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Altman dead after fall from third floor landing

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Zollie Altman III, age 65, of Hardwick, succumbed to injuries sustained in a fall from the third floor balcony at the rear of 28 Mill St. early in the afternoon of August 11. The Hardwick Police Department (HPD) learned during their investigation that Altman was drinking with Angela Torres, age 59, also of Hardwick, when they got into an argument. During the argument Torres told police she pushed Altman, who fell backwards, breaking through a railing as she fell too, landing on top of him, 15 feet below.

Altman later succumbed to his injuries. Interim Hardwick Police Chief Michael Henry reported, “At approximately 1425 hours [2:25 p.m.], I was notified by Copley Hospital staff that Zollie Altman died from the injuries he

sustained from the fall.”

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicle Inspector Jeremy Cotnoir, who had been on patrol in Hardwick, responded to the scene, reporting, “Torres appeared to be very distraught and complained of minor injuries such as back pain.” He said, “Torres also stated that Altman ‘broke her fall’ and she ‘landed on top of him.’” Chief Henry reported Torres told him she “sustained minor injuries to her knee and back.”

At roughly the same time Torres showed Inspector Cotnoir “both sides of her hands, her arms, portions of her legs which would be visible with shorts on as well as her neck. At [t] his time I observed the bottom of her feet covered in reddish-brown fluid which I believed was blood.”

Hardwick Rescue Squad (HRS) was called
See ALTMAN, 4



The rear of 28 Mill St., next to Perry Lane Hill, from which Zollie Altman III fell to his death with his significant other Angela Torres, who landed on top of him after they broke through the railing of the third floor landing their during an argument.

photo by Paul Fixx



Michael A. Williams

Morrisville man accused of killing Daigle pleads not guilty

by Alan J. Keays, VTDigger

ST. JOHNBURY – A Morrisville man has been arrested and charged with murder in the death of a Hardwick woman two months ago in Vermont.

Michael A. Williams, 60, was taken into custody Tuesday afternoon, according to Vermont State Police.

He pleaded not guilty Wednesday in Caledonia County Superior criminal court in St. Johnsbury to charges of aggravated domestic assault and second-degree murder in the killing of Tina Daigle, 38, who authorities said was strangled to death.

See DAIGLE, 5

Second monthly select board meeting set

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – In keeping with its recent decision to hold a second monthly select board meeting, the board decided it will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

At the August 13 regular meeting, Chair Macneil suggested the first monthly meeting be structured as usual, with mostly housekeeping items. The second meeting will serve as more of an open discussion. Board member Mike Metcalf suggested issues that come up at the first meeting could be researched and further discussed at the second meeting.

Liz Steel suggested the second meeting could include rotating town committee presentations. Board members thought this was a good idea.

The board signed an Error and Omissions form, in relation to the Caspian Lake Beach education tax bill. The Caspian Lake public beach is owned by Hardwick. According to the board, years ago the legislature exempted the beach from education taxes. The town thought this also meant an exemption for municipal taxes. Now, the state has informed Greensboro that in order to exempt municipal taxes there must be a public vote. Since there hasn't yet been one, Greensboro was forced to send a tax bill to the town of Hardwick. Further complicating the matter, the state's new tax software used by listers and assessors wouldn't let Greensboro's assessor remove the education tax from the

See MEETING, 5



The Hardwick Town Clerk's office tree is decorated for summer now as Town Clerk Tonia Chase (left) and Assistant Town Clerk Alberta Miller take a break from questions about property tax bills. They keep a tree year-round, decorating it for the season and bringing cheer to their office. photo by Paul Fixx

Average tax bills increase, surprising some taxpayers

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Hardwick's reappraisal process has been completed and property owners have received tax bills based on the value of their property on April 1, 2025. The last full reappraisal in Hardwick was completed in 2016.

Some taxpayers have been surprised by the increase in their taxes and a handful of them have visited the Memorial Building where Town Clerk and Treasurer Tonia Chase and Assistant Town Clerk Alberta Miller have done their best to answer questions put to them. In some cases

See TAXPAYERS, 6



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HARDWICK GAZETTE

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POLICE REPORT



Three fire departments respond to a rollover on U.S. Route 2 in Cabot.

courtesy photo

Walden Fire Department

WALDEN – It was a busy Sunday afternoon with two back-to-back motor vehicle incidents on U.S. Rte. 2 in Cabot. Walden Fire Department responded to both incidents with two apparatus and eight

firefighters to assist Cabot Fire along with the Marshfield Fire Department and Cabot Ambulance. The department reminds everyone, always wear your seatbelt.



DHART hovers above the Hazen Union baseball diamond, August 22.

courtesy photo

Hardwick Fire Department

Emergency helicopter rescue

HARDWICK – August 22, at 6:02 p.m., the Hardwick Fire Department was toned to set up a landing zone for Dart-

mouth Hitchcock Advanced Response Team (DARHT) to assist Hardwick Rescue Squad.



August 27 - September 2

LABOR DAY SALE AUG. 29 - SEPT. 1 ALL CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR 20% OFF	20% OFF Summer & Swimming Toys	
Spindrift Sparking Water \$4.99 96 oz. 8 pk.	Wide Awake Ground or K-cup Coffee \$4.49 10 ct.	Kellogg's Apple Jacks, Corn Pops, Froot Loops or Frosted Flakes \$2.99 8.8-12 oz.
Kellogg's Raisin Bran or Mini Wheat Cereals \$3.49 13.3-16.1 oz.	Kellogg's Pop Tarts 2/\$5 13.5 oz.	Bush's Baked Beans 2/\$4 16 oz.
Newman's Salad Dressing \$3.99 16 oz.	Stubbs Marinade or Barbecue Sauce \$3.99 12-18 oz.	Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce 2/\$4 18 oz.
Skippy Peanut Butter 2/\$5 15-16.3 oz.	Jet Puffed Marshmallows 2/\$3 12 oz.	Hershey's 6 pk. Milk Chocolate Bars \$5.49 9.3 oz.
Keebler Town House or Club Crackers \$3.29 12.7-13.8 oz.	Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/\$5 16 oz.	Nabisco Graham Crackers \$3.49 14.4 oz.
Nature Valley Granola Bars 2/\$5 7.4-8.9 oz.	Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	Newman's Frozen Pizza \$6.99 15.1-16.5 oz.
Morning Stars Farm Plant Protein \$4.49 8-10.5 oz.	Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream \$3.99 16 oz.	Talenti Gelato \$3.99 16 oz.

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

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Car crash, involuntary manslaughter

HARDWICK - On August 18, at 11:52 p.m., Hardwick Police were dispatched to a two car accident at the intersection of Vt Rte. 14 N and Vt. Rte. 15. Christine McDonnell of Craftsbury, age 76, was southbound on Rte. 14 in her 2019 Subaru Crosstrek and was attempting to make a left turn onto Rte. 15 and collided with Cole McNaughton of Wolcott, age 19, in his 2009 Toyota Rav4 as he was heading eastbound on Rte. 15. Both vehicles received front damage. No injuries were reported.

HARDWICK - On August 11th, 2025, at 12:50 P.M. Hardwick Rescue, Morristown Rescue and Hardwick Police responded to 28 Mill Street for the report of a male who had fallen and had a laceration on his head. Upon arrival it was clear the injuries sustained by the male were of a much more serious nature and appeared to be life threatening.

Investigation revealed the male subject had been pushed through a wooden railing from a height of over 15 feet

during a domestic dispute involving his girlfriend, identified as Angela J. Torres, age 59, of Hardwick, VT. The push and subsequent fall resulted in blunt force trauma injuries to his head, torso and extremities. The male, identified as Zollie Altman III, age 65 also of Hardwick, VT, would succumb later that day to his injuries. On Thursday, August 21st, Angela Torres turned herself in to the Hardwick Police Department and was booked for the offense of Involuntary Manslaughter. She was transported to the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility in St. Johnsbury, VT. Torres is scheduled to appear in the Caledonia Division of the Superior Court of Vermont on Friday, August 22nd, at 12:30.

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

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

August 17: Welfare Check, Vt. Route 15 W; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 E; Directed Patrol, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.

August 18: Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 W; Assist - Public, Maple St.; Welfare Check, Bailey Farm Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 14 S.; Directed Patrol, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 14.

August 19: Suspicious Event, Center Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Church St.; Rescue Call, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 14 S.; Suspicious Event, Elm St., Suspicious Event, Pine Drive.

August 20: Motor Vehicle Complaint, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, W. Church St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Public, N. Main St.; Accident - LSA, Mill St.; Property Damage, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Citizens Dispute, Montgomery Road.

August 21: Assist - Public, Hardwick; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Public, Vt. Route 25 W.; Trespassing, S. Main St.

August 22: Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Citizen Dispute, Elm St.; Citizen Dispute, Elm St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Theft, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Foot Patrol, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.; Assist - Agency, Eligo Lake Rd.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Noise Disturbance, Lamoille Ave.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

August 23: Fingerprints, High St.; Public Speaking, Wolcott St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Assist - Agency, Spring St.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Nichols Pond Road.

August 24: Assist - Public, Washington Hwy.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Intoxication, Mill St.; Threats/Harassment, Baker Hill Drive.

Unprecedented 2025 call volume

by Hardwick Rescue Squad

HARDWICK - Hardwick Rescue reported July 25, that, as of 8 a.m., that morning, it had received an unprecedented 12 calls for service in the past 24 hours. Nine calls (including two simultaneous calls with two crews at shift change) were handled by them.

Mutual aid support on three calls was received from Glover Ambulance and Morristown EMS during that time.

The past several weeks and year have been busy, they reported. Five hundred-ninety-five incidents had been reported as of that date. Last year on the same date there had been 460 incidents.

WEATHER WATCH



Sunrise at 5:45 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 19, from the end of Blockhouse Hill Road on the west shore of Caspian Lake in Greensboro, just north of the Hazen Road blockhouse monument remembering the lives of Constand Bliss and Moses Sleeper, who were "killed by Indians and buried where they fell" in 1781.
unenanced photo by Linda Seel

Much cooler by late week; few showers as well

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK - Another week of August, another week we're struggling to play catch-up with some desperately needed precipitation. Total rainfall amounts from August 18 through August 25 ranged from one tenth to one half of an inch. This leaves us still two inches of rainfall short for the month.

Temperatures have generally remained near normal for this time of year, with highs in the upper 70s and low 80s. Lows fell into the upper 40s and low 50s. Sunday was the warmest day with highs reaching the mid-80s in some spots.

High pressure building over the eastern U.S. during the first half of this week will deflect approaches of beneficial rain, as conditions remain fair and cool in the presence of an upper-level disturbance over the Canadian Maritimes. That low does

infiltrate southward by Thursday night and Friday, with a chance for a few showers and even cooler conditions.

The high-pressure system regains control over our weather and temperatures moderate slightly by the time we get into Sunday and Monday. This Labor Day weekend looks like it will feature multiple days in a row of sunshine- get out and enjoy it! Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Partly sunny. High: 69. Low: 46. West wind 5-10 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny. Scattered showers by evening. High: 72. Low: 48. West wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Scattered showers in the morning, then becoming partly sunny. High: 67. Low: 44. West wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 68. Low: 43. Calm wind.

Sunday: Sunny. High: 72. Low: 45. Calm wind.

Labor Day: Sunny. High: 75. Low: 49. Calm wind.

Altman

Continued From Page One

@HRS requested a paramedic from Morrystown Rescue Squad. Immediately upon arrival, the paramedic requested the D.H.A.R.T. chopper to transport the patient, said Hardwick Police Sgt. Brunelle. They were advised there would be a 50-minute delay, so Altman was transported by ambulance to Copley Hospital, he said.

The HPD report said, "Upon arrival it was clear the injuries sustained by the male were of a much more serious nature and appeared to be life threatening."

The chief medical examiner's preliminary autopsy identified the cause of death as 'Multiple Blunt Force Injuries' and describes how the injuries occurred as a 'Fall from Height,'" reported Sgt. Brunelle. Details of the report list blunt force injuries of the head, neck, torso and extremities, including fractures of the skull, vertebra, ribs, sternum and pelvis.

"Inspector Cotnoir and I measured from the floor of the landing (from where Mr. Altman had fallen) to the ground and to a stone on a low wall below that appeared to have blood on it," reported Sgt. Brunelle. "The measurement was 15 feet 10 inches to the ground, and 14-feet 6 inches to the stone." Sgt. Brunelle also reported Inspector Cotnoir had determined there had been no witnesses to the incident.

In concluding his report, he wrote, "Based on the above listed facts and circumstances, a person of reasonable caution would conclude that Angela Torres has committed the offense of Involuntary Manslaughter. Her actions were reckless and negligent, and by her own admission resulted in the untimely death of her domestic partner, Zollie Altman III. . ."

After Altman was transported from the scene, Torres told Sgt. Brunelle and Chief Henry that she and Altman had been drinking and were fighting. "Chief Henry then asked, 'Were you pushing and shoving each other?' To this question Torres again nodded her head, answering in the affirmative," said Sgt. Brunelle. "Torres would tell us 'He was pushing me in the hall and then I pushed him back.' She would repeat this basic statement two more times saying, 'He was pushing me and then I pushed him back and he fell.' She would finally say, 'He pushed me, and I pushed him, and we both fell.'"

Torres told them Altman had fallen backward, said Brunelle. "She would also tell us that she didn't feel safe with him. When I asked her if everything she had

said was true and accurate, she would answer, 'Yeah, but we've both been drinking,' as well as 'I don't feel safe in my environment.'"

Torres refused a test for alcohol, said Chief Henry, but "was showing some signs [of] consumption, with bloodshot, red, and watery eyes and the smell of alcohol coming from her person. She was not incapacitated. She would also tell us, 'There is a very toxic relationship,' and 'I don't feel safe here.'"

Knowing she had been drinking, and her significant-other was seriously injured, Chief Henry offered Torres a courtesy ride to Copley Hospital after she said she wanted to drive herself there, he reported.

During their ride to the hospital, Torres told Chief Henry "she and Altman had been together for seven-years and living together for the past year." She told him she had been working in the home support service industry for the past 20 years, but stopped working about a year ago and moved to Hardwick from St Johnsbury.

Henry reported Torres said, "Altman has been financially supporting her for the past year, which is part of the reason they fight. She indicated he has been working overtime to help financially support her. . . And Altman gets tired of supporting her. She is trying to get disability, but Altman doesn't think it's right for her to be on disability. Torres said, 'He (Altman) is a nice person, but he drinks a lot. But when we drink together it's volatile. It's kind of what initiated it.'

"She went on to say, 'I was getting kind of mouthy; saying we're not meant to be together. She advised the fighting this morning was mutual, but she told him that she wanted to separate. He pushed her from the deck into the hallway, and she fell down. Torres advised she pushed him back onto the deck and into the railing, which broke.'"

The broken railing was found on the ground near where Altman had fallen and was collected by police as evidence. The following day the building's owner replaced the railing with a solid wood panel, said Chief Henry.

Inspector Cotnoir's report said, "I examined the stability of the porch. . . I did not notice any sign of rot or weathered sections of decking which would interfere with the integrity and stability of the structure. . . I checked the railing of the second-floor balcony, this railing of the same size and building material appeared secure and did not move more than approximately

one inch while pushing it back and forth with hand pressure."

The day after the medical examiner's preliminary autopsy report was released, Torres, was accompanied by family when she turned herself in to the Hardwick Police Department, said Chief Henry. He indicated Torres had been cooperative in the days following the incident. The state's attorney had wanted the medical examiner's report before charging Torres, he said.

She was booked for the offense of Involuntary Manslaughter and transported to the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility in St. Johnsbury, where she posted \$500 bail and was released to attend her arraignment the following day.

At her arraignment, August 22, Torres's attorney Amy Davis, first asked that Torres be allowed to sit through the proceedings due to pain from her fall, August 11. She then pleaded not guilty to the charge of

manslaughter and was released on \$500 bail, despite a request from Interim State's Attorney Claire Burns, who asked that Torres be held without bail.

Judge Michael Kainen established several conditions on Torres' release, including that she not buy, have or drink any alcoholic beverage; that she not buy, possess or use firearms, or other dangerous weapons; and that she must not abuse or harass Michael and Julie Southworth, Trina Newland, Johanna and Jason Kennedy, Maren Altman and Zollie Altman II in any way; and, finally, that she not engage in violent, threatening or tumultuous behavior.

If convicted, the charge carries a penalty of imprisonment for at least a year and not more than 15 years, or a maximum fine of not more than \$3,000.

Court documents now show Torres' address as being in West Danville.



Ashlyn Thompson, Summer Bowley, Karli Thompson and Piper Robinson visit as they wait to go into their classroom at Hardwick Elementary, for the first day of school.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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Meeting

Continued From Page One

the bill, so she asked the board to sign the Errors & Omissions form that will permit her to remove the education tax. Once rectified, Greensboro can work through a series of statutory and legal issues with the goal of ultimately keeping the status quo; not charging Hardwick any municipal tax for the beach property.

Chief Brochu was present to deliver his regular Greensboro Fire Department report. Recently, Andrew and Doug Casavant traveled to Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, in Alabama, to inspect a fire truck. The purchase was approved by the board during the July meeting, contingent on financing. The Casavants verified specifications, performed a pump and road tests, reporting the truck looked fine overall. The fire department is requesting that a pump heater be installed and will be receiving a quote soon for that upgrade. Additionally, the purchase price includes delivery.

Several financing options were presented by board member Tim Brennan. The town needs voter approval to borrow funds for the truck purchase. Options include holding a special town meeting meeting to get voter approval to borrow the funds; taking out a short-term loan; making a deposit to hold the

truck until the 2026 town meeting, or simply not buying the truck at this time. The board noted the downside of waiting is that truck prices will continue to increase.

The town is considering reclassifying a number of very short roads that once led to former dairy farms. As daily access to the milk-house was critical, the town maintained these roads. Currently, the town is obligated to maintain Class 3 roads to a certain standard, while the roads are utilized as single residence driveways. As such, Chair Macneil said the town is considering reclassifying some of these roads to Class 4. The town would still be obligated to maintain culverts and bridges on those roads, and they would be added to the driveway plowing list. A specific process must be followed to reclassify roads. The board must first get approval from VTrans, notify landowners, and schedule site visits and final deliberations.

Beth Meacham informed the board a ventilation system and heat pump are being installed in the Greensboro Free Library, funded by MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Grant Program). An open house will be scheduled to showcase the work.

Meacham also said she recently had a close call with a large farm truck on the hill above Gebbie

Farm and requested the town consider widening the road there.

Kent said the planning commission is beginning work on updating the town plan, and trying to build consensus on ways to increase housing in town. Hansen suggested this work is more difficult after the contentious Rural Edge proposal for housing at the town hall.

A housing workshop took place, August 23, to gather public input and make recommendations on ways to move forward. Board member Ellen Celnik thanked Kent for following through with the Habitat For Humanity project in Greensboro Bend. While it's not going to solve the overall housing shortage in town, it's a great project and a good start, Celnik said.

Road foreman Tom Camarra said grant work on Lakeview Road has been completed, and all winter sand has been put up. Camarra expects a quote soon from the John Deere dealership for a used 2023 skidsteer in stock. Chuck Hill is almost finished trimming trees on Blacks Point Road, after which the road crew will begin maintenance.

The board accepted Mark Colburn's bid of \$22,490 for FEMA work on North Shore Road.

A contract was signed with Vermont Appraisal Co., based in Plainfield. For \$1,458 per month, the company provides an assessor

who fulfills the former duties of town listers; will assign values to properties, inspect properties, keep listers cards up to date and perform maintenance of the grant list. Town Clerk Kim Greaves noted she's happy with their work. Their fee remains unchanged from last year.

Dehumidifiers have been installed in the town office, coming in under budget. Humidity is now being kept at a safe level. Two new outlets will be installed to eliminate temporary extension cords powering the new units.

The board approved catering permits for The Tack Room and 802 Cocktails.

Career EMT Karl Stein was appointed town health officer for a term of three years. Emma Palumbo was appointed to the Greensboro Conservation Commission, after longtime member Clive Gray stepped down.

A one-percent local option tax was approved for rooms, meals and served alcohol.

The board will engage Sullivan, Powers and Co. for the FY25 audit, including the requisite single audit, for a maximum fee of \$40,000. Cash versus accrual accounting will be further investigated.

FY27 budget meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., starting September 16.

Daigle

Continued From Page One

Daigle was killed in Caledonia County on June 19, according to state police. Her body was left and then discovered on the side of Route 14 in Woodbury.

Claire Burns, interim Caledonia County state's attorney, argued during Wednesday's court hearing for Williams to be held without bail.

"The weight of the evidence, the state contends, is great," Burns told Judge Michael Kainen. "In this instance, we have a 17-page affidavit detailing roughly two months of thorough, consistent investigation undertaken by the Vermont State Police."

Williams has a previous conviction for aggravated domestic assault involving a different woman that resulted in a 10-year prison sentence, Burns said. "He was found guilty of having choked a girlfriend – eerily similar factual pattern to this instance," Burns said.

Attorney Brandon Sheffert, representing Williams, opposed the prosecutor's request to hold his client in custody without bail. Sheffert said Williams had lengthy ties to Vermont and was not a risk of flight.

"My client, in the affidavit,

went to the police on several occasions when requested to do interviews," Sheffert said. "He has been in the area for two months. If he had wanted to flee, he could have back in June."

Kainen sided with the prosecutor, ruling Williams would remain in custody without bail pending a hearing on the strength of the state's evidence in the case.

Police had released few details about the investigation leading up to Williams' arrest Tuesday. More information became public Wednesday following his arraignment, when an affidavit of probable cause in support of the charges against him was released.

Williams, who had been interviewed several times as part of the investigation, told police he lived with Daigle and they had been in a relationship for about eight years, state police Detective Sgt. Drew Cota wrote in the affidavit.

Daigle had recently told Williams she no longer wanted him to reside at the Hardwick residence, Daigle's family members and Williams reported to police, according to the affidavit. Family members told police about past alleged instances of abuse by Williams toward Daigle, and that she had obtained a

restraining order against him in the past, the affidavit stated.

Williams told police that, on the night of June 18, Daigle left the residence and then returned early that morning only to leave again on her own, departing on foot away from the residence, according to the affidavit. However, according to the affidavit, police obtained video footage from a nearby residence that did not show anyone leaving the property on foot during the time-frame Williams said Daigle left the home.

The video footage did show a vehicle coming and going from the property, the affidavit stated. GPS data showed the vehicle left the property twice early on the morning of June 19 and traveled on Route 14 to the area of the pull off in Woodbury where Daigle's body was later found, according to the

affidavit. The GPS showed the vehicle stayed at the pull-off for a short period each time before returning to the Hardwick residence, the affidavit stated.

When confronted during a police interview Tuesday about the GPS information from the vehicle, according to the affidavit, Williams denied driving into the pull-off or the woods where Daigle's body was found.

Williams agreed Tuesday to take a polygraph and the results revealed "the accused showed deception on multiple questions regarding the murder of the victim," according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the murder charge alone, Williams faces a minimum sentence of 20 years behind bars and a maximum sentence of life in prison.



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COOPERATIVELY OWNED



Energy Efficient Investments workers attach the metal framing Aug. 20, that will hold the new siding on the Hardwick Elementary School. Construction on the main part of the building is expected to wrap up the week of September 8. photo by Vanessa Fournier



One of eight classrooms getting a complete facelift with a new thermally improved exterior wall system, new flooring and painting as part of the PCB remediation project at Hardwick Elementary School. The corner music room had similar interior work only. photobyVanessaFournier



Energy Efficient Investments site supervisor Brian Depinto (left) and project coordinator Luke Aither (right) rehang the old doors to the Hardwick Elementary gym lobby, August 21. New support beams were welded in place, and temporary walls were installed, until the new doors and windows are delivered. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Repairs made to the sagging roof of the Hardwick Elementary School lobby last week help to get the school ready for the first day of school Monday, Aug. 25. photo by Paul Fixx

Taxpayers

Continued From Page One

they've heard from disgruntled taxpayers, who they referred to Town Manager David "Opie" Upson, who has worked to explain the process and resolve their concerns.

It is too late to dispute the town's appraisal of a property by the time tax bills are sent, so taxpayers must now wait until 2026, when it is possible to provide information to the town assessor, and meet to review a property's value in a grievance hearing before 2026-27 tax bills are mailed.

While the residential tax rate fell by slightly less than 36 percent and the non-residential rate fell almost 39 percent, the town's grand list increased by over 60 percent. Because of that, Hardwick's tax bills have increased by roughly 15% on average.

Upson suggested village property values have increased more than they have in rural areas.

Recent village property sales at prices double, with some even triple, the 2016 appraised values meant the assessor based property values for comparable properties on those sales, resulting in higher than average increases to village fair market values.

Hardwick Assessor Matthew Krajieski, with New England Municipal Consultants (NEMC) provided examples of letters sent to Hardwick property owners. The first, sent early in the year to all Hardwick property owners announced the reappraisal beginning in March and explained the work of field appraisers to visit all properties, collect exterior measurements and exterior and interior construction details, along with the process to follow if a card was left because no one was home when the appraiser visited.

That first letter also explained the valuation process used to determine the fair market value of each property and the informal hearing

available for each property owner after notices of preliminary value are mailed.

Many owners took advantage of informal meetings with the assessor from May 28 through 31 to question the preliminary appraisals and provide additional information that might reduce the initial valuations.

A mailing, dated June 4, gave notice to taxpayers of the "Change in Appraisal of Real Estate." That notice advised taxpayers of grievance hearings to begin Friday, June 27, and the process to follow, contacting the assessor before 4 p.m., on June 30.

Only four taxpayers appealed their appraisals in a Tax Assessment Appeal process that is now before the Board of Civil Authority.

In determining when a reappraisal is required, a measure of current assessment value compared to recent market sales that have occurred in the community, called the Common Level of

Appraisal (CLA), is used; It indicates, on average, how close to market value the town's property assessments are. In 2024, that figure in Hardwick was 67.29 percent, low enough to trigger the reappraisal, which is required when that figure drops below 80 percent, or above 120 percent.

Another figure, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) measures how equitably property assessments are distributed within a town based on the accuracy and consistency of assessments based on sales data. A COD above 20 percent means many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less. Hardwick's COD in 2024 was 24.26 percent. A COD below 10 percent is considered very accurate, so Hardwick was clearly due for reappraisals to bring property values into line with values that had risen during the pandemic and since the 2016 reappraisal nine years ago.

State urged to stop hospital birthing center closure

by Aaron Calvin, News & Citizen

MORRISTOWN – A Morristown lawmaker last week called on state health care regulators to block or delay the planned closure of Copley Hospital's birthing center until the decision could be further analyzed by the state.

Rep. Dave Yacovone, D-Morristown, made his pitch August 13, during Copley's budget presentation to the Green Mountain Care Board.

Copley, one of the smallest critical access hospitals in the state, was the last to present its annual budgetary plans to the board. A team of administrators led by CEO Joe Woodin and Kathy Demars, vice chair of the hospital's board of trustees, provided an explanation of the high profile and controversial decision to close the birthing center, and asked the board for support.

Woodin presented data from a consultant's analysis that paired a declining birthrate with the expense of operating the birthing center, which ultimately swayed most of the trustees to vote to close the center by November 1. An analysis that Copley presented to the Green Mountain Care Board claimed that maintaining birthing center operations would have resulted in the hospital running a \$3.7 million loss, based on 2023 data. Also according to the analysis, the hospital would see a \$2.9 million gain by only providing pre- and post-natal care.

Woodin's presentation also emphasized the emotional toll the process had put upon the administration and volunteer trustees, with several slides dedicated to criticism the hospital had received during the process. Woodin claimed last week, as he had previously, that the nurses' union had collaborated with community members to protest the closure.

"It was more than anything I've ever seen, and it made it really hard. But at the end of the day, it came down to a discussion of, 'Can we afford this?' and 'Do we have enough volume to justify a direction towards growth?'" Woodin said. "That's hard to say, and people really fight over those issues."

Demars said the trustees had received hundreds of letters at their homes, some of which were unkind.

"We're a volunteer board, and we really appreciate any support we can get from the Green Mountain Care Board in making tough decisions," she said.

Yacovone, in the public comment portion following the presentation, urged the state board to prevent the hospital from closing its birthing center as planned on November 1, so that its full effects on Vermont's health care landscape could be considered and the decision could be made in accordance with the Vermont Agency of Human Services' ongoing analysis of how to make Vermont's health care system more efficient and less expensive.

"My request to the board is that you work to defer, to delay any decision on the Copley birthing center until the (Agency of Human Services') strategic health plan is developed to see if this kind of decision would even comport with the strategic health plan as envisioned," Yacovone said. "I would also ask that Copley revise their community health needs assessment to see how a community without a birthing center would be impacted and what would need to be done."

Yacovone, a former Copley trustee,

commended the current trustees for attempting to fulfill their fiduciary duty to the hospital, but said the birthing center's closure would make health care more expensive for Vermonters, even if it helped Copley's bottom line.

He added the travel time for residents of Morrisville and other areas of Lamoille County would be dangerous for expecting mothers.

Yacovone was not alone in his request that the birthing center be delayed. Vicki Rich, a local lactation consultant and birthing coach, asked the board to give maternal health care providers more time to respond.

Other meeting attendees, including a nurse-midwife at Copley and former birthing center patients, emphasized the importance of the birthing center in maternal health care in Lamoille County.

Yacovone contends that the Green Mountain Care Board has the ability, in setting Copley's budget, to dictate the hospital take a specific action and require it to work with the Agency of Human Services to under Act 68, a law passed earlier this year meant to help stabilize and reform Vermont's health care system. However, Kristen LaJeunesse, a spokesperson for the care board, said that it was beyond the board's authority.

"Decisions about whether to continue or close specific service lines, such as birthing centers, are made by the hospitals themselves," LaJeunesse said. "The Green Mountain Care Board's responsibilities include hospital budget regulation and review of certain projects through the certificate of need process, but we do not have the authority to direct a hospital to keep a department open or to close one."

Communications previously obtained by the News & Citizen between Woodin and care board chair Owen Foster show that the Copley CEO had sought the board's endorsement of the birthing center decision. Woodin ultimately received a statement acknowledging that "transformational efforts will require hard decisions and trade-offs."

Foster, during last week's meeting, endorsed the idea that Vermont hospitals shouldn't decide what services to cut purely based on their financial burden following tearful testimony from a mother who had suddenly gone into labor but was able to make it to Copley due to its proximity.

"With some of the budgets we've seen, there's often a request for finances for services that lose money," Foster said. "As we go forward with transformation, we definitely don't want to see cherry picking and lemon dropping. It has to be consistent with the transformation plan that the Agency of Human Services is leading."

While the birthing center closure decision continued to be the center of attention, Copley's actual spending proposal was more modest than in years past.

The hospital requested a 3.7% decrease to



A sign in support of the Copley Birthing Center in Morrisville on Wednesday, May 28. photo by Kristen Fountain, VTDigger

net patient revenue, a 1.6% increase to operating expenses and a 4.2% increase to commercial insurer reimbursement rates. Woodin previously asked the board for double-digit percentage increases to its commercial reimbursement rates after complaining of financial issues and a cost for services that are far lower than other hospitals in the state.

Copley also asked for spending exemptions for its financial support of the beleaguered Lamoille Health Partners and for the construction of a fourth operating room at the Morristown hospital.

The hospital gave Lamoille Health Partners a \$150,000 lifeline last year after the federally qualified health care center suddenly found itself in a financial crisis. The hospital also took back some of the laboratory diagnostic work the health center had previously outsourced to a different company and provided additional services following the closure of the partner's Stowe office.

The hospital said the construction of a new operating room was necessary to meet the demand for more space from across the hospital.

"The addition of a fourth OR is in direct response to increased demand across multiple service lines. This expansion is essential to meeting our growing patient care needs, improving financial stability, and keeping care local," Copley's presentation to the care board said. "The additional capacity will directly reduce patient wait times for surgical procedures, improve overall patient experience and provide surgeons with additional block time availability, supporting both provider satisfaction and recruitment efforts."

Woodin touted the cost savings of the New England Health Care Collaborative he announced last year, and Foster encouraged hospital staff to lean into its status as a relatively low-cost health care provider and more aggressively compete with larger hospitals like the University of Vermont Medical Center.

"I think as Vermonters become more aware of the affordability challenges we have as a state, I think they probably are more sensitive to the fact that your prices are lower," Foster said. "We would like to see you be a competitor and would like to see others compete on your prices."

This story by Aaron Calvin was first published in the News & Citizen on August 21, and republished in VTDigger.

ANOTHER OPINION

Vermont's native landscape is under siege

by Andrew Nemethy

ADAMANT – For more than 40 years I have been conducting a field experiment in my Washington County home town of Calais. Literally, as in the 10-acre field that came with the old farmhouse I bought back in 1984.

To be honest, this doesn't have much to do with the scientific method. It's more an unplanned experiment, studying and informally documenting natural changes. What my eyes reveal is a significant shift in our native flora, not just on one gentle east-sloping hill that looks out at Marshfield Mountain, but mirrored on Vermont's roadsides, riversides, and wetlands.

Located halfway between Maple Corner and Adamant, my field was part of an old farmstead with a wreck of a house, but 17 lovely acres I instantly fell in love with. I was captivated by the requisite Vermont stone walls, maple sugarbush with an old sugaring arch in the woods, two springs, and even the half-buried trash piles I mined for glass and old farm implement "treasures." The big field I viewed merely as a vantage to admire views or to ski and snowshoe on in winter.

Four decades later, I have come to understand any field in Vermont offers a living education, inviting the study of ecology, botany, and forestry, sort of the way owning a herd of cattle "invites" you to learn about manure, fencing, forage, veterinary medicine, coyotes, grazing techniques, farm equipment, and did I already mention, manure?

None of this was clear back in the fall of 1984, but it turns out a field is a good teacher, if you don't mind hard lessons and an old-school rap or two across the knuckles.

One of the first things I learned about, witnessed actually, was forest succession, the process by which forests in Vermont evolve, as different tree species move through a predictable growth and decline process, based on topography, elevation and forest soils.

That first spring I discovered an insidious insurgency underway in my field. Seedlings of white pine, apple trees, and willow had rooted everywhere, and at the margins colorful stems of red osier were not so stealthily creeping in.

Lesson Number 1: Vermont is always trying to go back to the forest primeval.

To sweeten the soil with ashes and start bringing it under control for haying, a neighbor and I decided we should burn the dry grass. But the calm morning we picked defied the forecast, and when the wind suddenly kicked up and shifted it sent the fire heading for the woods. Unnerved, we called the East Montpelier Fire Department to rescue us from our folly. A thankful donation to the department followed.

Lesson Number 2: Field experiments can go very wrong.

Through the years, the field has been cut annually, but the grass and clover prevalence has declined and a parade of nuisance and not very nutritional competing invaders has taken over.

First was bedstraw, a dense intertwining annual weed that creates thick green mats with pleasant-smelling white flowers. (One of my farming neighbors told me it first showed up in his fields in about 1960, after some excavation.)

Then came ferns and goldenrod, which have now widely populated the field. Since mid-season haying no longer happens and I now cut the field in

fall, a boon for bobolinks and field birds, it has gone full rogue, with patches of milkweed, some thistle and stinging nettles, and goldenrod that sends clouds of white fluff into the air when I mow. The forest primeval thing has not subsided either, with poplars joining the willow and apple tree sprouts.

This disheartening invasion has expanded to include invasive wild chervil, which I have managed to keep at bay by cutting by hand as it rises above its competitors. This year, I am doing battle with a new field invader called broad-leaved dock, which has deep roots, grows five to six feet tall, and is topped by prolific spikes of brown seeds (up to 60,000 a plant). One more zombie in the field apocalypse! And don't even get me started on the bishop's weed creeping in, or Japanese knotweed, whose noxious stalks lurk not far away

in nearby streams.

The bad news is that dock, a perennial relative of buckwheat, is now cropping up on my local roadsides as well, creating a dynamic duo of deep-rooted disaster with burdock. Or a trio, if you include wild chervil, whose array of white flowers now dominates interstate medians once populated by wildflower displays.

Whether spread by birds, wind, excavations and machinery, inadvertent garden store introduction, and even climate change, the native Vermont landscapes I admired in the 1970s, full of wildflowers, lupines and asters, are vastly different today. To my eyes, it has not been a favorable exchange.

Andrew Nemethy is a journalist, editor and freelance writer who lives in Calais. His article first appeared in The Bridge.

VOICES OF SPIRIT

In the Woods

Where the order of things,
randomly organized in cycles is
imperceptible through the passing of time or within a fraction of time
Where everything begins and everything ends seen or unseen.
I enter this timeless space belonging to it but also an intruder
a naive observer
measurable and predictable
yet also impetuously unpremeditated
Something wild in the woods and
perhaps something wild in me
makes me long and belong, seen or unseen
Perhaps in my mother's eyes I saw
the woods reflected
Or perhaps in the stories told
and I keep longing for that place
In all of humanity
Myrna Miranda O'Neill
Woodbury

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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THE OUTSIDE STORY



Coneflowers are adaptable to a variety of growing conditions although they prefer well-draining, loamy soil and full sun.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit



With their colorful blooms and abundant supply of nectar and pollen, coneflowers attract a wide variety of pollinators, including bees, butterflies and even hummingbirds.

photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Purple coneflower is easy-to-grow perennial

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Purple coneflower's (Echinacea purpurea) daisy-like flower adds a pop of color to a yard. They're a great choice for an easy-to-grow, native perennial.

Coneflowers are hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zones 4 to 9. Some varieties are hardy to Zone 3. Check the tag on the variety to confirm its hardiness and preferred growing conditions.

Historically, coneflowers were used as an herbal remedy by Native Americans and, later, European settlers. Its uses included pain relief, treatment of colds and sore throats, dressing wounds and treating infections.

Today, coneflower cultivars are available in a variety of colors. In addition to the familiar pink, gardeners' choices include white, yellow and shades of red and orange, as well as variations in flower form.

Use coneflowers as a focal point in a naturalized or wildflower garden. They also perform well in borders or cottage gardens. Coneflowers will attract pollinators, including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, to a garden.

Coneflowers can grow between two to four feet high and one to two feet wide. They bloom best in full sun. They'll grow in partial shade as well, though lower light levels will result in fewer flowers. Coneflowers bloom throughout the summer and make long-lasting cut flowers.

As winter approaches, coneflowers die back to the ground and go dormant, with new growth emerging in the spring. Deadhead spent flowers and cut back old growth at the end of the growing season or put off tidying up a coneflower bed until spring. If you wait, birds and other wildlife can feed on the dried seed heads, and the upright stems can provide a nesting spot for native bees.

Coneflowers will self-seed. If

starting seeds, keep in mind that a period of cold, moist stratification aids in germination. If sowing seeds outdoors in the fall, new plantlets will emerge in the spring.

Mature coneflowers can be propagated by root division in early spring or late fall. In the spring, while the plant is still dormant, dig up the clump of fibrous roots and divide, being sure to leave several inches of roots in each section. Replant or pot immediately and water well.

If dividing in the fall, wait until the plant stops flowering and has begun to go dormant. Allow sufficient time before the ground freezes for the roots to adjust after replanting.

Plant coneflowers in well-draining, loamy soil, although they are adaptable to a variety of conditions. When in doubt, a soil test can tell you what, if any, fertilizers or amendments will be beneficial. For more information on soil testing, see go.uvm.edu/soiltest.

Coneflowers are a low maintenance addition to the garden and are relatively pest and disease resistant. The solution to a problem such as drooping leaves might be as simple as supplemental watering during excessive summer heat.

While deer will likely bypass coneflowers, rabbits, chipmunks and groundhogs may take a nibble. Watch for aphids and deal with them with a strong spray from the hose. Knock Japanese beetles into a bucket of soapy water.

Other problems may include diseases such as powdery mildew, Fusarium wilt or aster yellows. For questions about growing coneflowers or trying to identify a pest or disease, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline by phone (802) 656-5421, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. from April to October or online year-round at <https://go.uvm.edu/gardeninghelp>.

Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener.

ANOTHER OPINION

by Elizabeth Stabler

GREENSBORO – Call to action: Let's remember that Caspian Lake is a glacial lake, formed by melting glaciers during the last Ice Age. As a glacial lake, it has unique properties and ecological importance. Sustainable management is crucial to avoid depleting the water resource.

Today, Caspian's declining water levels are more than a visual change upon the landscape; they are a profound warning that if we do not act now, we will lose one of our region's most precious natural treasures. As David Attenborough might tell us, "Here, in this tranquil corner of the world, the delicate balance of life depends upon the water's edge."

Caspian Lake Dam facts: The aging Infrastructure of the dam

at Caspian's south end was last reconstructed in 1948. The last improvement was in 1967, nearly 60 years ago, leaving water level management dependent on outdated infrastructure. Poor and at-substantial-risk reports are at anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/DamsInventory/ListDams.aspx Type "Caspian" into the "Dam Name Containing" field, then click "View" to open up the page. There are tabs at the top, such as "reservoir" and "dam," with information. The tab to the right, "documents," includes a folder called "Inspections" that lists the most recent inspection reports.

At Caspian Lake's edge, the effect of declining water levels is visible: decreasing fish populations, increasing risk of pollutants and algae blooms, increasing loss of wetlands and

shoreline habitats and receding shorelines that degrade wetlands and riparian areas.

We must act with urgency and care in forming a community coalition with support from the state and Hardwick Electric Department (HED) to protect Caspian Lake by developing a concept plan of how to replace the dam to meet the needs of the lake and river.

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed," said Wallace Stegner.

What has already been published: "Managing Caspian Lake's water level is a three-legged stool," said Arnold, with John Schweitzer measuring the lake level every other week for the GA, the state wanting the level to be maintained without alteration unless there's a

safety situation during a flooding event and HED being responsible for operating the dam's flow control device to adjust lake water level. "The lake level is now approximately two inches below where it's historically been for the last five years, Arnold reported, asking that the level now be raised those two inches. HED Interim Manager Scott Johnstone agreed to work with HED staff to have the water level adjusted accordingly. "Arnold asked to establish a contact for the Greensboro Association in the event an emergency requires immediate action, as it did during last summer's flooding. Commissioners agreed Johnstone would serve as the GA contact for all its needs, including emergencies."

Elizabeth Stabler is a resident of Greensboro

THE OUTSIDE STORY

From Cabot's headwaters to Lake Champlain, Winooski River salmon flourish

by Max Handelman

LAKE CHAMPLAIN – Every fall, a crane trundles in and, three times a day, hoists a massive steel hopper from beneath the swirling pools of the Winooski River Salmon Hole.

The cargo: fish. Atlantic salmon are heaved into pickup trucks by the dozens and deposited as far as 20 miles away into the greater Lake Champlain basin as part of the effort, which has existed since 1993.

In the past few years, scientists have seen record numbers of the species lifted from the Salmon Hole. In 2023, the latest data available, teams pulled out 212 salmon, the highest number in 30 years.

The largest tributary to Lake Champlain, the Winooski River snakes 90 miles from Cabot in the east, connecting to seven brooks and streams on the way. Those waters are home to some of the highest-population salmon runs in Vermont, and scientists say the fish are a reliable measure of the lake's and basin's ecological health.

So, the salmon's success is a good sign and an endorsement of water quality efforts.

But those close to the efforts say accelerated climate change and federal budget cuts pose a threat to future progress.

"Atlantic salmon are native to Lake Champlain, and it's part of our role to maintain those native populations," said Lee Simard, a leading Salmon Hole researcher from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. "And if the salmon are doing well, then that's a good indication of the overall health of the Lake Champlain ecosystem."

Fish and Wildlife is cracking down on sea lampreys, an invasive parasitic fish, as part of its efforts to bolster salmon numbers.

Also called "vampire fish," lamprey have no natural predators in the basin, allowing them to use rows of razor teeth to bore holes into salmon unchecked, siphoning fluids and nutrients to sustain themselves and leaving the salmon to bleed out en masse.

Researchers have constructed low-head dams, concrete structures hidden just beneath the water, to ensnare adult lamprey, isolate them and use chemical lampricides to exterminate them and their larvae.

Measures were imple-

mented in 2023 and have yielded positive results since then, Simard said.

"We've had record-low wounding rates," he said. "As a result, more salmon are surviving and being able to come back to the river to spawn, and so we've been seeing stronger returns in recent years."

Another area of improvement for the salmon has been with invasive plant removal.

Species like buckthorn, honeysuckle and bittersweet out-compete native river plants for sunlight and soil nutrients, said Tim Larned, superintendent of the Winooski Valley Park District, the main stewardship organization for the Salmon Hole. The lack of native plants means less food for insects like mayflies and caddisflies, a vital food source for Atlantic salmon.

These plants damage the river's water quality, too. The group's initiatives help stabilize that food cycle and inform locals about the river's conservation.

"At the Salmon Hole, we had a large group from Burlington High School help us out," Larned said. "We spent the day clearing a couple of areas down there, and a high school group can get really motivated and get into pulling out good-sized stumps."

The Friends of the Winooski River nonprofit replaces those stumps with anywhere from 1,500 to 3,000 native tree saplings every year, according to its website.

Native forests are usually best positioned to live along rivers and purify the water by absorbing runoff and expunging excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

"Having natural areas up to the edge of the water helps improve the habitat," Larned said. "Anything that we can do on the shoreline can help . . . fish down in the river."

Increased flooding threatens to undo those efforts in a single moment, endangering salmon's migratory routes and livelihood.

Last July, the Winooski River and the Salmon Hole flooded for miles. The high-velocity torrents clawed through the riverbanks, ripping trees from the ground and eroding the soil. The erosion makes it difficult for remaining trees to stay rooted and prevents new trees from growing at all.

Michele Braun, executive director of the Friends of the Winooski River, explained that



A state worker handles an Atlantic salmon.

courtesy photo by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

the river scoured sediment out of the stream banks, carrying soil molecules bound with phosphorus into the water.

Algal blooms fueled by that phosphorus then decompose, the process consuming large amounts of oxygen and the dead plant matter clogging salmon's gills, causing them to asphyxiate.

"Cyanobacteria and algae blooms are driven by phosphorus coming from the river," Braun said. "We need to reduce the phosphorus content contribution in the river by about a third, and we need projects to improve the general health of the sediment transport system of the river, and that should improve water quality and reduce phosphorus to Lake Champlain."

In addition to phosphorus, PFAS, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, dubbed "forever chemicals," are also infiltrating the salmon's home.

Last year, an activist group sounded the alarm when manufacturer GlobalFoundries dumped PFAS-ridden effluent into the Winooski River. Subsequent research from the state Department of Environmental Conservation found PFAS levels at 26.36 parts per trillion, gravely higher than the state's 20 parts per trillion safeline.

Salmon that breathe PFAS-contaminated water suffer from toxic buildup in their skin tissue. Marine biologists are finding that the toxicity can sterilize salmon and lead to ferroptosis, a form of cell death that can cause virus buildup.

"PFAS are a big problem, but we don't have much information about it," Braun said. "The testing for PFAS is super expensive. My husband, a water quality scientist, is doing a study on PFAS and says it costs nearly \$7,000 to collect one sample. We

just wish we had more answers."

The Friends of the Winooski River coordinates one of Vermont's largest water quality monitoring efforts. Volunteers collect samples at about 30 sites in annual studies to get some of those answers, Braun said.

Funding freezes temporarily paused the Friends of the Winooski River's work, creating a sense of uncertainty that pushed some projects behind this year.

"We're very concerned about long-term funding," Braun said. "Half of our funding was frozen in February and projects were significantly set back. We've had great support from Vermont Fish and Wildlife, but we're worried about their funding too. With all of the federal disinvestment in climate change and resilience, we're going to be in a difficult position in the future. It's daunting."

The president has also proposed that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Program, a close ally of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, lose \$37 million of its budget.

Despite an uncertain future, other success stories in Lake Champlain are a silver lining. Simard said it took 50 years of hatchery stocking and intervention for lake trout populations to stabilize in the basin.

Simard said it might not be possible to achieve similar outcomes with Atlantic salmon because of dam usage and changing regulations for fisheries management, but he, his fellow researchers and volunteer groups want to do their best to get there.

As Braun put it: "We're on the right track, but we need to keep it up."

Max Handelman is a reporter with the Community News Service, part of the University of Vermont's Reporting & Documentary Storytelling program.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Ah, yes, the job

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – In early June of 1962, after nine chaotic, fraught, and highly educational years in Ohio in pursuit of an undergraduate degree, I finally got one. I had the degree, a great part-time job (which I had to give up), no debts, no money, a one-year old VW Beetle, a wife and two infants.

We drove leisurely home, through Virginia, to the Adirondacks, where my former job on a blacktop paving crew awaited me. We rented a flat and settled in for the summer. But the specter of the annual autumnal layoff loomed ever before us; so I cast about for permanent employment. It occurred to me one day that, with my protracted experience in education, I might be able to teach school. I wrote a letter to the area school superintendent (we had no phone, and email wasn't yet even a gleam in Al Gore's eye) asking if there were any openings.

Turns out there was, just one, for a high school English teacher over by Lake Champlain. I called the principal on the pay phone outside the luncheonette, got an appointment, and after an amazingly breezy interview, got the job. I'd have to go to graduate school at night in Plattsburgh in order to obtain certification; but the principal (I really liked him; retired Navy exec. officer) and his secretary found us a duplex apartment (I'm pretty sure that the two of them, along with the local banker, doctor, school nurse, and priest, knew everything about everybody in town), and we moved in. \$45 a month. That may not seem like much, unless you know what they were paying me. But it was steady, and the job beat shoveling blacktop.

Ah, yes, the job. The principal's one comment, which I took for a directive, was that he'd hired me to teach the kids that you don't have to be a sissy to speak correctly. I had a couple of weeks to get ready, so I ransacked the cabinets in my classroom for hints of the previous years' activity. Some good grammar and usage workbooks, some badly outdated and worn spelling books, anthologies of quite a few pretty good short stories, and no poetry or Shakespeare. I ordered paperback editions of "Macbeth" and "The Merchant of Venice" and made up my own lecture notes about anapests, iambs, hexameter, pentameter, metaphors, similes and quatrains. My old book

of American chestnut poems, a gift from my mother when I was twelve, would do as a text, and give me a chance to read poetry aloud, like (I fancied) Dylan Thomas.

I got a nice sunny homeroom overlooking the parking lot and school bus garage. There was attendance to take, and excuses for absences to collect (one lively girl, now years deceased, could never, like the other girls, have a headache. Her mother, to show her superior education, always embarrassed her with "dysmenorrhea").

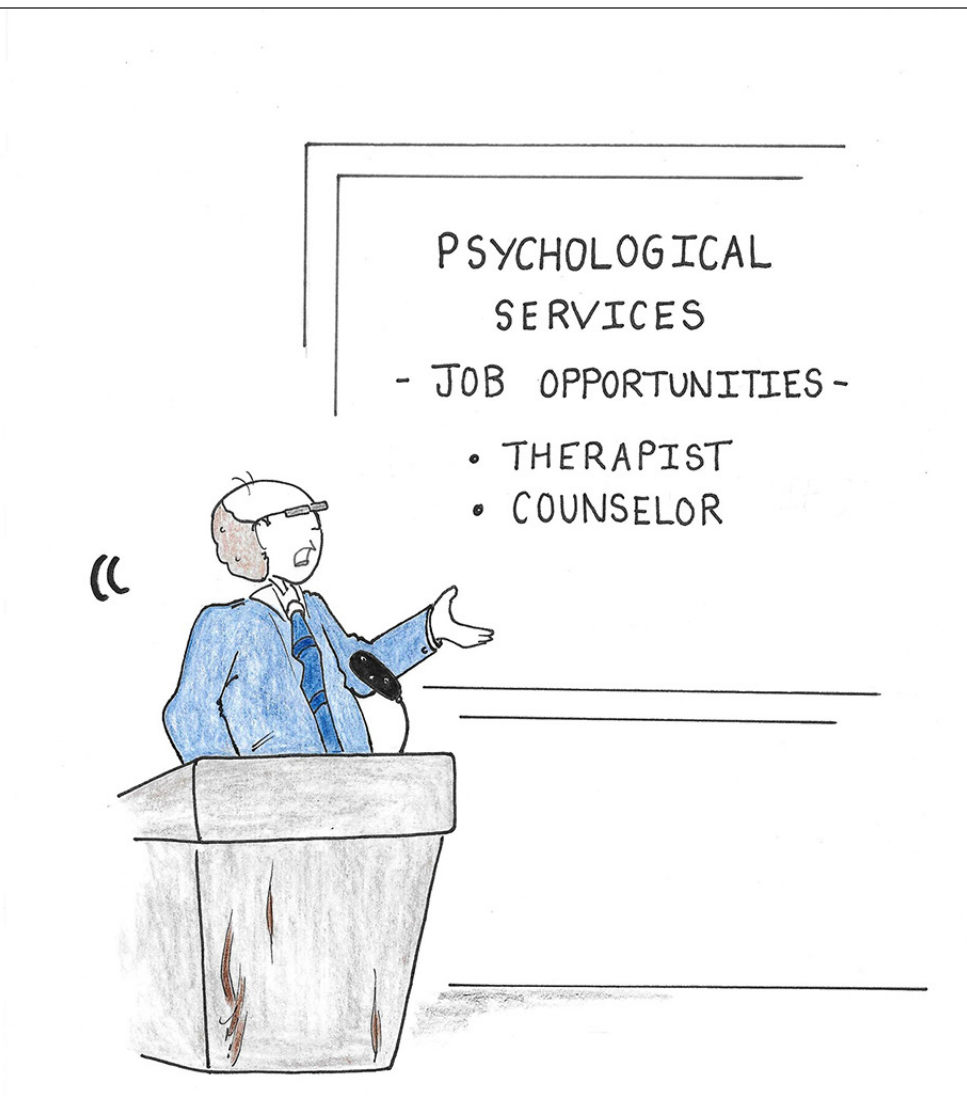
The first day of classes seemed to me as dangerous as a Spanish bullfight. But I channeled my favorite teachers, who coincidentally were strict disciplinarians of quick wit and obvious empathy. How the students and I stared at each other those first few minutes! I took roll to learn names, eschewed assigning seats alphabetically, and let them sit where they were comfortable, while keeping a sharp eye on the group of large chaps seated together in middle of the back row. They got the message.

Somehow we muddled through the intricacies of they're-there-their, its-it's, and your-you're. The workbooks were a great opening exercise. When one day I declared a moratorium on learning gerunds as a relatively useless pursuit, I discovered next day that the brightest kids had tackled it on their own.

Ah, we had a wonderful time! We were able in those days to tackle anti-Semitism, showing how Shakespeare, in spite of the spirit of his times, tried to justify Shylock's ferocity by mentioning the insults he'd suffered from Christians in the streets of Venice. We invented new products and wrote ad campaigns to sell them (one of my favorites was El Lettucchi, cigarettes made from dried lettuce). I remember all those kids: Bill, Pam, Connie, Fred, Amy, Lenny, Robert, Bernie, Linda...

Yesterday I got an email invitation to join the survivors this weekend for their 60th reunion. It'll take a day off a weekend I'd planned to spend with Bea; but as she points out, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She's been teaching about forty years longer than I did, so I'll acquiesce to her advice. I very much hope that at least one of the attendees will bring up the close call I had one day when during a spelling test I mentioned that my neighbor John B. had caught his fingers in a winch.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“BUSINESS IS GOOD BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE BEING TRAUMATIZED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. UNFORTUNATELY, FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES HAS BEEN DENIED!”

MEETING MEMO

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Tuesday, September 2
OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU central Office, Hardwick.</p> <p>Wednesday, September 3
Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.</p> <p>Thursday, September 4
Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, September 8
Calais Select Board, second Monday of month, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, September 10
Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury</p> | <p>Academy.
Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>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</p> |
|---|--|

TOWN OF GREENSBORO ROAD CLOSURE SHADOW LAKE ROAD

Shadow Lake Road in Greensboro will be closed September 2, for approximately six weeks for bridge replacement. Please follow detour signs. As progress is made, updates will be available.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Care Center celebrates thirty years

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Community Care Center is celebrating its 30th year of caring for area elders. A celebration is planned for Thursday, August 28 from 5 to 8 p.m., at 1784 E. Craftsbury Road. Everyone is invited to the free

event with ice cream for all, music by local performers What Four at 5 p.m., a pie auction with emcee Justin Lander at 6:30 p.m., and a draw with prizes. For more information contact Executive Director Kim Roberge at (802) 586-2415.

Bingo Mondays, American Legion

HARDWICK – Monday night bingo will be held at Hardwick Unit #7 Auxiliary. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Jackpot is at \$1,000. Unit #7 Auxiliary will be donating 25% of monthly bingo profits to a non-profit organization.

August's nonprofit for donations is school supplies for Hardwick area schools. Attendees should bring a school supply item to donate such as pencils, paper, binder or erasers. The kitchen is open through intermission.

Two-town honk and wave, Sept. 2

HARDWICK, CALAIS – Tuesday, Sept. 2, beginning at 10 a.m., Indivisible Hardwick and Indivisible Calais will host a two-town

honk and wave event, to take place at the Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main Street. More information at IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

Celebrating lake associations, Sept. 4

by Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

SOUTH BURLINGTON – The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 4, will celebrate the efforts of area lake associations to preserve and protect Vermont's waters, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in person at the South Burlington Public Library community room and via Zoom. The event is co-sponsored by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

and ponds program manager. Lake Associations presenting their achievements will be Lake Saint Catherine, Lake Eden, Curtis Pond and Lake Fairlee.

Mark Mitchell, Vermont Lay Monitoring Lead, will honor 45 years of the volunteer efforts of lay monitors by reviewing the history of the program.

There will be time for discussion and questions and answers with the speakers.

The seminar is free and open to the public, registration is required to receive the Zoom link or to attend in person at the South Burlington Public Library Community Room. Detailed agenda and registration information is available at vermontlakes.org/event/2025-fovlap-annual-meeting/

GriefShare support group begins Sept. 4

by East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

CRAFTSBURY – GriefShare, a faith-based support group will meet Thursdays from September 4 to November 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the East Craftsbury Presby-

terian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road. Topics for discussion include sadness and loneliness, fear and anxiety, anger, regrets, hope and resilience, and many more. For questions, contact Vicki Strong (802) 754-2790. For more information and to register visit griefshare.org/groups/273981

HED proposes SmartHours Program pilot to start October

HARDWICK – Hardwick Electric Department (HED) has requested approval from the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) to launch a SmartHours Program pilot, which will introduce dynamic electric vehicle (EV) charging rates starting October 1, for

up to 18 months. The program is designed to help customers save on electricity costs by charging EVs during lower-demand, lower-cost hours and will be available on an opt-in basis for up to five residential or small commercial customers. Learn more at vppsa.com/smarthours.



Joe Nudell (far left) led a first-ever blacklight walk on the Hardwick Trails, Saturday under a new moon. About 30 people armed with UV flashlights broke into groups and entered the woods to look at plants, animals and human trash giving off visible after absorbing UV light.

photo by Paul Fixx

ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION 7R1150-2 10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Application 7R1150-2 from Hardwick Area Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1075, Hardwick, VT 05843 and Craftsbury Public Library, 149 Common Loop, P.O. Box 74, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827 was received on August 18, 2025 and deemed complete on August 22, 2025. The project is generally described as the installation of a 20-foot-by-20-foot, 11-foot-tall food storage shed for a community food pantry. The project is located at 149 Common Loop in Craftsbury, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's website (<https://act250.vermont.gov/>) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering the project number "7R1150-2."

No hearing will be held and a permit may be issued unless, on or before September 15, 2025, a party notifies the District 7 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 7 Office at: Act250.StJohnsbury@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. For more information contact Kevin Anderson at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this August 25, 2025.

By: /s/ Kevin Anderson

Kevin Anderson

District Coordinator

374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

802-522-6074

Kevin.Anderson@vermont.gov

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The Taming of the Shrew, presented by the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival

REVIEW

by David Rodgers

PLAINFIELD – The Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival is currently presenting a most unconventional version of William Shakespeare's comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew* in the Haybarn Theatre on the former Goddard College campus, in Plainfield, now called the Creative Campus at Goddard.

It is an imaginative production, directed by Virginia Monte, with a high energy cast of mostly young actors and actresses. The play was written early in Shakespeare's career, somewhere between 1592 and 1595, and has kept its popularity ever since, with more recent adaptations such as Cole Porter's Broadway musical, *Kiss Me Kate*.

This performance combines a number of strands of other theatrical influences, such as the Italian *Commedia dell'arte*, clowning

from circus traditions, Vaudeville slapstick and possibly event stunts from the silent film comedies of the 1920s. The result of this mashup is a kind of nonstop rambunctious physicality which is very entertaining. But it does consciously ignore the elements that players are usually warned to avoid in theatre, which are overacting and straining for effect, as some need to surrender to exaggeration and go with the flow of a cast that is obviously having a lot of fun.

The plot features two young gentlemen, Lucentio from Pisa and Petruchio from Verona, who have come to Padua and become suitors to the wealthy Bianca and Kate, respectively, daughters of the wealthy Baptista Minola family. The conundrum is that someone must marry Kate, who is a dreadful shrew, before her younger and more pleasant sister Bianca can be wed. There is no explanation given as to why Kate is so extremely difficult, although it is observable that her siblings often turn out to have quite different

personalities even though they are raised in a nominally identical environment. Without going into all the machinations of the drama, it becomes Petruchio's job description to "tame" Kate and make her into a compliant wife, which he succeeds in doing as a kind of witty trickster figure, thus freeing Lucentio to marry Bianca for a happy ending.

As the comedy commences, one is struck by the colorfully outlandish costumes, some like the patchwork patterns of *Commedia dell'arte* characters; others just over the top with baroque decorations. There is periodic dancing and interpolation of recorded songs more or less connected to the action. Above all there is a lot of silliness. With some regularity there are clearly identifiable passages of Shakespeare's eloquence, his unmistakable cadence and poetic evocations of nature. To sum it up, the momentum is fast forward so there is never a dull moment, but sometimes it raises issues of the need for a rhythm in comic timing and whether

knock-about-humans can be too repetitive. The final question is, do all these liberties make Shakespeare more accessible to wider audiences?

The whole cast is to be commended for really getting into their roles with admirable enthusiasm. Catherine Grace was Kate, Caleb Roman was Petruchio and Stephanie Seng was his servant Grumio, Charlotte Thornley was Bianca, Calvin Lane was Lucentio, and Tove Wood was his servant Tranio, Mariana Considine was the mother in the Baptista Minola family, Patrick Cope was suitor Hortensio as well as the father of Lucentio, Vicentio, Caira Adams was another suitor, Gremio, and Wesley Grove was the servant Biodello.

Many people were involved in all the technical aspects of this production, too numerous to list, but Tom Blachly should be mentioned as the original inspiration for the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival. The next performances will be August 28, 29 and 30 at 7 p.m., for more information go to theatreengine.com

Nicely varied program performed by Craftsbury Chamber Players in concert

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – The Craftsbury Chamber Players gave the last concert of their season, on August 14, at the Hardwick Town House in a nicely varied program of four American composers: Copland, Kern, Holland and Bernstein in the first half and a clarinet quintet by Brahms in the second.

The performance began with Aaron Copland's (1900-1990) "Nocturne for Viola and Piano," written in 1926.

The nocturne form dates back to Haydn but got its impetus in the 19th century with John Field and Frederick Chopin. It is meant to evoke the quiet meditative beauty of the night, graceful and sometimes with a touch of melancholy, with the right hand on the piano keyboard carrying the melody and the left hand accompanying with broken chords. The sustaining pedal of the modern piano helps to enhance the mood. The nocturne was further developed by Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Faure, Debussy and Scriabin. Here Copland started off the piece slowly with a few sparse notes on the piano, which were then joined by the violin, but with both instruments staying in the darker realm of the lower registers. He sustained that suggestive ambiance

through to an interesting ending. Mary Rowell on violin and Sarah Bob on piano gave a fine rendition of this work.

Jerome Kern (1885-1945) was a popular composer of Broadway musicals of which "Steamboat" (1927) is probably his best. He was a great melodist and two of his songs, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" (1933) and "The Way You Look Tonight" (1934) were arranged for string quartet by Kern and scored by his assistant Charles Miller in 1942.

In the first movement the cello initiates the tone, with pizzicato effects on the other strings, developed further into one of the classics of the American song book in the second section, the A-B-A structure of themes has a particularly beautiful melody, which makes it touching and memorable. Mary Rowell and Mina Lavcheva on violins, Adria Benjamin on viola and David Russell on cello brought out the lyrical qualities of these pieces with their sensitive playing.

Jonathan Bailey Holland (b. 1974) is a contemporary composer whose work, "The Intimacy of Harmony for Solo Piano," was written in 2013. It was characterized by bold ascending chords up the keyboard with a conscious juxtaposition of right and left hands, one more dissonant while the other brighter in tone. Trills added to the complex textures, all of which pianist Sarah Bob handled very skillfully.

The "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano of 1941-42" of Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was an early work by that composer. Its two movements, *Grazioso* and an *Andante-Vivaci e leggiero* showed an articulate interplay of the two instruments, weaving in and out of the shared melody, with shades of dissonance, reflecting strains of earlier 20th century musical experimentation. The second part had staccato rhythms in the piano played by Sarah Bob with a lively progression, while the clarinetist Eileen Mack had an excellent smooth tone that was very engaging.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) wrote some of his most moving compositions late in his life, such as his "Quintet in b minor, Op. 115 for Clarinet, two Violins, Viola and Cello" of 1891, which shows no loss of his musical powers due to aging. The *Allegro* starts off with a totally involving melody rich in harmonic color in the masterful scoring, which transitioned into a second theme of comparable beauty, combining warmth and intimacy. The *Adagio* continues with yet another entrancing melody, giving many exquisite passages to the clarinet, the haunting middle theme having a lot of feeling. The third section, an *Andantino*, had a faster tempo with a lovely tune developed further, having pizzicato textures in the strings and more agitated rhythms. The final movement, *Con Moto*, had the clarinet

thoroughly embedded in the quartet strings in a series of variations, again with glorious musical imagination, with Eileen Mack on clarinet, Mina Lavcheva and Mary Rowell on violins, Adria Benjamin on viola and David Russell on cello, their excellent ensemble coordination brought them an enthusiastic standing ovation from the full house of sophisticated music lovers.

Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the Craftsbury Chamber Players, a season to look forward to celebrate.

Abbey Road concert returns to HCA, Sept. 6

GREENSBORO – The Birdhouse Band again performs the Beatles' entire "Abbey Road" album at the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA), September 6, and at the Plainfield Opera House, September 20. Both events begin at 7 p.m.

After a sold-out HCA performance in August, The Birdhouse Band's celebration of the Beatles continues with two more performances of the 1969 album, "Abbey Road," joined by Plainfield singer-songwriter Jess O'Brien. Local musicians Andrew Koehler, Mavis MacNeil, Roy MacNeil, and Annie Rowell, with special guests Randy Bulpin and Andrew Palumbo, bring their jazz, folk, classical, rock and country influences to the show while staying true to the original record.

OSSU presents “Playing Fields,” Sept. 5, Hazen Union

HARDWICK – The Flynn, in partnership with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU), presents “Playing Fields,” a free community event to kick off the school year. The performance takes place on Friday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. at Hazen Union School (126 Hazen Union Drive). Guests are encouraged to arrive by 5:30 p.m.

This monumental outdoor street show, created by French theater troupe Compagnie OFF, features a herd of five towering red giraffes accompanied by music and special effects. Inspired by clowns, vaudeville and circus traditions, Les Girafes transforms everyday spaces into magical worlds.

“This is the kind of event that

brings entire communities together,” said Dr. David Baker, OSSU superintendent. “We are thrilled to offer an unforgettable evening of joy, creativity, and connection for OSSU families and beyond.”

In addition to the performance, guests are invited to make a day of it by visiting the Hardwick Farmers Market at Atkins Field (140 Granite Street), which opens at 3 p.m. to enjoy a variety of local food trucks and vendors before heading to Hazen Union for the show.

The “Playing Fields” is free and open to everyone. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Additional information about the event at <https://bit.ly/playing-fields>.



Towering red giraffes are part of the “Playing Fields” presentation by the Orleans Southeast Supervisory Union at Hazen Union School, Sept. 5.

courtesy photo

Plainfield Arts presents Phil Henry

PLAINFIELD – Plainfield Arts presents “Phil Henry and the News Feed” at the Plainfield Opera House on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 4 p.m.

Singer-songwriter Phil Henry is a craftsman, singer, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist. His album, “Chasing Echoes,” debuted at No. 2 on folk radio charts.

Henry’s performing resume includes festival appearances at Kerrville Folk Festival (Texas), Black Bear Americana Festival (Connecticut), and SolarFest (Vermont); listening rooms like Club Passim (Massachusetts), Ripton

Coffeehouse (Vermont), and Caffe Lena (New York); and he’s opened for singer-songwriters like Mark Erelli, Richard Shindell, Peter Mulvey, and Vance Gilbert.

As an educator, Phil also brings his passion for performing into the classroom. He was honored to be awarded the Vermont Music Educators Association’s Music Educator of the year.

Admission is by donation. Tickets are available online at plainfieldartsvt.org and at the door. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. The opera house is located at 18 High St.

Fundraiser concert, Aug. 29

by Greensboro Nursing Home

GREENSBORO – An end-of-summer concert to support the Greensboro Nursing Home (GNH) will be Friday, August 29, 7 p.m.. Local musicians Roy MacNeil, Icarus Tyree,

Mavis MacNeil, Andrew Koehler, and Alice Perron will present an evening of folk songs, fiddle tunes, jazz standards, oldies and more in the Greensboro United Church of Christ sanctuary. All donation proceeds will go directly to GNH.

Words Out Loud series begins Sept. 14

CALAIS – “Words Out Loud,” Sunday afternoon fall reading series, returns as part of event offerings for Art at the Kent’s exhibit, “Holding,” at the Kents’ Corner State Historic Site.

“Words Out Loud: Knowing by Heart,” features six Vermont authors, two on each of three Sundays in September.

On September 14, author Gary Clark (poetry) and Helen Whybrow (memoir) will be featured. Presentations on September 21 will be from Diana Whitney (poetry) and

L.N. Bethea. (spoken word poetry). Harmony Belle Devoe and Carlene Kucharczyk will make presentations on September 28.

“Words Out Loud” readings take place at the Old West Church at 3 p.m. Arrive early to allow time for parking and seating at the historic 200-year-old meetinghouse in rural Calais. Bring layers for warmth and leave pets at home.

“Words Out Loud” has been organized by poet Mary Elder Jacobsen with the support of the Art at the Kent curatorial team.

Town of Greensboro
P.O. Box 119 Greensboro, VT 05841
(802) 533-2640 Fax (802) 533-2191
zoning@greensborovt.gov

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Greensboro Town Office and via ZOOM. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by Cindy Stoner for a Shoreland Restoration Project at 719 Craftsbury Road and an After the Fact Conditional Use request for a screened porch rebuild. This request will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Use, 8.7 (B) New Uses and Encroachments within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone, and 8.8 Nonconforming Structures. An in-person site visit for the proposal will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Both the hearing and the site visit are open to the public.

The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: 646 931 3860.

The application is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.gov. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may join the ZOOM hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.gov) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk’s office to comment on the proposed plan.

The Greensboro Development Review Board



Join us,
August 28,
to celebrate 30
years of care,
community and
commitment.

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EVENTS

Thursday, August 28

TREES FOR STREAMS SITE TOUR, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Village Cemetery, Cemetery Road. Tour will go to three sites in the Upper Black River Watershed. RSVP requested. Sign up at tinyurl.com/TFSTour2025

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

STORY TIME, books, songs, art activities and more, for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 Main St., Hardwick. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Saturday, August 30

FARMERS MARKET, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., goat, sheep foot care, music

by Turning Stile, youth sports equipment resource swap.

Monday, September 1

BIKE RIDES on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, with Adaptive Sports Partners, with adaptive loaner bikes, 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road, Hardwick. Reservations and information: kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org or call (802) 427-4116.

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to to a nonprofit organization.

Tuesday, September 2

HONK AND WAVE, 10 a.m., Hardwick Peace Park, 34 South Main Street, and Woldott. Indivisible-Hardwick@pm.me

Wednesday, September 3

RIPPLE EFFECTS: Watershed Forum - Conversations on Water, Wildlife & Climate Change. Dredging Rivers, with Roy Schiff and Shayne Jaquith, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All are welcome. Information: (802) 472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov.

Thursday, September 4

ANNUAL MEETING, Federation of Lakes and Ponds, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., South Burlington Public Library Community Room and via Zoom. vermontlakes.org/event/2025-fovlap-annual-meeting/

Saturday, September 6

FARMERS MARKET, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., foraged flower arrangements, music by Vermont Fiddle Orches-

tra, jars, canning supplies resource swap.

"ABBEY ROAD" CONCERT, Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro, 7 p.m., by Birdhouse Band.

Monday, September 8

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to to a nonprofit organization.

Saturday, September 13

FARMERS MARKET, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., canning skills, music by Vecchio Stile, jams, jellies, preserves resource swap.

Sunday, September 14

WORDS OUT LOUD, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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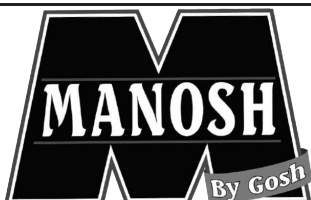
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EVENTS

by Gary Clark and Helen Whybrow. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

Monday, September 15

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

Saturday, September 20

FARMERS MARKET, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., gifts from the garden, music by Leland Swift, drawing and painting supplies resource swap.

"ABBEY ROAD" CONCERT, Plainfield Opera House, Plainfield, 7 p.m., by Birdhouse Band.

Sunday, September 21

WORDS OUT LOUD, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Diana Whitney and L.N. Bethea. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

Monday, September 22

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

Sunday, September 28

WORDS OUT LOUD, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Harmony Belle Devoe and Carlene Kucharczyk. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

Monday, September 29

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to a nonprofit organization.

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

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Crafts-bury Road, Crafts-bury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpson-memorial.org.

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 Crafts-bury Road, East Crafts-bury. 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, Crafts-bury Public Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

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

TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

TAI CHI CLASSES, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

CRAFTING GROUP on Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

MAGIC ON TUESDAY. A group of young people get together at The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games gin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

PARENTING GROUP, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

COMMUNITY SUPPER, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick.

COMMUNITY DINNER, Sterling College, Crafts-bury Common, every Friday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free and open to anyone in the greater Crafts-bury 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 Crafts-bury Community Care Center, the second and fourth Fridays, 3. to 3:45 p.m., 1784 East Crafts-bury Road, Crafts-bury. Offered by Nancy Milholland. Open to all and sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Crafts-bury.

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 Story-time; Friday, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Program. Greensboro Free Library. Information: (802) 533-2531.

PILATES, at the Barn off the Common, Crafts-bury 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., Crafts-bury Public Library.

DANCE, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Crafts-bury Common.

COMMFIT, 6 p.m., Crafts-bury Outdoor Center.

QIGONG, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., at the Barn off the Common, Crafts-bury Common.

CRAFTFIT, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Crafts-bury Outdoor Center.

ALL LEVELS TAIJI, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Fridays, Intermediate Taiji, 10:15 a.m., Barn off the Common, Crafts-bury Common.

CHAIR YOGA, Wednesdays, 9 a.m., Traditional Yoga, 5 p.m., Crafts-bury Outdoor Center.

CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, open 10 a.m. - noon.

FOOD SHARE, noon to 2 p.m., United Church of Crafts-bury.

CRAFTSBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., on the Common.

LEGOS & LISTENING, 3:30 p.m., Crafts-bury 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 Crafts-bury Conservation Commission. Bring water, bug spray, gloves and assorted clippers and shovels.

Exhibits

LULU WOOTTON exhibits her art at the Hardwick Town House, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 to 6 p.m. through July 23 and during Thursday evening concerts.

BEN BARNES, NEK landscape artist, at the Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St. on the third floor, through September.

PERENNIAL INSPIRATION: Floral Art from a Mother and Daughter, artwork from Natalya Zahn and Anci Slovak, Woodbury Community Gallery. Exhibit up until the end of August.

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.

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

OBITUARIES

Gloria B. White

GREENSBORO BEND—A Celebration of Life for Gloria Blanche White, who died June 3, will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14, at her

home, 1452 The Bend Road, Greensboro Bend. Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneralservice.com



Megan Mercier is the new Hazen Union Head Varsity girls coach. She coached the middle school girls for six seasons.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union Varsity players from left include Mya Lumsden, Taylor Thompson, Ella Renaud, Kelsie Rivard with ball, Kennidee Gouin and Brianna Holbrook (back right) as they practice on Hudson Field, Wednesday. Their first home game is scheduled for August 30, against Lake Region at 11 a.m.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

New looks for primed Lady Cats this fall

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Despite having to adjust to their third coach in three seasons and moving up a division, the Hazen Union girls soccer team looks primed to be a contender once again this season.

The Lady Cats soccer program will start a new era this fall, bringing in championship experience under first year head coach Megan Mercier. The longtime Hazen Union teacher and Middlebury College grad won two state titles at Peoples Academy (PA) under legendary soccer coach Jim Eisenhardt. The PA girls program was a juggernaut for two plus decades under Eisenhardt, capturing four straight state titles from 2011 to 2014, and seven total, winning 50 consecutive matches, including back-to-back undefeated seasons in 2012 and 2013. Mercier was a key cog on those Lady Wolves championship teams in 2008 and 2009 and has remained close to the game, coaching middle school soccer at Hazen the last six years. When Jay Terrien abruptly stepped away from the program after one season, Mercier felt the time was right to test her coaching skills at the varsity level for the first time.

“I’ve had most of these girls on my middle school teams and in my classroom over the years and I care about them all very much. When I heard they needed a coach, it felt like the right time to step up. While this certainly is a high level of soccer, I feel ready to help the girls realize their potential and enjoy the sport as much as I have,” said Mercier.

Mercier takes over a program

that won nine games last season and was the No. 3 seed in the Division IV state tournament. Despite the challenges of jumping up a division this fall, the Lady Cats should remain a big factor in Division III, returning nearly their entire roster, while adding another incoming class of talented freshmen.

“I feel so lucky to be part of the girls athletic program at Hazen right now. We have some very competitive and talented athletes across all grades who are not afraid of hard work. More than half of the girls play basketball and have the fire in them to win championships. I hope to channel their innate athleticism and abilities to take on any opponent this season, regardless of division,” said Mercier.

Leading the way for Mercier up front will be senior leading goal scorer and Vermont All-State selection Isabelle Gouin. She also returns junior All-State selection Taylor Thompson and versatile junior Kelsie Rivard, who earned Mountain League First Team honors for her outstanding play in goal and in the field. Rivard and senior Ella Renaud will split time in goal for the Lady Cats and Brianna Holbrook, Julia des Groseilliers, Autumn Dailey, and Craftsbury Academy’s (CA) Adelina Augsberger fortify an experienced defense. Mya Lumsden and CA’s Ada Allen also return to supply some speed on the outside for Mercier.

“All five of my seniors have been phenomenal positive role models and leaders so far, and I’ve been pleased with how they’ve

welcomed the younger girls into the fold. We have a very talented group of freshmen who are learning from our veterans that will contribute greatly as well. The team identified footwork and communication as areas they want to improve on this year, and I feel confident in the depth of our bench. We’re excited for the season, and I know that these girls have what it takes to

give any team in our division a run for their money!” said Mercier.

The Lady Cats will finish up their second scrimmage of the season on Thursday at Lamoille before officially kicking off the season at Hudson Fields on Saturday against Lake Region at 11 a.m. All games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Town of Stowe Be a Road Hero Join the Stowe Highway Crew

The Town of Stowe on the lookout for a reliable, hardy, mission-ready individual to join our elite team as the next Road Hero (aka Light Equipment Operator). A hands-on hero keeping our roads clear, our town connected, and our community safe.

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Caledonia United's Elli Russel of Twinfield controls the ball up Hudson Field as Kobe Smith (left) looks to steal during a scrimmage, Aug. 20. At right watching the play is Wildcat Sully LaFlam.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union's Justin Montgomery (center) runs the ball up the field closely followed by Caledonia United players Charlie St. John (right) of Danville and Judah Klarich (Left) of Twinfield during a scrimmage at Hazen, Aug. 20.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wildcats continue to build offensive attack

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys soccer team will continue to build towards a more offensive attack in head coach Harry Besett's second season as they look to keep up with some of the premier programs in the state in the daunting Capital League.

The Wildcats struggled to compete in the Division II rich Capital once again last season, finishing with four wins on the season. They ended the year on a high note however, taking fourth seeded Caledonia to the wire before ultimately falling 3-2 in the first round of the Division III playoffs. Besett didn't lose a single player

to graduation and hopes to take a step forward this fall with a more experienced squad.

"We have three players not returning to the team this season but had 20 players come out, including several incoming freshmen. We are looking forward to having a great season this year and our young players coming in should round out a very strong starting lineup. We'll look to our seniors to lead our team expectations of sportsmanship, strong work ethic, working as a team on the field, and sticking to the in-game tactics," said Besett.

Hazen's top junior core was led by leading scorer Ryan Morrison and second leading scorer Sully

Laflam, who earned Second Team All-Capital League honors after a breakout season. Fellow juniors Grayson McNaughten and Morgan Michaud also earned league honors anchoring the Wildcat defense last fall. McNaughten has been a staple in goal for the Wildcats since coming over from Craftsbury Academy as a sophomore. Besett's Wildcats will need all the experience they can get in the back third against a murderer's row of high scoring teams in the Capital that include Division II state champion Harwood and defending Division III state champion Stowe.

"We are continuing to work at changing our formation this season to make movement off the ball

simpler and more predictable for each other. With this change, we are hoping to increase our ability to possess the ball, counterattack and create more chances in the final third. We will look to play a lot of one and two touch passes in the middle of the field and also try to create dangerous chances for our wings to get to the corner and drive into the box," said Besett.

Besett's squad have already had preseason tune-ups against Danville and Richford. They are scheduled to officially open the season on the road against Division II Lamoille next Tuesday. They will host Blue Mountain in their home opener at Hudson Fields next Saturday.

Chargers ramp up numbers in second season of new era

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – Maxfield English has had quite a summer dominating on the Central Vermont Runners/Onion River Outdoors circuit and he's hoping his young Craftsbury Academy (CA) cross-country team takes another step towards similar success in his second season at the helm.

English took over for Mike LeVangie last fall after the Craftsbury legend guided CA's program to four consecutive Division III state championships. English was given a clean canvas to construct his own program last

fall, with nearly all of his runners experiencing varsity competition for the very first time. He returns his entire roster, along with some new athletes as they look to make some noise this season in a highly competitive Division III.

"I am excited to be coaching the same great group of athletes again, and some new ones too. I think we have a strong roster this year, and I'm really looking forward to seeing them work together at meets. We have a full boys team this season and are one shy of that on the girls side. We are really hoping to recruit one more athlete so the girls can score as a team.

Regardless, the team is larger than last year, and we are all dedicated to keeping the momentum going at CA," said English.

Incoming seniors Soren Stella-Leonard and Owen McKibben, along with juniors Theo Alexander and Kosmos Glestos, along with sophomore Stig Linck, all qualified for States last season for English at Thetford Academy. A season of high-level varsity competition under their belt could put them in the mix in a boys division led by defending champion Stowe. Linsey Allen returns for the Chargers on the girls side after qualifying for States as just a freshman. Stowe

made it a clean sweep last fall in Division III, edging host Thetford to claim the girls team state title.

"My two seniors, Owen and Soren are great to have back on the team, bringing with them their experience and work ethic. I will be looking to them to impart these qualities on the newer team members. As a team, we will be working on continuing team cohesion and using our new runners to help pace-setting more effectively. Fall is the best time of year to coach and race," said English.

The Chargers are scheduled to open the season next Wednesday at Lyndon Institute.

Expectations high for Cal United boys

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – The Caledonia United boys soccer team more than held their own in their first season in Division III last fall, and with an experienced core returning, expectations are high as they return to Division IV competition.

In their first season as a three-school cooperative (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville), head coach Peter Stratman and his Cal United soccer team tied a program record with 11 wins. They survived a first-round scare from Hazen Union before ultimately falling to a high scoring Fair Haven team in the quarterfinals. Stratman's program has now won nearly 60 matches on pitch since he came over from Cabot over six years ago, including a pair of Division IV Final Four appearances. He lost some firepower from last year's squad in Darshan Eddleman (graduation) and super freshman Omar Miksic-Knibb (leading scorer) but returns plenty of talent for his team to make another run in late October.

"Omar, Darshan, as well as some other talented soccer players won't be on the roster this year and their speed and soccer skills will be missed. But just like any new season, you create a recipe for success with the ingredients you have. Players change every year. Their skill level and development are different every season and therefore you mold your team around those changes. We have a great group of kids here between the three schools and we will develop our identity throughout the course of the season. It is early on in the process and where we want to get to as a team is taken one step at a time with every practice and then every match," said Stratman.

Stratman does return a talented group of seniors led by Vermont All-State selection Eli Russell. The talented multi-sport star tallied double digit goals and assists last fall for a high-powered Cal United offense. Fellow seniors Jola Otten, Sam McLane, Josh Peterson, and Elijah Andrews also return after earning Mtn. League honors for their outstanding play last fall. Junior Evan Whitehead also earned league honors last season and returns his versatility on both sides of the ball. Sophomore Judah Klarich also looks to increase his role on Cal United after a promising freshman campaign.

"Eli is just one of those phenomenal athletes who also gives 1000% effort in whatever he does. He elevates everyone around him, were lucky to have him, and is one of those special players who influences the culture of a program. Evan is a pillar for us in the middle of the field and Elijah is a force of positive energy and naturally creates the kind of team culture that you strive for. Josh had so many big games for us last season in goal. It's great to have his confidence and experience back there and he has big goals this season. Judah is a talented young player, and I look forward to watching him continue to develop. Our seniors are great examples for a large group of freshmen coming in and we are lucky to have coaches like Will Nally and Daren Celley on the staff to give their time and knowledge of having success within the program. They are truly great people and role models for our players, and we couldn't do it without them," said Stratman.

Moving down a division



Kaiden Rogers (Left) of Caledonia United edges the ball ahead of Hazen Unions Nate Hayden, Aug. 20, during a scrimmage at Hazen.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier

this season automatically makes Stratman and his program a Division IV title contender in the eyes of most, but talking about results and who his team's competition might be in late October, couldn't be further from his mind.

"We held our own last season against Division III competition and I'm proud of the way my boys competed and proved they belonged. In the end, it doesn't matter what division were in, our

schedule is our schedule. Our goals remain to compete as a team, have the fire every day to get better, don't look too far ahead, and embrace and trust the process. I'm pleased with our progress so far in practice and scrimmages and we look forward to the start of the season," said Stratman.

Cal United is scheduled to kick off the season in Danville on Friday as they welcome Paine Mountain to town.

Cal United girls retool with youth movement

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Head coach Spencer Morse will tackle gaping holes in his Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) varsity girls soccer team left by a talented graduating class with strong underclassmen numbers this fall, as they look to build off a pair of highly successful seasons as a three-school cooperative.

Morse guided Cal United to the program's first ever Division III playoff win and home playoff match in their first two seasons. He will look to have more success this fall as they drop down to Division IV. To do so, he'll have to fill the holes

left by an experienced graduating class led by three-time Vermont All-State selection Sloane Morse, but his participation numbers are strong in preseason, and he likes his chances of the program continuing to ascend.

"We graduated five senior starters who earned All-State and All-Mountain League honors. They played pivotal roles in our team's success, so this year is as good a time as any to move down a Division. Twenty-three players coming out for the team this fall is very encouraging. Included in that is eight freshmen and that will give us enough numbers to schedule some junior varsity

games this season. The program's future looks solid and I'm excited for our younger players to get a chance to step up and show what they can do as they take over more responsibility within our team," said Morse.

Junior Captain Eliska Siebenbrunner returns for Morse and will take over as leader of the defense in goal. Fellow junior Trinity Madison will also be a captain for Cal United this season, along with sophomore Jaidyn Carson.

"Both of our new captains add not just skill and peer teaching but also exhibit the commitment and positivity that is so crucial in good leadership. We also have some

great supporting cast throughout the lineup and some very coachable players. We expect to see great improvement as the season rolls on," said Morse.

Morse's program won 14 games in a rugged Division III the last two seasons and enters a wide-open Division IV this fall led by a defending champion Richford team that ran the table as an unprecedented #11 seed last fall.

Cal United opens their season at Danville on Friday against a Mountain League powerhouse BFA-Fairfax program that made it to the Division III state title match last season.



U23 Men's Pair Evan Gold, and Jon Denfeld on the water.

courtesy photo



The GRP's winning Senior Women's Quadruple Sculls team of Catie Castle, Cecily Shaber, Paige Wheeler and Charlotte Wiley on the water.

courtesy photo

Canadian Henley wraps summer for Green Racing Project

by Paul Fixx

ST. CATHERINES, ONT. Canada – The Canadian Henley marks the end of summer for the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's (COC's) Green Racing Project (GRP) U23 rowing athletes and four of the GRP Row Senior athletes.

The 141st Canadian Henley Regatta, August 5 to 10, in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada was well-represented by COC rowers, with every athlete competing in at least two events. GRP U23 rowers are Wesley Walker, Dallas Watson, Tatum Swanwick, Manon Field, Cecily Shaber, Jane Doyle, Kate MacBryde, J.P. Denfeld, Evan Gold, Daniel Malecki,

Ben Harper, Sam van Adrichem Boogaert and Conor Kelly

Seniors are Paige Wheeler, Charlotte Wiley, Catie Castle and Evan Hankins-Hull.

Wins were earned by Cecily Shaber and Manon Field in the U23 Women's Double Scull; Ben Harper, Dallas Watson, Sam van Adrichem Boogaert and Dan Malecki in the U23 Men's Quadruple Scull; (Catie Castle, Cecily Shaber, Paige Wheeler, Charlotte Wiley in the Senior Women's Quadruple Scull; and Charlotte Wiley in the Women's Single Dash.

Sam van Adrichem Boogaert, earning second in U23 Men's Single Scull, as did Catie Castle in Senior Women's Single Scull.

Conor Kelly and Dan Malecki earned a third in the Men's Double Scull.

Top ten finishes in Women's Single Scull were posted by Manon Field (4th) and Jane Doyle (6th); in Men's Single Scull by Ben Harper (4th); in Senior Women's Single Scull by Paige Wheeler (4th) and Charlotte Wiley (5th)

Kate MacBryde and Jane Doyle finished 4th, just off the podium in Women's Double Scull.

GRP U23 rowers are headed back to school and racing season with their college teams.

Full race results are at regattacentral.com/regatta/results2?job_id=9649&org_id=5196.



GRP's Cecily Shaber & Manon Field took the win in the U23 Women's Double Sculls field.

courtesy photo



GRP's Charlotte Wiley after her win in the Women's single dash.

courtesy photo



The GRP U23 men's quadruple sculls team of Ben Harper, Dallas Watson, Sam van Adrichem Boogaert and Dan Malecki after their win.

courtesy photo



In victory lane for the Flying Tiger 100 were (from left) Cooper French (3rd), winner Derrick Calkins, Rich Lowrey (2nd).

photo by Alan Ward



Milton's Robert Gordon celebrates his first Thunder Road championship in the 2025 Triple Crown.

photo by Alan Ward

Calkins takes Flying Tiger 100; Gordon earns Triple Crown

BARRE – It all came down to Thursday night for the Triple Crown championship 100 lap showdown. Cooper French and Rich Lowrey kept things interesting at the front of the pack throughout the opening laps with Derrick Calkins keeping up the pressure for good measure. Flat tires ruined the night for both Ty Delphia in the beginning of the race and Sam Caron towards the end as Lowrey yo-yoed between the lead and second against French and Calkins.

With twenty-five laps remaining, Calkins made his move to the front and led for the first time as Milton's Robert Gordon cracked into the top-five underneath Mike MacAskill. A pair of late race restarts threatened the title chase before Calkins came down the line to take the 100 over Lowrey and French. By maintaining fifth, Robert Gordon took the overall as the ninth different

Triple Crown champion, perhaps the most popular victory lane of the summer.

The Street Stocks kicked off feature racing action on the night with veteran Scott Weston and rookie Tyler Wheatley bringing the field to green. Mechanical failure ended Hayden Morris and Walker Fitch's days early while Jamie Davis methodically made his way to the front. The lone caution flag flew for youngsters T.J. Haggett and Jaiden Del Toro's synchronized spin into the infield grass with six laps remaining. Back under green flag it was all Jamie Davis to the bitter end, taking his second win in a hard-fought season with Derek Farnham and point leader Kyler Davis rounding out the top three.

The Late Models put on a spirited battle at the head of the pack all night long. Following a bash-up start with the field spinning in turn four before the

green flag waved, Cody Blake and Stephen Donahue fought door handle-to-door handle through to the lap 31 caution for Brandon Lanphear's turn one spin. Back under green, Donahue rode the outside lane to finally nab the full lead with ten laps remaining, just as Justin Prescott began breathing down his neck. Time ran out for Prescott as Donahue took the win in emotional tribute to his late grandfather Paul Donahue, an instrumental character in the rebirth of the famed Flying Tiger division at Thunder Road and Catamount Stadium in the 1980s. Blake held on to round out the podium.

The Road Warriors rounded out the evening's program with Brandon Premont becoming the second first time winner in as many weeks in the starter division with equally enthused Brayden Murphy tackling second in his first ever podium finish. Cayden Green

repaired his mount to come home third.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS (local competitors)

Flying Tigers – Round No. 3 of Triple Crown (100 Laps)

- 9. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
- 10. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury, Common
- 26. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

Late Models – (50 Laps)

- 7. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
- 23. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

Street Stocks – (25 Laps)

- 9. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield
- 19. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
- 25. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

Road Warriors – (20 Laps)

- 3. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield

Caledonia United soccer back in a familiar position

by Ken Brown

MARSHFIELD – After two years of going up a division for the varsity girls program and one season for the boys, the Vermont Principals' Association have slated Caledonia United back into division IV for the upcoming soccer season.

Head coach Spencer Morse will take on his third season leading the girls program this fall for Cal United, a three-school cooperative made up Twinfield, Cabot and Danville student-athletes. In their inaugural season, Morse led the program to its first ever Division III playoff win, upsetting Lake Region on the road. They had more

success last fall, posting a winning record in the rugged Mtn. League at 7-6-1, while securing their first home playoff match in the Division III state tournament. Cal United fell to Woodstock in a penalty kick shootout thriller. The timing of the Division IV return for Morse and his program couldn't be better. His team will be challenged to fill the holes left by a talented senior class, led by two-time Vermont All-State selection Sloane Morse. Cal United enters a wide-open division that saw eleventh seeded Richford knock off two of the top three seeds to cap off an improbable championship run last November.

On the boys side, head coach Peter Stratman welcomes a return

to Division IV for his talented Cal United team after another double-digit win season in 2024. Stratman's program earned their first ever Division III playoff win last fall in their inaugural season, earning the #4 seed in the state tournament. Fair Haven ended their playoff run in the quarterfinals. Cal United will exit a powerhouse division dominated by Stowe, Peoples Academy and defending champion Green Mountain in recent years. Division IV has plenty of soccer pedigree with the likes of Twin Valley and defending champion Winooski, but Stratman returns a treasure trove of talent on the pitch this fall and will likely be a title contender. Stratman has won

nearly 60 matches since taking over the reins at Twinfield-Cabot six years ago, including a pair of trips to the Final Four. He lost only two seniors to graduation from a team that tied a program record with 11 wins, while navigating the rigors of a highly competitive Mtn. League. Eli Russell and Omar Miksic-Knibb earned First Team All-Mtn. League honors for their outstanding seasons, with Russell also nabbing a VT All-State selection. Miksic-Knibb tallied a team leading 18 goals as a freshman.

Practices around the state are already underway, with the high school soccer season set to start in less than two weeks.