

THE Hardwick Gazette

YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED NEWSPAPER

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

hardwickgazette.org

Volume 136 Number 36

Drought conditions affect Caspian Lake users

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Caspian Lake’s historically low water levels have been the subject of much conversation in a town that depends on the lake to draw summer visitors.

With the lake more than 12 inches below its eight-year average on September 1, and 18 inches below its spring level this year, swimmers at the lake’s beach and those using the Hardwick Electric Departments (HEDs) ramp to launch and retrieve boats have had to contend with a longer distance into deep water, and rocks that are usually well submerged.

For some young swimmers, the low water level has created new adventures as they’ve been more easily able to explore the swim area’s

See **DROUGHT, 4**



Challenging low water conditions at the Caspian Lake boat ramp in Greensboro have meant drivers need to back well past the end of the ramp to launch and retrieve boats. Some have had to move or avoid large stones. photo by Paul Fixx

How AI boosts flood forecasting

by Hannah Fischer

BURLINGTON – Predicting floods, specifically in mountainous terrain, has long been a major challenge. Now, University of Vermont (UVM) scientists have demonstrated how artificial intelligence can significantly improve streamflow prediction in these complex environments.

Research published today in the Journal of the American Water Resources Association reveals that one of the federal

See **FORECASTING, 5**

Head Start moved to early education center

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – The newly-renamed Mountainview Union Early Education Center will now host students from Hardwick Head Start school, having moved from their former Church Street home in the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 of the Free & Accepted Masons.

Details preceding the move were revealed during the August 14 Mountain View

Elementary School District Board meeting.

“We are beyond thrilled to welcome them to our third classroom” stated one board member. An exciting bonus of the partnership, Head Start will be providing a full time chef, creating meals on site with the students. There are currently 21 students enrolled at Lakeview Early Learning Center. With Head Start’s partnership, enrollment is to be increased to 34.

“I just want to thank Beth and Heather at Head Start for quickly collaborating. We were talking about a year from now, trying to enter into a partnership like this, but it happened a lot faster than we thought,” said Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Superintendent Dr. David Baker. “But it really does meet our goal, right, we want to serve all of our kids in this supervisory union, in this early education center. I think it’s going to be a powerful model. . . the turnaround was quick, but again, Head Start brings a lot to the table, not just a chef although we’ll welcome that. Just the alignment with the mission, and the beauty of having that partnership.”

Principal Beth Parker said instruction will be 100 percent merged, “We’re one entity now, and it’s really great.”

Head Start has hired former ---Lakeview Elementary pre-K teacher Robin Schilling. Schilling graduated from Goddard College with a B.A. in Education, with a concentration in school counseling. Schilling also has an A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education from the Community College of Philadelphia. Schilling has been working in preschool classrooms for just over six years, with background in cooperative preschool programs, as well as Reggio-Emilia and Montessori pedagogies.

See **HEAD START, 6**



A truck and trailer prepare to move office furniture and equipment from the Hardwick Head Start school in the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 of the Free & Accepted Masons on Church Street, to new facilities in Greensboro at the newly renamed Mountainview Union Early Education Center, last week. photo by Paul Fixx



The Orton Road-Richards Road’s new concrete bridge deck and wing walls in place, Sunday, August 31. The bridge in Walden is near the road’s intersection with Stannard Mountain Road and just east of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

photo by Paul Fixx



On September 1 at 4:33 p.m., the Hardwick Fire Department was toned to Atkins Lane in Mackville for an oven on fire within the residence. The first engine on scene reported heavy smoke from the building. Air pack crew made entry and removed the oven from the structure. The Greensboro Fire Department assisted and the Hardwick Fire Auxiliary provided drinks and snacks at the station for clean-up. photo from social media

Croissants
HOUSE MADE
BAKED
GOODS
SANDWICHES



COFFEE SHOP
AND BAKERY
SUPPORTING LOCAL & SMALL SCALE
FARMERS, PRODUCERS, AND ARTISTS.

7AM–3PM
SEVEN DAYS/WEEK
FREE WIFI

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department

Disorderly conduct, unauthorized logging

On August 24, at approximately 8:06 p.m., Todd R. Luce was taken into custody for intoxication and disorderly conduct at Jiffy Mart convenience store. Luce was non-compliant and actively resisted arrest. Luce was ultimately taken into physical custody by the Hardwick Police Department and transported to Northeast Regional Correctional Complex for detoxification.

On August 26, at approximately 7:41 p.m., Hardwick Police responded to a one-car motor vehicle crash. After initial investigation it was determined that Edward Heffernan, of New Jersey, was traveling West on Vt. Rte. 15 E in his 2021 Ford Edge when a bear ran into the side of his vehicle

causing damage to the front and rear passenger doors.

On August 28, at approximately 9:22 p.m., Jesse G. Bacon, of Barton, was taken into custody by the Hardwick Police Department for an unauthorized logging operation at 3188 Vt. Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Bacon is being charged with the offense of Timber Theft & Trespass and Unlawful Mischief and was cited to appear in the Caledonia County Superior Court Criminal Division on October 6, at 8:30 a.m.

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

they plead or are found guilty in court.

HARDWICK – On August 25, at 12:32 a.m., Hardwick Police and a Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Deputy responded to a residence in Hardwick for a 911 hang-up call. Upon arrival, officers discovered two family members hiding in the woods outside their home attempting to distance themselves from Zane Davison, age 31, who is homeless. The family members reported Davison chased them with a hammer and threatened to kill them. Davison then proceeded to smash the interior of their residence, including the telephone and electronic devices. Officers searched

the residence and surrounding area but were unable to locate Davison.

On August 26, Vermont Superior Court Caledonia Unit issued an arrest warrant for Zane Davison for the charges of 2nd Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault, 1st Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault, Interference with Access to Emergency Services, and Unlawful Mischief. Bail was set on this warrant at \$200,000 cash.

On August 27, at 12:24 a.m., Morristown Police Department located Davison at the Oxbow Park. He was arrested on this outstanding warrant and lodged at Northeast Correctional Complex.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Thirteen people used AWARE services between August 17 and August 31. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

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

AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

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



September 3 - September 9

Carve Bathing Suits 40% Off. New Kuhl and Toad & Co. for Fall	Sea Best Shrimp, 26-30 ct. Raw Ez Peel. 41-50 ct. CKD Tail on. \$5.99 lb.	
LaCroix 8 Pk. Sparkling Water \$3.99 96 oz.	Fever Tree 4 Pk. Mixers \$4.79 27.2 oz.	Maxwell House Ground Coffee \$6.99 10.3-11.5 oz.
G.M. Assorted Cereals 2/\$6 8.9-12 oz.	Ragu Pasta Sauce 2/\$4 23.9-24 oz.	Prince Pasta 4/\$5 12-16 oz.
Kraft Deluxe Mac & Cheese Dinner 2/\$6 12-14 oz.	Progresso Vegetable Soups 2/\$4 18-19 oz.	Bush's Baked Beans \$2.69 28 oz.
Wishbone Salad Dressing 2/\$5 15 oz.	Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$5.49 15-30 oz.	Vlasic Pickles 2/\$5 16-24 oz.
Betty Crocker Cookie Mixes 2/\$5 17.5 oz.	Jello Gelatin or Pudding Mix 4/\$5 .3-3.4 oz.	Nabisco Family Size Snack Crackers \$3.99 12.5-14 oz.
Breton Crackers \$2.99 6.1-7.3 oz.	Kleenex Upright Facial Tissue \$2.19 60-70 ct.	Cabot Bar or Shredded Cheese 2/\$6 6-8 oz.
Planet Oat Oatmilk \$2.99 52 oz.	Breyers Ice Cream \$4.99 48 oz.	Hood Ice Cream \$3.49 48 oz.

The Willey's Store Since 1900 Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

True Value

- Full-service Grocery & Hardware • Clothing
- Footwear • Housewares • Hunting & Fishing
- Coffee Bar • Beer & Wine • Toys • Gifts

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

Contents

Police Report.....	2-3
Weather Watch	3
Church Services.....	6
Planning commission holds housing workshop	7
CAE releases Atkins Field video, solar array project to be built.....	8
State's oldest fair ends 179th year, offering family fun, ag exhibits	9
Koch-funded campaign tries to reverse climate change.....	10
McKibben details how renewable energy revolution bolsters economy.....	13
News Notes	14
Editorial: Thanks for the flood of donations, let's deal with the damn dam	15
Yankee Notebook: The weak link was the ferry across the lake.....	16
Weeks Gone By: August 27, 1925.....	17
Another Opinion: Murphy, T.H. Breen.....	18-19
Legislative Report: Beck	18
Heller's World (cartoon)	18
Voices of Spirit: Sow seeds of the spirit	19
The Outside Story: Bobolink birds on the decline.....	20
In the Garden: Drought stress, Rascally rabbits.....	21
Our Communities	22, 24
Education.....	23-24
Obituaries: Highberger	24
Call to artists.....	25
Cheese, culture festival	25
Review: Cecilia, Quebec music trio, presents vibrant concert	26
Plainfield Arts presents Phil Henry.....	26
Review: Historian tells East Craftsbury Library history.....	27
Bread and Puppet Theater begins tour	27
Review: Davis recounts Hardwick childhood, lucky life	28
Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers play Sept. 12.....	28
Events	29-30
Lady Cats get clipped in season opener.....	31
Cahoon back in Late Model victory lane.....	31
Cal United boys don't miss a beat in opener	32
Huge win for Cal United girls to start season.....	33
Marshfield's Green takes Road Warrior win.....	34
Ken Brown's Golf Roundup	35

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

August 24: Intoxication, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Intoxication, Mill St.

August 25: Assault, Baker Hill Dr.; Littering, Vt. Route 15 W.; School Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Citizens Dispute, Wolcott St.

August 26: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Information, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Agency, Granite St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 16; Medical, Maple St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 E.

August 27: Dead Body, Slapp Hill.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.

August 28: Directed Patrol, S. Main St., Traffic Hazard, Hardwick St.; VIN Verification, Crafts-bury Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event,

Vt. Route 15; School Event, S. Main St.; Assist - Agency, Slapp Hill; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Citizen Dispute, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 E.

August 29: Directed Patrol, S. Main St., Fingerprints, High St., Fingerprints, High St.; Fire, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St., Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 E.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

August 30: Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St., Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

August 31: Accident - Property Damage Only; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist - Public, Vt. Route 16, Citizen Dispute, Evergreen Manor Dr., Citizen Dispute, Spruce Dr.

Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Media Log

WOLCOTT – August 21, Animal Problem, 678 Brook Road; Theft, 62 Richard Woolcutt Road. August 19, Directed Patrol, Elmore Pond Road; Accident - Injury to Persons, Vt. Route 15.; Directed Patrol, East Hill Road.; Directed Patrol, Vt. Route 15. August 18, Traffic Stop,

Town Hill Road; Directed Patrol, Town Hill Road; Lost Property, Wing Road.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15. August 17: Juvenile Problem, Mills Road. August 16: Suspicious Event, Heath Road.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15; August 15: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

Berlin Police Department Multiple active warrants lead to arrest

BERLIN – On August 27, officers spotted a female they recognized as Tyler Ehmann, of Marshfield, and knew she had an active arrest warrant. Dispatch confirmed Ehmann had multiple warrants. Warrants were issued from the Washington County Superior Court for failing to appear in court on July 17 on a misdemeanor charge of providing false information to law enforcement, with bail set at \$500.

Additionally, there was a confirmed warrant from the Caledonia County Superior Court for failing to appear in court on August 18 for a felony count of cocaine sale (less than 2.5 grams), three felony counts of heroin possession (1 gram or more), five counts of dispensing or selling regulated drugs in a

dwelling and three violations of probation. The judge set bail at \$2,000.

Ehmann was taken into custody without incident.

She was processed at the Berlin Police Department due to her active warrant and issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division, on August 28, at 12:30 p.m., to answer the charges. Ehmann was detained at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for failing to post \$2,500 bail.

The Berlin Police Department has no control over bail or detention. These matters are managed by the judicial system, including judges, court clerks and the state's attorney's office.

Vermont State Police Negligent operation, unlawful mischief

CABOT – August 21, at 5:40 p.m., Vermont State Police were advised of a motor vehicle complaint on U.S. Route 2 in the town of Cabot heading into Danville. Witnesses advised the motor vehicle was driving erratically. On August 24, Anthony Gibson, aged 22, was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court Washington Criminal Division on October 16 at 8:30 a.m. to answer the charge.

CABOT – August 24, at 7:20 p.m., Troopers from the Berlin Barracks investigated a possible

Disorderly Conduct on Vt. Rte. 215 in the town of Cabot. Troopers identified Stuart LaClair, age 36, of Cabot as the person of interest. The investigation concluded LaClair had operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, committed Aggravated Domestic Assault, committed Unlawful Mischief and committed Disturbing the Peace by Electronic Communication. LaClair was subsequently placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI and was brought to the Berlin Barracks for processing.

WEATHER WATCH

Periods of showers in the forecast; turning colder

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Conditions are partly sunny looking outside this Tuesday morning, following a Labor Day that featured some clouds from an approaching disturbance to our south. Overnights have been cool with low temperatures falling into the 40s, and highs reaching up to 80 degrees on Labor Day, following several days with highs in the 60s.

Although clouds were more abundant than originally expected, another week went by with only 0.27" of precipitation observed. The U.S. Drought Monitor has us in moderate drought conditions this week.

Interestingly enough, an upper-level low over us on Friday led to several rounds of scattered showers, the source of most of our total for the week. The scattered distribution pattern of rainfall led to some places receiving higher amounts with heavier showers. Crafts-bury reported 0.71". Many other areas reported 0.20-0.50". A couple of stations in Underhill and New Haven came in with over an inch of rain. We still have a gap to close before we have some resolution of the drought.

We start the forecast period with some breaks in the clouds and seasonable temperatures. We remain largely under the influence of an upper-level trough over the

eastern United States, so a chance for showers over the terrain today cannot be ruled out. Some ridging occurs tomorrow with sunnier conditions, before another low-pressure system pinwheels through the Great Lakes region toward us tomorrow night, with a chance for some showers lasting into Friday.

The low-pressure system will then swing a cold front through the northeast on Saturday with a renewed chance for some showers and thunderstorms. The rain will keep us from slipping further into a deficit but will do little to put us ahead. Things will be much cooler to wrap up the weekend, with highs in the 60s and lows near 40. Sunshine will

return a little despite the chill in the air as high pressure builds in again. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Scattered showers in the afternoon. High: 76. Low: 46. Calm wind.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Becoming cloudy by evening with showers likely. High: 79. Low: 54. South wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, Scattered showers. High: 75. Low: 58. South wind 5-10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. High: 74. Low: 45. South wind 5-10 mph, becoming west.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 65. Low: 41. Calm wind.

Drought

Continued From Page One

informally-named boulders: “Big Yellow,” “Little Yellow” and “Fisherman’s.” Many new boulders well outside the swim area are now close enough to the surface that adventurous swimmers can locate and stand on them.

The low water level has prevented the launching and retrieving of some large watercraft, and all boaters have had to back well off the end of the ramp, where they’ve had to contend with, and sometimes move, large stones.

At the August Greensboro Association meeting, Stew Arnold reported on lake conditions and John Clark raised the issue of how the low lake level affects recreation and whether the dam might be adjusted to raise the level.

Two weeks ago, Hardwick Town Manager David “Opie” Upson said the state was recently asked to close the weir at the Caspian Lake dam, but denied the request.

The lake level is down well over 18 inches from its spring level and roughly 40 inches from its level July 10 to 12, 2023, when a sheet of water was flowing over the wall south of the dam’s spillway.

High water at Caspian Lake isn’t unusual as a report by John Schweitzer in June 2019 noted, “Shoreline flooding and ice damage, particularly along the north and west shores of the Caspian Lake occurred again this winter. The damage was due mostly to the highest water levels in the past 20 years. On April 22, the water measured 29 inches above the spillway and breached the top of the concrete dam.”

Schweitzer’s measurement, September 1, showed the lake level now 11 inches below the spillway, 40 inches below its high level in 2019 and 2023.

The Greensboro Association (GA) was formed over 90 years ago with a goal of protecting Caspian Lake. Schweitzer is among a group of its volunteer Watershed Stewards who “. . . take a stewardship role in monitoring the lake level and making emergency requests regarding the lake level, acting as liaisons with the state (who controls the level), and HED (who owns the dam), as well as with other local entities and state agencies,” they wrote in a recent message with FAQs “intended to help clarify how the lake level is currently managed.

“Over the past 10 years, the GA has requested greater control of Caspian’s lake level management on the basis that the shoreline is stressed by human impact, the dam is stressed (currently rated poor in reports), and the extreme highs and recent lows of the lake level may be adversely affecting the health of the lake. This conversation is ongoing regarding lake level management practices with the state and dam repairs with HED.”

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), which has



Measurements on Labor Day, Monday show the Caspian Lake level at 11 inches below the spillway. The average September 1 water level over the past 8 years has been 12.2 inches higher, confirming anecdotal reports that the lake is at an historic low. photo by Paul Fixx

jurisdiction over the waters of all the state’s inland lakes, is responsible for managing levels for each body of water, said the GA FAQs. The DEC no longer allows utilities to manage lake levels through storage and dispersal for hydroelectric production and now controls the adjustment of the utility dams.

The Caspian Lake dam was built in 1926. From 1926 through the late 1940s the lake was subject to dramatic drawdowns each fall. Since then, the lake has more or less maintained its present levels.

The Caspian Lake dam has a weir gate that can influence the lake levels. HED has the key to the weir to adjust flow through the dam, but is not permitted to adjust the weir gate without DEC’s approval and the DEC has instructed all utilities to leave lake levels to a run of nature.

The weir gate has allowed 11 inches of water to flow beneath it since it was set there just before the July 10, 2024 storm with approval of DEC Dam Engineer Ben Green. With the weir set at the 11 inch opening, “the lake level increased to just shy of breaching the southern dam wall before receding. The lake level remained above averages until late June of 2025,” said the FAQs.

Requests were made by the watershed stewards, first in early August, and again August 28, to adjust the weir setting to slow the decreasing lake level resulting from the drought conditions, forecasted to continue beyond 30 days, and because the current lake level is below the footings of the dam, therefore causing minimal stress on the structure.

The DEC’s Green denied both requests, explaining in response to the second, “Low flows and levels are being observed at lakes, reservoirs and streams throughout Vermont. At this time, further reducing flows to downstream receiving waters is not being allowed and adjusting gates more closed to

more open later on violates water quality requirements and given the dam safety considerations here, is not preferred.”

The watershed stewards said they, “have worked diligently for many years to document and advocate for greater local control of Caspian’s lake levels, but devastating back-to-back flooding events have delayed progress. The DEC is continuing to listen to the GA requests for greater control and has planned a program review to establish such a process.

“As Vermont’s drought conditions continue, the GA’s Watershed Stewards will continue to closely monitor Caspian Lake and its interconnected ecosystems.”

With the lake water level low, deep vertical cracks can be seen in the concrete structure

next to the weir and a wall to the north of the spillway is falling into the lake. In evaluating the risk of raising the water level, the state must take into account the roughly 850 million gallons of water held back by the dam between its current level and its April 22, 2019, level, 40 inches higher.

Historical reports of the lake level prior to construction of the dam were five inches lower than they are now, said Schweitzer.

After leaving Caspian Lake, Greensboro Brook enters the Lamoille River in Greensboro Bend, just after it passes under Vt. Route 15. It then flows through Hardwick and other downstream towns until it reaches the first downstream measurement gauge in Johnson. The river level there was just under two feet Monday, 26 percent of normal and down 6 percent in the past day, according to USGS data. The river there was at 17.82 feet on July 11, 2024, and two feet higher, at 21.01 feet on the same date in 2024. Both are well below the 27 feet estimated there almost 100 years ago, on November 4, 1927.

The Lamoille River’s final destination, in Lake Champlain, was at 93.41 feet Monday, about a foot below its average for that date of 94.4 feet. That’s similar to the level of Caspian Lake now, a foot below its recent historical average.

Lake Champlain’s minimum for that date was 92.76 feet, in 1934, not much above the 92.09 foot level, its lowest ever, on January 4, 1908.

“With rocks and debris sticking out from the water, propellers are being damaged, and docking has become more challenging,” reported WPTZ last week, before the holiday weekend, At that level state park attendants and marina owners have been warning boaters there to operate with greater caution, said the report.



Since 1975
Celebrating 50 Years – Thank You!

**Fresh Local Produce, Café,
Organic & Natural Foods and more!**

Visit www.buffalomountainmarket.com/sales/

Open 7 Days a week | 802.472.6020 | info@bmfc.coop
Mill Street, Hardwick VT

COOPERATIVELY OWNED

Calderwood

INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

132 South Main St.
Hardwick, VT
802-472-5517
www.calderwoodins.com



Mike Gauthier, CIC
mikeg@calderwoodins.com

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Trusted Choice

Forecasting

Continued From Page One

government's newer forecasting systems, the National Water Model, can be significantly enhanced with AI and real-time data. The UVM team has developed a new model that implements these developments, providing more reliable predictions of peak streamflow and timing, particularly in mountainous regions where current forecasts frequently fall short.

"Our machine learning framework can be used as an advanced error-correction tool for the National Water Model (NWM)," says Mirce Morales-Velazquez, the study's lead author. "While we initially tested it on past NWM simulations in mountainous watersheds, it is adaptable and can be used to improve future forecasts. It holds significant potential for enhancing performance across a wide range of catchments throughout the contiguous United States."

Most of the world's river systems originate in mountainous settings, where they play a critical role in determining water quality, quantity, flooding, and nutrient movement.

Yet, despite their importance, these headwater streams are often inaccurately represented in forecasts across the United States, creating serious gaps in high flow and flood prediction.

These imprecisions have real-world consequences. Mountain communities are especially vulnerable to flash floods and extensive erosion damage. In July 2023 and again in July 2024, catastrophic flooding in Vermont caused over \$2.2 billion in damage, destroying property, washing out roads and bridges, and triggering landslides and mudslides.

"Given the increasing frequency and severity of floods, accurate forecasting is extremely important," explains Morales-Velazquez, a post-doctoral scholar at UVM's Water Resources Institute and the Department of Geography and Geosciences. Not only do these predictions guide emergency warnings, but they shape community planning, infrastructure decisions, and response efforts.



The flooding in 2024 washed out roads and bridges across Vermont.

photo by the UVM Spatial Analysis Lab.

The newly-published research, led by UVM researchers Dr. Mirce Morales-Velazquez, Dr. Andrew Schroth, and Dr. Beverley Wemple, in collaboration with U.S. Geological Survey scientist, Dr. James Shanley, found that the National Water Model (NWM) consistently underestimates streamflow in complex watersheds, particularly during snowmelt, spring runoff, and high flow events.

To address these shortcomings, the researchers developed a new AI model that leverages real-time data, including rainfall, snowpack, and stream water levels, with NWM predictions. The model resulted in a dramatic improvement in hourly streamflow accuracy, better predicting both the magnitude and timing of high flow, which triggers floods.

"There's often a significant lag between research advancements and their full implementation in operational models," says Andrew Schroth, associate professor of Geosciences at UVM and principal investigator of the project funding this study. "A post-processing tool like this offers a flexible, relatively quicker way to bridge that gap and deliver immediate, actionable improvements to forecasts. As model development evolves over time, this tool can relatively seamlessly become incorporated in new models. This is particularly important in the case of the National Water Model, as it is constantly

evolving and improving through federal, private and academic collaborations, many of which are facilitated by the Cooperative Institute of Research to Operations in Hydrology, of which UVM is a key partner institution."

The model benefits from low-cost water level sensors, collecting data from streams at frequent intervals. These relatively inexpensive instruments help fill gaps in the nation's stream gage network and help improve model performance, specifically in small, steep watersheds that often trigger floods in settings like those of the mountains of Vermont, but are rarely monitored.

This work provides a template for empowering local communities to improve the performance and inherent utility of the National Water Model for their watershed of concern.

The team evaluated NWM performance in 19 mountainous watersheds across the Northeast and tested the AI correction model on five areas across Vermont. In all locations, the newly developed AI model outperformed the NWM. It reduced streamflow errors by more than 60% and more accurately improved peak timing predictions by several hours.

This method is scalable, offering a road map for boosting flood resilience in complex terrain. With many local meteorological and water level sensors already in place across the United States, this AI-enhanced model can be deployed widely, and affordably.

The team's approach can transform the National Water Model into a far more valuable tool for predicting flow, especially for communities in flood-prone mountainous terrain that dominate so much of the interior eastern U.S. from Georgia to Maine. This tool has potential to both improve resilience and save lives.

The study was supported by NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology, which aims to advance the capacity for operational hydrologic forecasting of streamflow, floods, droughts, and water quality.



Porter Brook, entering Caspian Lake's north side, to the west of the Highland Lodge Beach, has slowed to a trickle between sandbars that are usually submerged. In many years it's been possible to get a canoe or kayak up Porter Brook until fallen trees block the path.

photo by Paul Fixx



The low flow of water in Greensboro Brook as it passes under Vt. Route 16 in Greensboro Bend is explained by historically low water levels in its Caspian Lake source. Browning vegetation along the roadway and rail trail confirm drought conditions and the start of meteorological fall Monday

photo by Paul Fixx



HeadStart students will call Robin Schilling's classroom home this year, having moved from their previous lodgings at the Caspian Lake Lodge on Church St. photo by Raymonda Parchment



The newly renovated purple room will host the students of Juliana Greene, Lakeview Early Education Center's latest addition to their growing staff. photo by Raymonda Parchment

Head Start

Continued From Page One

"The most important thing about working with three- and four-year-olds for me is empowerment and liberation. We do a lot of social emotional work for kiddos to learn how to co-regulate and eventually self regulate. In my classroom, we always say that we are so capable!"

Schilling says they are excited to be teaching more children and to be partnering with Head Start this year, "This means we will be able to serve even more children and families at Lakeview, which was always our goal. So far these children are inspiring, gentle, kind, silly and ready to adventure forth."

Last year, Schilling had a class of eight children and seven

families. "Together we founded a brand new program in a pre-existing elementary school with a long history and traditions all their own. I am already missing my three kindergarten kiddos and families, shout out to those fabulous humans, and am so happy to be seeing 5 of my kids from last year everyday on the playground."

"Lakeview is such a beautiful building with so many possibilities. We're nestled in a really incredible community in terms of enriching experiences for young children. I especially want to mention the Greensboro library and Emily, the children's librarian there, and all of the wonderful programs they have. Last year, my preschool class walked to the library and got to do story time

there, and it was a really magical experience."

"As an early childhood educator, I feel really emotional about the equity that Lakeview could provide to the community. Starting kiddos from so many different towns and villages here in the same place feels like

a really grounded way to welcome our youngest learners. I hope that we can start by teaching them what school can be. School can and should be a place where all kids have a right to learn and shape their classroom. School should be a place that feels safe and joyful. We can do so much together."

CHURCH SERVICES

Hardwick

UNITED CHURCH OF HARDWICK. 216 South Main Street. 802-472-6800 for information. Sunday Service, 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Livestreaming. Communion Service first Sunday of month. Jean Hackett, Music Director. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Masks optional.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 39 W. Church St., 802-472-5979. Office hours Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. All invited; all welcome. Sunday 10 a.m. Rite II Service with music. Coffee hour immediately following service.

ST. NORBERT CHURCH, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, Father Raj Madri, S. Main St., PO Box 496, Hardwick, VT 05843; mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net; 802-472-5544. Office Hours: Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Confessions before Masses.

HARDWICK BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 296 S. Main St. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon; Thursday 6:30 p.m. For transportation or information call 802-472-5294.

East Hardwick

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

Albany

ALBANY METHODIST CHURCH. Route 14, Albany, Vt. Rev. Nathan Strong 802-754-2790. "Join us in getting to know Jesus and the life He gives." Sunday services: 10 a.m. Worship and Sunday School.

Cabot

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

Calais-Woodbury

CALAIS-WOODBURY UNITED CHURCH, Worship and Sunday School, Rt. 14, South Woodbury Church, Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. Church Phone: 802-232-1013. Information: 802-456-1557.

Craftsbury

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CRAFTSBURY; an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome. Church Phone: 802-586-8028. Information: www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com. Find us on Facebook, or e-mail unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 21 Creek Road, Craftsbury. No scheduled Masses. Our Lady of Fatima is part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish in Hardwick. Please call 802-472-5544. mqasvt.org. email:

mqas@vermontcatholic.org.

EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. 1773 East Craftsbury Rd., Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m. (Handicapped accessible.) Bible Study at 10 a.m. Masks optional. Worship led by Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Tel. 802-586-7707. Email: ecpcvt@gmail.com. Website: www.eastcraftsburypresbyterianchurch.org.

Danville/West Danville

WEST DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rt. 15, (across from Joe's Pond). Pastor Pam Smith. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.

DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Danville Green. Rev. Henry Cheney, 802-684-3389. Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH. Danville. Our service book is the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. For information on worship service day and time, please call 802-755-6341 or 802-472-3324.

Derby Line

FIRST UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF DERBY LINE, P.O. Box 454, Derby Line, VT 05830. Information: 802-873-3563, derbylineuu.org. We are a Welcoming Congregation. 10 a.m. Service. Zoom Service.

Greensboro

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 165 Wilson St. 802-533-2223. (Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Weekly 10 a.m. Sunday Services. Also offered online. Communion Service first Sunday of the month. Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters, Pastor. Hal Parker, Music Director. Coffee hour following service. We are an Open & Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Website: guccvt.org.

Greensboro Bend

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, Father Raj Madri, 802-472-5544. Mass - Sunday 10:30 a.m. Confessions before Mass.

Hyde Park

TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Rt. 15 East, Hyde Park. 802-888-7326. Pastor Ron Doyle. A small church with a big heart, where the full gospel of Jesus Christ is preached. Sunday morning Worship Service, 11 a.m.

Johnson

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST of Latter-Day Saints, Rte. 15 W, Johnson. Sacrament Mtg. Sundays, 9 a.m. Visitors Welcome. Bishop Erik Worthington, 802-326-3035, www.mormon.org.

Marshfield

UNITED CHURCH OF MARSHFIELD. Pastor Carlyle Pierce, Tel. 802-684-2114. Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School.

St. Johnsbury

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE, Hospital Drive, St. Johnsbury. Meeting both in-person and on Zoom. Information: 802-748-5683 or www.congregationbeth-el.org.



New supplies are ready and waiting for pre-K students enrolled at the Mountaintopview Early Education Center, located at the former Lakeview Elementary school campus. photo by Raymonda Parchment

Planning commission holds housing workshop



Community members share lunch prepared by the Greensboro Planning Commission to kick off the Housing Workshop, August 23, at the Greensboro United Church of Christ. GPC courtesy photo



Mark Kane, SE Group Managing Director, Communities (standing, right of center), leads his team of consultants in sharing the workshop format and presenting an overview of the current housing situation in Vermont and implications for Greensboro. About 50 community members attended the Greensboro Planning Commission's workshop, August 23, at the Greensboro United Church of Christ. GPC courtesy photo

by Kent Hansen and Liz Steel
GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Planning Commission (GPC) held a community housing design workshop with lunch, Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC).

The collaborative, hands-on event was part of Greensboro's ongoing effort to explore options that respond to the town's growing housing access needs. The workshop had over 50 community members present. The GPC will use information gained from the workshop as it works to develop an updated town plan. The workshop was facilitated by planning consultants from the SE Group out of Burlington, funded by a municipal planning grant.

Attendees were presented with an overview of key regional and statewide land use considerations and housing challenges. That information was put to use as

they explored hypothetical housing sites and layout options.

Three small group break-out sessions allowed community members to dig deeper into some of the different housing options, providing an opportunity to collaborate with neighbors in making contributions to shape future development directions in Greensboro.

The planning commission expects to receive SE Group's report later this year, summarizing the event, with their research, analysis and recommendations as input to the Greensboro Town Plan, and plans to share the report with the community.

A recording of the SE Group overview presentation, together with a link to the handout provided to all attendees, will be available on the Greensboro Planning Commission webpage greensborovt.gov/greensboro-planning-commission/.



Mark Kane (seated right of center), SE Group Managing Director, Communities discusses adaptive reuse, mixed-use development opportunities and river-corridor environment concerns in Greensboro Bend, with a breakout group at the Greensboro Planning Commission Housing Workshop, August 23, at the Greensboro United Church of Christ. GPC courtesy photo



Elena Juodisius (standing), SE Group Landscape Designer, leads a breakout session looking at development opportunities within existing housing, renovating current structures, or adding accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or duplex homes, during a community housing design workshop, at the Greensboro United Church of Christ, August 23. GPC courtesy photo



Patrick Olstad, SE Group Senior Associate, Landscape Architect, shares possible rural land development scenarios incorporating conservation values with a workshop breakout group, August 23 in Greensboro. GPC courtesy photo

You do NOT live in a news desert, thanks to The Hardwick Gazette

Keep local news alive. **DONATE NOW** at hardwickgazette.org/donate

No one else is covering your town, your sports teams, your events, your town government. Democracy needs news. We need you. We exist because of your support



CAE releases Atkins Field video, solar array project to be built

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) has produced a video titled, “Atkins Field: A Community Site of History and Future Participation.” It tells the story of Atkins Field through video footage, current and historic photos and comments from young and old community members. And, despite funding challenges, a solar array planned for the new Food Hub building will be built.

“The video focuses on Atkins Field past, present, and future. From youth to elders, intergenerational connection and a deeper connection to the land through the use of Atkins Field, is helping redefine and encourage future visions,” noted a CAE newsletter announcing the release of the video Sunday. See the video here. “Atkins Field is a dynamic community gathering place in Hardwick, Vermont,” said the announcement. “It is stewarded by the Center for an Agricultural Economy, and has served different purposes over the years including being the site for community celebrations, the Hardwick Area Farmers Market, community gardens, a small orchard, and pump track, among other uses.”

While the field flooded in July 2023 and 2024, due to its proximity to Cooper Brook, which overflowed its banks, the relatively new pavilion there weathered both storms, but portions of the community garden have been moved to an area behind Hazen Union

School. “. . . That has spurred a call for rethinking how best to use this space,” said the CAE.

The CAE’s Executive Director Jon Ramsay shared news that the organization has made a “continued commitment to completing the renewable energy project at the Food Hub despite the loss of \$250,000 in previously secured federal grant funding for the solar array. The solar array will provide long-term environmental benefits and play a crucial role in the sustainability of this critical new piece of local food systems infrastructure. It will also help keep costs down for the farms using the facility; a direct benefit to their operations. It marks an important milestone in CAE’s commitment to being a good steward of the land.”

Ramsay reports that \$400,000 in previously awarded federal grants have been determined since January 1. That included \$100,000 for the CAE’s Community Connections work and \$50,000 for Farm Connex, in addition to the \$250,000 for the solar array.

“These losses are significant, and they reflect only one organization’s experience. While the loss of funding has forced us to re-examine and adapt some of our programs, the work will continue, even if it looks a bit different than in years past. That continuity is made possible in large part by the strong local relationships that sustain and support us,” said Ramsay.

“CAE’s programs and facilities directly impact thousands



Tents of the Hardwick Farmers Market fill the area where the Atkins Field Pavilion is now; between Granite St. to the left, the roof of a historic granite shed to the right, and the roof of a building at the top that has been removed. The Hardwick Community Garden and greenhouse is in the top right.

courtesy photo from Atkins Field video footage

of people,” wrote Ramsay. “Hundreds of jobs and over \$20 million dollars of local economic activity is generated from CAE’s work annually. This is why, despite these challenges, CAE continues to support the people, farms, and food businesses who rely on our services.

“We will keep building strong relationships and working alongside those committed to local, community-based solutions,” concluded Ramsay.

The new video was created in collaboration with Martha Caswell and Katie Horner, video by Elizabeth Rossano Films, drone footage by Kyle Gray and content from Hardwick Community Television. It was edited by

Myles David Jewell, with graphics by Peltz Creative. CAE staff involved in the project were Bethany Dunbar, Reeve Basom, Hayley Williams, Lylee Rauch-Kacenski, Kelly Stokes and others. The video came about through a two-year partnership funded by a grant from the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships, which helps to create university-community partnerships to benefit rural places. This project involved the CAE; Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO), Rural Vermont and The University of Vermont’s Institute for Agroecology (IfA)

Learn more about the CAE and the video at hardwickagriculture.org.



Johnson Paving Company workers of Barre pull up the old pavement at Mary Queen of All Saints Parish St. Norbert Church parking lot, August 20.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Workers for the Johnson Paving Company put down new asphalt on the Mary Queen of All Saints Parish St. Norbert Church parking lot, August 21 and 22.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

You do NOT live in a news desert, thanks to The Hardwick Gazette No one else is covering your town, your sports teams, your events, your town government. Democracy needs news. We need you. We exist because of your support

Keep local news alive. **DONATE NOW** at hardwickgazette.org/donate



State's oldest fair ends 179th year, offering family fun, ag exhibits

by **Raymonda Parchment**

LYNDONVILLE – The Caledonia County fair ended its 179th run Sunday, Aug. 24, with families enjoying their choice of over thirty carnival rides and exhibitions featuring FMX freestyle dirt bikes, birds of prey and reptiles.

Located in the heart of Lyndonville, the state's oldest fair was first held on September 15, 1855.

Both children and adults had their opportunity to participate in a demolition derby on Sunday. The little ones competed in the early afternoon, giving them ample recovery time before their return to school last week.

Later in the day, their parents and other adults had their time to shine as the sound of metal crashing into metal echoed across the fairgrounds.

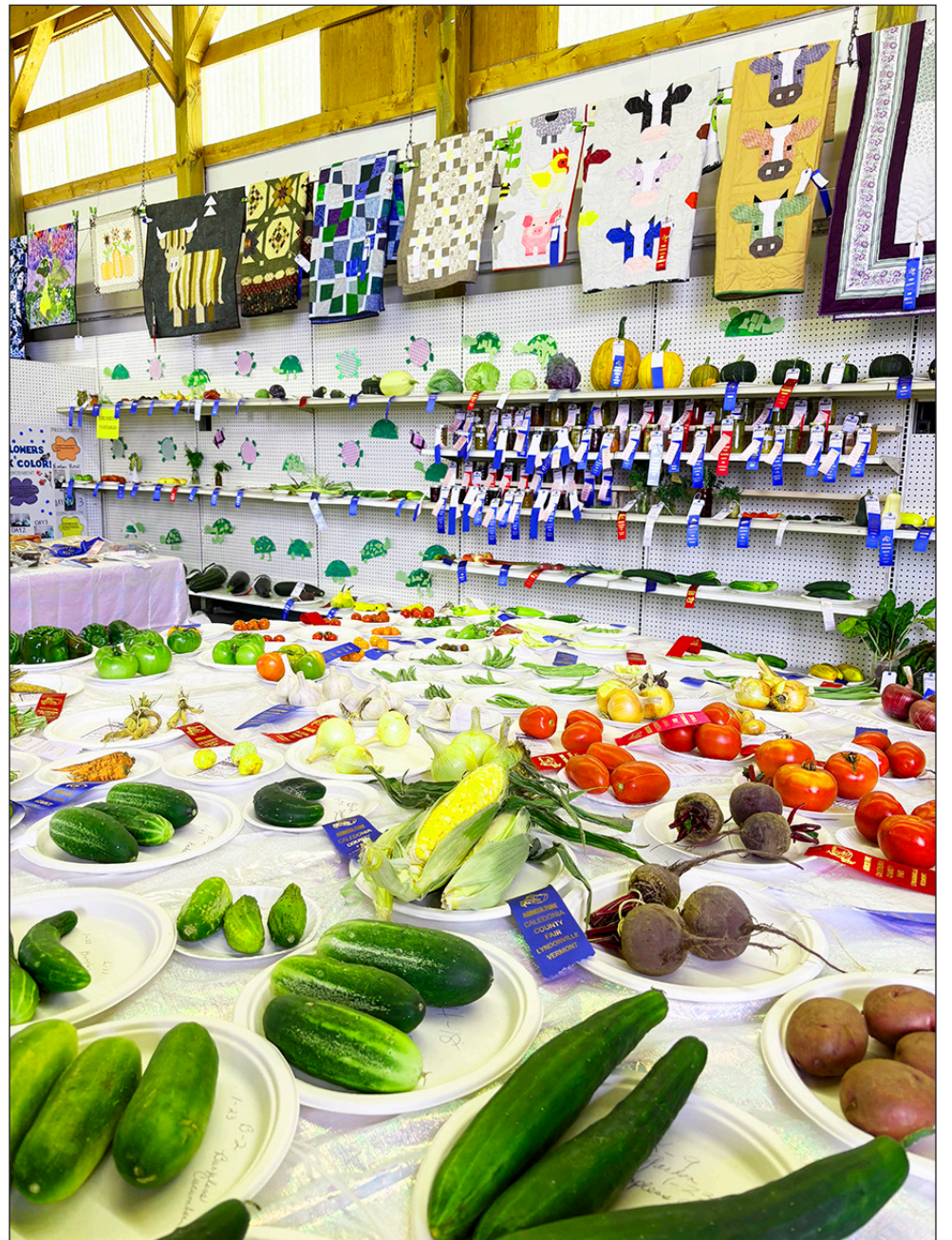
The county's agricultural winners were still on display, showing a wide array of the areas decided-by best vegetables. Attendees had

their final chance to look at the Caledonia 4-H exhibitions, showcasing livestock, veterinary science, technology, engineering, food and nutrition, gardening, sewing, arts and crafts, photography, shooting sports, archery and more.

The 4-H Marshfield Monarchs googly-eye vegetables were especially captivating, with "Mike the Muscly Man" and two other zucchini figures taking Best in Show.

Strolling acts throughout the grounds included Pirate Man Dan, a family-friendly comedy show utilizing silly props and pirate themed gags. Gene "The Snakeman" Fredericks of St. Johnsbury had a Serpents Den themed exhibition, with children and adults experiencing the close companionship of a snake wrapping itself around their necks, arms and waists.

The Caledonia County Fair will return for its 180th year in 2026.



The county's agricultural winners are still on display in the floral hall, Sunday, August 24, the closing day of the Caledonia County Fair.

photo by Raymonda Parchment



The 4-H Marshfield Monarch's Aphrodite took home third place in the dairy goat show in the early hours of Sunday August 24, closing day of the Caledonia County Fair.

photo by Raymonda Parchment



A yellow-headed vulture raises its wings during the Birds of Prey show on the closing day of the Caledonia County fair, August 24.

photo by Raymonda Parchment

You do NOT live in a news desert, thanks to The Hardwick Gazette

Keep local news alive. **DONATE NOW** at hardwickgazette.org/donate

No one else is covering your town, your sports teams, your events, your town government. Democracy needs news. We need you. We exist because of your support



A Koch-funded campaign tries to reverse climate action

by Austyn Gaffney

RUTLAND – For about two decades, Americans for Prosperity, the conservative political network, has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into stalling climate action nationwide. Founded by Charles and David Koch, the libertarian oil billionaires behind Koch Industries, the group has local chapters that block renewable standards, clean car rules and carbon pricing at the state level. For decades, it's been a bulwark of climate science denial that has shaped the modern-day Republican party. After notching wins against climate policy in states like Ohio and Kansas, the group is now testing its playbook in one of the bluest states in the country: Vermont.

In March 2023, the group launched its Vermont presence as part of its 50-state strategy to involve Americans for Prosperity in traditionally more progressive states like California and New York. In the two and a half years since, the group has spent tens of thousands of dollars launching mail and digital campaigns targeting the state's energy legislation like the Affordable Heat Act. It has also testified in favor of repealing laws like the Global Warming Solutions Act.

The work in Vermont is being led by Ross Connolly, the group's 34-year-old northeast regional director. Connolly, who grew up in New Hampshire, where he now lives, has said that his work in Vermont was focused on deregulating state government and helping residents realize their American dream. On a recent podcast, he called Vermont "bizarro-New Hampshire." He later said that was due to its geographic upside-downness along with its politics, which zigged to the left while New Hampshire zagged to the right.

"I could talk endlessly about

all the good things New Hampshire's doing and all the bad things that Vermont has done," Connolly said on the podcast, 802 Scoop. Vermont's Republican governor, Phil Scott, "has been a great champion for Vermonters here, but there's a lot more work to do here than New Hampshire."

In July, the group launched an affordability road show, and in a media release, Connolly wrote that "the state's progressive majority has chosen to inflate taxes and increase regulations" and "advance their own radical agenda." He expressed gratitude to Scott for his "continued commitment to Vermonters despite the progressive majority."

Vermont, often the first to go blue on national election nights, has served as a testing ground for national legislation like the right to same-sex marriage and now a law to hold oil companies accountable for their pollution. Perhaps one of its best-known exports, U.S. senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., has a long history of opposition to Koch-backed groups like Americans for Prosperity. He was a vocal opponent of the Citizens United case, which opened up election influence to the billionaire class.

"So many groups on the right, center-right, don't get involved in the northeast outside of New Hampshire or Pennsylvania," Connolly said in an interview before an event the group hosted at a golf course this month in Rutland, Vermont. "If we don't fight for people in those areas we're never going to make any sort of difference."

But well-funded campaigns like the ones Americans for Prosperity has launched in Vermont with a total of \$186 million at the national group's disposal, according to its 2023 nonprofit filings, are unfamiliar for the small state, where grassroots politics have long



Rep. Chris Keyser, R-Rutland City, speaks during a legislative wrap-up sponsored by Americans for Prosperity at the Rutland Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

ruled. The annual tradition of Town Meeting Day, for example, marks a regular practice of direct democracy at the local level.

Americans for Prosperity claims its driving mission is helping Vermonters afford to live in the state. But its founding and financing by some of the richest oil men in the world, and a history of spewing climate disinformation, casts that in doubt.

Americans for Prosperity is one of the first conservative dark money groups to enter Vermont politics in a big way. Other high-profile groups have often supported liberal causes, and those groups were often funding candidates. Americans for Prosperity doesn't directly fund candidates; its nonprofit status means it seeks to influence policies and elections through other means like mailers, ad campaigns, and in-person meetings. AFP-Action, an associated super PAC, does spend hundreds of millions on federal elections in support of right-wing politicians, but has not yet invested in a Vermont candidate, according to Connolly.

In Vermont, Connolly said Americans for Prosperity aims to help make the state more moderate. Its arrival comes on the heels of an election where Vermont lost more Democratic seats than any other state in the nation, and the state is struggling with rising housing, health care, and education costs, which makes their affordability message especially salient.

The organization has been planting seeds in Vermont, especially when it comes to energy policies it hopes to see repealed. And as the group has repeatedly said on podcasts, during panels, and in an interview with VTDigger, it plans to root here permanently.

Over the summer, the group organized about half a dozen speaking events, including in Rutland.

Four legislators spoke at the panel event, including three first-term Republican legislators from the Rutland region: Rep. Todd Nielsen, Rep. Chris Keyser, and Sen. Terry Williams, who joined the legislature in 2023 and serves on the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

While organizers expected 30 people in Rutland, about 15 came, including local officials and former legislators.

Williams said he was expecting more. He heard about the group two weeks earlier when Rachel Burgin, the organization's northeast regional deputy director, contacted him. Burgin, who lives in Georgia, is one of three lobbyists registered in the state through 2026, along with Connolly and Lauren Schley, whose LinkedIn page says she works for Americans for Prosperity out of Washington, D.C.

No one who works for Americans for Prosperity on Vermont issues lives in Vermont, Connolly said, though he noted one person in the national office lives in the state.

Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington, said groups like Americans for Prosperity opposed the energy transition because it undercut the profits of its oil tycoon founders.

"Vermonters need to be savvy about that," Watson said, "and recognize when outside influence is coming in to try and affect our policies and our elections."

While the group first arrived in the state in 2023, it launched its first campaign last summer by attacking a first-of-its-kind climate policy, Act 18. The law studied the feasibility of a clean heat standard, which was intended to lower fossil fuel emissions from thermal energy sources like heating oil commonly used to warm Vermont homes.

See REVERSE, next page



People listen during a legislative wrap-up sponsored by Americans for Prosperity at the Rutland Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

Reverse

Continued From Previous Page

“We focused on it because we came here and heard from Vermonters, and that was the one thing we heard across the board, was the concern on energy costs, and if that bill was implemented the amount of money that would cost the state and ratepayers,” Connolly said.

Supporters of Act 18 said the law was intended to regulate price-volatile fossil fuels and speed up the transition to cleaner sources like electric heat pumps. In a press release last year, Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, wrote the cost of heating oil had jumped from \$2 per gallon in 2020 to \$5.87 per gallon in November 2022.

“The goal of the Affordable Heat Act is to help insulate Vermonters from fossil-fuel price swings, and to make it easier and more affordable for them to transition, if they want to, to more sustainable energy sources,” Krowinski wrote.

But Americans for Prosperity opposed Act 18 and in May 2024 launched “a major five-part mail and digital campaign” that initially cost more than \$63,000, according to the group’s disclosures. Another group within the state, Vermonters for Affordable Heat, supported by the state’s locally owned fuel dealers, spent around \$11,300 on postcards and a petition opposing the law.

Liberal groups spent much more money in support of the law, but that money largely came through super PACs, political action committees that can raise unlimited sums of money to fund campaigns but cannot coordinate directly with parties or candidates. The out-of-state Green Advocacy Project, a Washington, D.C.-based pro-clean heat group, contributed three times that, \$180,000, to a Vermont super PAC to boost candidates supporting the program.

Within Vermont, the super PAC Vermont Conservation Voters, part of the national League of Conservation Voters, spent almost \$218,500 on pro-clean heat mailers, ads and videos, endorsing candidates with environmental records the group supported. While it supports election reform that wouldn’t allow for super PACS, the organization’s political director Justin Marsh told VTDigger in November that the growing presence of Americans for Prosperity was the reason they spent more than in past election cycles.

Legislators, local officials and advocates who spoke to VTDigger said they weren’t aware of

any other conservative out-of-state group like Americans for Prosperity spending tens-of-thousands of dollars to influence Vermont politics.

Other groups like the Ethan Allen Institute, part of the State Policy Network, another Koch-affiliated group, have occasionally run conservative advertising campaigns in the state, according to Ben Walsh, climate and energy program director at Vermont Public Interest Research Group, an environmental advocacy organization. But that group has far less funding and is not concentrated on climate policies, he said.

“I imagine a group like AFP with long and well-documented ties to the fossil fuel industry has a real interest in making sure policy that’s good for clean energy and bad for fossil fuels is not enacted, and if anything, it’s a little surprising that they didn’t show up sooner,” Walsh said. “But now that they’re here, they’re making it very clear that anything good for the transition to clean energy is something they oppose.”

In March 2025, a month before Americans for Prosperity settled a lobbying violation with the state, the political advocacy group launched a second state-wide mail campaign, spending \$13,425 between March 13 and June 12, according to lobbying disclosures.

The mailer said Vermonters should call their legislators and ask them to repeal Act 18, claiming the law “guarantees energy price hikes across the state,” according to a media release. The associated mailer, sent to Vermont households this spring, stated “Vermonters want Energy Abundance. Vermonters are responsible. They do not need Government mandates.”

If it had moved forward, Vermont’s clean heat standard would have been the first in the nation. But lawmakers never passed the program, largely because a Public Utility Commission report found the program would be too expensive to implement without help from other states in the region.

“Vermont was considering this first-of-its-kind clean heat standard that would hold fossil fuel companies to a standard of actually reducing carbon emissions in a way that the electric utility sector has had to do for decades,” said Elena Mihaly, vice president for the Vermont chapter of the Conservation Law Foundation, a clean energy advocacy group based in New England. “They were trying to nip it in the bud here in Vermont before it got out.”

Connolly said his group advocated for the full repeal because progressive legislators were



Ross Connolly of Americans for Prosperity speaks during a legislative wrap-up sponsored by the group at the Rutland Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 12. photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

trying to wait it out until they had a majority again and “could force it down the throat of Vermonters when Vermonters don’t want this policy at all.”

Watson, chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, which is in charge of the bill, said that while she wasn’t necessarily saying the clean heat standard should move forward, she disagreed that Vermonters didn’t want effective clean energy policies.

“We know Vermonters care about climate change, and they care about affordability,” Watson said. “Both of those things are met by advancing renewables and renewable energy sources in the state because the vast majority are cheaper than their fossil fuel counterparts.”

Because the clean heat standard never became a law, it doesn’t impact Vermonters’ utility bills. But Americans for Prosperity has repeatedly said the state’s energy policies, including laws like the Global Warming Solutions Act, have “without a doubt” driven costs higher for consumers.

The group is also against federal subsidies for energy programs that could lower energy costs for low-income Vermonters. In the days before the Rutland event, the state lost \$62.5 million promised for solar programs after the “One Big Beautiful Bill” axed federal clean energy initiatives.

“We believe those subsidies should have ended,” Connolly said of Solar for All. Upon the passage of the Trump omnibus bill that withdrew the funding, the national group threw a party called the One Big Beautiful Bash.

Instead of renewables, Connolly said the region needed more nuclear energy, such as small modular nuclear reactors, which have yet to be developed anywhere in the U.S., as well as the expansion

of natural gas pipelines.

“We should look at all the options on the table,” Rep. Zachary Harvey, R-Castleton, said of natural gas and nuclear power, after speaking at the event.

Connolly said his group was also against the Climate Superfund Act, which charges oil companies for greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2024. The law applies a “polluter pays” mindset to climate recovery, potentially giving Vermont resources to build back from disasters like recent devastating floods.

“If your concern is climate change, that does absolutely nothing to solve climate change,” Connolly said.

“It’s sort of petty type politics where it’s like, we’re going after Big Oil and punishing them,” Connolly continued. “Vermont isn’t going to bankrupt ExxonMobil or any of these companies. You’re just going to drive them out of your state and drive energy costs higher because of it.”

On podcasts, in interviews and during speaking events, Connolly has repeated the same talking point: Vermont isn’t going to solve climate change. Harvey agreed, and said the Rutland event wasn’t about climate denialism, noting Williams told the room, “We agree there’s climate change.”

“We’re not denying climate change exists,” Connolly told VTDigger. “We’re saying the way we’re going about it in this state is hurting people, and we should put people first and solve the problem in a more reasonable and moderate way.”

‘Kingpins’ of climate science denial

Connolly’s acknowledgment of climate change may be a made-for-Vermont approach, but that tone doesn’t match the two decades of action Americans for Prosperity

See REVERSE, next page

Reverse

Continued From Previous Page

has taken to sow disinformation about climate science.

It was founded in 2004 by libertarian billionaires Charles Koch and his late brother David Koch, who died in 2019. They amassed wealth through Koch Industries, an oil refinery and pipeline conglomerate that has siphoned up many other companies since their father created the business in the 1930s, profiting through deals with the Stalin and Hitler regimes, according to *Dark Money*, a book by Jane Mayer.

Together, the Koch family grew their worth to more than \$141 billion. After years among the top ten richest people in the world, David Koch's family and Charles Koch now rank 21st and 22nd, according to Fortune.

They've used this wealth to remake the national GOP into the party of climate denial, after government regulation of pollution and a push for renewables threatened their oil empire. In 2008, they began the "No Climate Tax Pledge," asking officials to vote against spending money to fight climate change without equivalent tax cuts. By 2013, 411 officials had signed, including a quarter of senators and a third of representatives, along with other leaders like U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi.

In that era, Greenpeace called the brothers the "financial kingpin of climate science denial and clean energy opposition," partnering with and then outspending better-known oil corporations like ExxonMobil. During the first Trump administration, they launched local campaigns through Americans for Prosperity to roll back car emissions standards.

Under Americans for Prosperity, and a host of other front groups, the brothers have long denied the threat of climate change, and have gone as far as to say that a warming world would benefit people. David Koch told a reporter in 2010: "The Earth will be able to support enormously more people because far greater land area will be available to produce food."

The consensus of the international community says otherwise. A warming atmosphere increases food and water insecurity for much of the planet, and causes increasingly dangerous weather events like heat waves and floods. In the two decades since Americans for Prosperity's founding, more than half a million people were killed by the world's 10 deadliest extreme weather events so far. All those events were made worse by the burning of fossil fuels, according

to a report by World Weather Attribution, an academic outfit based at Imperial College London that scientifically quantifies how climate change influences extreme weather.

And while the Koch brothers have publicly clashed with President Trump, they have benefited enormously from his elections, earning more than \$1 billion per year from the first Trump administration's tax bill. They plan to extend tax cuts and roll back regulations, including in the energy industry, through Americans for Prosperity's work under the second Trump administration, according to a 2025 plan obtained by The Guardian.

Their networks have also heavily influenced both Trump teams. Under the first, about 50 administration officials had ties to Koch networks, including Energy Secretary Rick Perry and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Today, key figures like Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have worked closely with and donated large sums to both Americans for Prosperity and other Koch-affiliated groups.

The summer campaign in Vermont comes as the second Trump administration launches an unprecedented attack on climate and clean energy policies that gained traction under the Biden administration. Along with deleting climate information and reports from federal websites, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy have spent six months deregulating fossil fuels and slashing clean energy projects.

Most of that work was outlined by another source of environmental skepticism that received funding from the Koch brothers: the Heritage Foundation, responsible for creating Project 2025, the unofficial blueprint for the second Trump administration. It includes the breakup of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the nation's premier climate science agency, calling it "one of the main drivers of the climate change alarm industry." Trump's 2026 budget proposal eliminates the agency's research arm responsible for helping the country adapt to climate change.

'Here to stay'

Vermont Democrats have made the most of Americans for Prosperity's slip ups.

On an August mailer, Americans for Prosperity had misspelled their URL GreenMountainProsperity.com, instead printing Greet-MountainProsperity.com. Around midnight on Aug. 8, May Hanlon, the 26-year-old executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, spotted the error and bought the

misspelled web domain for \$12.19.

Now, when users visit the website, a two-minute video pops up in which Hanlon calls the Americans for Prosperity mailer "sloppy" and "full of false claims about what Democrats are doing in the state legislature." Visitors are redirected to a webpage about Democratic wins during the 2025 legislative session, emphasizing affordability concerns like housing.

"While Americans for Prosperity spent thousands of dollars on a recent mailer to spread misinformation about our legislators' priorities, they misspelled their own website," Hanlon said in a text message. "They can't get their own website right, so it's no surprise their claims don't add up."

Months earlier, the Virginia-based group was fined thousands of dollars for violating Vermont law on a mailer asking Vermonters to contact their legislators to repeal Act 18. That mailer said the campaign was "Paid for by Americans for Prosperity Vermont." But that group was not registered in the state.

Vermont law requires that a lobbying advertisement like a mailer contain the name of the entity that paid for it, according to an email sent by the Vermont Attorney General's Office, which responded to a formal complaint by Jim Dandeneau, the former executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party.

In a settlement with the state on April 29, Americans for Prosperity agreed to stop using that name and paid a \$3,000 fine.

"We don't really comment on legal things," Connolly said of the settlement. "That has been resolved. It was just, I think, a miscommunication. We changed our disclaimers. No problem."

He said the fine didn't reflect the work the group was doing in Vermont, where he said it has had over 5,000 Vermonters take direct

action like mailing letters or making calls since 2023.

"That mailer was received very positively, again focusing on the moderation of the legislature and the issues that Vermonters care about," Connolly said. "Little disputes in election law are not top of mind for Vermonters."

Harvey, a first-term legislator appointed by Gov. Scott in January, said Vermont needs groups like Americans for Prosperity to revitalize voters. He first met the lobbyists during a dinner in Stowe early in the 2025 legislative session, and said even though the group came from out of state, they'd made an effort to get to know legislators and were committed to policies he supported.

For Connolly, a rightward transition in his politics came during college, when he read *Road to Serfdom* by Friedrich Hayek, a book that argues government planning can lead to tyranny and also radicalized Charles Koch's politics, according to *Dark Money*.

After graduating, Connolly worked for Republican campaigns before joining Americans for Prosperity in 2013. The group has since expanded to 37 state chapters, but the only chapter across six New England states is New Hampshire.

Connolly ran that state's chapter before taking on the entire New England region. Down the road, the nonprofit could establish a chapter in Vermont, which would give it infrastructure and full-time staff and enable a permanent presence in the state.

"We promise we will be here for the long term," Connolly told the audience at Rutland. "We at AFP are not going anywhere."

This story is a partnership between VT Digger and Grist. Ethan Weinstein and Shaun Robinson contributed reporting. Jane Mayer is a board member of the Vermont Journalism Trust, which operates VT Digger.



Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) volunteers (from left) Cailyn Roberge and Olivia Peters scoop out free ice cream to all who attended as Barb Strong, volunteer and Jack Sumberg, board vice president, sell pie by the slice during the CCCC ice cream social and pie auction last Thursday.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.

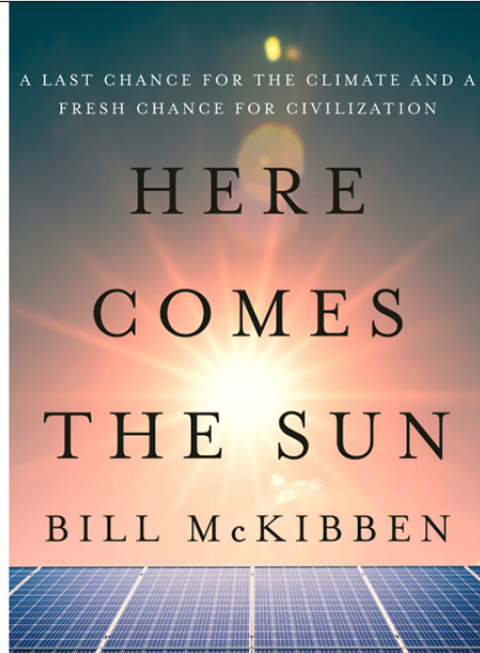
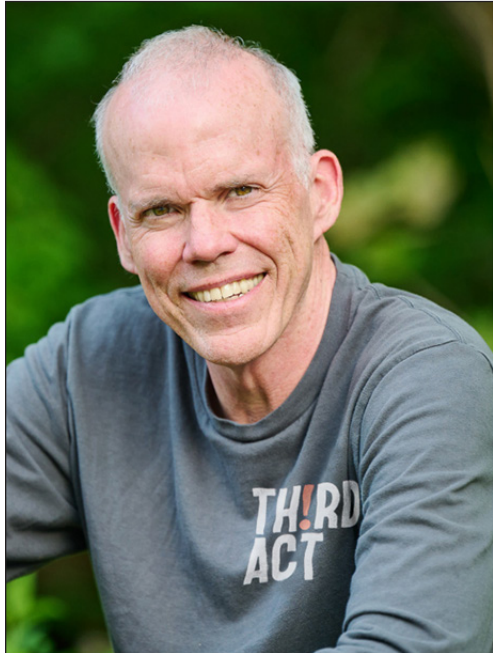
McKibben details how renewable energy revolution bolsters democracy

by David Goodman

MIDDLEBURY – Bill McKibben is one of the world’s leading writers and organizers on the issue of climate change. He admits that his message about the perils of a warming planet can leave some people in despair. Now, with the U.S. at an authoritarian tipping point, McKibben has chosen an improbable time to offer hope.

McKibben has a new book, “Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.” He takes readers on a far-flung journey to show how solar and wind energy have suddenly become the cheapest power in the world. People are installing solar panels equivalent to a coal-fired power plant every 18 hours. This is the fastest energy transition in history and it may just help save democracy.

“There is one big good thing happening on planet Earth and it’s so big and so good that it actually has the capacity to help not only with the overwhelming climate crisis, but also with the crisis of inequality and of democracy that we’re facing now,” McKibben told The Vermont Conversation. “That one big thing is this sudden surge of clean energy, especially from the sun, that over the last 36 months, has begun to really rewrite what



Bill McKibben and his new book “Here Comes the Sun” (W.W. Norton 2025). photo by Storyworkz

power means on planet Earth.”

McKibben explained that what used to be called “alternative energy” is now mainstream. “Four years ago or so we passed some invisible line where it became cheaper to produce power from the sun and the wind than from burning things. And that’s a completely epochal moment. Most days, California is generating more than 100% of its power for long stretches from renewable energy.”

“Here’s a statistic just to stick in your mind that will give you hope, too,” he offered. “A single boatload of solar panels coming from someplace like China will, over the course

of its lifetime, produce 500 times as much energy as that same ship filled with coal. We’re not talking about a slightly better version of what we have now. We’re talking about a very different world.”

McKibben is currently spearheading Sun Day, which will take place on September 21. It will be a global day of action celebrating solar and wind power and the movement to leave fossil fuels behind.

“Think about what the foreign policy, the geopolitics of planet Earth would have looked like in the last 70 years if oil was not a valuable commodity,” he said. “Human beings are extremely good at figuring out how to start wars, but figuring out how to start one over sunshine is going to be a trick.”

Vermont is already feeling the impact of this energy shift. “The biggest single power plant in Vermont is now the collection of batteries that Green Mountain Power has helped people put in their basements and garages and that they can call on in time of need to provide power,” he said

Bill McKibben is the author of over 20 books and a regular contributor to The New Yorker, the New York Times, and his Substack, The Crucial Years. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College. He has won the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Right Livelihood Award, known as the alternative Nobel Prize.

Alongside his writing, the Rip-ton resident has founded the global grassroots climate action group 350.org, and Third Act, a political movement of people over 60 to use their “unparalleled generational power to safeguard our climate and democracy.” The organization now boasts some 70,000 members.

As the country and world teeter on a precipice, what gives McKibben hope?

“Just that we’re still here and fighting and that we have this new tool. It’s like a Hollywood movie: the bad stuff is happening all around us and here’s this new force riding to the rescue over the hills carrying not carbines and repeater rifles but carrying solar panels and lithium ion batteries.”



Auctioneer Justin Lander gets the bids up to \$300 for a bourbon pecan pie as Tonya Thomas (right), a Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) board member holds it up for display at the annual ice cream social and pie auction held at CCCC, Aug. 28. 43 donated homemade pies and quiches auctioned, with bids ranging from \$35 to \$235, totaling \$3,995. Selling pie by the slice and a silent auction brought in \$582 more. The evening brought in \$4,577 for the care center while it celebrated its 30th anniversary.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.



Ned Houston (left), Alan Turnbull (center) and Don Houghton (right) from the What For? band provide music for the annual ice cream social, pie auction and 30th anniversary celebration for the Craftsbury Community Care Center, August 28.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.

You do NOT live in a news desert, thanks to The Hardwick Gazette

Keep local news alive. DONATE NOW at hardwickgazette.org/donate

No one else is covering your town, your sports teams, your events, your town government. Democracy needs news. We need you. We exist because of your support



NEWS NOTES

Food Pantry Hasn't Been Impacted

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Despite last week's announcement that the Holland food bank will be closing at the end of September, and July's staffing cutbacks at the Vermont Foodbank, on the heels of its losing 20% of USDA food supplies in April, Stella James with the Hardwick Area Food Pantry said last week, "we haven't yet been impacted."

"The Holland Food Shelf will close the last week of September," they wrote in an August 26 social media post. The closure was "Due to the sharp increase in rent and loss of the SNAP Federal Grant. It has been a pleasure to serve our community."

The food pantry, located along the Canadian border in Holland, opened in 2021 and has grown to serve almost 700 people each month this year, noted VTDigger in a recent story. \$25,000 in Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program Education, grant funds that have supported food purchases, outreach, training and wages were eliminated next year with the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on July 4.

The Hardwick Area Food Pantry is a multi-site food share pantry with locations in Hardwick, Craftsbury and Albany. Its mission is to expand food access and choice in our region. Information about its locations and hours can be found at nourish-hardwick.org/.

LVRT trailhead work to proceed

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – Wetlands flagging, the first step on the project plan to build a Lamoille Valley Rail Trail [LVRT] rest stop and trailhead in East Hardwick, has been completed, according to an East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) update. "Arrowwood Environmental reported there are no wetlands in the [LVRT] right-of-way between Stevens Lane and Brickhouse Road."

"The documents and tools the EHNO board will need to administer the \$49,714 Rural Trails Program grant for the trailhead are now in place, including the purchase of Quickbooks for financial reporting and adoption of required financial and operations policies," EHNO said. They can now begin working with the Town of Hardwick on zoning approval for a pavilion and an RFP for base materials.

EHNO reported that the Hardwick LVRT Committee met recently and reviewed progress on amenities

for the trailhead. Garbage cans and a bike repair station are on hand, as are a kiosk and the base for an interpretive sign, which EHNO has received a grant for. The town has received a grant for a picnic table and a bike rack is available through an amenities grant from the Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA). It's not yet clear yet whether a Port-A-John will be included among the amenities.

Amenities can be installed after the base for the trailhead is completed, as part of the Rural Trails Grant.

EHNO reports the date of Saturday, October 25, has been set for a reception at Overlook Park to celebrate a Vermont Roadside Historic Marker being placed there. The reception will be followed by the Annual EHNO Business Meeting.

Minutes of the August EHNO Meeting are available online at <https://ehno5.wordpress.com/meetings/>

Rabies epidemic reported nearby

by Paul Fixx

ORLEANS COUNTY – Recent reports of a rabies epidemic in Orleans County by the Newport Daily Express and an outbreak by ABC22/FOX44 are based on Vermont Health Department records showing 18 rabid racoons have been tested in the county since early June.

Animals have been tested with rabies in Barton, Orleans and Irasburg, but none in Craftsbury or Greensboro.

Caledonia County has seen no cases of rabies this year, but 14 animals were tested with it last year.

The state's 2024 Rabies Surveillance Report, released in March, showed 66 animals in Vermont tested positive for rabies last year, almost all were wild and none were in Orleans County. That's slightly less than double the 38 animals testing positive in 2023 and 39 in 2022. Statewide, just 12 animals tested positive for rabies in 2020, a ten-year low.

Vaccine baits were dropped from the air beginning August 1 to control the disease in a program coordinated by the Vermont Departments of Health, Fish & Wildlife with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services. Baits have been dropped in May and August for the last several years.

The Vermont Health Department recommends trying to capture any animal that bites you or your pet if it can be done without getting bitten again. Wash the wound well

with soap and water and contact your doctor and town health officer. If the animal is wild contact the rabies hotline at (800) 472-2437 or a game warden.

2023 Median household income shows first increase since 2019

by Paul Fixx

VERMONT – Median household income in Vermont ranges from a high of \$94,310 in Chittenden County to a low of \$58,985 in Essex County, based on 5-year estimates of median household income.

In the Gazette area, Washington County ranks fourth in the state, with median household income at \$79,853. There 38.8 percent of households earn over \$100k and 13.8 percent earn under \$25k.

Lamoille County ranks eleventh, at a median household income of \$69,897, almost \$10k below Washington County. There, 35.3 percent of households earn over \$100k and 11.5 percent earn under \$25k.

Orleans County ranks eleventh, with median household income at \$66,426. There, 29.6 percent of households earn over \$100k and 16 percent earn under \$25k.

Caledonia County ranks twelfth in the state with median household income at \$66,075, and 30.9 percent of households earning over \$100k, with 6.2 percent of households earning under \$25k.

Data shows annual income depends heavily on an individual's educational attainment, race, ethnicity, gender and even location. The 2023 real median household income in the

U.S. was \$80,610, an increase of 4 percent from 2022, the first statistically significant annual increase in real median household income since 2019, according to U.S. Census bureau data compiled by Stacker.

Wide partisan disagreement on prices, economy

by University of New Hampshire Survey Center

DURHAM, N.H. - Nearly all Vermont Democrats and Independents say prices on everyday goods have increased in the past twelve months and will increase over the next twelve months, and most believe the overall economy is getting worse. By contrast, less than half of Republicans believe prices have increased or will increase in the next twelve months and most believe the economy is getting better. Just under half of Vermonters believe their household will be worse off a year from now, with many expecting increasing inflation and poor economic stewardship. A record low percentage of state residents believe Vermont businesses will experience good times in the next year.

The findings are based on the latest Green Mountain State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Green Mountain State Panel members were sent an invitation to complete the survey and 832 completed the survey online between August 14 and August 18. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3.4 percent.

For a complete press release and detailed tabular results visit scholars.unh.edu/survey_center_polls/886.



Kathy Hemmens (left) Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC) board of directors secretary, Rebecca Young (center) treasurer and Kim Roberge (right) who is in her 13th year as the executive director, arrange donated pies and quiches before the annual CCCC auction, August 28.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.

EDITORIAL

Thanks for the flood of donations to our summer fundraiser, let's deal with the damn dam

First, a quick note to thank the many Gazette donors these last two weeks, who flooded our website and mailbox to help match the \$5,000 put up by generous supporters. The Gazette's summer fundraiser continues through this Sunday, September 7, though without the match to double your contributions. Your donations now will still allow us to help pay staff and fund the technology that helps us create the weekly Gazette issue.

With the work of The Hardwick Gazette centered on the town of Hardwick, though with our office now in Greensboro, it connects two towns that are close to me since I took a gamble and moved here to house sit during the Greensboro winter of 1989-90.

The next summer I started building a house in East Hardwick on land my parents bought in 1969, and haven't found a reason to leave the area since.

That's all to say, I've been swimming in Caspian Lake since 1962, so it's important to me, as it is to both towns; Hardwick that owns the town beach and Greensboro, where the lake is. Over the years there have been ongoing struggles over the property, but mostly imposed from outside, and then, mostly by the State of Vermont. Today's front page story tells a recent part of that tale involving the lake level and how it is regulated.

I'm glad I don't have to make the decision about setting the level of Caspian Lake. The many interests involved are likely to leave no one 100 percent satisfied with an appropriate solution. Perhaps the most important current concern is the safety of the dam, for which there have been many calls for the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) to have engineers investigate the dam's safety in recent years, but no detailed evaluation or plan for its maintenance has been created. (At least not one that's been publicly shared.)

The potential of releasing almost a billion gallons of water must certainly give the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) engineer reason for concern. The current setting of the dam's weir seems to prevent water from over-topping it in flood conditions and I'll bet they'd rather have it even lower than it is now, to reduce pressure from high water events on deteriorating structure.

Other concerns, from lakeshore property owners and recreational users of the lake, need to be considered as well, though likely as a lower priority than the safety of downstream communities.

HED likely doesn't want or need to own a dam they can no longer use to regulate water levels downstream at its Wolcott power station. And they most certainly will have difficulty finding any economic reason, other than liability, in asking customers to fund maintenance which the state has made useless as a tool for them. This echoes similar issues with other Vermont dams, including the Green River Reservoir in Morrisville.

Thankfully there have been no calls to remove the Caspian Lake dam as far as I know, which would perhaps resolve the maintenance issue, but likely be met with considerable objection from a majority of those with an interest in the subject.

I can't imagine the Town of Greensboro, the Town of Hardwick, the Greensboro Association (GA) or any private entity wanting to own the dam and be strapped with funding its maintenance, which leaves the State of Vermont.

That situation seems to create good reasons for the two towns, HED and the GA to collaborate in working with the state for it to take on ownership of

the dam, along with creating a management plan that protects downstream villages and properties, while preserving the recreational and economic benefits it brings to the area.

Paul Fixx, editor

LETTERS FROM READERS

Comment now on new neonic rules

To the editor:

An important heads-up to our local community of pollinator-loving environmentalists, and anyone who cares about the robust health of our Vermont landscape, and food security in general.

A few days ago, August 29, Vermont Public published a story by Abagael Giles entitled, "Beekeepers, dairy farmers weigh in on rules for neonicotinoid pesticides," that recaps some of the recent testimony heard by the Vermont Agricultural Innovation Board. Later this month, they will be voting on a new set of rules and exemptions concerning the use of neonic-treated seeds and the spraying of neonic pesticides.

When the Vermont Legislature passed a neonic ban in 2024, they decided to exempt orchards and golf courses, something that rankles dairy farmers, who use treated seeds to grow corn to feed their cows. The treated-seed ban goes into effect in 2029, but the restrictions on spraying the chemicals will go into effect this year.

So now, dairy farmers are asking for exemptions as well, while environmentalists such as myself, want to see this new set of rules be more specific, and include language that guarantees the restrictions will be upheld.

With thousands of studies verifying the apocalyptic harm caused by neonics not just to pollinators, but to our entire ecosystem, it really would

be quite a bit better if neonics were entirely banned for ornamental and orchard use as well, but that's a little further down the pike.

The deadline for public comment about the proposed rules related to neonic pesticides is September 11. To make a public comment to the Agricultural Innovation Board, email them at PHARMRules@vermont.gov.

The proposed set of new rules is at agriculture.vermont.gov/best-management-practices-neonicotinoid-treated-article-seeds-and-neonicotinoid-pesticides.

The final public hearing is happening today, Wednesday, September 3, 5 p.m., at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, and online at microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting (Meeting ID: 239 248 720 071 2 Passcode: h34Bb7yt).

Emily Lanxner
Hardwick

Emily Lanxner is a member of the Vermont Pesticide and Poison Action Network, and hosts a monthly radio show on Central Vermont Community Radio entitled "The Pollinator Report". Information is at livehive802@gmail.com

For the record

Alex Peltz, not Tom Peltz was speaking with the select board in last week's story, "Resident remembers Tina Daigle, tax rate set."

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc., 82 Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841 Tel. (802) 472-6521. E-mail: News@HardwickGazette.org Web: HardwickGazette.org
The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 9, Hardwick, VT 05843

EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins,
Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONIST - Julie Atwood

WEATHER - Tyler Mollieur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon; Thursday, closed; Friday 8 a.m. to noon. Phones are usually answered during office hours and other times when possible. Please leave a message if there is no answer, or email the appropriate address.

The Hardwick Gazette assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertisements but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error appeared. Advertisers must notify the Gazette within five days of any error that occurred. Copyright 2025 by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc.

ADVERTISING

Sandy Atkins, Paul Fixx, Raymonda Parchment
ads@hardwickgazette.org, sales@hardwickgazette.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Alley, Brendan Buckley
Ken Brown, Elizabeth Dow, Hal Gray,
Abrah Griggs, Henry Homeyer, Willem Lange,
Cheryl Luther Michaels, David Rodgers,
Kay Spaulding, Liz Steel, John Walters;

Alex Strand, interns.

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Fixx, John Walters,
Stefanie Cravedi, Anita Engel, Betty Jones

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail addresses to send us messages: ads@hardwickgazette.org for advertising inquiries including display ads and business directory submissions; editor@hardwickgazette.org for corrections, letters to the editor, story ideas, website or newsletter questions and comments; news@hardwickgazette.org for all submissions of calendar of events, news stories, obituaries, births, press releases and everything else.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

The weak link was the ferry across the lake

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Labor Day weekend was scheduled to be a high-mileage event. Rather than my usual three hour-plus run from mid-Vermont to my friend Bea’s place on the ocean Friday afternoon, and then back on Monday noonish before my evening deadline, I committed to a high school class reunion on the far shore of Lake Champlain at noon on Saturday, and then dinner in Nahant, Mass., that evening. That’s not quite the piece of cake it once was; plus, the AAA was warning that a record number of holiday travelers would be clogging every means of transportation; but without snow or freezing rain in the offing, it seemed doable.

The weak link was the ferryboat across the lake. A snag there could upset the timing; I have, at ninety, fewer hours of useful wakefulness each day than of yore, and the prospect of diving wearily into the tangle of holiday traffic on I-95 near Boston was a bit daunting. Still, cancellation is not yet the answer; so off we went: my little hybrid, Batty, my constant companion, Kiki, and I.

The high school reunion was the sixtieth of the Class of 1965. Only two of the teachers who ever taught that class are still alive. We were both there. It was as Bea had said: a once-in-a-lifetime occasion that I should not miss. It was very pleasant to see what’s become of all those fresh young faces of so long ago. Some even recalled kindnesses I’d shown during their school days. I couldn’t recall any, but of course was happy to take credit for them. It was a lovely lunch.

It’s helpful when facing potentially difficult circumstances to remember what you used to teach your students during your salad days. I often paired the reading of Tennyson’s “Ulysses” with Cavafy’s “Ithaka,” two poems about the hero Odysseus’ protracted return home from the Trojan War and his itching restlessness afterward. In particular, we used to focus in class on the mortal perils that Odysseus knew he would face, and how he managed to face them down. They turned out in every case to have been more fearsome in prospect than in reality.

And so it was with the trek back across the lake, down the length of I-89, into the frenetic pell-mell of I-93 and I-95, and finally past the last peril, a kind of free-for-all rotary, and onto the causeway out to

Bea’s island home, right on schedule. We dined, as we often do, with elderly friends, each of whom was recovering from surgery to correct life-threatening illnesses. The mood, you might say, was upbeat.

The big event of the weekend, however, was a “pig roast” at a neighbor’s house just two doors up the beach. Everybody brought something and, in that relatively exclusive little neighborhood, everybody knew almost everybody else. The weather was perfect: a soft, cool northerly breeze, clear blue sky and a slowly westering sun. The tables were aligned north and south. It was a golden moment in a late summer season that hasn’t always been friendly. I sat with my back to the sun and the sea so I could watch and listen to the company. Background music played softly from a large speaker perched in a corner of the patio.

People went up and down the staircase leading to the buffet in the dining room.

Besides their obvious bonhomie, what I noticed first was their age. Almost all, as nearly as I could tell, were retired and living quite (shall we say) comfortably in large houses with patios in a row beside or near the water. The slings and arrows of age had assailed many. The stairs revealed quite a few hitches in some gaits, especially near the bottom where the railings petered out, a feature that I, of all people, would notice.

There was a college lacrosse coach who was just starting a new job. His excitement was palpable. I sat beside a retired admiral who’d been fighting illness. He told great stories and expounded on theories and practices of leadership. His wife watched him closely and lovingly, especially when he tackled the stairs up to the house. He’d been successful in his career, but even more-so in his marriage.

It occurred to me that these folks, like me, were enjoying the golden moment in advanced age between what was and what’s coming.

It was a perfect holiday afternoon beside a glittering sea, enjoying the fruits of a dozen different careers, in a serene atmosphere of apparent equilibrium.

I had to leave early to go feed Kiki. Bea came along shortly after sunset. We sipped a mug of tea and a demitasse of coffee, respectively. Tomorrow we’d breakfast at a favorite place in Swampscott. Shortly afterward the golden moment would give place to the life that keeps us going.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“ONE SIZE FITS ALL!”

MEETING MEMO

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 Academy.</p> <p>Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, September 11</p> | <p>Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among the three campuses.</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> |
|---|--|

Your Voice, Your Community News
Becoming a supporter of the Hardwick Gazette will help us continue delivering local news and information. Our success depend on you, as readers, as donors and as advertisers with your businesses and civic organizations.



Donate online • hardwickgazette.org

WEEKS GONE BY

August 27, 1925

Educational Meeting.

The fall meeting of the teachers and directors of the Caledonia South Central Supervision Union is to be held at Harvey's Pond, at West Barnet, on Thursday, September 3rd, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. All are welcome. The towns are, Barnet, Danville, Greensboro, Peacham, Stannard, Walden, and Waterford.

Five Years of Woman Suffrage

Yesterday [August 26] was the fifth anniversary of women's enfranchisement. What use have they made of the vote? Probably the sheer addition of numbers has not made the difference in results that some of the women fondly hoped for, but even the most ardent anti-suffragist can find little to criticize in the manner in which women have conducted themselves under their new responsibilities. Those women who have been elected to high official positions have made good.

The situation is well summed up by Mrs. Lewis Jerome Johnson, formerly president of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association, who says:

"August 26th, will always be a day of thanksgiving for women who strove to gain the vote which gives them the power and protection which are now acknowledged to be the rights of adult citizens in a democracy.

"Perhaps the most gratifying result is the realization of a new sense of power and dignity, for we now not only know about our government, but with our own minds and ballots, can help mold the political system to fit the needs of citizens. A very different and much more self-respecting place to be in than, as formerly, on the sidelines as critics, perhaps — but not as participants in responsibility.

HARDWICK-ST. JOHNSBURY AUTO STAGE

[Week Days]

Leaves Hardwick, 7:30 A. M., via East Hardwick; arriving in St. Johnsbury 8:45 A. M.

Returning—Leaves Avenue House, St. Johnsbury, 10:00 A. M.; arriving in Hardwick 11:15 A. M.

Leaves Hardwick 12:19 P. M.; arriving in St. Johnsbury 1:35 P. M.

Returning—Leaves Avenue House, St. Johnsbury, 4:30 P. M.; arriving in Hardwick at 5:45 P. M.

[Sundays]

Leaves Hardwick about 12:00, after arrival of Burlington bus, arriving in St. Johnsbury about 1:15; returning leaves Avenue House, St. Johnsbury, at 3:00; arriving in Hardwick at about 4:15, making connections with Burlington bus.

Errands Given Prompt Attention
Baggage Carried
G. WADE BENJAMIN
Tel. 123-2

Sale on Execution

By virtue of an execution to me directed, issued by the Caledonia County Municipal Court, in favor of O.B Lafont v. Perley Rowell, after due demand, I levied upon the following named personal property —

One Horse, One Pair of Mules, and about Sixty Gallons of Maple Syrup.

And if said execution, together with my costs thereon, are not paid before that date of sale herein named, I will sell the same at Public Auction on the eighth day of September A.D., 1925, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, in the highway in front of the residence of the said Perley Rowell in Wolcott, in the County of Lamoille and State of Vermont.

Dated at Wolcott, in the County of Lamoille, this 22nd day of August A.D. 1925.

Attest: F. H Hall, Constable.

Local Lumps

The room in the front part of the Demars billiard room is the scene every day and evening of quite a gathering of checker fans, among whom are W.W. Marshall, R.G. Norcross, Robert McDonald, Ocean Dodge, M.J Sullivan, Oscar Shepard, Fred Demars, all of this place, and others, and many exciting games are being played. Just who is champion, has not yet been definitely decided. Wallace Thomas of the east village is considered "some" checker player, and yet local players have at various times taken his measure. And the end is not yet.

That section of Mill Street in front of the Meader block, the fire station and the Red Roof Filling Station, is now one of the best lighted sections of the village. This is due to the installation by the filling station concern, of two large electric lights on top of two very substantial iron poles, about 20 feet in height. The lights are enclosed in two square frosted globes, on top of the poles, which give the filling station and grounds surrounding a very attractive appearance, as well as well lighted.

Bert Russel, the highway patrolman, has complained to the Gazette about people dumping rubbish along the river bank above this village. Any number of times during the past summer he has been obliged to clean up and carry off to the dump a lot of truck, which should have been carried to the village dump instead of deposited on the river bank. It may have been done by persons who do not know that the village has a dump.

School Time Will Soon be Here, and

Fountain Pens

will be needed.

We have the usual Large Assortment, but would call your attention to the

Parker D. Q.

FOR \$3.50

A Pen Especially Made for Students!

OTHER MAKES AND PRICES, from \$2.75 to \$7.00

Kimball's Pharmacy

ALBERT E. COX, Prop.

"Get It At Kimball's"

Leastwise, we should have the pride to keep the approaches to the village on the main highway clean.

Mr. Goodrich, who purchased the Kitteredge farm last spring, has rented the Walden blacksmith shop and is now prepared to do custom work. Mr. Goodrich formerly worked at his trade in Plainfield.

Miss Clara Cooke of Brockton, Mass., visited Mrs. G.H. Kingsbury several days last week.

The Fairbanks Company have commenced cutting their next year's stack of logs, having a gang of men in the woods.

O.C. Cole is cutting the hay on the Smith farm, from which the buildings were burned a year

ago, and is hauling to his farm in Cabot.

Most of the farmers hereabouts are done haying, though several have yet to finish. It has been very difficult to secure the crop in good condition, because of the wet weather. The crop is better than the average, both in amount and in quality.

Medda Bennet, who has cut quite a quantity of pulpwood from the Corson farm and vicinity, is now cutting and piling, using a Cross Cutting machine.

C.E. Ainsworth, who was thrown from a moving machine some weeks ago, badly injuring back and hip, is not improving, being still unable to work.



A new garden of native plants is being planted by Lynette Courtney in front of the mural designed by Tara Goreau at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail trailhead in Greensboro Bend, Sunday.

photo by Paul Fixx

ANOTHER OPINION

School redistricting is colossal trainwreck

by Joe Murphy

MORRISTOWN – As we all go into the next school year, I want to express my outrage at H.454.

This piece of legislation will not reduce costs in the long term, and it will irreparably damage the quality of education for generations to come, provided that alternative solutions aren't implemented before the law goes into full effect.

First, the state has no business telling schools how many students they need to cram into a classroom. Schools know best how to structure classrooms; Montpelier doesn't.

Additionally, state education policy requires differentiation in classroom planning and instruction. Increasing classroom sizes throws a wrench into effective differentiation. It would be comical if it weren't actually law: the state is mandating a new policy that will make an already-existing policy more cumbersome to implement and maintain; a stark example of bureaucratic stupidity.

Larger class sizes will lead to more complex and chaotic social dynamics, increasing instances of behavior problems and classroom interruptions. More behavior problems will hinder student success and lead to more teacher burnout, which is already a serious problem in public education, especially in Vermont.

The best studies in education research show that smaller classroom sizes lead to better student outcomes: fewer students allow more one-on-one attention and fewer distractions. Sure, 15 students in, say, an eighth grade classroom may not seem like a lot, but I can testify from experience that there is a world of difference between eight and 15. And it will not always be just 15, or 18, or whatever the minimum is; with school closures and mergers, it's likely to be considerably more.

What's equally alarming, in addition to classroom size minimums, is that every Democrat who voted for this nonsense gave the secretary of education the authority to recommend school closures. How could Democrats be so thoroughly self-sabotaging and stupid as to give a person whose past career was inherently hostile to public schools the authority to recommend closing public schools? That's like zealous, anti-Second Amendment U.S. Senators voting to confirm Wayne LaPierre to head the ATF.

I'd expect this from Republicans. I expected better from Democrats. That was foolish of me.

Moreover, this bill is a major slap in the face to the numerous teachers who recently earned their licenses, as well as the taxpayers who helped to fund their professional development to gain that licensure. To help fill the teacher shortfall in a more expedient fashion, school districts have been spending money helping teachers on provisional licenses get trained so that they can earn their Level I licenses and secure their careers as educators.

Now, what is most likely to happen is that a lion's share of those people will lose their jobs as districts consolidate. So, these districts will essentially be throwing away money, and hard-working, passionate teachers' lives will be upended.

And this bill isn't going to decrease costs in the long term. One of the main reasons they'll continue to rise is because of health insurance costs, which, to my knowledge, haven't been addressed. BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont claims it's losing money, and therefore has to raise premiums by double digits, because of the rising costs of healthcare.

Assuming that's the only reason, which anyone with a brain knows isn't true, the state could do something. But the state, as usual, is offering no real strategy for keeping healthcare costs and insurance rates down. I see lawmakers in Montpelier talk about it as though it's inevitable and we all just have to deal with it. So, teacher health insurance will continue to rise, because hospitals and insurance companies are run by sociopaths who view patients not as human beings with value but as commodities.

And a majority of our representatives in Montpelier have no spine. Furthermore, the consolidation of districts will likely lead to some increased costs as well as considerable logistical issues. More students means changes to busing: likely hiring more bus drivers, increased maintenance costs and increased fuel costs all need to be considered.

But one of the things I find really concerning, money aside, is the amount of time students will be on buses every day. Increased busing times will probably lead to more student absences (which is already a major problem), because there will be many students who will need to wake up considerably earlier to make it

to the bus. Student participation in after-school and extracurricular activities will be affected, because of how long it will take students to get home?

Students with special needs, sensory issues, behavior problems or other medical issues, should not be stuck on a bus for an hour or possibly longer. Finally, but not of least importance, because of the consolidation of districts, this bill effectively takes away immediate, local control of schools. One of the things I love about Vermont is its deeply-rooted tradition of, and reverence for, democracy and local control. Vermont values democracy so much that it's enshrined into our culture as a state holiday.

Now, when it comes to my community, when it comes to my local schools, I want the people in my community, the ones who know the the students, the ones who know the teachers and administrators and support staff and custodial workers and food personelle, the ones who pay

local taxes, to be the only ones representing and making decisions about our schools.

One of the foundations of (to borrow a term from John Rawls) a well-ordered society is high-quality public education. Vermont has something really special here, with its close-knit learning communities, local governance and small classrooms. It is truly unique and sets Vermont apart from the rest of the country in a wonderful way.

Accordingly, I'd like to congratulate every member of the Vermont state legislature who voted yes on this bill. Just when I thought no legislative body could disappoint me as equally as the U.S. Congress, Montpelier delivered stunningly. You all have set in motion a colossal trainwreck. Give yourselves a pat on the back and enjoy your legislative hiatus. I can't wait to see what you all manage to ruin about Vermont next year.

Joe Murphy lives in Morristown.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Act 73 Redistricting Task Force Update

by Sen. Scott Beck

The Redistricting Task Force had its second meeting last week. A rubric was developed to evaluate map proposals and I will be working on a map with Dave Wolk (Governor's Appointment) that is based off of existing Career and Technical Education centers CTE).

The co-chairs are attempting to uncover vast amounts of data to inform decisions, much of which the administration does not believe is relevant to this conversation.

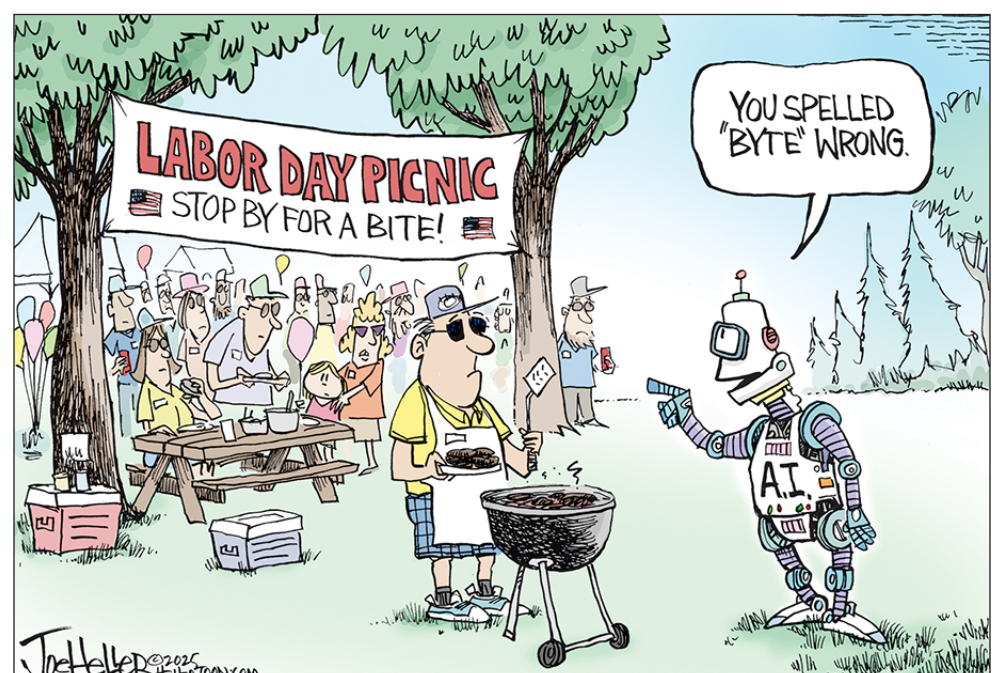
I agree with the administration's perspective and am worried that we may just enter paralysis by analysis. It seems to me that local districts already understand the data and can evaluate it in a local context.

I made the point that buy-in is more important than data at this point. The co-chairs do not agree.

I'll provide updates after each meeting, the next is Sept. 10.

Sen. Scott Beck is the Senate Minority Leader and represents Caledonia County

Heller's World by Joe Heller



VOICES OF SPIRIT

Sow seeds of the spirit

by Rev. Joe Welker

EAST CRAFTSBURY – It is a strange coincidence of history that the Battle of Gettysburg came only days before Independence Day 1863. I grew up in North Carolina with both Southern and Yankee family, and my great-great-grandfather was a first-generation German immigrant and Lutheran minister who studied at Gettysburg Seminary shortly before the war.

A few years ago, I was able to visit the Seminary library and see his handwriting preserved in one of his student essays, bringing the historical gap into perspective.

It was not so long ago that we were fighting and dying over the right to enslave fellow human beings. This occurred in a Christian society but was the extreme opposite of what Paul writes in Galatians 6, calling us to bear each other's burdens and not sow to the flesh, but the spirit. Instead, slaves were being told they must bear another's burdens while sowing not only in the fields, but to the flesh. And as we know, bringing it to an end did not suddenly end all American evils nor slaveries by other names.

As for our current cultural moment, perhaps the stakes feel as high to us in our political climate, or perhaps that comparison is insulting. Perhaps we don't really know how our current conflict maps onto the long hindsight view of history that is so clear now. But perhaps because I know only a small bit of the history of Gettysburg Seminary, I know that even at the point of warring visions of what America should be, there were things that were timeless, wholesome, good and true even in the midst of evil.

During the battle, Gettysburg Seminary was turned into a field hospital for both sides, treating some 700, while far greater numbers of men lay face-down beyond treatment on the battlefield. The place meant to train ministers like my great-great-grandfather was temporarily a different kind of training ground, where unpaid and untrained local volunteers, many of whom were women, streamed in at the edges of the battlefield to try to salvage what life there was to salvage. The trained doctors who did show up did not have their normal supplies and could only do so much. While they could not stop the war or the bloodshed, I doubt there has been a better use or symbol of a seminary in the 162 years since.

It's important to note that the Seminary did not enter into this role by choice. Becoming a hospital was less about any goodness of the church than simply the fact that it was there, perhaps subconsciously aided by the fact that people knew what, and who, that seminary was supposed to stand for. It has long been said (with no confirmable attribution) that the church is "not a museum for saints, it is a hospital for sinners." Some have further suggested that it is, too, a morgue for the dead, yet a strange one. People arrive dead in the flesh, and through the saving work of Christ leave alive.

I think about Paul's lines about bearing each other's burdens in such times and wonder how we can be a better field hospital for souls in our community. As he writes, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9)

I know that whatever our political feelings are, this time is a time for weariness. Yet let us take that hope: what do we want to sow? If we don't like what the government sows, what is it that we want to sow instead? Beyond the "anti-vision" that opposes the powerful, what is the vision of the wholesome, the true, the timeless good? What are the seeds of the spirit that God hopes we might help him sow?

This is a challenge when, sometimes, our analysis and diagnosis of what is being sown and reaped by our enemies can be self-serving. This isn't to say that sometimes, we really are in the right and our enemies wrong; the point is not moral equivalency. The truth cannot be in the middle when the question comes to slavery.

But also, there is a deeper underlying point that we can take from Paul: if we don't like what we see going on in the world, and don't want to reap it, what is it that we ought to be sowing in our community instead?

What are the seeds of the spirit that we can throw from the windows of the field hospital for souls?

Perhaps you can throw the seeds of fairness, justice, good faith, truth, honesty and integrity. When the soldier from the other army comes into your midst, even when you know they support something evil, can you fight for what is right while still treating them with dignity? If we see people acting with inhumanity toward their neighbor,

can we sow not more seeds of the flesh through more inhumanity, but the seeds of the spirit that Christ sows? Can we not lose our compass of what is right while also bearing the burdens and treating the wounds of our enemy?

In the Northeast Kingdom, I think and I know we can. And I hope and pray that our churches, if nothing else, can be field hospitals to care for all who are wounded in our physical, cultural and spiritual battles today.

The good news is that we don't have to be especially good, because we're not; we're getting treated in the hospital too. Like the seminary that became a hospital, we just happen to be here. But while we're here, we can

always let people know this is a soul's hospital. In God's grace, our churches can even be a morgue where those who have died to sin find a new life in Christ. This is certainly what I hope for at East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church.

If you are weary like the Galatians were, keep hoping and keep sowing. We can't control the world. We can't control the weather in our field. But besides pushing back what we are against, we can keep sowing the spirit we are for. For even where death and evil had seemed to rule, Christ sowed his entire being that we may reap life.

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

ANOTHER OPINION

Rewards of honest history

by T.H. Breen

GREENSBORO – After writing about American history for over forty years, I find it surprising that anyone would seriously claim that slavery in this country was not violent, humiliating or oppressive. But there are people who make such claims. Eager to erase aspects of our shared past, they pretend that the experience of enslaved men and women was not all that unpleasant. Work on plantations, we learn, involved learning a craft, much like a technical school, and of course, masters and slaves forged bonds of loyalty.

These politically-driven arguments are nonsense. Actual enslaved people never engaged in such self-serving historical revision. One only has to read Frederick Douglass's powerful account of the pain of bondage or W.E.B. duBois's brilliant "The Souls of Black Folks," to comprehend the evil of slavery. An even more moving account of this violent institution can be found in Walter Johnson's carefully researched "Soul By Soul" which documents the horrors of slave auctions in New Orleans.

During the American Revolution, a moment in our history anchored in the defense of rights, enslaved people reminded the Founding Fathers that they too were entitled to liberty. In 1774, when Caesar Sarter, a black man living in Massachusetts, petitioned for freedom, he insisted "this is a time of great anxiety and distress among you [the whites], on account of the infringement...of the natural

rights and privileges of freeborn men." After observing the daily terrors of slavery, Sarter asked, "why will you not pity and relieve the poor distressed, enslaved Africans?"

Other enslaved people informed a governor, "we are a freeborn Pepel [sic] and have never forfeited this Blessing by aney [sic] compact or agreement whatever." Such rhetoric apparently still makes those who want an uplifting story about our country uncomfortable.

An even more uncompromising condemnation of slavery came from Elizabeth Freeman, who lived in Sheffield, Mass. She sued successfully for her freedom, and when asked about her past, she proclaimed, "Any time, any time while I was a slave, if one minute's freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it, just to stand one minute on God's earth a free woman, I would." We might conclude that Freeman understood the demands of slavery better than do modern commentators who want to minimize over two centuries of suffering.

Of course, erasing aspects of our history that disturb some Americans is a misguided enterprise. A healthy, functioning democracy learns from the past and looks to a common future in which citizens condemn unconscionable human exploitation.

T.H. Breen is the author of "American Insurgents, American Patriots: The Revolution of the People"

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Bobolink birds are in decline, but Vermont's fields are key to change

by Lindsey Papasian

NEW HAVEN — Hyla Howe trudged through the high grass. She scanned the ground and took note: red clover, sedge, canary reed. Each plant said something about whether the field would be a good spot for bobolinks.

Suddenly came a wave of R2-D2 chirps as 40 or more the birds were flushed from their positions in the grass, swirling through the air singing.

"This is amazing!" Howe said.

The birds looked like dots dancing overhead. The fledglings were easy to spot in their clumsier flight patterns, and with binoculars, the adult males were clear in their distinctive black and white plumage, the adult females sporting brown feathers with yellow breasts.

After a few transects of the field, it was time to go back to the landowner to tell them the good news: The birds had successfully nested, and it was safe to mow.

That's a day in the life of Howe, hired this year as the first outreach coordinator for the Boboblink Project, an effort run by Mass. Audubon, Audubon Vermont and New Hampshire Audubon. She works for the Massachusetts outfit specifically.

Grassland birds like the bobolink are declining faster than any other group of birds in New England. In the last 50 years, over 75% of the species have seen population losses. Some of the worst hit are bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks, two of 10 species of grassland birds in Vermont. They build their nests on the ground, which makes them vulnerable to haying and mowing in fields.

The Bobolink Project pays the owners of these fields, often farmers, to conduct or pay for bird-friendly management practices. The birds get time and habitat to nest while the landowners get some compensation for letting them do so.

The money to pay participating landowners comes from private donations.

"You don't think of wildlife as an agricultural product until you

remove native prairie, then you kind of have to think about wildlife as an agricultural product," said Howe. "Essentially, the landowners are raising grassland birds."

On Howe's early morning visit to New Haven, landowner Steve Shores was thrilled to hear about the successful nests.

"I am glad you are seeing birds in these fields," Shores said.

After a catch-up about the farm, life and all its changes, Howe and Shores said goodbye until next year, when she'll come back to check on the field again.

Every current or prospective piece of land in the project needs to be surveyed yearly.

To be a part of the effort, farmers must alter their haying processes.

That's done by either delaying the first cut of the season: no disturbance in the field until after July 15, or delaying a second cut, no disturbance in the field between May 20 and July 24. The delays allow enough time for grassland birds to nest safely.

The birds need enough space as well as enough cover to protect their hatchlings until they are able to fly.

To get their population estimates, scientists have been out surveying fields, which includes analyzing vegetation and counting female birds to estimate the number of nests in the area using a formula created by Allan Strong, a University of Vermont professor who directs the school's wildlife and fisheries biology program.

The biggest driver of grassland bird declines has been changes in land use.

The first major land-use transformation affecting grassland bird populations in Vermont today was the demise of sheep farming starting in the 19th century.

Vermont's sheep boom started in 1811 and lasted until the middle of the century. By 1840 there were over a million sheep in the state, requiring an enormous amount of pasture.

Two hundred years later, the landscape of Vermont is nearly 80% forest: Many of the sheep farms were left to fallow and have reforested since. The dairy farms that came in after the sheep craze required less open land and themselves have declined since.

When farms go out of business and no one's around to maintain the fields, shrubs and tree seedlings start to take over.

As trees reemerged in disused land, there were less and less



Two bobolinks, a male on the left and female on the right, hanging out in a field. photo by Allan Strong

grasslands where birds such as the bobolink could build their nests.

The second land-use factor causing grassland bird decline is the intensified management of fields.

"Fields are being cut earlier than they used to, more frequently than they used to," Strong said.

"Bobolinks and meadowlarks don't really have a chance," he said.

More than 95% of eastern meadowlarks have disappeared in New England, according to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, and it's now a threatened species. Bobolink populations have dropped 60-75% continent-wide.

"There are fields I'm seeing now with fewer and fewer bobolinks," said Margaret Fowle, senior conservationist at the Vermont Audubon.

The Mass. Audubon hired Howe to manage the Boboblink Project, do more targeted outreach to farmers and provide more opportunities for education and assistance.

The landowners engaging in the Boboblink Project are excited to help conserve the birds while also getting some money for their participation.

"They pay me not to mow, and I don't mow anyway, so why not get a little money and save the birds?" said Shores, the New Haven farmer.

He was contacted by the project to consider entering his field into conservation.

Marilyn Marks, a prospective participant who lives down the road from Shores, said she wishes the state would provide landowners a tax credit for maintaining their fields for conservation, expanding a current credit system that cuts rates for land deemed for agricultural use.

The effort is not without drawbacks. Delayed cutting of fields

could allow invasive plant species to seed.

According to Fowle, invasives such as poison parsnip, bedstraw and spotted knackweed have been moving into these grasslands.

"Fields abandoned, left to fallow, will over time become meadows and then forest in Vermont. It's a common misconception that fields should be left completely alone," said Howe

Kevin Tolan, staff biologist at Vermont Center for Ecostudies, sees it as a catch-22. "Can't cut too much because it'll destroy their nests," he said. "Otherwise, if you let the invasives seed, they can take over."

Howe, as the outreach coordinator responsible for surveying the fields, has been spending the season so far meeting with farmers and landowners and checking the viability of their fields for nests.

Viability of the fields is checked by a few different measures. When walking through the fields, Howe takes note of vegetation, management practices and looks out for birds.

The vegetation is important to pay attention to since it can reveal habitat quality. For example, an overabundance of sedges indicates that the field may be too wet for bobolinks to nest on the ground.

And if grass is not dense enough, it puts the bird nests at risk for predation.

Howe thinks of grassland systems in a similar way to forests, with canopies, understories and overstories. The arrangement of cover needs to be right for bobolinks and their hatchlings to succeed.

"It's like an interesting puzzle," she said.

Lindsey Papasian writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship.



A bobolink nest, features a clutch of eggs. photo by Hyla Howe

IN THE GARDEN

Drought stress affecting Vermont's trees, shrubs

by Ann Hazelrigg

BURLINGTON – After a very wet spring, warm and dry conditions have dominated Vermont and the Northeast since the beginning of June. According to the National Integrated Drought Information System, the driest areas of the region have received only 25% to 75% of normal precipitation. At the same time, temperatures have ranged from 2°F to 4°F above normal. Depleted soil moisture and high evaporative demand, caused by higher temperatures, have continued to dry out vegetation and increased the risk of fires.

The lack of rain, coupled with high temperatures, increases the likelihood of severe stress in shrubs, trees and other plants. Without water, plants can't readily absorb and transport minerals or nutrients. Metabolic processes, including photosynthesis, decrease or stop as drought conditions become severe. During a drought, fine root hairs die, further reducing the capacity of trees and other plants to absorb water.

Acute drought stress symptoms in trees and shrubs include wilting, marginal leaf scorch or dieback along the leaf edges, yellowing or browning leaves and premature leaf drop. Symptoms may also include tip dieback in evergreens and, in some cases, dead branches. Some

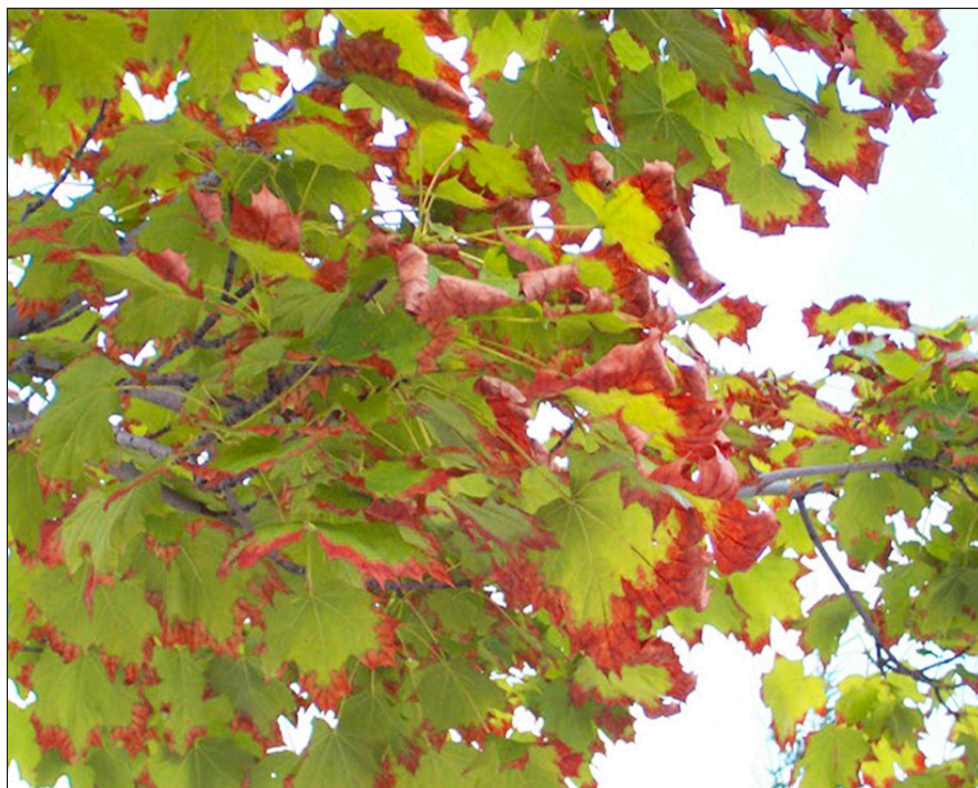
trees in the area are dropping leaves as if it were late October.

The long-term effects of drought on the health and survivability of woody plants are less obvious and hard to determine. The extent of the damage may depend on additional factors such as the site, genus of the tree or shrub, soil type, amount of soil compaction, age of plant, exposure and previous stress issues such as damage from pests and diseases.

Although insufficient rainfall during this growing season is the primary cause of the lack of soil moisture, it can be exacerbated by high temperatures and strong winds. Exposed trees facing south and west may be more impacted than those that are more protected.

Soil type will also influence the impact of drought. Trees planted in sandy soil may exhibit symptoms earlier or be more severely affected, as there is a limited water-holding capacity. Trees planted on shallower soils may show acute symptoms earlier.

Plants already stressed by insect pressure, such as defoliation from caterpillars or diseases like lilac leaf blight, may exhibit increased damage and be slower to recover. Drought stress weakens the plant's natural defenses, increasing the chances of attacks by pests such as boring insects, bark beetles, and spider mites. It may also increase the incidence of root rot (*Armillaria*,



Marginal leaf scorch appears on a maple tree due to drought.

photo by Ann Hazelrigg

shoestring rot) and certain canker diseases.

Newly transplanted trees and shrubs are particularly vulnerable to drought, as they may have lost a significant amount of water-absorbing roots during the digging and transplanting process.

To lessen the impacts of drought, water deeply and slowly out to the dripline every week if it is dry and hot. Avoid over-saturating the soil; it should be moist 12 inches below the soil surface. Use a two- to four-inch layer of mulch or landscape fabric

around the tree out to the dripline to help retain any moisture that is still in the soil. Avoid fertilizing during drought, as it can stimulate new growth and exacerbate stress.

Hopefully, fall rains will replenish the soil moisture and stop further damage. It remains to be seen, but the drought conditions may impact the color of the fall foliage.

Dr. Ann Hazelrigg is the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Plant Pathologist and director of the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic.

Rascally rabbits in the garden

by Amy Simone

SOUTH BURLINGTON – Rabbits are adorable creatures, until they devour your newly planted perennials, that is. Many gardeners find themselves quite frustrated by the damage that rabbits can cause to their beloved plants. Understanding what you can do to discourage them from dining in your garden can help gardeners and rabbits coexist more harmoniously.

Previously, two species of cottontail rabbits made their home in Vermont. While the New England cottontail rabbit is native, it is now rare and only occasionally found in the southern regions of the state. Eastern cottontail rabbits are ubiquitous within the United States and although they are not native to Vermont, they are well established here.

Therefore, our adversary in the home garden is likely the Eastern cottontail rabbit. While their preferred habitat is fields and pastures of valley farmland, your yard can also keep them satisfied.

Since rabbits remain in the same

habitat for life, they and their prolific offspring may be repeat customers at your garden for many years. Unlike some other garden nuisances, rabbits are active all day and night, all year long.

The preferred plants of rabbits are flowers, fruits and vegetables. Wintertime forage is challenging for them, so they turn to eating the bark from trees and woody plants to access the nutritious cambium between the bark and wood.

Although it may seem like you cannot win against this voracious herbivore with large incisor teeth, there are ways to protect your plants. Note that if given the choice, rabbits will choose security over abundant food sources. With that in mind, if you have piles of stones, brush, tall weeds or debris in your yard next to plants, removing them will deny rabbits a hiding spot from which to dine. Likewise, fence off areas under decks, stairs or buildings to avoid giving them a safe haven.

Some gardeners try using repellents or scaring techniques, but unfortunately, their efficacy is generally



The cute but voracious Eastern cottontail rabbit, once settled into your garden, can destroy your plants.

photo by Amy Simone

short-lived. The best deterrent is a two-foot-tall barrier such as chicken wire with 1-inch or smaller squares, or 1/4-inch landscape cloth supported by wooden stakes or metal posts. Secure the fencing at the soil line with U-shaped pins or bury it four inches below ground as rabbits can and will crawl underneath it otherwise.

Rabbits especially enjoy the juicy stems and buds of plants, making emerging plants in springtime most appealing to them. Cover flowering bulbs as they emerge with a wire protector all around the plants

(top and sides) and far enough away that rabbits cannot reach through to the plant parts. The barrier can be removed once the flowers are blooming.

Strategically install barriers around vegetable gardens or other plants that show the tell-tale cleanly snapped leaves and stems associated with rabbit browsing. From November to April, protect young trees and woody shrubs with fencing, metal cages, hardware cloth or tree guards.

Winter barriers should be 3 feet tall to allow for the height of any snow cover. Unfortunately, failure to adequately protect your woody plants may result in their destruction within one winter.

Once you have protected your precious plants from the cute but destructive Eastern cottontail rabbit, you may find that it has decided to move on to another yard. Still, it is best not to let your guard down because at any moment, it can also come back for more.

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

OUR COMMUNITIES

McCabe discusses Vermont aquatic life, Sept. 11

GREENSBORO – Declan McCabe, an aquatic ecologist and professor of biology at Saint Michael's College, will be at Fellowship Hall at Greensboro United Church of Christ on Thursday, September 11, at 5:30 p.m., to discuss and share photographs of organisms found in Vermont's waterways.

His new book, "Turning Stones: Discovering the Life of Water," discusses a tipping point

in the mid-1990s that resulted in more intense storms in Vermont. The talk will include strategies to minimize stormwater impacts and ways to live with the expectation of future flooding.

This is a free Vermont Humanities talk held by the Greensboro Free Library. His talk will include references to the 2025 Vermont Reads book, "The Light Pirate," by Lily Brooks Dalton.

Cabot community contra dance, Sept. 12 Plainfield Conservation Commission

CABOT—A new year of second-Friday dances begins September 12, featuring the calling of Luke Donforth. The community contra dance takes place in the Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall), 3084 Main St., from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Live

music is provided by local musicians. Admission is on a sliding scale, and nobody is turned away for lack of funds. Everyone is welcome, including families and beginners. All dances are taught, and no special footwork is needed.

Living Systems: A three-part author series explores our connection to the natural world

by Plainfield Conservation Commission

PLAINFIELD — Living Systems, a three-part author series hosted by Cutler Memorial Library, invites the community to explore ecology not only as science, but as lived experience, cultural memory, and ethical challenge. Each event features a contemporary author whose work engages deeply with questions of interconnection, between people and place, species and systems, knowledge and responsibility.

Tuesday, September 23 at 6 p.m., join author Zoë Schlanger, for a live remote Q&A. Journalist for The Atlantic and author of The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New

Understanding of Life on Earth, Schlanger will explore the surprising ways plants perceive and respond to the world. Participants can ask questions and engage in a conversation that will challenge assumptions about the plant kingdom.

Tuesday, September 30 at 6 p.m., join forester and author Ethan Tapper for an in-person discussion about How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World. Tapper will share insights into the delicate, often surprising relationships between humans and forests, highlighting the challenges and rewards of caring for these vital ecosystems.

Tuesday, October 7 at 6 p.m., naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer, known for his Vermont radio program "For the Birds," will present his 21-year search for the elusive Elfin Bog Butterfly, the first confirmed sighting in the state. Blending natural history, personal narrative, and reflections on the human condition, Pfeiffer's talk celebrates curiosity, discovery and our connection to the living world. The series is free and open to all. Events are hosted at the Plainfield Town Hall and Opera House and are presented in collaboration with the Plainfield Conservation Commission, made possible by a grant from the Echo Center.

Contact: Angela Ogle, Director, Cutler Memorial Library. Phone: 802.454.8504, Email: angela.m.ogle@cutlerlibrary.org



A Merlin (falcon) appeared on Black's Point on Caspian Lake, Greensboro, on Monday, August 18.

photo by Jeffrey Parker



Plainfield Old Home Days 2018 at the town's recreation field.

courtesy image from Rick Pope drone footage.

Old Home Days 2025 begins Sept. 5

by Town of Plainfield

PLAINFIELD – Old Home Days 2025, begins Friday afternoon, September 5, with a farmers market and community meal from 4 to 7 p.m., and a variety chow in the Grace United Methodist Church (UMC) yard. Email John at johnclareyvt@gmail.com to sign up for the variety show.

Saturday, September 6, events begin with a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grace UMC yard

Line-up for the 11 a.m. parade through Plainfield Village begins in the park- and-ride at 10:30 a.m.

A chicken barbecue to benefit Plainfield Fire and Rescue begins at noon, with pickup at the fire station

A street fair from noon to 3 p.m. will be held on Mill Street and in the Grace UMC yard, with local organizations, a bouncy house, snow cones, face painting,

apple cider pressing, Barr Hill Lemonade, a bake sale, a healing sanctuary, community-supported kitchen and Just Foods Hub with fair trade coffee, chocolates and more.

From 1 to 2 p.m., Brent and Maya McCoy will perform "Her Majesty's Secret Circus," a live circus street performance,

A New Home Fair offers an exhibition of Vermont resources for new homes at the Plainfield Opera House, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Expect road closures, with Main Street closed from 11 a.m. to noon and Mill Street from Hudson Avenue to Main Street closed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More information, barbecue tickets, parade registration and volunteer sign-up to help the celebration run smoothly is at plainfieldvt.gov/old-home-days.html

To table at the street fair, email Jamie at jamieaspector@gmail.com



Demonstrators (from left) Rachel Cole (who made the two signs), Carlotta Hayes and Ellie Hayes held a honk and wave event, last Tuesday, Aug. 26, in front of The Civic Standard's building on South Main St. in Hardwick where they display signs claiming Trump is \$3,400,000,000 richer since taking office. The information comes from a recent New Yorker article..

photo by Rowley Brucken

EDUCATION

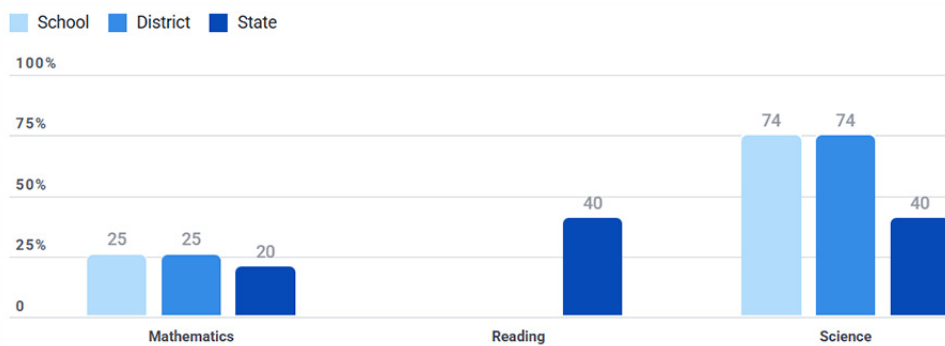
Hall, Beaudry awarded OSSU Employee of the Year



Woodbury Elementary School administrative assistant Monique Beaudry (left), recipient of the 2025-2026 OSSU Support Staff of the Year award is congratulated by principal Beth Parker. OSSU courtesy photo



First grade teacher Melissa Hall (left), recipient of the 2025-2026 OSSU Educator of the Year award, is congratulated by Hardwick Elementary School assistant principal Kate Gascoyne (right). OSSU courtesy photo



Vermont administered the Smarter Balanced and Vermont Science Assessment to high school students. These figures display how well Craftsbury high school students as a whole performed in reading, mathematics, and science. courtesy U.S. News & World Report

High School ranked second in Vermont

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – The Craftsbury Academy High School has been ranked second in the state of Vermont by U.S. News & World Report in its annual Best High Schools Rankings.

“It’s an outstanding achievement that reflects the dedication of our exceptional students, talented faculty and staff, and supportive families and community,” said a social media post by the school.

“This recognition is a true testament to our commitment to rigor and inclusion of all students right through their senior year,” said Lisa McCarthy, principal. “I am beaming with pride thinking about how our small, rural school is performing at such a high level.”

“Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® coursework and exams. The AP® participation rate at Craftsbury Schools is 88 percent. The total minority enrollment is 5 percent, and 48 percent of students are economically disadvantaged,” wrote U.S. News in describing the school.

Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho ranked first in the state.

Craftsbury’s college readiness rank was first in the state, 522 nationally, and in the 92.9 percentile nationwide on college-level exams.

The school ranked in the top three statewide for its college curriculum breadth, student proficiency and performance. The graduation rate ranked 25th in Vermont, with 76% of students graduating.

Craftsbury Schools, with a high school student population of 44, is ranked 646 in the National Rankings. Schools were ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college in the three academic years from 2021 through 2024.

In other area high schools, U-32 ranked 17th in Vermont and Hazen Union School 26th.

Cabot School, Danville School, Lamoille Union High School, People’s Academy and Twinfield Union School are unranked.

Complete Vermont rankings are at usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/vermont.

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) announced last week that two members of its educational community were recognized as 2025-2026 Employees of the Year at its annual convocation on August 21.

Melissa Hall, first grade teacher at Hardwick Elementary School (HES), was named Educator of the Year, and Monique Beaudry, administrative assistant at Woodbury Elementary School, was awarded Support Staff of the Year. Both were nominated by their colleagues last spring in recognition of exceptional contributions to students, families and their school communities.

“Melissa is a strong advocate for students with diverse needs. She creates an inclusive environment that supports a wide range of needs both academically and emotionally,” wrote one colleague in her nomination. “She is dependable, reliable, consistent and accountable, and we are lucky to have her at HES.”

A nomination for Monique Beaudry highlighted her commu-

nication skills and positivity. “Monique is the heart and soul of our school. She greets everyone with a smile. She helps teachers with tasks and questions throughout the day. She provides a quiet space for kids to take calming breaks and is there to provide help and guidance to them.”

Superintendent Dr. David Baker commended both honorees, saying:

“Melissa and Monique represent the very best of OSSU. Their dedication, compassion and professionalism are what make our schools strong and welcoming places for students to learn and grow. We are honored to recognize their contributions and grateful to have them as part of our OSSU family.”

“OSSU extends its appreciation to all staff for their commitment to students and the community. As the 2025–2026 school year begins, the Supervisory Union looks forward to continuing its mission of empowering students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be college and career ready and become successful, responsible and contributing members of both local and global society,” said an OSSU announcement of the awards.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

OUR COMMUNITIES



Seth Bond's 12-by-36-inch painting of the street scene from Craftsbury Academy to Sterling College's North House, donated by him to the Craftsbury Historical Society, is being raffled off in the society's summer fundraiser. The drawing will be at the Farmers Market, Saturday, September 27, on the Common.

courtesy photo

Streetscape donated for summer raffle

by Craftsbury Historical Society

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – This spring Craftsbury artist Seth Bond donated a painting depicting buildings along the east side of the Common to the Craftsbury Historical Society. The 12-by-36-inch painting shows the streetscape, from the Craftsbury Academy building down to the Sterling College North House.

The painting is being raffled off during the historical society's summer fundraiser, with the drawing scheduled during the last Farmers Market of the season, September 27, on the Common. Raffle tickets are available at the museum on the Common, Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, or at the Craftsbury Farmers Market, every Saturday, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tickets may also be obtained by contacting Don Houghton, don_houghton@yahoo.com.

In 2001 Bond began stitching together photographs of New England town scenes and selling them as greeting cards in 400

retail shops throughout New England. After taking 110,000 photos of 300 New England towns, he looked for an alternative given the amount of work involved and discovered he could paint.

Bond has now embarked on a project to turn those 300 composite photos into paintings. "I want people to see their town in a new way and feel good about it," he said.

When Bond was looking to move back to Vermont, he and his wife Molly stumbled across the Craftsbury property they now own and are enjoying the sense of community they feel in the town. Donating the painting is a way he can give back to the community for an important community resource, he said. "I hope everyone buys raffle because the historical society needs to raise funds to paint the building."

The society still has "Craftsbury Old Home Day" canvas totes, decorated with a Mary Azarian woodcut of a photograph from 1975, available along with the raffle tickets.

OBITUARIES

Brad Highberger

HARDWICK – Brad Highberger was a beloved and generous friend, who listened carefully and shared his thoughts respectfully. His dry humor through word play sprinkled smiles through conversations. He was born July 5, 1953, in Michigan. Brad was predeceased by his parents. His only sibling, Kirk Highberger, died of a heart attack in April of 2025.

Spirituality formed Brad's core values. Introspective life off-grid in rural Alaska as a young adult and eight years at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health developed his gentle approach to life.

Brad was a healer. He became a massage therapist in 1981 and trained in complementary natural healing methods many times in order to more effectively treat each client.

His knowledge benefited his own health when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He did not despair. He found a strict diet and exercises that kept him moving and upright.

As a skilled user of tools and a creative designer, Brad turned a rough camp into a jewel of a home on Bunker Hill in Hardwick. He loved walking in those woods, and



Brad Highberger

counting the lady slippers in the spring.

In mid-summer of 2024, Brad was diagnosed with terminal metastatic pancreatic cancer. As pain increased, his choice was clear. He was ready to step into the next world, no body required. On September 1, 2024, his only sibling, Kirk, his longtime partner, Don, Dr. Kiely, and two friends, Caro and Julie, created a circle of love as he passed off the earth through Vermont's Death with Dignity procedures. To say he is missed does not begin to express the feelings of those whose lives he touched.

EDUCATION

Remmers awarded Tech Center Director of the Year

by Paul Fixx

HYDE PARK – As area schools opened last week, an announcement by Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) said Lamoille North administrators joined Director Remmers at the 2025 Vermont Principals' Association (VPA)'s 2025 Leadership Conference to watch him accept his award as the 2025 Tech Center Director of the Year.

"Green Mountain Tech is fortunate to have a forward-thinking and collaborative leader like Erik at the helm. We take pride in providing our students with experiences in possible lifelong careers and equipping them to be successful. It's thanks to Director Remmer's leadership that we can do so at such a high level," said the announcement.

March 20, the executive council of the Vermont Principals' Association announced its 2025 Principal of the Year award winners, which



Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) Director Eric Remmers speaks after being honored as Vermont Career Center Director of the year by the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) at its Leadership Academy, August 5, at the Killington Grand Hotel. social media photo

included Remmers and Jason Di Giulio, principal of Hazen Union High School in Hardwick as the National Association of Secondary Schools Principal of the Year.

The honorees were selected from written nominations made to the VPA by the VPA Executive Council.

Call to artists, submissions open

MONTPELIER – The T.W. Wood Museum invites artists to submit work for “The Voice of Human Instinct”, an upcoming exhibition in the Contemporary Hall Gallery. This exhibition seeks to explore the inner landscapes of the subconscious, a space where dreams act as guides and instinct becomes expression.

The gallery is seeking imaginative interpretations of the mirrored consciousness found in dreams. Artists who explore liminal realms, the surreal space between waking and dreaming, are encouraged to submit works that evoke the fantastical, the uncanny and the deeply intuitive. All two-dimensional media are welcome.

Artists should submit three to five images of recent artwork to info@twwoodgallery.org no later than September 6. Selected artists will be notified by email at the end of the day on September 13. All accepted work must be delivered to the T.W. Wood Art Museum September 24 to 25 between noon and 4 p.m.

Work must be wired, framed and ready to install. If special arrangements for drop off are needed, contact the museum. All art must be picked up on November 25, during gallery hours. Please email questions regarding the exhibition to Newton Gallegos, gallery and adult education coordinator, at info@twwoodgallery.org



Attendees of the cheese and culture festival gather in the sunshine to support an array of local vendors, accompanied by food trucks and live music.

courtesy photo

Cabot Arts announces 3rd annual cheese and culture festival

CABOT – The third annual cheese and culture festival will take place on the Cabot Village Common, located 3148 Main Street, Saturday, September 27, from noon to 5 p.m.

The free event celebrates Vermont cheesemakers and producers of fermented foods and beverages. This year, over 40 vendors will gather for an afternoon of tasting, education and celebration.

Featured speakers include Charlie Nardozi, a Regional Emmy® award winning, nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio and television personality, who will discuss no-till gardening and soil health; Hill Farmstead Brewery, named the best brewery in the world for the fifth straight year by RateBeer, will give a

presentation about the history of their beers and the land they come from; and award-winning Jasper Hill Farm will give a demonstration about cheese cutting, service, storage and appreciation.

In addition to the speakers, workshops and demonstrations on fermented food-making, there will be food trucks, live music and cheese and beverage pairing events. The Cheese and Culture Festival will occur alongside Cabot’s annual Fall Foliage Festival day which will add crafts, an apple pie contest, pumpkin carvings, wagon rides, children’s activities and leaf-peeping tours to the celebratory atmosphere. For more information and the schedule of activities, visit: www.cabotarts.org.



The Marsh Lights performed on the Cabot Village Common for the final concert of the 2025 Summer Music Series on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

Social Media Photo



The Caja Madera food truck visits Highland Lodge for the last Margarita Monday event of the summer season, Labor Day, September 1. Through the fall and winter, the Taqueria is open Tuesday to Friday 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 154 West Route 14, Hardwick.

photo by Paul Fixx

Wedding And Party Planner

Presenting professionals whose products and services will assist in creating your special celebration!



Weddings,
Special Events,
Symphy Design

AMY'S Artistic Floral

AMY TALLMAN, owner/designer
178 Scott Road, Hardwick
(802) 472-8354 • (802) 595-3751
amysartisticfloral@yahoo.com

Wedding Policy

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

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

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

Cécilia, Quebec music trio, presents vibrant concert

REVIEW

by David Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Canadian group, Cécilia came to Greensboro at the Highland Center for the Arts on Thursday evening, August 21, and gave a vibrant concert of music spanning the genres of traditional, Celtic, Quebecois and jazz. The trio of pianist Evin Leahy, accordion player Timi Turmel and violinist Louis Schryer, were all masters of their respective instruments.

They begin with a toe-tapping tune having great dance rhythms and sweeping momentum, the beat reinforced by stomping one of their feet on the floor. “Farewell to Whalley Range” (by Michael McGoldrick) was a fine melody in a slow tempo, which then accelerated with several high-energy reels: the “Edinburgh Rock” (David Lim), “Jack Brown’s 70th” (Gordon Duncan) and “Lad O’Beirne’s” (Jamie Lad O’Beirne)

An old Irish song, “Si Bheag Si Mhor” by Turlough O’Carolan, dated back several centuries, with a beautiful melody, peaceful and nostalgic; evocative of another time. A stride piano piece in the manner of James

P. Johnson featured Erin Leahy with jazzy rhythms, while the next selection had real drive with all the players going full strength together in a well integrated performance. The following number gave the violinist, Louis Chryer, a chance to demonstrate his impressive improvisation skills with its playful, frolicking pace. Timi Turmel then showed his dexterity on accordion in a melody with quite rapid tempos.

After intermission, the piano and violin had something of a duet with Schryer exhibiting expressive bowing in a tune with a rolling flow. The classic song “Lady Be Good” was given an excellent rendition by Turmel, doing imaginative permutations on his accordion. A piece with

a nice relaxed swing to it had Turmel and Schryer playing with a close knit harmony.

A medley of rag tunes brought everyone together for the “Twelfth Street Rag,” and the “Maple Leaf Rag” (Scott Joplin) with complex might and left hand interplay, and one final rag with a fast pace.

Leahy and the group’s booking agent, Danielle, gave a lively demonstration of French Canadian clogging, which got the audience clapping to the beat. There was joyous energy Irish melody performed with great ensemble effect, while the increasingly rapid fingering of Turmel on his accordion in the following work was something to behold. “Stuck In my Head” was an engaging number

that came to Turmel during the enforced isolation during the Covid-19 epidemic. The final composition of the program had a laid back ambience that brought out both individual improvisation and highly coordinated musicianship, which earned them a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Each member of Cécilia connected with the people attending the concert in a genuinely personable way, especially in their talks between selections, and you could tell from the constant smiles on their faces that they love making music. We hope they will return soon to remind us of the richness of the culture of Quebec, hardly fifty miles north of us.

Plainfield Arts presents “Phil Henry and the News Feed”


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. His newest release, “MacGuffin,” debuted at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, where he was voted by the audience as a “Most Wanted Emerging Artist” the year before.

Henry’s performing resume includes festival appearances at Kerrville Folk Festival (Texas), Black Bear Americana Festival (Connecticut), and SolarFest (Vermont). He’s opened for singer-songwriters like Mark Erelli, Richard Shindell, Peter Mulvey, and Vance Gilbert.

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.



Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	12 AM
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond		Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine			Adagio		2 AM
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							3 AM
4 AM	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors							4 AM
5 AM	Counterspin Grassroots	Thom Hartmann Program					What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	5 AM
6 AM	Big Picture Science Show	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Prison Pipeline Food Sleuth	6 AM
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Magpie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	First Voices Radio	Writer's Voice	Economic Update Rumble Strip	The Children's Hour	7 AM
8 AM	Democracy Now!						Bike Talk	8 AM
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see below)	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etnier	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see below)	9 AM
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see below)	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see below)	10 AM
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	Night Train Cocktail	¿Where Do We Go From Here? Caleb		11 AM
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat		Unshelved J Kramer		The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM
1 PM				The Rubber Room Dan Towner		Techtonic		1 PM
2 PM	Spanning the Chasm Peter Goreau	The Monday Drive at 2 Corey Flynn	Straight Up Soul		UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM
3 PM			Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Adiagio		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		3 PM
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland		Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder		Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	4 PM
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Letters and Politics				Geezer Rock Jeff Lindholm		5 PM
6 PM	Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger & Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)			6 PM
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAh	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see below)	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see below)	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	7 PM
8 PM								8 PM
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Deep Blues Les Mawson	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	9 PM
10 PM		Blues Edge Les Mawson					The Beatdown Z-Point	10 PM
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop		11 PM

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Audio Ergo Sum
Darlen & Ruby McElwain
2nd & 4th Sun: The Immanent Grove
Conni Mags

#2: Sun 4-5 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances
DJ Savannah

#3: Sun 9-11 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: Show
of Live
2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm
1st Mon: Billuminations
Stefanie Lingenfelter
2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneiform Radio
Kyle Schlesinger
3rd Mon: Project Censored

#5: Mon 7-9 pm
1st Mon: Future Reflections
DJ Syd
2nd Mon: In Common Sounds
Brother B
3rd Mon: Gilded Splinters
Kevin Titterton
4th Mon: Borderlands
DJ Tenderman


#6: Tue 9-10 am
1st & 3rd Tue: Alternative Radio
2nd & 4th Tue: Structurally Unsound
Yardain Amron

#7: Tue 7-9 pm
Biweekly rotation:
Still Life with Club Soda
Serena Matt
Still Life with Orange Peel
Ada Bowman


#8: Thu 6-7 pm
1st Thu: The Broken Bois
Collective Presents...
2nd & 4th Thu: Into the Issues
Steve Pappas
3rd Thu: Radio RoundUp
CVCR hosts

#9: Sat 9-10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace
Joseph Gainza
2nd Sat: Civic Radio Project
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report
Emily Lanxner
4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture
Rebecca Beidler

#10: Sat 10-11 am
1st Sat: Sex Fly Bengé
2nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio
Pat Kantner
3rd Sat: Under the Covers
DJ Rhizosphere
4th Sat: Indigenous Music




Support, stream live or listen to archives at WGDR.org



Historian tells East Craftsbury library history

REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

EAST CRAFTSBURY – Polly Seddon Allen, a consulting architectural historian, gave a very informative talk about the history of the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library in East Craftsbury, entitled “From a General Store to a Community Library,” Monday evening, August 15, at the library.

The library is celebrating its century of existence this year and part of the impetus of this research is to document its significant role in Craftsbury’s commercial and community development, but also to seek nomination for a place in the National Trust Register of Historical Places.

Craftsbury consists of four villages; Craftsbury Common, Mill Village, Craftsbury and East Craftsbury. The first was the Common, settled in the late 18th century by the Crafts and other earlier proprietors for its healthy elevation. The need for water and power encouraged the growth of Craftsbury (The Black River), Mill Village (the outlet from Little Hosmer Pond) and East Craftsbury (The Whetstone Brook) in the first half of the 19th century. A considerable number of small factories were established, and in East Craftsbury there was an oat mill, a sawmill and a blacksmith. The surrounding lands (extending into Greensboro and Glover) were populated by Scottish immigrants (mostly dissenting Covenanters) in the 1830s and ‘40s, with still familiar family names such as Urie, Barr, Calderwood, MacLaren, Gebbie, Barclay, Moodie, Shields, Patterson and Simpson.

John and Janet (Stevens) Simpson came to East Craftsbury in 1831. The original general store that became the present library was built on land owned by David Moodie, and the first person to run it was C.B. French around 1840. It was sold to Josiah Osgood in 1941, and then to James W. Simpson in 1847, who managed it until his death in 1887, when it was taken over by George Wallace Simpson, who owned it until 1914.

The store was then inactive until 1921, when Miss Jean Simpson, the daughter of John Woodruff Simpson, dedicated it to her father, as a library.

In the meantime, another store was opened by R.S. Mason in East Craftsbury in 1893, just east of the Simpson store, later owned by a Mr. Harrimah, that lasted

until the 1960s.

A general store at that time would have been a real center of the local community. One needs to remember that until later in the 19th century into the 20th century the only form of transportation (other than boats) was a horse and buggy or walking, so generally people didn’t travel very far from their farms in the surrounding area. It would have had a post office, a nice box wood stove with chairs around it, a cracker barrel, kegs of nails, clothing, shoes, newspapers, books, paper supplies, fresh and canned food, meat, tea and coffee, sugar, toys, medicine, tools and many other useful items. Customers could barter eggs and butter to make purchases. After the railway came to Greensboro Bend and Hardwick in the 1870s, many more factory made goods became available.

The Simpson family has a particularly fascinating history. John Woodruff Simpson was born in 1850 and went to Johnson Normal School, Amherst College and finally to law school at Columbia University. He founded Simpson Thatcher, which is still one of the most prominent law firms in New York City, and became the corporate lawyer to the Vanderbilts and many other major businessmen of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He had a house on 5th Avenue and 74th Street and built an architect-designed home in East Craftsbury, as well as a large cow barn, horse stables and a new Presbyterian Church there. His wife was a patron of the French sculptor August Rodin and collected over two dozen of his works, which she later donated to the National Gallery of Art in Washington. He died in 1920 and Mrs. Simpson lived for some years in Casa Mia, a house across from the rectory of the East Craftsbury church.

Miss Jean Simpson was their only child.

Born in 1897, she grew up in New York City with governesses and tutors, never actually going to school. She spoke five languages, travelled widely and was well read. Some of the souvenirs from her trips can be seen in the library.

She first came to East Craftsbury when she was twelve and immediately fell in love with the place. Active in theatre life in New York City and friends with such artists as photographer Edward Steichen, she summered in East Craftsbury but did not move there permanently until 1939, so the library may not have been open in the winter. Many of the books initially came from her father’s library, and it

expanded over the years. Part of a much wider public library movement sponsored by wealthy benefactors such as Andrew Carnegie at the turn of the last century and exemplified by the many beautiful library buildings in towns around Vermont, it provided free access to books to educate yourself, a great blessing for vast numbers of people around the country and fundamental to the growth of a functioning democracy.

Besides the library, Miss Jean was very supportive of the local Girl Scouts from the 1940s to the 1970s, she founded the East Hill Players which gave Shakespeare plays in the summer with widespread local participation and was a Representative from Craftsbury in the Vermont Legislature. She

helped keep Craftsbury Academy independent when there was consolidation of many schools in the 1960s and 70s,

. She was very generous philanthropically to individuals for college tuitions, and when people had difficulties, as well as to worthwhile community organizations, including donating to all the churches in Craftsbury. Early on she bought a 16 millimeter movie camera and documented many events in Craftsbury, such as the annual Old Home Day. On top of this she ran a model dairy farm of Jersey cows and made excellent brass knocker maple syrup. She died in 1980 and was definitely a unique person who made a difference in her community, leaving a beautiful legacy that we all continue to enjoy.



Bread and Puppet performs their Domestic Resurrection Revolution In Progress Circus from September 1 to October 14 across the country.

courtesy photo

Bread and Puppet Theater begins tour

GLOVER – The Bread & Puppet Theater is taking its circus to cities and towns in the US Northeast and Midwest September 1 to October 14.

The company presents Our Domestic Resurrection Revolution in Progress Circus, a brand new show in the tradition of the iconic Bread & Puppet Circuses that began in 1970 while in residence at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. The show will draw on traditional circus tropes and familiar Bread & Puppet iconography to highlight urgent issues of the day. Stilt dancers, paper maché beasts of all sizes and a riotous brass band make a raucous, colorful spectacle of protest and celebration. After each show Bread & Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and “Cheap Art”, books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread & Puppet Press will be for sale.

Director Peter Schumann reminds us that this year’s circus

brings, “Anti-Empire Art that acknowledges our beloved Mother Dirt, who makes us and un-makes us, and who presents urgently needed domestic resurrection services for the victims of this latest genocide. We are joined by Palestinian cranes on their way to Washington to replace the excrement in the White House with organic bird droppings, green frogs who teach the art of hopping over seemingly insurmountable problems, and gaggles of kindergarten butterflies who frolic to their hearts’ desire.”

Now in its 62nd year, Bread & Puppet will tour to some of its regular fall stops including New York, Cambridge, and Baltimore, as well as to cities and towns in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. In all, Bread & Puppet will play the circus 37 times in 34 places. The full tour schedule is available at BreadAndPuppet.org/Tour.

Davis recounts Hardwick childhood, lucky life

REVIEWS

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Historian Allen Davis, was born in 1931, grew up in Hardwick through the Great Depression, World War II and their aftermath, at a time when “American upward mobility did work,” he writes in his new book “The Lucky Generation: Growing up in Depression and War.”

“Those of us in the ‘Lucky Generation’ who went to college were certainly favored by the odds. I once told my Dartmouth classmates (class of 1953) that they were successful (and most have been very successful), not because they were brilliant and hardworking, but because they were born in 1931,” he writes. “At first they rejected the ‘luck factor’ as a key to their success, but after I sketched the demographic statistics they began to admit that their year of birth had helped the trajectory of their careers in business, law and medicine.”

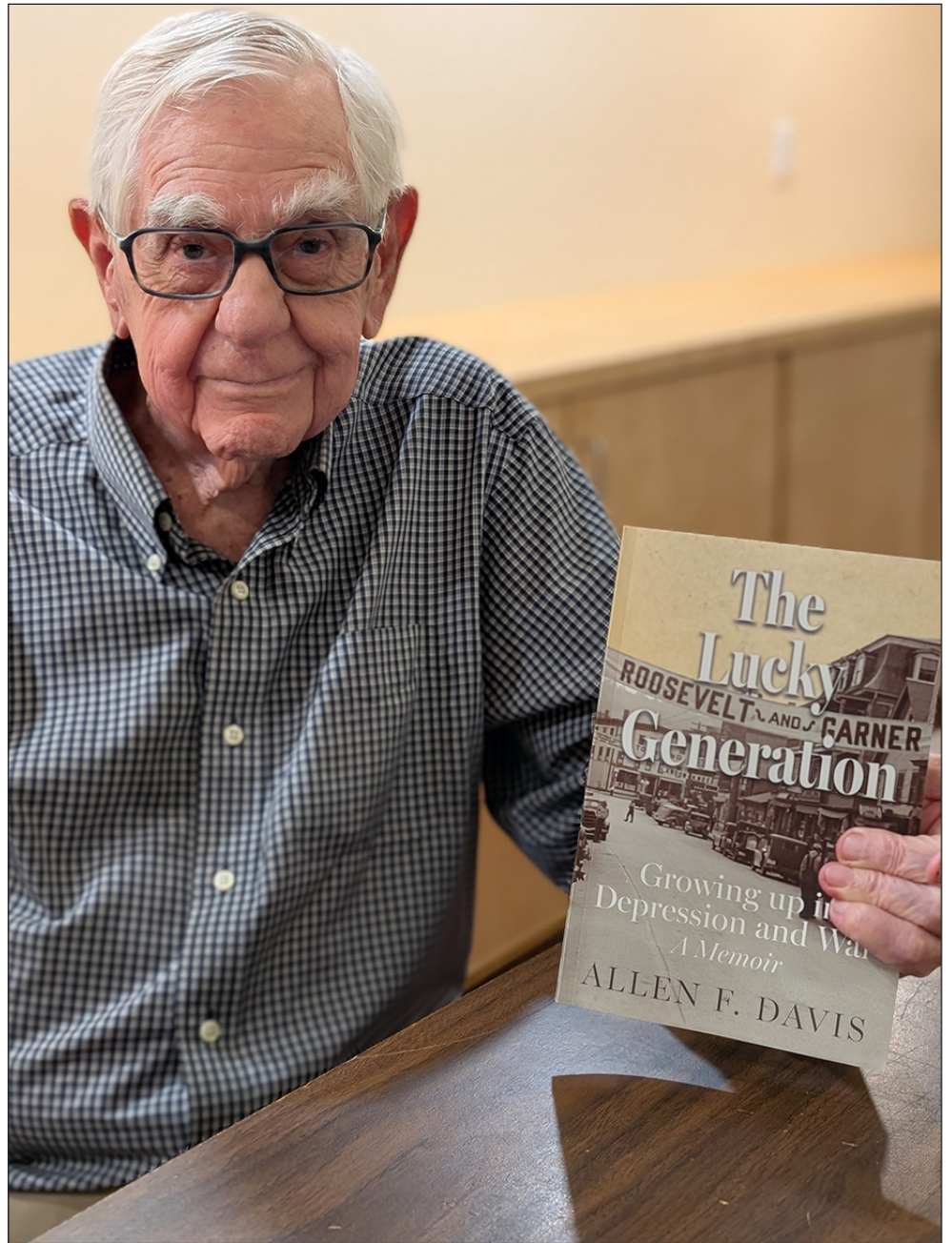
Davis spoke at a free public book launch co-sponsored by the Hardwick Historical Society, The Galaxy Bookshop and the Jeudevine Memorial Library in the Jeudevine Library’s new Parker Ladd Community Room, Wednesday, Aug. 20

The book ends with Davis entering Dartmouth College. About his journey there and growing up in Hardwick, he recalls baked beans every Saturday night, sneaking into the pool hall, going to movies at the Idle Hour Theater, reading everything within reach at the Jeudevine Library and exploring Buffalo Mountain by himself.

A shy, bookish kid, he became a historian and tells his story with an eye to the historical context that shaped his life and the life of his hometown, which he has returned to every summer of his life, except one.

Davis took questions after introducing the book, recalling Hardwick as “the wettest dry town in the state.” While liquor wasn’t available in town, Al Stratton, who ran the stage to Montpelier took orders, returning with the liquor, Davis said. “Wives often appeared at his door and demanded he take no more orders from their spouses.” Townspeople were resourceful, making liquor from sources that included dandelions.

Much of Allen’s story centered around his father’s South Main Street store, now an apartment building across from the cemetery, and his love-hate relationship with working there as a boy, stocking shelves, sorting ration stamps on Saturday mornings and sometimes filling in for clerks who were ill during the summer.



Allen Davis with his new memoir, “The Lucky Generation: Growing up in Depression and War.” at a Jeudevine Memorial Library author talk and book signing, Wednesday, August 20. photo by Sandy Scott

When he was 16, he wrote letters to 30 boys camps, resulting in a position at Camp Wapanaki that included board and room, allowing him to avoid summer work at his father’s store.

He talked of Hardwick’s characters, including one referred to as the Mountain Queen, and another, May Foot, who lived in a little shack behind his house and ran a shop, but never had much of anything to sell and claimed to be an F.B.I agent.

Asked about travel, Davis said he hadn’t traveled much as a boy, except with his family on Labor Day. He recalled one trip that had

an impact on his life, though. In 1944, when he was 12 or 13, he traveled with two Smith boys on the train to Hartford, Conn., then to New York City, where they were met on Brooklyn by the Smith’s aunt. The boys took the subway into the city, alone, where they visited the site of the 1939 World’s Fair and the Empire State Building. He recalled visiting Scribner’s Book Store and eating cheesecake, all of which whetted his appetite for travel, which he’s continued to do ever since.

The book is available at the Galaxy Bookshop and the library has a copy ready for check-out soon.



The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers present their songs at the Adamant Community Club on September 12. courtesy photo

The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers play Sept. 12

ADAMANT – The Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers will present a concert on Friday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the Adamant Community Club.

The band unites the talents of “Banjo” Dan and Willy Lindner who co-founded Banjo Dan and the Midnite Plowboys and continued their career as the Sky Blue Boys. The band includes Danny Coane,

guitarist and lead singer formerly with the Throbulators, the Radio Rangers and the Starline Rhythm Boys. They recruited former Plowboy Sam Blagden to join them on bass and tenor harmonies.

The Adamant Community Club is located at the intersection of Martin and Haggett Roads in Adamant. For more information, call (802) 454-7103.

**Your Voice,
Your Community News**
Becoming a supporter of the Hardwick Gazette will help us continue delivering local news and information.



Our success depend on you, as readers, as donors and as advertisers with your businesses and civic organizations. All Gazette content is now available at no charge. We ask that you subscribe and share your address to help us understand where our readers live.

Donate online
hardwickgazette.org

EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 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, Sept. 4

ANNUAL MEETING, Federatio 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/

Friday, Sept. 5

PLAINFIELD OLD HOME DAYS BEGINS, 4 to 7 p.m., farmers market and community meal. Variety Show in the Grace United Methodist Church yard.

Saturday, Sept. 6

FARMERS MARKET, Marshfield, Jaquith Public Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., foraged flower arrangements, music by Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, jars, canning supplies resource swap.

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

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., with Krista Mayer. Teens and adults both welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: Albany Public Library, 830 Main

St., Albany. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

PLAINFIELD OLD HOME DAYS EVENTS, begins with rummage sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grace UMC yard. Parade at 11 a.m. Chicken Barbeque and street fair. Information: plainfieldvt.gov/old-home-days.html.

Monday, Sept. 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.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

TWO-TOWN HONK & WAVE with Indivisible Hardwick and Indivisible Calais, 10 a.m., Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St., Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

Wednesday, Sept. 10

RIPPLE EFFECTS: Watershed Forum - Conversations on Water, Wildlife & Climate Change. Beavers & Natural Infrastructure, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All are welcome. Information: (802) 472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov.

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

Thursday, Sept. 11

DECLAN MCCABE, aquatic ecologist and professor of biology at Saint Michael's College, at Fellowship Hall, Greensboro United Church of Christ, 5:30 p.m., to discuss and share photographs of organisms found in Vermont's waterways.

Saturday, Sept. 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, Sept. 14

WORDS OUT LOUD, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Gary Clark and Helen Whybrow. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

Monday, Sept. 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 to a nonprofit organization.

Saturday, Sept. 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.

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., with Krista Mayer. Teens and adults both welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: Albany Public Library,

830 Main St., Albany. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Sunday, Sept. 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, Sept. 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 to a nonprofit organization.

Sunday, Sept. 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, Sept. 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 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.,

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Flooring



Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon

"Quality You Can Stand On"
454-7301, Hollister Hill, Plainfield

Laundry



Self-serve • Open daily 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Drop-off service available,
call Derek, (802) 793-7388
9 Mill Street, Hardwick

Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED
HOLMES PLUMBING

Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843
Josh Holmes • 472-6228
Cell: (802) 745-8390

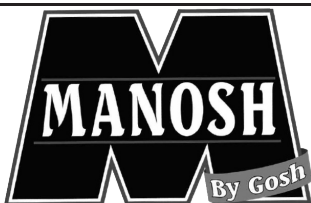
Restaurants



The Village Restaurant

Home Cooking at Its Best
74 South Main St., Hardwick
(802) 472-5701
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Daily, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services
Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

Services



- Dumpster rental
- Excavation
- Landscaping
- Stump Grinding

802.793.7388
HARDWICK • VERMONT
dwrichardson1999@gmail.com

Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service
Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products
Pond Aeration
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

Solar



Let the Sunshine Power You
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • ELECTRICAL
FEDERAL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE
(802) 793-2211

jeff@sterlingmountainsolar.com
Jeff Holmes, Master Electrician
2089 Laporte Road, Morrisville, Vermont

EVENTS

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 and Fridays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenlibrarian@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.

ALL HANDS TOGETHER, Community Crafting Group, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581, or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

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

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

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 Storytime; 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., Unit-

ed 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

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

VASILIOS GLETSOS: New Work. Using common materials: cardboard, paper, staples and wire, the art of Vasiliios Gletsos references objects of rural culture and playful expressions, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover, Sept. 3 to October 7.

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



Delivering On A Promise
Dead River
 Company

Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel
Heating Equipment Installations
 189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
 (802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276

TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY IS

HIRING

FULL-TIME ROAD FOREMAN

OR ROAD CREW

Visit www.townofcraftsbury.com/jobs for an application.
 Job opening will start in the fall.
 Competitive Salary \$25-\$35/hour & Benefits - EOE.
 Contact (802) 586-2823 or craftsbury@gmail.com for more information.

Town of Woodbury
Hiring Road Commissioner

The Town of Woodbury is seeking a highly skilled and experienced road commissioner to manage the daily operations of our highway dept. and to assist in the daily tasks that the road crew is responsible for.

Duties will include: daily work scheduling, purchasing of equipment and supplies, project planning, administration of grants, general road work, plowing and sanding, equipment operation and equipment maintenance. Other duties include communicating with the select board, the public and with state agencies.

Necessary skills and qualifications include: a Class A CDL, substantial knowledge of road construction and maintenance, the ability to manage highway department staff, mechanical knowledge, the ability to operate heavy equipment and knowledge of state environmental rules as well as best practices.

This is a full-time, 40-hour week position with overtime required as needed to keep roads passable. The expected pay range is \$30-\$40 per hour with benefits. Pay will be determined based upon experience and qualifications. Applications and a job description can be found on the town website at woodburyvt.org or by calling the town office at (802) 456-7051.



Hazen Union freshman Kennidee Gouin (right) looks to pass ahead of Lake Regions Nora Demaine (left) during action in Hardwick, August 30. Lake Region got around Hazen 5-3. The Wildcats have a home game against the wolves on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.



Hazen junior Wildcat Taylor Thompson (right) controls the ball inside the box in front of Adeleide Schnieder of Lake Region during play, August 30, on Hudson Field. Lake Region won 5-3. Hazen will host Peoples Academy Sept. 3 on Hudson Field at 4:30 p.m.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.

Lady Cats get clipped in season opener

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls soccer team showed flashes of their high-powered offense last week, but their defense couldn't hold up against Division II Lake Region as they dropped a shootout in their season opener.

Avery Hansen and Maeda Urie were a thorn in the Lady Cat defense all day on Saturday, combining to score all five goals, powering Lake Region to a 5-3 road win.

Mya Lumsden gave Hazen an early 1-0 advantage, finishing a rebound off an Isabelle Gouin rocket ten minutes into the match.

Urie beat Hazen keeper Ella Renaud near post less than a minute

later to make it 1-1 and gave her team the lead midway through the first half as the Lady Cat defense struggled to clear the ball out of the box. Gouin found the equalizer minutes later, gathering a long free kick from Julia des Groseilliers in the defensive third, outracing two defenders along the way.

Hansen gave Lake Region the lead for good with twelve minutes left in the first half, finishing off a perfectly placed through ball. She beat multiple Lady Cat defenders a minute later to give the visitors a 4-2 edge heading into the break.

"Hansen and Urie are impressive up top, and were able to capitalize on scoring opportunities, but we never let up. I was especially

proud of how we came out with intensity in the second half despite the score. Our goal was to answer back within the first five minutes of the second half," said head coach Megan Mercier.

Gouin met that goal with eleven seconds to spare as the Vermont All-Stater left the Lady Ranger defense in the dust once again to make it 4-3. Hansen completed the hat-trick eight minutes later, taking advantage of space, dribbling once to her right, and unleashing a rocket from outside the eighteen to end the scoring on the day. Renaud was under siege all day, turning away 17 shots in the loss. Nora Demain was equally as busy for Lake Region,

making 13 saves to earn the win.

"I was very proud of how hard our team worked in a long, even battle from start to finish. The final wasn't the outcome we wanted, but there were many positives that we'll take away and build on as we progress through our season," said Mercier.

The Lady Cats will look to get the defense back on track Wednesday as they host Peoples Academy. They will stay at Hudson Fields for a Homecoming Weekend Saturday match-up against Missisquoi Valley Union. Kick-off time is scheduled for 11 a.m. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

Cahoon back in Late Model victory lane

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – The Kids Division kicked off Saturday night's six-division card with Chloe Doyle and Bella Hamel leading the way side-by-side at the front. Several back of the pack cautions slowed the pace early but under green flag conditions Lucas Sidney and Owen Dupuis made their way through the field to pour the pressure on in the closing laps. Under the twin checkered flags Sidney took the win by a hair over Doyle with

Makenzi Sicard sliding in for third to round out the opening podium.

Austin Sicard took off with the lead in the Flying Tiger 35-lap dash but after eleven laps of fighting up through the inside line it was Owen Cheney out front. With the top six cars under a blanket, Nate Hamblett, Shane Sicard and Luke Peters tried following Cheney up the outside line as Austin Sicard and Todd Derrington held on strong in the outside groove. The caution

See CAHOON, next page



St. Johnsbury stalwart Stacy Cahoon celebrates his Late Model win with family and crew.

photo by John Racer



Jola Otten (left) of Caledonia United works the ball around Paine's Zeke Aronson during August 29 action in Danville. Danville topped their opponents 5-1. photo by Vanessa Fournier.



Caledonia United's Ben Monaco (left) readies for the pass as Zeke Aronson (right) of Paine rushes toward the play in Danville, August 29. Danville took the victory 5-1. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cal United boys don't miss a beat in opener

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Head coach Peter Stratman and his Caledonia United boys soccer team picked up right where they left off from last fall with an emphatic win over Paine Mountain in their season opener last week.

In their second season as a three-school cooperative (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville), Caledonia United recovered from an early one goal deficit last Friday to handle Paine Mountain at home 5-1.

Alex Colgan broke through the defense to give the visitors a 1-0 lead ten minutes into the match.

Sean Lehoe jumpstarted the home crowd with the equalizer in

extra time right before the halftime horn sounded to make it 1-1. Jola Otten gave Cal United the lead for good twenty minutes into the second half and Paine Mountain was on its back foot the rest of the match.

“Paine Mountain started fast and had us on our heels for much of the first half. They beat us to the ball and pushed some nice passes into dangerous positions. It took a while to find our rhythm and grow into the match. Once the boys settled into the game and started connecting passes, we were able to dictate the tempo and create more scoring opportunities,” said Stratman.

Sam McLane made a heroic

return to the pitch on Friday after battling back from a late season-ending injury last fall that stalled Cal United's playoff run in the quarterfinal round. McLane helped lead Cal United to a program record 11 wins last season. The talented senior gave the home team a 3-1 lead midway through the second half on Friday and found the back of the net a second time in extra time at the end of regulation.

Ori Astick scored his first varsity goal for Cal United in minute-79 to give his team's defense a three-goal cushion. Josh Petersen made five stops for Cal United in the win.

Owen Sweet and David Myer

combined to make seven saves for Paine Mountain.

“Paine Mountain's defense did a good job keeping it close for much of the match. It was great to see so many different players for us get on the scoresheet. Ben Monaco and Kaiden Rogers were standouts for us defensively all day long and everyone's progress so far in practices and scrimmages have been impressive. Ultimately, I'm pleased with the final result and I'm proud of how the boys responded after going down early,” said Stratman.

Cal United is scheduled to host a talented Burke Mountain Academy team on Thursday before hitting the road for the first time to face BFA-Fairfax next Monday.

Cahoon

Continued From previous Page

free sprint saw Owen Cheney keep the steam up to take career win No. 1 in the Flying Tigers followed across the line by Nate Hamblett and Shane Sicard. Hamblett was later disqualified in post-race inspection for an illegal distributor under the hood.

For the first half of the Late Model feature it was a spirited battle between Mike Jurkowski and Stacy Cahoon in a double-file fight for the ages. By the lap 29 caution for Nick Gilcris' front-stretch spin, Richie Brown and Brian Whalley had broken into the top four runners. Brown stalked Cahoon by just inches around the White Mountain high-

banks, sneaking a peek or two to the inside but the Old Man of the Mountain kept it clean and green out front to take down win number-two of the season with Brown and Jaden Perry rounding out a stellar top three podium for the Late Models.

Rookie Logan Farnsworth brought the Strictly Minis to green for their 25-lap trophy dash but had to give way to J.J. Goodbout up on the high groove. Goodbout kept his foot to the firewall until the field slowed for Aiden Young's expired power-plant and the oil it dropped down on lap 13. Goodbout never fell off the pace on the return to green and took down the win over Jacob Roy and Tyler Thompson.

After rains came over the racetrack, the Mini Late Models took to the pavement for their 50-lap special. Chris Moulton quickly took over the lead with a pair of Jacksons coming on strong from behind. Following the early caution for Craig Smith's dislocated right-rear wheel, it became a dogfight between Moulton and Dustin Jackson for first while team-cars Nick Miller and Cody LeBlanc ran side-by-side behind the leaders. LeBlanc motored around Moulton to lead at the halfway point and never took his foot off the gas pedal taking the 50-lap win over Dustin Jackson and Chris Moulton.

With weather playing a

factor, the Dwarf Cars were called official following a rain-delay ahead of their second and final segment of the night. Jeff Ainsworth has been declared the winner after taking the first

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS (local competitors)

Late Models – (50 Laps)

- 3. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick
- 10. 9x, Jamon Perry, Hardwick

Flying Tigers – (35 Laps)

- 6. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield
- 7. 23NH, Michael Potter, Plainfield

Kids Division – (15 Laps)

- 9. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield



Lauren Pecor (left) of Caledonia United puts on a defensive pressure as BFA Fairfax's Maria Wright follows during action, August 29, in Danville. Caledonia United prevailed 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.



Caledonia United's Sarah Austin (right) fights for the ball with Bridget McIntyre (center) of BFA Fairfax during play in Danville, August. 29. At left is Maria Wright. Caledonia United won 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier.

Huge win for Cal United girls to start season

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Looking to retool with youth this season, the Caledonia United girls soccer team made an early statement last week by knocking off Division III power BFA-Fairfax in both team's season opener.

Chloe North buried a feed from Cora Abetti for the game-winner to power Cal United to an impressive 1-0 home win over BFA-Fairfax last Friday. On a dead run, Abetti beat a Lady Bullet defender down the right wing, making a diving cross that North one timed into the back of the net six minutes into the second half.

"Chloe's goal set up from

Cora was a beauty. Cora found our left winger Chloe with a perfect pass across the middle, while her defender was right on her heels keeping pace. Chloe timed it perfect with a one timer near the penalty stripe to beat their keeper," said head coach Spencer Morse.

Multi-sport standout Eliska Siebenbrunner and her athleticism was moved into the goal for the first time this season by Morse and that decision paid early dividends on Friday. Siebenbrunner and the Cal United defense was a stonewall against the Fairfax, making nine saves to preserve the shutout. Heather Love made three stops for BFA-Fairfax in the loss.

"Eliska made at least three

saves of the spectacular variety, including coming out of her goal to stop a point blank shot off of a breakaway. Her communication was great, and our fullbacks were doing a good job covering for each other all day," said Morse.

The Lady Bullets have been the class of the Mountain League the last few years and are coming off a 13-win season. Their playoff run came to an end against defending Division III champion Stowe in the quarterfinals. Morse has had two highly successful seasons since neighboring schools Twinfield, Cabot and Danville came together to form Caledonia United. They've won 14 games over the last two years, including

the program's first ever Division III playoff win against Lake Region in 2023. Cal United moves down to Division IV this fall as part of a divisional realignment by the Vermont Principal's Association. The move was welcomed as Morse graduated a large senior core last spring led by three-time Vermont All-State selection Sloane Morse. He had encouraging numbers come out for the team this fall however, led by a large talented freshman class that will allow the program to field a junior varsity team this season.

Morse's young team will look to keep their early momentum going this week as they travel to Richford on Wednesday and Blue Mountain on Friday.



In the American-Canadian Tour victory lane are (from left) EastRise Credit Union representative Sarah Ricker, D.J. Shaw (3rd), winner Jason Corliss and Kaiden Fisher (18VT).

photo by Alan Ward



Berlin's Cody LeBlanc (center) took the nightcap Mini Late Model Special at White Mountain Motorsports Park on Saturday, seen here in victory lane with Chris Moulton (left) and Dustin Jackson (right).

photo by Johnny Racer



Hayden Morris (center) took down win No. 1 in the Street Stock division after coming to Thunder Road part-way through the season, flanked by Keegan Tabor (left) and Tyler Wheatley (right)

photo by Alan Ward



The annual Run-What-U-Brung Spectator Drags went off with its usual flair for the insane on Thunder Road's highbanks. Brookfield's Tyler Wheatley returned to victory lane for the Spectator Drag win, seen here on the outside of Barre's Chris Facini in the first round.

photo by Alan Ward

Marshfield's Green takes Road Warrior win

BARRE – Twenty-one street-legal cars, and a pair of golf cars, took to the high banks for the annual Run-What-U-Brung festivities on Thursday at Thunder Road. Over fifteen rounds of head-to-head matches finally whittled the field down to two; Street Stock standout Tyler Wheatley and third-generation stalwart Howard Stockwell. The tow truck driver went toe-to-toe with the windshield extraordinaire in a finale for the ages with Wheatley taking the overall and Stockwell earning the top four-cylinder honors.

The Street Stocks kicked off the night with their 25-lap trophy dash. Paige Whittemore and Hayden Morris took off with a spirited side-by-side battle at the head of the field until Morris took full command under the halfway, crossed flags. Behind him, rookies Wheatley and Keegan Tabor kept chase, battling each other lap after lap. In the end, Hayden Morris took down career win No. 1 in a season that started at White Mountain Motorsports Park

but has paid off at Thunder Road, followed across the line by Wheatley over Tabor to round out the podium.

Longtime Flying Tiger veterans Mike Billado and Travis Patnoe charged side-by-side around the Barre high banks for the first half of their 40-lap feature event on Thursday. The rookies took it hard in the opening laps as Brodie Frazier met the turn one tire wall on lap-nine just before Karsen Murphy's right front wheel left his automobile in the same corner two laps later. Billado and Patnoe continued to have the race of the night before Cam Gadue looked three wide under Billado with laps winding down, sending him sideways across the start/finish line. Remaining under green, Patnoe came under attack by Mike MacAskill with MacAskill taking the upper hand all the way to the win with Derrick Calkins sneaking in for second and Patnoe holding on for his first career podium appearance in third.

The Late Models went flag

to flag Thursday night for a caution-free 50-lap sprint ahead of Sunday's Labor Day Classic 200. Rookie Kyle Streeter faced off with the winningest competitor of the division, and sitting Vermont Governor, Phil Scott for the first half of the event. The first eight rows remained side-by-side throughout the first half with Streeter finally taking a solo lead with twenty laps remaining as Taylor Hoar and Bryan Wall Jr. began to bear down. Wall made his way underneath Hoar in the final ten laps but neither had anything for Kyle Streeter with Streeter taking career win number-one for both himself and the Robbie Crouch-Ashley Squier-owned team.

The Road Warriors rounded out the night with a slam-bang affair between Taylor Sayers and Mason Frazier bringing out the first caution on lap four. A sliding lap car driven by Paul Phillips Jr. took out Nick Copping and Derrick Mann to call out the second and final caution

on lap 13, while the race remained in the control of Cayden Green out front. Green took down the nightcap with last week's winner Brandon Premont and Zach Garvey rounding out the podium.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS (local competitors)

Late Models – (50 Laps)

- 6. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
- 11. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott

Flying Tigers – (40 Laps)

- 3. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott
- 6. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott

Street Stocks – (25 Laps)

- 13. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
- 18. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield
- DNS 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

Road Warriors – (20 Laps)

- 1. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield

Thunder Road

Eventual winner Jason Corliss (66VT) plays a little cat-and-mouse with his closest opponents Marcel Gravel (86VT) and Kaiden Fisher (18VT) in the Labor Day Classic.

photo by Alan Ward





The 10th annual Hardwick Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron No. 7 golf tournament was held at the Woodbury Golf course, August 31. Seventeen teams totaling 68 players competed. The fundraiser was organized by Rusty and Aprille Morrison with help from others and included 45 sponsors. \$5,000 was raised for SAL. Proceeds go toward veterans programs and school scholarships. photo by Vanessa Fournier.

KEN BROWN'S GOLF ROUNDUP

Participation numbers spike for Wildcat golf team

HARDWICK – With the addition of a middle school option for the Hazen Union golf program last season, early numbers are encouraging for head coach Andy Hunt's team this fall.

Hunt introduced middle schoolers to the program last fall and participation has swelled this year with four varsity players and six middle schoolers on the roster. The addition of players from Craftsbury Academy (CA) have also been a welcomed benefit for Hunt. Middle schoolers will get the chance to practice and play at a high level at Mountain View Country Club (MVCC) as they prepare to compete for the Wildcats at the varsity level starting as freshmen.

Hunt lost one of the program's most accomplished golfers to graduation last spring in Brendan Moodie. Moodie was a six-time medalist in his three-year career with the Wildcats and capped off a stellar high school career with a top ten finish in states at Burlington Country Club.

Junior Braydon Stratton returns for Hazen this fall as Captain and the only varsity starter last season for Hunt.

Hazen freshman Kolten Lumsden, Roni Quinn, and fellow Craftsbury Academy freshman Max Royan give Hunt four eligible players for the varsity team. Eighth graders Hollis Allen and Jonah Wohlberg also join the Wildcats this season from CA on the middle school team. Seventh-graders Harvest Barsalow, Remy Hodgdon, James Stratton, and Ryan Holbrook round out the roster. Mark Royan and Aaron Molleur will assist Hunt with developing his young team this season.

"We aren't putting lofty expectations on this young team this fall but the future looks bright for Hazen golf, and I think we could be very competitive next year. Despite being only 12, Harvest has grown up with a golf club in his hands and is already our most accomplished player. Ryan is already a natural as a seventh grader, Brayson begins his run as captain, and we're really excited to add athletes from Craftsbury Academy this season. We have a lot of development to undertake and a lot to work on before our season opener. Teaching golf requires a lot of one on one and I'm very fortunate to have Aaron and Mark on the coaching staff. This season will be an important year for these kids to gain experience on the golf

course but look out for Hazen golf next season and in the future," said Hunt.

Hazen officially opens their season at Orleans Country Club on Wednesday and are scheduled to have their home opener at MVCC on Friday.

Coakley bests record field to win MVCC club championship

GREENSBORO – Mike Coakley captured the club champi-

onship at Mountain View Country Club last month with a record low closing round of 68.

Coakley's two-under record low round on Sunday, closed the door on runner-up Matt Bacsardi and a championship record field of 18 other golfers. Coakley recorded a two-day total of 142 (74-68), with Bacsardi finishing at 147 (70-77). Coakley ended the three-year championship run of former Hazen Union standout Aaron Molleur.

Jamie Mills won First Flight honors with a two-day total of 164 (87-77).



Mike Coakley overcame 18 other golfers last month to win the championship at the Mountain View Country Club in Greensboro. courtesypphoto