century.

One fundamental aspect of Duke Ellington's genius was in the realm of collective improvisation, namely how to keep the spontaneity and freedom of solo permutations on the initial melody that is possible in a small group but more difficult when dealing with a larger

orchestra. He was "very concerned with the vital relationships between improvised solos and written out ensembles and how the two combine to form a well-balanced musical structure and a well-integrated musical whole." (Eilean Southern, *The Music of Black Americans* pg. 484). He worked closely with his fellow musicians to integrate suggestions into a score with constant creative flexibility and a generous musical imagination.

The concert began with "What Am I Here For?," recorded in 1965, a rather metaphysical question or maybe just a lover's complaint, hard to tell without having the lyrics. It showed Duke Ellington's skill as an orchestrator. "Jeep's Blues" (1938) was next with an appropriately slow beat featuring the saxophone in extended improvisations. "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart" of 1962 was a love piece with a good swing to it for dancing, a relaxed ambiance and lyrical beauty.

"Creole Love Call" (1927) was an upbeat number with a truly transporting theme, well developed with strong brasses. "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" (1940) was a tune of regret with a classic engaging melody. "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" had irresistible toe tapping rhythms and a wonderful tune that would certainly delight any dancers.

Following intermission, The Ellington Collective played "Mr. Gentle, Mr. Cool," a tribute to Duke Ellington by American saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman, recorded in 1994; and "Azure" was composed by the Duke in 1937 with lyrics by Irving Mills. "Cottontail" from 1940 had great momentum and improvisations that demonstrated the fine musicianship of the brass players.

"Almost Cried" was the product of Ellington's collaboration with Billy Strayhorn, recorded in 1959. "In a Sentimental Mood" (1935) was a familiar melody that lent itself to imaginative explorations in a laid-back style. "Caravan," written in 1936 and Juan Tizole, started with dramatic bass and then adapted rhythms that visually suggested camels moving along in an exotic setting, the very memorable tune shared among the different instruments with rich harmonic backup.

The enthusiastic audience gave the group a hearty standing ovation, which got an encore. Everyone left in an elated state, thanks to the power of music to effect us deeply and fill us with positive energy. We hope that the Ellington Collective will return soon in future Summer Music from Greensboro programs.

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Caspian Music Features Works by Hayden, Schumann, Chaussan

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The first concert in the Caspian Music series, “Dialogues,” was given last Sunday evening at the Highland Center for the Art, having as guest artists the Callisto Quartet. The program contained works by Hayden, Schumann and Chaussan in a string quartet, canonic exercises and a concerto for violin, piano and string quartet respectively.

Joseph Hayden (1732-1809) is known for having brought the string quartet form to maturity, and his “String Quartet in C Major, Op. 76, No.3,” known as “The Emperor,” written in 1799, is a good example of his vibrant musical imagination. “It is not often that a composer hits so exactly upon a form suited to his conceptions; the quartet was Hayden’s natural mode of expressing his feelings” (Otto Jahn). Altogether, he composed 83 quartets over his lifetime. One of the best summaries of Hayden’s creations can be found in Volume 4 of Grove’s Dictionary of Music and Musicians: “All his works are characterized by lucidity, perfect finish, studied moderation, avoidance of meaningless phrases, firmness of design and richness of development. The subjects principal and secondary,

down to the smallest episodes, are thoroughly connected, and the whole conveys the impression of being cast in one mould. We admire his inexhaustible invention as shown in the originality of his themes and melodies; the life and spontaneity of the ideas; the clearness which makes his compositions as interesting to amateurs as to the artist; the childlike cheerfulness and drollery which charms away trouble and care” (p. 164).

The first movement (presumably an Allegro, though no notations were given in the program) had a bright introduction with the melody stated right off, developed complexly and brought back with a number of variations, the time shared among the instruments. The second movement (probably an Andante) had the familiar “Emperor” theme that later became the German National Anthem. Again, the masterful scoring of Hayden is evident here in the exploration of the possibilities of this engaging melody. The third movement (with a Scherzo tempo) had a wonderful clarity, while the finale movement had some repeated sharp bowing that juxtaposed with the flow of the music, culminating in a dramatic flair at the end. The Callisto Quartet played this piece with genuine enthusiasm and admirable coordination. Its members are Gregory Lewis and Emma Meinrenken on violins, Eva Kennedy on viola and Hannah Moses on cello.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) did some experimenting with the recently-invented pedal piano in 1845 in his “Canonic Etudes, Op. 56,” which had six pieces of which the second and third were given here by Igor Leschishin on oboe, Hannah Moses on cello and Phillip Edward Fisher on piano in a trio of beautifully melded interplay. In No. 2, the initial fine melody was repeated by another instrument in a typical manner like a delayed echo, and a second theme followed in the same pattern, all with a rolling rhythm. In No. 3, the oboe and cello had a veritable conversation, with the piano providing background support. Schumann was a great admirer of Bach and the Baroque era when contrapuntal canons were popular. All three musicians gave an expressive and well felt interpretation of these two selections.

After intermission, the third number in the concert was the “Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet, Op. 21,” written in 1890-91 by Amedee Ernest Chaussan (1855-99). The composer studied with Cesar Franck from 1880-83 and worked very carefully, producing 39 works in a variety of modes before his premature death in a bicycle accident. “His delicate and sensitive nature was prone to melancholy, while envelopes his music with a veil of sadness and does much to justify a certain formal vagueness and fluidity.” (Grove’s Dictionary, Volume 2, p. 191).

The first movement had the

piano starting with strong chords, the strings joining in at an initially slow tempo, then picking up speed with rich harmonies. The featured violin came in with only the piano, and then the music alternated back and forth between the violin-piano duet and full dynamics of the quartet, all blended together with dramatic passages. The second movement had another pleasant theme, with good momentum and relaxed rhythms as well as pizzicotto effects on the strings and flourishes on the piano. The third movement again commenced by the piano in solo with the violin entering slowly, all in a restrained tempo. The piano had blocky chords running up and down the keyboard while the violin followed suit. The fourth movement had another great theme with interesting rhythms and fine piano and violin interweaving, building to a dramatic climax. Solomiya Ivakhiv on violin played with impressive technique and depth of feeling well supported by Phillip Edward Fisher on piano demonstrating his consummate musicianship, integrated fully with the Callisto Quartet. They received a well-deserved standing ovation.

The next concert of the Caspian Music series will August 10, 7:30 p.m., at the Highland Center for the Arts and is titled “Timeless Conversations: from Beethoven to Boyd Meets Girl,” including works by Beethoven, Britten, Dvorak and Robert Boyd. For more information, go online to caspianmonday-music.org.

Shakespeare Camp Performances, Aug. 8-9

GREENSBORO – Peter Gould’s youth Shakespeare camp, Get Thee to the Funnery, is back for its 28th summer, and will finish with two live public performances on Friday, Aug. 8 and Saturday, Aug. 9.

This year’s camp is happening again under the big white tent and in the theater at Greensboro’s Highland Center for the Arts (HCA).

“Thanks to Keisha Luce and her whole HCA staff,” Gould says, “for hosting a bunch of 30 high-energy teens on the stage, in the seats,

in the lobby, on the lawn, around the corner and under the tent.”

This year’s play is “The Scottish Play,” or “Macbeth,” as it’s sometimes called. Performances are free (donations accepted) and accessible. The first one will be this Friday, August 8, at 6 p.m., under the tent at HCA. The second one will be on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m., at Craftsbury Common, as the final act of the traditional Home Day celebration. The Funnery performance will be presented outside of Simpson Hall next to the Common.



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Cécilia
Quebecois & Celtic
AUG 21 | 7PM

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Oehry's Humorous Art at Town House, to August 14

REVIEW

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Isa Oehry is the second artist to exhibit in the NEKArts Gallery Series at the Hardwick Town House. Her show, “See the Farm Through Barn Windows,” opened last Thursday, July 31, with Oehry’s primitive folk art paintings lining the rear of the theatre and lobby walls. The show can be seen before Craftsbury Chamber Players Thursday concerts at 6:45 p.m. August 7 and 14, or by chance.

Oehry’s subjects are primarily farm animals, with some birds. Some of the animals are depicted with generally human accessories and in anthropomorphically humorous poses. Line-ups of birds feature prominently too.

Oehry said she had collected old barn windows for the south side of a greenhouse she built, but realized that they weren’t up to the task of surviving a Vermont winter and would likely rot. She ended up using corrugated panels for the greenhouse roof. Repurposing the windows, she first painted chickens

and fresh eggs that ended up on the wall of a Royalton sugarhouse.

Negative space in Oehry’s paintings, created by unpainted sections of the windows, allows the building’s colorful walls to show through. Maya McCoy, an NEKArts trustee at the opening, said “Isa’s art shines on these colorful walls and her saved barn windows fit the historic space.” The effect makes the building a part of each composition and each composition unique on the wall it’s displayed on.

Oehry was born and raised in the Principality of Liechtenstein, a small mountainous country sandwiched between Austria and Switzerland. Her strong interests in the mystery of the human mind and man’s untapped potential prompted her to pursue an advanced degree in psychology with a specialization in clinical mental health.

She now lives on a farm in Vermont where she continues to write, host guests at the Old Clary Farm, keep bees and said she is the caretaker of an ancient cedar forest with magical mosses and mystical fungi. She harbors a deep love and respect for the beauty of nature.

Oehry said she enjoys rescuing old barn windows from their



Isa Oehry’s “Mister” primitive folk art acrylic painting on an old barn window is from a pair titled “Mister and Misses.” photo by Paul Fixx



Isa Oehry’s “Misses” primitive folk art acrylic painting on an old barn window is from a pair titled “Mister and Misses.” photo by Paul Fixx

destined destruction at the dump and upcycling them into humorous folk art. She also loves to juggle various chainsaws and carving knives to produce wood sculptures. The main focus of her art is to elicit joy and smiles, she said. Her favorite place to show her art is in hospitals, where

it can help to cheer up patients. Oehry is an author too. “Healing Lyme beyond Antibiotics,” as a chronicle of her successful recovery from Lyme disease by natural means, and “Under A Blue Moon,” is a humorous and insightful journey into a world of mystery and the hidden powers of the mind.

Granddaughters Tell of Craftsbury Couple’s Creative Works

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

CRAFTSBURY – “The Creative Works of Francis Colburn and Gladys LaFlamme: was the title of a fascinating talk by granddaughters Adriane Colburn and Celine Colburn given at the Craftsbury Public Library late Friday afternoon, August 1.

For some 50 years, the family were regular summer residents at their log cabin camp on Little Hosmer Pond, and Craftsbury was certainly an inspiration for both of them, Francis as a painter and Gladys as a poet. Colburn had roots in the area, for his father was headmaster at Craftsbury Academy in the 1890s, though he himself was born in Fairfax in 1909 and grew up in Burlington. Gladys was from Bennington, born in 1910. They met in the 1930s and shared a long life together, Francis dying in 1984 and Gladys in 1995.

Francis decided by his 20s that he wanted to be a painter, although he also had a strong interest in music and played piano for silent movies and practiced the violin. Later in life he became one of the judges for the Craftsbury

Fiddler’s contest. He went to the University of Vermont, majoring in history, then to Bennington College for painting, where he met Gladys. Toward the end of the 1930s during the Depression he was in New York City working in the W.P.A. and attending the Art Students League. Gladys’ job at the time was in trying to increase people’s literacy and encouraging them to self-educate by going to libraries. In 1942 Francis started teaching in the art department of the University of Vermont, a position he held until 1974. Gladys became a much-loved teacher at Burlington High School. All the while she was very active as a writer, friends and a correspondent with many nationally known poets, publishing three volumes of her own: “Through Severing Winds” (1955), “Poems” (1975) and “Within Bounds, Poems 1953-1983.” Her work has great observational power, rich in the visual delight of nature, celebrating the changing seasons, but also can be narratives about people, poems that stand on their own without the need for over interpretation.

Adriane Colburn showed numerous slides during her talk about Francis’ paintings, tracing his evolution as an artist over more than 40 years. He was always a landscape painter in a long

Vermont tradition, and he strongly believed in the importance of being rooted and having a sense of place. Yet he often included village scenes and human activities as well as political commentary in his subjects. Though he was quite aware of contemporary movement in modern art and was certainly influenced by Cezanne’s use of intersecting planes, he always went his own independent way with consistent originality.

What is most striking about his paintings is their bold compositions. The way he sometimes breaks up a perfectly realistic view into what almost look like separate stage sets is very intriguing. It gives a dynamic quality to the overall structure rather than a static rhythm, giving more interest for our eyes to explore, hinting at the cubist effects of looking at things simultaneously from different angles. While early in his career he did a lot of plein air painting, in the 1950s, he shifted to

using photographs as helpful references, giving him more time to develop a painting in his studio, freeing his compositional style in some ways. His paintings are treasured in homes in Craftsbury and around Vermont, and the Fleming Museum in Burlington seems to have a large collection of his works.

Besides being a significant painter and inspiring teacher, he also had a great sense of humor. His satire of a typical graduation speech is a classic, both in book form, “Letters Home and Further Indiscretions,” and as a record, all of which can be seen at the Craftsbury Historical Society Museum. Six of his original paintings and two replicas made especially for this exhibit are on view now there through August 9, giving representative examples of his work. The museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the summer. For more information, go online at craftsburyhistoricalsociety.org.

The Hardwick Gazette



EVENTS

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.

Saturday, August 9

DUAL LANGUAGE STORYTIME, 10 - 10:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library. Information: librarydirector@woodburyvt.org.

EL CLUB DE ESPANOL/SPANISH

CLUB meets, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Woodbury Community Library. Information: librarydirector@woodburyvt.org.

Sunday, August 10

AEDEN SCRIBNER of Flycatcher Farm, 4 to 6 p.m., Grange Hall, East Hardwick. Learn how to manage composting systems. Followed by a potluck.

Tuesday, August 12

CABOT ARTS CONCERT, with Jaded Ravins, a rock-country group, 6 p.m., Cabot Village Common, 148 Main St. Food truck will be Trina's Cuisine.

Wednesday, August 13

DEATH CAFE, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library. Facilitated by Kelsey Crelin. Refreshments provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

publiclibraryvt.org.

TOWN OF HARDWICK meeting on pedestrian and traffic safety improvements, 6 p.m., Parker Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library. Virtual access details at hardwickvt.gov.

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 JEDEVINE

LIBRARY, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick. **OLD-TIME JAM SESSION**, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities encouraged to attend. Jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call 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.

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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EVENTS

EARLY LITERACY STORY-TIME, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, 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 begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

PARENTING GROUP, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each other 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 and shovels.

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, art-

work from Natalya Zahn and Anci Slovák, Woodbury Community Gallery. Exhibit up until the end of August.

PAINTINGS OF THE LANDSCAPE and creatures of the Northeast Kingdom by James Hudson, July 22 to September 2, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

PAINTER & POET - The Colburns of Craftsbury, on view until August 9, Craftsbury Historical Society, located at Common Loop Road. Open Wed. and Sat., May through October, 10 a.m. to noon. Information: craftsburyhistoricalsociety.org.



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Qualifications: A bachelor's degree and 1 year work experience with vulnerable youth and their parents/guardians is required. Qualified candidates will have a solid understanding of positive youth development, social work, ability to organize & manage documentation, strong communication skills, and an ability to collaborate with multiple community partners. Candidates should have a knowledge of various youth focused systems of care. Travel throughout the Lamoille Valley, occasional crisis / after hours response, and some evening work required. Since travel throughout the Lamoille Valley is required, a valid Driver's License and reliable, insured transportation are necessary.

Please send cover letter and resume to:
Lamoille Family Center
480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661
or jhunsberger@lamoillefamilycenter.org

Plihal Wins Men's Single Sculls at World Trial

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Green Racing Project (GRP) headed to West Windsor, N.J., last weekend for the USRowing World Rowing Championships Trial on Mercer Lake, August 1 to 3,

GRP racer, Olympian Jacob Plihal won the men's single sculls final, crossing the line in 6:49.61, just 1.2 seconds ahead of Sam Melvin of the New York Athletic Club, who had posted the fastest time in the semifinals a day earlier. Eleven GRP rowers were entered in the championships last weekend. The athletes were racing for spots on the team that will represent the U.S. at the 2025 World Rowing Championships taking place September 21-28 in Shanghai, China.

The USRowing race report showed several notable finishes by GRP rowers in addition to Plihal's in the August 3 finals. In the Men's



A truck pulling a trailer loaded with racing shells stops at the Genny in Craftsbury last Wednesday as the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Green Racing Project Head Coach Steve Whelpley and rower Caleb Nollenberger gathered supplies for a trip to the USRowing World Rowing Championships Trials in West Windsor, N.J., last weekend. From there they will be headed to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, August 3 to 10, in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

photo by Paul Fixx

pair, GRP's Kai Hoite teamed up with Seattle's Olympic bronze medalist Evan Olson to finish third with a time of 6:35.23. They had placed second in the time trial.

The women's pair was a tight race, with GRP's Holly Drapp and Olympian Jess Thoennes, who had the fastest time trial, finishing second in 7:11.06 behind Princeton

Training Center teammates Etta Carpender and Alexandria Vallancey-Martinson, who took first with a time of 7:07.29.

The lightweight men's single sculls ended in a photo finish, with Justin Schmidt of Conshohocken edging out GRP's Cooper Tucker by just 0.16 seconds, 7:04.25 to 7:04.41.

USRowing will name the team that will represent the United States at the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, China, September 21 to 28 in the next week.

GRP Head Coach Steve Whelpley and rower Caleb Nollenberger left Craftsbury last Wednesday headed for West Windsor, N.J., in a truck pulling a trailer loaded with single, double and four-person racing shells. After yesterday's finals they were headed to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, through August 10, in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

McCarthy Silvers in 10k Road Race at Senior Games

by Ken Brown

DES MOINES, Iowa – Walden's Elizabeth McCarthy was one of 50 Vermont athletes (ages 50 and up) who competed in the 2025 National Senior Games earlier this summer, earning a silver medal in the 10K road race.

McCarthy sprinted her way to the finish in the 10K, June 26, at Principal Park to claim silver medal honors with a time of 58:26 in her 70-74 female age group. It was McCarthy's first silver medal in her sixth trip to the historic Senior Games, besting her bronze finish in 2019. Williston's Carolyn Siccama also had a fourth-place podium finish in the 10K race with a time of 49:29 in her 55-59 age division. Earlier in the week, McCarthy secured a fifth-place podium finish in the 5K road race with a time of 27:11. Siccama also earned another fifth-place podium finish in the 5K, and Randolph's Cristine Maloney posted a respectable fourteenth place finish.

Former Hardwick Gazette contributor Jim Flint (West

Rutland) earned podium honors with a fourth-place finish in the 10K with a time of 44:05 in his 65-69 age division. Barre's Bob Murphy secured gold in his 85-89 age division and Jericho's Charlie Windisch earned an eighth-place podium finish in his 70-74 age division. Flint added another podium (8th) in the 5K, Murphy secured his second gold medal of the week, Windisch finished tenth, and Matt Guild of Bellows Falls finished thirteenth in his 60-64 age division.

Flint, who was instrumental in helping build Craftsbury Academy's championship track and field program, has competed in the National Senior Games seven times now, dating back to Cleveland in 2013. He has now podiumed 15 times in the games throughout his distinguished athletic career, adding a pair of new events to his resume this summer in Iowa in the mile road race (5th) and 1500m power walk (4th).

The National Senior Games is an Olympic style competition held every two years in a different



Local Vermonters competing in the national Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa, were (from left) Jim Flint, Elizabeth McCarthy, Charlie Windisch, Bob Murphy, Cristine Maloney and Carolyn Siccama

photo by Janet McCarthy

city, with 12,400 athletes competing in Des Moines this summer.

"Every Nationals is inspiring representing Vermont. The level of age group competition is getting higher as I get older. Elizabeth's highest podium finish

with a silver medal is a tribute to her discipline in training and resilience. It's the foundation behind all of her achievements as a multi-sport athlete, along with her husband Tim Hogeboom, who encouraged us all this year at the games," said Flint.

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KEN BROWN'S SUMMER HOOPS

Hazen Girls Wrap up Summer League Unbeaten

LAMOILLE – The Hazen Union girls summer hoop team wrapped up their second season in the Lamoille Summer League unblemished last week with a win over Division II North Country.

Monday night's win over the Lady Falcons pushed the Lady Cats record to 5-0 this summer, stacking up wins against out of division perennial powers St. Johnsbury Academy, Enosburg, Lamoille and BFA St. Albans.

North Country is transitioning after the graduation loss of Sabine Brueck, who led the program to three consecutive Division II title games, winning it all in 2023. Brueck broke the school scoring record this past February set by Lady Cat assistant coach Sue Rivard in 1996 and matched by Kylie Wright in 2018. Brueck will go down as one of the top female athletes in state history, earning Vermont Gatorade Player of the Year honors in both basketball and track and field, as well as representing the Vermont Twin State soccer team in the Lions Cup last month.

Head coach Randy Lumsden, Rivard

and junior varsity coach Alison Blaney have juggled rosters this summer between the Lamoille League and AAU basketball for Lone Wolf Athletics. Lumsden has the Lady Cat program on a historic pace since taking over the reins three years ago, breaking the school record for consecutive wins (31) this past winter, set by the great Jan Howard and Penny Libercent, three consecutive Final Four appearances and 20 win seasons, and capturing the program's first Division III state championship (2024) in over three decades. All five starters return for Lumsden this coming season as juniors and seniors and he'll add more young talent led by freshman Chloe Moodie, younger sister of Wildcat great Brendan Moodie. Testing his talented squad out of division and out of state this summer was a must as they ready for their first ever season in the rugged Capital League.

"We had a number of girls put in countless hours this summer getting better. We had a great summer league competing against top tier programs out of our Division and we're excited to see what this winter brings for this hard-working crew. They have continued to mature throughout the summer and remain a tight knit group," said Lumsden.

Wildcats Finishing up Busy Summer with League Playoffs

HARDWICK – Head coach Aaron Hill and his Wildcat program will put a bow on a busy summer this week with the conclusion of summer league playoffs in the 17th Annual Hazen Summer League.

The Spaulding Alumni officially began their title defense on Monday in the quarterfinals. Semifinal action will continue Wednesday night at the Cat Den, and a champion will be crowned in the Finals on Thursday night. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Hill's program is coming off another successful winter, guiding his young Wildcat squad to their fourth consecutive Division III state title game as a fifth seed. The legendary coach is now well north of 400 career coaching wins and brought a sixth state title back to Hardwick under his tenure in 2022. He returns a talented young core next season that saw success this summer, going toe to toe out of their division in the Profile Summer Showdown and Castleton Hoop Camp against the likes of Hartford, St. Johnsbury Academy, Spaulding, Mt. Mansfield, and Burr & Burton.

KEN BROWN'S SOCCER ROUNDUP

Mercier Takes Over Lady Cat Program

HARDWICK – Long time Hazen Union teacher and Peoples Academy (PA) alum Megan Mercier is the new varsity head coach for the Lady Cat soccer program.

Mercier will officially replace Jay Terrien this fall after leading Hazen to a 9-3-4 record and a second-round exit in the Division IV playoffs to eventual state champion Richford. Terrien, a former Burlington High School and Bates College standout, infused an attacking style into the athletic Lady Cat roster, but stepped down after only one season. Mercier, a 2010 PA graduate, earned her mathematics and education degree from Middlebury College, and has been teaching math at Hazen since 2019. She has been Hazen's middle school soccer coach the last several years. Mercier takes over a talented Lady Cat roster led by incoming senior and leading goal scorer Isabelle Gouin and fellow All-Mountain League First Team selections Taylor Thompson and Kelsie Rivard. Thompson and Gouin earned Vermont All-State selections for their outstanding play last fall.

"We are so excited that Megan will be taking over our varsity girls program. She has a great relationship with the girls, having

coached most of them in middle school. She really knows the game and more importantly, is a great person and role model for our student athletes. I think she is going to build a strong program for many years to come," said Hazen Athletic Director Aaron Hill.

Hazen's varsity and JV teams will once again welcome Craftsbury Academy players to the rosters as high school soccer practices across the state officially get underway in less than two weeks. The Lady Cats are scheduled to open the season at Hudson Fields against Lake Region on August 30.

Green FC Captures National Title

BURLINGTON – The Vermont Green FC semiprofessional soccer team claimed the USL2 National Championship over the weekend in just their fourth year of existence as a team.

Recent University of Vermont Catamount hero Maximillian Kissel's volley in stoppage time powered Green FC to a 2-1 win over Seattle's Ballard FC to win the title on Saturday in front of a standing room only crowd of over 5,000 at Virtue Stadium. Kissel also scored the game winner for the Catamounts last December as they stunned Marshall

to win the Division I National Championship. The German striker is one of several Catamount footballers this summer to help Green FC cap off an undefeated 16-0-3 season with a National Championship, including reining NCAA Tournament Defensive Most Outstanding Player Niklas Herceg, who has been a brick wall in both title runs for Vermont. Herceg

along with USL2 Defender of the Year Moussa Ndiaye powered Green FC to 10 shutout wins this season, allowing just 13 goals in 19 matches.

UVM is ranked No. 1 in the National Division I Preseason Poll and will officially begin their title defense at home against Sacred Heart on August 21. The match can be streamed live on ESPN Plus.



Conner Spencer, 12, of Wolcott got the most baskets during a Basketball with Bernie Youth Free Throw Contest for ages 5-18 at Wolcott Elementary School, August 2. Spencer, shown with Levi Sanders, Bernie's son, got six out of eight in his regular round and six out of eight in a tie breaker. Bernie was unable to attend as he was in Washington, D.C. Forty-five youth participated in the event and each were given a free basketball.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Pelkey Claims 100-Lap Showdown, Corliss Takes Cup

BARRE – In a night filled with Thunder Road favorite events, none could beat the annual Port-a-Potty Grand Prix. A Ken Squier Original, the three point leaders and a chosen Road Warrior crew lined up for the annual test of man, crew and endurance. While Kyler Davis took home the Golden Plunger for the best appearing potty, Sam Caron took home the Golden Throne toilet seat prize as first across the two-ply finish line.

The Late Models entered the Thunder Road Speedbowl set to crown their first champion of the 2025 season in the Squier Cup Triple Crown. Rookie Kyle Streeter led the field to green and kept pace at the head of the pack until Kaiden Fisher took over on lap eight. Before long Fisher's rearview mirror was full of Taylor Hoar and Chris Pelkey just as Bryan Wall Jr. spun mid-pack on the front straightaway on lap-21. Back under a long green flag run, Fisher was class of the field but



Jason Corliss and family, the Kinney Drugs crew and Ashley Jane Squier celebrate his Squier Cup championship following the 100 lap main event.

photo by Alan Ward

Hoar never fell out of place, even taking over the lead just prior to the lap-74 caution for Cody Blake's turn one crash.

Back under green, Fisher fell back with a blistered right rear tire while Hoar gave way to a hard-charging duo in Pelkey and Marcel Gravel. The two fought

door-to-door around the Barre highbanks with Pelkey earning the Squier Cup Championship 100 win over Gravel and Hoar at the line.

In the final tally, Barre's Jason Corliss conquered the Squier Cup Triple Crown by just six points over Pelkey.

The Street Stocks got Portable Toilets Night off to a rip-roaring start with a pair of smash-bang calamities. On lap six, championship hopeful Fred Fleury piled into a backstretch wreck involving rookies Hayden Morris and Tyler Wheatley with Wheatley nearly rolling upside down. Another mid-pack traffic jam saw thirteen cars pile into each other in turn four on lap twenty including point leader Kyler Davis, Nate Brien and rookie point leaders Hayden Bushey and Keegan Tabor. With five laps remaining it was a fight to the finish between Dean Switser Jr. and Kyle MacAskill after passing race leader Kylee Potter in the final restart with Switser besting the two for the win in the opening round of the AOT Triple Crown.

Rookie Karsen Murphy brought the Flying Tigers to green Thursday night and kept his foot to the firewall to lead the 26-car field around the Barre quarter-mile. Slowed only by the stalled Jason Woodard on lap sixteen, the Northfield kid kept his nose clean until tragedy struck with seven laps remaining as he slowed on the backstretch, lost the lead and pitted for the evening. Adam Maynard took over and went to war with point leader Sam Caron, with Caron taking over with four laps remaining to take the win. Rich Lowery rounded out the podium.

The Road Warriors finished Thursday's racing action with their 20 lap trophy dash. Nick Copping looked poised to take it all, but a wheel-hop turned sour for Cayden Green with a hard lick into the Widowmaker frontstretch wall to make a five-lap shootout to the checkers. Mike Slingerland powered around the outside on the restart to take the win over Copping with Brandon Premont rounding out the podium.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

local competitors

Late Models – Squier Cup Championship 100

2. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
11. 36VT, Joel Hodgdon, Craftsbury Common

24. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

Flying Tigers – (40 Laps)

12. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott

15. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

Street Stocks –Triple Crown #1 (25 Laps)

3. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield

5. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

26. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield



Milton's Sam Caron took home the Golden Throne after winning the world famous Port-a-Potty Grand Prix. He went on to win the Flying Tiger main event later on for good measure.

photo by Alan Ward

Gray Doubles Down on Trophies with \$3,000 Win

BARRE – The first dry Enduro 200 in two years graced the fans and drivers at Thunder Road on Sunday afternoon. Twenty-nine Street Stocks piled in for the annual Street Stock Special 50 lapper, round No. 2 in the Triple Crown while 103 Enduro cars from across New England traveled up for the 41st annual People's Race.

Trouble struck in practice for championship hopeful Jamie Davis with engine problems before he hopped aboard the newly re-numbered Tyler Whittemore ride for the day. T.J. Haggett, Kylee Potter and Jason Kirby took home heat race wins prior to the 50-lap main event. Under the green flag, rookie Haggett stayed confidently in the lead as Potter and Mike Gay fought door-to-door for second. In

the meantime, Thursday's winner Dean Switser Jr. made short work of the field and led the race following the turn one pileup that included Fred Fleury, Hayden Bushey, Walker Fitch and others.

Switser made the rest look like child's play even as Kyle MacAskill stayed glued to his rear bumper. Even while piling on the pressure from behind, Switser never faltered to take the 50-lap Special with MacAskill and the Biffer rounding out the top three. In post-race technical inspection, both the top three finishers and the top three point leaders were subject to a deep dive. Nate Brien was disqualified after a rough 50 lapper for unapproved suspension with his shocks not the same side-to-side.

See GRAY, next page



East Thetford's Brandon Gray stands triumphant with his second career \$3,000 win in the Enduro 200!

photo by Mark A. Cote

Lessard Wins \$10K Midsummer Classic 250

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – Thirty American-Canadian Tour Late Models entered the pits at White Mountain Motorsports Park on Saturday afternoon and all thirty started the Midsummer Classic 250. Former King of the Mountain track champion Kasey Beattie earned the pole in Plus/Minus qualifying with a plus-6 in heat three with eight-time ACT champion Brian Hoar to his outside. The two battled hard at the onset before Beattie took off with the lead in the early goings. The lap 100 fuel stop quickly gave way to a mad dash to the pit area for fresh racing tires with Beattie, Nick Sweet, Bryan Mason and Hoar opting to stay out and play the strategy game.

Sweet took off with the lead over Beattie following the break before Raphael Lessard powered up through the field to steal the lead on lap 120. After the lap 154 caution, Kaiden Fisher entered the picture with the two young stars putting on one of the best side-by-side performances on the White Mountain highbanks in recent memory. Everything came unglued under the popsicle sticks on lap 248 as third-place runner Jesse Switser and Fisher made sliding contact to spin in turn three. It set up a green-white-checker finish between Lessard and D.J. Shaw with Lessard launching under the green flag and taking the \$10,000 win in the Midsummer Classic 250 over Shaw and Derek Gluchacki at the line.

The Kids Division got Saturday's racing action off with a bang. Colton Williams and Kip Aldrich

took off in a rip-roaring start and Cooper Benoit quickly entered the top three picture. The lone caution on lap six set up a nine-lap dash to the finish as Owen Dupuis and Lucas Sidney sliced up through the field. Dupuis would power through to take his second win of the season with Sidney on his tail across the line and Benoit coming home third.

Sophomore racer Austin Sicard and leading rookie Todd Derrington led the Flying Tigers to green for their 35-lap trophy dash. Sicard kept his nose clean at the front as Nate Hamblett, point leader Shane Sicard and Luke Peters made their methodical moves to the front. Hamblett was in charge at the lap 24 caution for the dust-up between Austin Sicard and Mike Martin, a feud that lasted throughout the feature event, while Jason Woodard entered the top five picture. Woodard, substitute driving for Tyler Pepin, brought the #78 through the pack with the three late-race cautions only helping his efforts. Woodard would steal the win away with Logan Powers finishing a yo-yo race in second and Hamblett taking third.

Hardluck racers Aiden Young and Jason Ball brought the Strictly Stock Minis out to round out the White Mountain track championship action on Saturday's extravaganza. After running his best race of the season, everything came apart for Young on lap 11 as he spun across the front of the field with J.J. Goodbout and Donnie Baumgardner piling in. Only Baumgardner was able to fight on. Back out front, McKenna Merchant took off and never looked back to



In Midsummer Classic Victory Lane for the American-Canadian Tour at White Mountain Motorsports Park were (from left) Derek Gluchacki (3rd), winner Raphael Lessard and D.J. Shaw (2nd) surrounded by Milton CAT representatives. photo by Johnny Racer



Shelburne, Vt.'s, Kaiden Fisher (18VT) and St-Joseph, QC's, Raphael Lessard (48QC) put on a masterclass performance on side-by-side, hardnosed ACT racing in the final 100 laps of the Midsummer Classic 250 before Fisher faced hard luck with two laps remaining. photo by Johnny Racer

take the win over Tyler Thompson and Ball.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

Flying Tigers – (35 Laps)

6. 23NH, Michael Potter, Plainfield, Vt.

9. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury, Common, Vt.

10. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield, Vt.

Kid's Division – (15 Laps)

6. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield, Vt.

Gray

Continued from previous page

The Enduro 200 was everything all of Vermont's race fans look forward to each and every August with over 100 cars filing into the Thunder Road pits for the ultimate test of man and machine. E. Thetford's Brandon Gray was the class of the field from the drop of the green flag, even as Dominic Bassett, Nick Dublois and Mike MacAskill stayed close on laps in the first hundred laps. Fellow former victor Richie Turner crept into the top five picture by the halfway point with both Turner and Gray running the same lap by the 120th circuit.

The battle intensified as the fight continued until Turner was forced pitside after completing 184 laps and never returned. Brandon Gray marched on for his second Enduro 200 triumph with closest competitor, Orange's Alex Lemieux, eight laps down.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

Street Stocks – Triple Crown No. 1 (25 Laps)

9. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
 10. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield
 24 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield
41s annual Enduro 200
 10. 58, Thomas Boland Jr., N. Wolcott, 182



In Street Stock Special Victory Lane were (from left) Mike Gay (3rd), winner Dean Switser Jr. and Kyle MacAskill flanked by Vermont Agency of Transportation employees. photo by Alan Ward

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