# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 Volume 133 Number 33


## Florida Man Arrested in Hardwick for Alleged Jan. 6 Crimes

**by Gazette Staff**

HARDWICK – A Florida man who was staying at an Airbnb in Vermont was arrested in Hardwick last week on charges stemming from his alleged participation in the January 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol.

According to an August 25 press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Brian Preller, of Mount Dora, Fla., faces a felony charge of interfering with a law enforcement officer during a civil disorder. He was also charged with two misdemeanors, entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, and disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds.

According to the U.S. Attorney's press release, Pressler was one of "[f]ive Florida men, all self-identified militia members, [who] were arrested today on charges stemming from their actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021."

The FBI's Statement of Facts related to Preller's case uses photos, video, social media posts, telephone records, and rental car receipts to place Preller at the scene of the attack on the Capitol and to detail his alleged actions. A number of firearms were seized at the time of his arrest.

Preller is the second person with ties to the area that was arrested for taking part in the January 6 riot. Nicholas Languerand, who lived in Wolcott at the time of the riot, was sentenced to 44 months in prison as part of a plea agreement reached with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. After the riot, Languerand moved to Little River, S.C., reportedly to his grandparents' house, where he was arrested on April 15, 2021.

*Brian Preller photo is from FBI Statement of Facts*

## Greensboro Association Awards $25,000 to Organizations and Initiatives

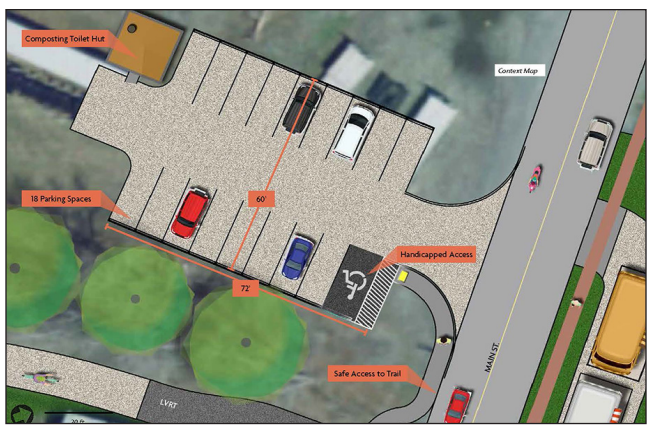
GREENSBORO – For the fiscal year starting July 1, the Greensboro Association Grants Committee awarded $20,000 in grants to 16 organizations in addition to supporting the town initiatives, bringing the total grants amount to $25,000.

The committee invited organizations to apply for amounts up to $3,000 and have awarded several large grants which will have significant impact for small organizations. Grants awarded by the committee include: Greensboro Fire Department, $1,000; Greensboro Library, $1.000; Hardwick Rescue Squad, $1,000; Town Beach, $1,000; Ski Trails, $1,000, all for general funding.

**See $25,000, 3**

*photo by Hal Gray*

*A shoulder machine and three gravel trucks deposited gravel August 17, to build up the shoulders on newly paved (July 1) East Craftsbury Road going past Greensboro's Highland Lodge.*




*courtesy Greensboro Bend Revitalization Plan. Trailside parking is planned in Greenssboro Bend to the north of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and west of Main Street.*

## Greensboro Awarded Grant Toward Trailhead Goal

GREENSBORO – The Town of Greensboro, in collaboration with the nonprofit Bend Revitalization Initiative (BRI) was notified by Senator Sanders' office that the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) awarded a grant to the town for $153,500. When in-kind services and required matching funds are added, the total value is about $190,000.

The Northern Borders Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership for economic and community development within the most distressed counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. This year the NBRC received 137 applications for this grant cycle, requesting over $70-million in total funding across the four states. Greensboro was one of only 14 applications awarded in Vermont.

During the past year, a Bend Redevelopment Plan was prepared using a grant from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The plan can be viewed at thebendvt.org. News and project updates are posted on the public Facebook page "Around the Bend".

The plan focuses on the completion, in November of this year, of the Lamoille Valley Rail

**See TRAILHEAD, 3**

## Meetings on Swinging Bridge Planned for September, October

**by Gazette Staff**

HARDWICK – At its most recent regular meeting, the Hardwick Select Board covered topics ranging from establishing a Cannabis Control Commission to further planning for repair of the pedestrian bridge in Hardwick village.

Town Manager David Upson reported that Hardwick will be applying for a By-Law Modernization grant in the amount of $25,000 to potentially add a Neighborhood Development Area. This could help create solutions to the

**See MEETINGS, 2**

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Opie Upson of Hardwick held a program about Scuba Diving at the Craftsbury Public Library August 5. Upson has been a certified diver since 1999.*

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August 31 - September 6

Meat Dept.: Rib Eye Steak - $9.99 lb.

Outdoor Summer Toys 20% Off

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fever Tree Mixers 2/$5 16.9 oz. | LaCroix 12 Pk. Sparkling Water 2/$10 144 oz. | Gatorade Thirst Quencher 4/$5 28 oz. |
| G.M. Lucky Charm, Cinn. Toast Crunch and Cheerios 2/$7 8.9-12 oz. | Soy Vay Teriyaki 2/$6 20-22 oz. | Hellmann's Mayonnaise $4.49 15-30 oz. |
| Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna 2/$4 5 oz. | Newman's Salad Dressing 2/$7 16 oz. | Newman's Pasta Sauce 2/$5 15-24 oz. |
| Near East Side Dishes 2/$3 5.25-10 oz. | Jet Puffed Marshmallows 2/$3 10-12 oz. | Hershey's 6 Pk. Milk Chocolate Bars $4.49 9.3 oz. |
| Nabisco Graham Crackers 2/$6 14.4 oz. | Nabisco Family Size Oreos $3.99 13.29-20 oz. | Nabisco Snack Crackers 2/$6 6.5-10 oz. |
| Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/$5 16 oz. | Food Club Butter $2.79 16 oz. | Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese $2.99 6-8 oz. |
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## Meetings

**Continued From Page One**

current housing problems.

Upson also noted that, starting August 26, the State of Vermont Liquor and Lottery will be forwarding applications for Tobacco and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement licenses to local governing bodies for approval. Upson asked the board if alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis license approvals should be transferred to the newly formed cannabis commission.

The SE Group will be coming to town for a site visit the first week in September for the pedestrian bridge. There will be a stakeholder meeting at the end of September, and a public meeting in October to unveil two bridge designs.

The Hardwick Planning Commission had its first public hearing on proposed by-law changes. Commission leaders are requesting that the select board schedule a public hearing. The board agreed to hold the meeting on September 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Tom Fadden then presented the road foreman's report. Fadden reported that the road crew worked on Bridgman Hill Road, Kate Brook Road, and Bayley Hazen Road. Fadden thanked Larry Hamel for all the help that he provided the town. The board asked about legally throwing up the right-of-way on Bayley Hazen Road. Upson said he would look into the question. Fadden also reported that there was a water leak on South Main Street, and a sewer issue on Hideaway Street.

The excavator, loader, and grader will need to be replaced soon. Board Chair Eric Remick asked what was in the budget, and Fadden replied that he believes there is $125,000 for a new excavator. The town has a lease-to-buy agreement for the grader and loader. He stated that there would need to be further discussion during budget season to see how much the town can afford in FY24. Fadden added that the excavator won't last another year, and that currently there is a six-month wait on receiving equipment.

Next, Interim Police Chief Mike Henry gave the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) report. Henry reported that there has been a staff shortage for the past few weeks due to various reasons, but things will be back to normal soon.

The department ordered body cameras back in June that they still have not received due to issues with the sales representative. He hopes to receive them soon.

HPD worked with the highway department to hang a solar speed sign near the new Buffalo Mountain Co-op location in the village. They will also be putting other speed signs in various locations. Board vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane asked if the signs could transfer data, and the answer is yes. Upson stated that the plan is to purchase one or two more solar signs in the future.

The next agenda item concerned bids for brush clearing of town highway roadsides. Upson stated that the town received two bids. One would cut by hand with chainsaws, but the town would have to provide flaggers. This option would fund eight days of work. The other option involved using machines. With this approach, the available funds would pay for about five days. After much discussion, and wanting to research alternatives, the select board decided to table this until its next meeting.

The board then voted to add Balsam Ridge Road to the town's list of roads.

Next, the board discussed forming a committee for water and sewer rates for FY23. Remick and Galloway-Kane both stated that they would serve on this committee. The town manager, business manager, town clerk, and sewer operator will also be on the committee. Upson stated that he was contacted by a member of the public who might be interested to be on the committee and asked the board if it was okay to reach back out. The board said yes.

The board then voted to approve a formal resolution for forming a cannabis control commission.

Board member Shari Cornish reported that repairs to the commercial spaces within the Bemis Block is ongoing and she has heard from the Galaxy Bookstore that they hope to be reopening in mid-November. She hasn't heard about the Scale House but has had many inquiries.


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

# Police Report

### *Hardwick Police Report*
## Failure to Appear

On July 25 Tyler Clark failed to appear for an arraignment for Disorderly Conduct and Unlawful Mischief in Vermont Superior Court, Caledonia Unit. A warrant was issued for his arrest. After a phone conversation with law enforcement, Clark turned himself in at the Hardwick Police Department for the outstanding arrest warrant. He was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia Court on August 30 at 12:30 p.m.

### *State Police News*
## Break In and Suspicion of DUI

On August 22 at 0107 hours, the Vermont State Police responded to the Fairways and Greens located at the Country Club of Barre for a reported break in. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect forced entry through a window into the business. Troopers responded to the scene and met with the owners of Fairways and Greens as well as Country Club Staff.

Fairways and Greens provided surveillance video to the State Police. The suspect is described as a medium build white male. The suspect was wearing a dark shirt with the words "Old Navy" on the chest, blue jeans, a dark colored hat and a blue face covering. The suspect stole change from two registers totaling approximately five dollars, as well as an Apple watch and a crow bar. The suspect then attempted to gain entry into the Country Club of Barre pro shop and ultimately left the property without getting into the pro shop.

Anyone with information about the suspect is encouraged to contact Trooper Jacob Fox of the Vermont State Police.

On August 24 at 0115 hours, State Police stopped a vehicle for a speeding violation. The operator, Edmund Thornton, of Woodbury, was showing signs of impairment and subsequently taken into custody for suspicion of DUI. A record check showed he had an active arrest warrant from Pennsylvania. Thornton was taken to the State Police Barracks in Berlin for processing and was later released. He is scheduled to appear in Washington County Superior Court – Criminal Division on August 25.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 15 people from August 21 through August 28. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

*Craftsbury Schools new Principal Matt Foster was dunked many times during fun activities held during Old Home Day August 13.*

## Trailhead

**Continued From Page One**

Trail, which crosses Main Street in Greensboro Bend. The goal is to create a trailhead to encourage trail users to stop in the Bend, provide business opportunities for residents, and provide an attractive recreation experience for Bend and greater Greensboro residents. Various amenities are planned, such as picnic tables, benches, bike racks, a bike repair station, restrooms and water.

Another aspect of the plan is to create an off-street parking area for those who will want to enter the trail in the Bend. This is critical to avoid congestion on Main Street. In addition, traffic calming structures will be installed on Main Street for pedestrian and biker safety.

Finally, the plan includes creating a business collective or pavilion which will enable local residents to sell their goods to trail users.

The Northern Borders grant will fund a large portion of the features contained in the Bend Redevelopment Plan. Dan Predpall, president of the Bend Revitalization Initiative (BRI), describes the win as transforming for the village. "This win is the culmination of two years of effort on the part of many Greensboro citizens and the Greensboro Select Board who worked to bring the trailhead concept to reality. This project and others to follow will bring positive change and needed investment to Greensboro Bend."

Predpall continued, "Over the next two to three months, we will be working to raise the matching funds required by the NBRC to begin the project". The BRI can be reached at bendrevitalizationinitiative@gmail.com.

## $25,000

**Continued From Page One**

Also, AWARE for operations, $3,000; Bend Revitalization for operations, $2,000; Craftsbury Saplings for operations, $500; Four Cs for traveling nurses, $1,000; Four Season Daycare food for 4,000 meals, $2,500; Cemetery Commission for headstone repair, $800; Community Garden seeds and operations, $500; Greensboro Fire Department for protective clothing, $1,000; Greensboro Historical Society for window shades, $500; Greensboro Library for summer programs and playground, $1,000; Greensboro Nursing Home for bladder scanner, $3,000; Greensboro Swim Program for instruction, $1,000; Hardwick Area Food Pantry for food, $1,000; Modern Times Theater for Halloween event, $1,000; Rural Arts for after-school programming, $1,000; Vermont Learning Support Initiative for neurodiverse support for children, $500.

The Greensboro Association's mission is to conceive, advance, and support village initiatives and organizations that enhance the community, and to protect Caspian Lake and its surrounding environment. In support of this mission, the association's grants committee encourages grant requests for specific initiatives and one-year community projects. For the first time this year we are supporting grants for operating expenses in addition to project based grants. $5000 of grants support five town initiatives yearly which include the ski trails, the Town Beach, the Greensboro Free Library, the Greensboro Fire Department and the Hardwick Rescue Squad. These entities are also entitled to apply for additional funding for special projects.

Through the Greensboro Association's membership, grant amounts have nearly doubled since last year. Committee members include John Schweizer, co-chair; Karen Gowen co-chair; Anthony Acheson; Rick Lovett; Mike Metcaff; Tim Nisbet and Naomi Ranz-Schleifer.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Helen Beattie (left) of East Hardwick is this year's AWARE raffle winner of the Old Town Vapor 10 Kayak. Presenting the kayak are Sharon Fialco (center) AWARE board member and Paulette Brochu-Colburn (right) head of the fund raising committee. AWARE made $1,792 from the raffle.*

# Woodbury Community Library Names New Director

WOODBURY – The Woodbury Community Library has named Myrna Miranda-O'Neill as its new library director. Since starting in June, Miranda-O'Neil has recruited volunteers to lead multi-lingual story hours, and is planning a variety of programs, music lessons, mural painting, art workshops, and a food exchange, to connect the library and its patrons with the wider community.

Miranda-O'Neil has been a resident of Woodbury since 1976. Previously, she moved from Puerto Rico to attend Rutgers University, then transferred to Johnson State College where she earned her bachelor's degree. Then, she earned a master's degree from Goddard College where her thesis addressed the intersection of culture and language acquisition. In 2016, Myrna earned a Ph.D. in Latin American and Caribbean Literature.

Professionally, Miranda-O'Neil has taught Spanish in secondary and post-secondary schools, and in community group settings. She enjoys spending time with her family, playing music, and gardening. As library director, her main objectives are: developing programs that address the needs and interests of the community; helping to document the town's history; and creating a space where members of our community can access resources and share their talents, concerns, and hopes.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Rockin' Ron, The Friendly Pirate, AKA Ron Carter (center) of Jeffersonville, presented a program August 10, on pirates at the Greensboro Free Library as part of the library's Oceans of Possibilities summer theme. Pictured seated (from left): Tobin Purdy, Zachary Curcio, Braxton Daigneault, Colton Daigneault, Madison Colpron, Easton Tatro. Standing (from let): Morgan Colpron, Lucie LaPoint, and Maddison LaPoint.*

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## Hardwick Select Board
## Warning of Public Hearing

The Hardwick Select Board hereby provides notice of a public hearing being held pursuant to 24 VSA §4444 (Public Hearing Notice) for the purpose of hearing public comments concerning the proposed changes to the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws. The public hearing has been scheduled for October 6, 2022 (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building or by Zoom. To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (zoom.us), then at 5:30 on Thursday, October 6, 2022, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 858 5593 6234. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 646-558-8656 (this is not a toll free number). Enter the meeting ID and you'll be put into a waiting room. You will need to identify yourself before being let into the meeting.

To join the Zoom meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85855936234

**Statement of Purpose:**

The proposed changes to the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaw (known hereafter as "Bylaw") will serve the following purposes:

1. **Table 2.4 Compact Residential District** – Section (C) Conditional Uses list will include "27 Restaurant.
2. **Table 2.6 Rural Residential District – Section** (C) Conditional Uses list will include #18 Mixed Use and #25 Restaurant.
3. **Section 4.2 Accessory Dwelling** – Subsection A 1 is changed from "owner occupied single family dwelling" to "single family dwelling on an owner-occupied lot." Subsection A1 and A2 are altered to shift the Accessory Dwelling unit size from 800 to 900 square feet. Subsection A3 has the following change: "meet setback requirements for ~~principal~~ accessory structures for the district in which they are located."
4. Boundary Amendment to expand the Highway Mixed-Use District into the Village Neighborhood District on Granite Street and Brook Street (Tax Map 23, Lots 3, 4, and 62).

**Geographic Area Affected:**

The Bylaw changes shall apply to all areas in the Town of Hardwick, Vermont.

**Table of Contents:**

Article 1: Authority and Purpose; Article 2: Zoning Districts; Article 3: General Regulations; Article 4: Specific Use Provisions; Article 5: Development Review; Article 6: Subdivision Review; Article 7: Administration and Enforcement; Article 8: Definitions.

**Location Where Full Text May Be Examined:**

The full context of the proposed changes can be viewed at the Hardwick Town Offices or on the Town of Hardwick website: hardwickvt.gov.

The hearing is open to the public. Interested persons may attend the meeting in person, on Zoom or send a letter or email to the Hardwick Select Board c/o the Zoning Administrator's office to comment on the proposed update. Emails can be forwarded to the zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov address.

Hardwick Select Board

# Hot Dog and Marshmallow Roast August 28, Greensboro United Church of Christ

*Beth Belote joined the roast with her companion.*

*Rev. Sunday-Winters tends the fire after his emergency trip to Smith's Store for more food due to the unexpected turn-out.*

*Fellow roasters, young Patrick O'Brien standing next to 89-year old Clive Gray (seated).*

*Dirk Lorenz (left) tries multiple hot dogs on a stick with Rick Lovett (right).*

*In the shade at the roasting event were Ken Johnston (Greensboro recycle volunteer) and Jannie Johnston (Meals on Wheels volunteer).*

*Karl Dornseifer and his wife Terri Sugimoto joined the roast after his arrival from Champlain Orchards to help a cousin.*

*Christine Pierpont presented a birthday cake to Shelly Jungwirth, deacon of the church and holding box of candles.*

*Jenny Fay (O'Brien's daughter) and Dave Fay with their two children Patrick and Maureen roasted marshmallows for s'mores.*

*Jill and John O'Brien (retired police officer, Fort Apache,The Bronx), grandparents of Patrick and Maureen Fay, joined their family at the roast.*

**Photos by Hal Gray**

# Our Communities

## Butterfly Tagging Event Sept. 10

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Conservation Commission invites the public to a Butterfly Tagging Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 11 a.m., at the Atkins Field Pavilion.

"Where were you in 1975?" This question is posed by Hardwick's butterfly aficionado Jerry Schneider. His answer is "That's the year of the great Monarch butterfly discovery in the neovolcanic mountains of Mexico. If it weren't for the tagging project initiated by Dr. Fred Urquhart and his wife Norah, who knows when anyone (except the locals) would have known where Monarchs go in the winter?"

"How in the world did those tags ever stay on, all the way to Mexico?" Jerry has answers in his talk about the history of tagging butterflies and the evolution of the sticky tags themselves.

Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to engage in a tag-and-release event, with Monarchs and tags on hand.

## Informational Meeting on Article 22 on Sept. 14

HARDWICK – An Article 22 Informational Forum will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at St. Norbert Church. Article 22 (aka Prop 5) will appear on the November ballot for voters to decide whether to add an amendment to the Vermont Constitution that would guarantee abortion rights up to the point of birth and for minor children without parental notification. Vermont Representative Anne Donahue, for "Vermonters For Good Government," and Mary Beerworth from "Vermont Right to Life" are the featured speakers. There will be an opportunity for asking questions as well as discussion. This is a non-denominational forum to learn about all the specifics of this legislation. Refreshments will be served. For more information call (802) 586-2899.

## Senior Center Seeks Volunteers

EAST MONTPELIER – The Twin Valley Senior Center (TVSC) is seeking volunteers to help with simple operational maintenance tasks and Meals-on-Wheels.

TVSC continues to face the challenges of operating under COVID. The executive director and administrative assistant work above and beyond the call of duty. When a scheduled volunteer is sick or away, they step up. This is one of several reasons why TVSC needs a larger pool of volunteers. TVSC needs a cook to operate the kitchen, prepare food for both in-house dining and Meals-on-Wheels. This is a paid position. If interested in volunteering, contact Gene at (802) 223-3322 or email director@twinvalleyseniors.org.

Twin Valley Senior Center is located at 4583 US Route 2, East Montpelier, and helps senior-age residents stay emotionally and physically healthy by providing meals, exercise classes, health clinics and a gathering place to socialize.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Dennis Hodgdon of Craftsbury stands by his 1969 Mercury Cougar during the Antique Car Show held in Hardwick August 6. The event was hosted by Claude Fontaine, Marc Fontaine and Adam Holbrook. The show was held at Dona's Car Store parking lot.*

# Education

## Students Named to NVU Dean's List

The following students at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2022 semester: Hardwick, Gabriel Densmore and Kate Voganschneider; Marshfield, Arianna Moran. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean's List.

## Local Students Named to President's List

The following students at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, were named to the President's List for the spring 2022 semester: East Hardwick, Silas Lowenthal; Wolcott, Stephanie Allen, Alexandra Olsen and Hope Reeve. Students who achieve a 4.00 semester average are placed on the President's List.

## Alex Stanger Named to Dean's List

APPLETON, Wis. – Alex Stanger of East Calais, Vt., has been named to the 2021-22 Dean's List at Lawrence University. The Dean's List is an annual honor roll of students demonstrating exemplary academic performance. The list is compiled at the end of the academic year once all grades have been recorded.

# Business Briefs

## General Surgeon Waterman Joins Copley

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital has announced the addition of Sarah Waterman, MD, to its medical staff. Dr. Waterman is a general surgeon and will join Drs. Donald Dupuis and Courtney Olmsted in Copley's General Surgery service. Dr. Waterman will be seeing patients beginning mid-September. Dr. Sarah Waterman grew up in East Montpelier. Her great-great-great grandfather settled on a farm in the early 1800s between what later became Mud City in Morrisville and Hyde Park. She attended college at the State University of New York at Albany, was Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Public Policy in 2005. In 2009, she was awarded a Master of Public Administration in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2017 and recently completed her surgical training residency at the Mountain Area Health Education Center / Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

*courtesy photo*

*Sarah Waterman, MD*

After college, she was on the ground assisting in the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Later, she was the founder of VTResponse.com, building a website to connect volunteers to those in need here in Vermont after Tropical Storm Irene. Dr. Waterman built on a personal passion for outdoor athletics by coaching both cross country running and Nordic skiing at Mount Mansfield Unified School District for many years. On August 28, she will compete in the Race to the Top of Vermont in Stowe. Dr. Waterman has settled in Morrisville, along with her husband Dr. William Manning (an ER doctor at North Country Hospital) and their two young sons, Oliver and Henry.

**OUR E-MAILS**
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# OBITUARIES

## EVA BRETT CHURCH

CRAFTSBURY – Eva Brett Church, 91, beloved mother of Shauna, John, and Penelope, passed on Friday, August 12, at the Craftsbury Community Care Center, her Vermont home for the past four years, a home she frequently announced she felt very blessed to have found.

*Eva Brett Church*

Born in Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland in 1930 to Ellen Forde Brett and M. Antony "Anto" Brett, Eva grew up on the family estate surrounded by the mountains, trees, stone walls and sheep she loved so well, and elephants, as her father would allow them to be pastured on Carradoyne grounds whenever the circus passed through!

An adventurer at heart, Mom went to London for nurses training at St. John and St. Elizabeth Hospital where she won the coveted John Lamb Prize for nursing excellence, the first of many awards gained in her career for helping those in need. After meeting our father in the emergency room there (he was a London bobby at the time), they emigrated to Alberta, Canada, where Dad worked on the design/build of the DEW system and Mom worked with the indigenous populations, an honor she recounted often in our childhood. After returning to England to have Shauna, the three moved to New York and New Jersey where John and Penelope were born. Dad's career brought the family to Houston, Texas, in 1964 and much later to Austin.

She was a wonderful mother, immersing us early in culture at the Houston Jones Hall, summer programs at museums, individual Days Out, and anything else she could think of to "broaden our minds." We were introduced to Scrabble as toddlers and heard a constant refrain of "Look it up!" when we asked what something meant. On family road trips through Texas, she would research local history and force a stop at all historical markers so we would understand the local culture and perspective. (As we grew older we dubbed them "hysterical markers." Mom pretended she was not amused, but actually she was.) She celebrated Christmas like no other, filling stockings as tall as us to the brim and beyond with amazing items fine-tuned for each, some sent from Ireland by Gran or Auntie Mary. She might occasionally mix up who liked dark chocolate and who didn't; we'd just laugh and say "this must be for you" and switch.

Watching Mom be swept away by a Mozart French horn concerto was a lesson in pure joy.

Always mission-driven, in her mid-50s Eva returned to school and earned her Master's in Health Administration at St. Edward's University in Austin. She worked to improve health care access and support through programs at Holy Cross and Seton hospitals, creating relationships maintained right up to her passing.

A fierce advocate for the elderly, Eva became the first state ombudsman for nursing homes for central Texas, then went on to help create and build such groundbreaking programs as Austin Groups for the Elderly (now AGE of Central Texas), North Central Caregivers, Drive-A-Senior, and the A.G.E. Caregiver Resource Center. She long served on the Central Texas Interagency Council (now Area Agency on Aging), fostering collaboration between like-minded programs. Working with Texas Adult Protective Services and Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, she brought Validation Therapy to Texas and became an expert in Alzheimer's and dementia support.

Ironically it was Alzheimer's that was to claim her own independence, and it was her own daughter who was to benefit from the caregiver support programs she helped establish. It was Mom's expertise and that of her eldercare colleagues that allowed us to understand that Craftsbury Community Care Center was Mom's solution when she could no longer stay in her home. Call it serendipity, call it karma, call it Divine Hand, we simply know that a very apprehensive woman walked through the Care Center doors and felt instantly safe. "I'll be safe here," she said. And she was.

We are forever grateful to the amazing staff and volunteers at Craftsbury Community Care Center for their compassion and commitment to active, dignified supported living for elders. Mom spent her final four years in joy and contentment, among trees and music and friends and fun, and her final days with the care and support of skilled people who loved her. And that's exactly how it should be. We cannot thank you enough.

Eva was predeceased by her parents and her beloved brother, Hugh Brett. She is survived by her three children, Shauna Church of Brooklyn, N.Y., John Church of Austin, Texas, and Penelope Doherty of Craftsbury; her sister Mary (Eamonn) Murphy of Templecarrig and Dublin, Ireland, and sister Julie (Brian) Chisholm of Watford, UK; much-loved niece and nephews: Paul, Brian, and Rory Murphy of Ireland, Joanna Brett of New York and David Brett of UK, and Phillip and Richard Chisholm of UK; many loving cousins and childhood friends, including Imelda Vahey Bush of UK; special "daughters" Patty Schick Gannon of Boston and Deirdre Darrouzet of Austin; and friends and colleagues too numerous to mention, but who all loved her and helped us so much in the past ten years as we navigated this difficult disease.

A remembrance service is planned August 31, at Craftsbury Community Care Center for residents, staff, and friends (if weather permits). Eva will be interred in the family plot in Ireland in September, followed in October by a memorial Mass in Austin. Please make memorial contributions to Craftsbury Community Care Center Building Fund, 1784 E. Craftsbury Rd, Craftsbury, VT 05826, in honor of the sitting porch Mom loved and to help others in need of safe and dignified support; or to the elder care organization of your choice.

Thank you, Mom, for the arts, the music, the laughter, and above all, the love. We miss you so much but are thankful you went in peace and are now with Gran and Uncle Hugh.

## PATTIE-SUE MCCARTY

*Pattie-Sue McCarty*

NEWPORT – Please join us Friday, Sept. 2, to celebrate the life of Pattie-Sue McCarty at 5:30 p.m., at the Gateway in Newport. Family and friends are all welcome. We will be sharing memories and celebrating who she was.

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# Events

## Wednesday, August 31

**BONE BUILDERS**/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

## Friday, September 2

**BONE BUILDERS**/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

**HARDWICK FARMERS MARKET**, Fridays, 3 - 6 p.m., Atkins Field, 140 Granite St., Hardwick. Vegetables and herbs; plants starts and flowers; meat, cheese, eggs, milk; bread and baked goods; artisan goods; music and more. Information: hardwickfarmersmarketvt.com/

## Saturday, September 3

**BOOK SALE,**10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Albany Public Library, Albany Town Hall. Albany Day Parade starts at 11 a.m. Information: email albanypubliclibraryvt@gmail.com.

## Monday, September 5

**CHAIR YOGA**, at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mondays at 3 p.m. Call (802) 223-3322 for information.

**BONE BUILDERS**/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

## Tuesday, September 6

**HARDWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM,** at the Depot, open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 - 4 p.m.

**SUN STYLE TAI CHI,** at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Call (802) 223-3322 for information.

## Wednesday, September 7

**BONE BUILDERS**/Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Twin Valley Senior Center, 4583 US Rte. 2, E. Montpelier, Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. Zoom and in-person. Mon., Wed. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. Zoom only.

## Saturday, September 10

**BUTTERFLY TAGGING WORKSHOP,** with Jerry Schneider, 11 a.m., Atkins Field Pavilion, hosted by the Hardwick Conservation Commission. Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to engage in a tag-and-release event, with Monarchs and tags on hand.

## Exhibits

**JUDITH JACOBS:** Transience; photographs of time. Parker Pie Gallery, Parker Pie County Road, West Glover. Information: 802-525-3366.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*An audience watches the movie "Shrek" at Atkins Field August 6. Other movies, that will be sponsored and shown by the Hardwick Recreation Committee, are scheduled for September 10, October 8 and October 22.*

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*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Easton Tatro (left), 7, of Hardwick gets a Spiderman face painted by Ally Howell (right) of the Center for an Agricultural Economy during the Community Food & Farm Celebration August 12 held on Atkins Field in Hardwick.*

# The Bookshelf

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Old Schoolhouse Common, Marshfield, (802) 426-3581), jaquithpubliclibrary.org, Tues. - Fri., 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sundays. Winter Storytime and Playgroup, Friday 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for the weather.

**WOODBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Woodbury School (802) 472-5710, woodburycommunitylibrary.wordpress.com, Mon. and Wed. 1 to 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**BROWN LIBRARY**, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711), sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

**CRAFTSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, craftsburypubliclibrary.org, Mon. and Thurs. 2 to 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., storytime: Fri. 10 a.m.

**JEUDEVINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**, Hardwick (802) 472-5948, jeudevinememoriallibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. 1 to 6 p.m., Tues.,Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**CUTLER MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Rte. 2, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, cutlerlibrary.org, Tues., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wed. 3 to 6 p.m., Thurs., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY**, (802) 563-2721, cabotlibrary.com, Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

**MORRISTOWN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY** (802) 888-3853), centenniallibrary.org, Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY**, Main Street, Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, greensborofreelibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thur., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**JOHN W. SIMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**, East Craftsbury (802) 586-9692, Wed. and Sat., 9 a.m. to noon; Thurs., 9 a.m. - noon and 2 - 6 p.m.; Sun., noon to 1 p.m.

**WALDEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Walden Elementary School (802) 563-2195, walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home, Tues., 6 to 8 p.m.

**GLEE MERRITT KELLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Wolcott, (802) 472-6551, Mon. to Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**HAZEN UNION SCHOOL LIBRARY**, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public. (802) 472-6511.

# Barre Opera House Announces New Season

BARRE - The Barre Opera House (BOH) has announced its 2022-23 season and, as always, the BOH's "Celebration Series" will feature nationally and internationally-known artists. According to director Dan Casey, it's perhaps the most ambitious menu of shows that the theater has programmed. "We had solid attendance at some of our events last year, but certainly didn't see a return to normalcy. Given the quality of this year's programming, the improved health forecast and our patrons' desire for live entertainment, we're banking on a good number of sold-out performances this time around."

On September 24, the series kicks off with renowned singer-songwriter, Richard Thompson, who the LA Times calls "the finest rock songwriter after Dylan and the best electric guitarist since Hendrix." Opening for Thompson are local favorites Willa Mamet and Paul Miller. The kitchen table duo have sung together coming on 20 years.

Next, on October 7, it's "The Wailers." Reggae king Bob Marley's band comfortably claims its place in music history. Their music is, culture-defining, embodying the spirit of '70s era-defining reggae. The band plays a special set featuring cuts from Marley's back catalogue along with a string of their greatest, classic hits.

"Watkins Family Hour, "stopping at the BOH on October 28, is a collaborative musical project founded by musicians and siblings Sara Watkins and Sean Watkins and traditionally held at Los Angeles club Largo. The siblings are probably better known as two-thirds of the celebrated Americana group, "Nickel Creek."

"Shadows of the '60s" pays tribute to the legacy of Motown's Super Groups, in a salute to the legendary stars such as The Supremes, The Four Tops and the Temptations. The 14-member ensemble performs hits that span several decades, and features musicians and singers dressed in exquisitely designed costumes and dazzling choreography. "Shadows" makes its Granite City stop on November 4.

Then on November 20, "The Robert Cray Band" returns to the Opera House. Over the past four decades, Cray has created a sound that rises from American roots, blues, soul and R&B, with five Grammy wins, 20 acclaimed studio albums and a bundle of live albums. "Cray" has had two previous visits to the Opera House, both sold-out shows.

"It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn't enjoy what they do," says the Boston Globe speaking of "Cherish the Ladies," the Grammy-nominated, Irish-American super group that formed in New York City in 1985 to celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what had been a male-dominated Irish music scene. Since their first sold-out concert, they have exploded onto the Irish music circuit performing thousands of concerts around the globe and are now among the busiest and most admired Irish groups on the planet. 2022 marks 37 years of touring in the finest venues around the world including the White House and the Olympics and along the way recording 17 albums. "Cherish the Ladies" performs on March 11.

Winding up the series on April 7 is the Ugandan company, "Dance of Hope." Cultural ambassador Kinobe and his troupe of teen performers share the stories of their lives and their homeland with the world. The mix of music, costumes, and dance offers a direct connection to a generation of young Africans who are meeting—and shaping—their futures. "Dance of Hope" will also offer a school matinee at the Opera House earlier in the day.

The Opera House has also scheduled several exciting "BOH Presents" shows outside the Celebration Series; others will be added as the season progresses.

"Space Oddity – The Ultimate David Bowie Experience" is a live, multi-media spectacle with a musical journey through the career of Rock and Roll's most celebrated innovator. David Brighton and his band deliver a note-for note theatrical concert event. "Space Oddity" visits the Opera House on September 30.

Next up on October 22 is "Eaglemania," a tribute that has dedicated itself to faithfully reproducing the music of The Eagles. Since their inception, "EagleMania" has been thrilling audiences all over the country with their stunning five-part harmony and their ability to emulate the unmistakable sound of the kings of California rock.

The "East Coast Inspirational Singers," are at the BOH on February 10. The 15-member ensemble, based in Harlem, specialize in Gospel, R&B, Jazz and Blues. In recognition of Black History Month, the "Singers" will also offer a school matinee at the Opera House earlier in the day.

There are few artists capable of appealing to music fans of all stripes, and Alan Doyle is one of them. From the moment he burst onto the scene in the early 1990s with his band "Great Big Sea," Canadians fell in love with the pride of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland. BOH Director Casey calls this one of the most exciting shows to have ever appeared at the BOH scheduled for February 17 of this year. Singer-songwriter Chris Trapper, whose music The New York Times calls "classic pop perfection," opens for Doyle.

Finally, the BOH welcomes back Quebecois standouts, "Le Vent du Nord" on April 1. The award winning group is a leading force in Québec's exciting and progressive Francophone folk movement. Their repertoire draws from both traditional sources and original compositions, while their highly rhythmic and soulful music, rooted in the Celtic diaspora, is enhanced with a broad range of global influences.

Consistent with the latest CDC guidance and following consultation with public health experts, guests will no longer be required to wear face coverings or provide proof of vaccination/negative PCR test. If a patron is feeling unwell or exhibiting symptoms of COVID, contact the Box Office to learn of options available to them. These policies are subject to change at any time. The Barre Opera House, located at 6 North Main Street in Barre, offers discount to members, seniors and students. Order tickets online at barreoperahouse.org or call (802) 476-8188. The Opera House is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.

courtesy photo

*"The Wailers" perform the music of Bob Marley on Oct. 7 at the Barre Opera House.*

photo by Vanessa Fournier

*Craftsbury Old Home Day was held on August 13. The event was sponsored by the Craftsbury Recreation Committee. Ethan Morrison of EC Morrison Trucking & Excavating in Craftsbury sports the Minion water sprinkler he made out of a propane cylinder displayed atop of his skid steer. The parade started from Dustan Field and looped around the Common twice.*

# The Outside Story

## Splitting the Air: The Unexpected Chemistry of Lightning

**by Kenrick Vezina**

LOWELL, Mass. – To say that lightning "splits" the sky is no mere poetry. A single stroke contains about one billion joules of energy, roughly 280 kilowatt-hours of electricity, and could power a modern American household for more than nine days. What's more, it's enough to blast apart the very molecules that make up the atmosphere and temporarily scramble its composition.

One of these molecules is oxygen. Oxygen in the atmosphere is diatomic, meaning it normally exists as pairs of oxygen atoms with a strong double bond. But lightning rips these paired atoms apart, and in the ensuing chaos some abandon monogamy. The result is ozone, composed of three oxygen atoms. Ozone in the stratosphere shields the planet from the carcinogenic effects of too much ultraviolet solar radiation. It's also behind the "electric tang" in the air after a particularly active lightning storm, or less dramatically, when using a copier.

Most of the air around us is made of another diatomic molecule: nitrogen. Nitrogen comprises about 78 percent of the atmosphere, oxygen accounts for about 21 percent, and the remainder is a grab-bag of gasses, including carbon dioxide. Nitrogen is also one of the most abundant elements in your body. It's used to construct the paired bases, the "letters", of DNA. It's needed to build amino acids, which build proteins, which build, well, ultimately, all life on Earth.

Yet despite its apparent abundance, entire ecosystems can be throttled by low nitrogen availability. That's because free-floating nitrogen molecules have a powerful triple bond, even stronger than oxygen pairs' double bond, that makes them so utterly codependent as to render them chemically inert. Atmospheric nitrogen is useless to plants and animals without outside intervention.

And here is perhaps the only context in which a bacterium in the roots of an alfalfa plant, a fertilizer manufacturing plant, and Zeus's elemental wrath have something in common: they can all "fix" nitrogen. Nitrogen fixation is the process by which atmospheric nitrogen gets split up and recombined with other elements to form compounds that plants and other life forms can utilize.

Among living things, only a limited selection of bacteria and other microorganisms have the biochemical tools necessary to perform nitrogen fixation. Of these, some are found living freely in soil, while others have formed close relationships with plants. The rhizobia bacteria found in nodules on the roots of legumes: peas, the aforementioned alfalfa, and wild species such as American groundnuts, are a prime example. In northern boreal forests, cyanobacteria that colonize mosses are a major source of nitrogen for the ecosystem.

Unsurprisingly, a great deal of today's nitrogen fixation also occurs in industrial fertilizer factories. They combine nitrogen and methane under high heat and pressure to form ammonia and other compounds. The wide availability of nitrogen-based fertilizers has been a boon to farmers. But, in a classic case of too much of a good thing, the nitrogen-rich runoff from farms can also cause entire lakes to be strangled by algal overgrowth.

Of course, the heat used in the industrial processing of nitrogen is mild compared to the 50,000-degree Fahrenheit fury of a stroke of lightning. Even nitrogen's strong triple bond isn't enough to hold up to such an overwhelming infusion of energy. In the momentary chemical free-for-all following a lightning strike, some newly single nitrogen atoms join up with eligible oxygen atoms to form nitrogen oxides. These get washed out of the air by rain, find their way into the soil, and can be taken up by thirsty plants. The short-term role of lightning in the nitrogen cycle appears to be minor, amounting to little more than an occasional ecological perk, especially in our relatively thunderstorm-poor region. On a deeper timescale, however, lightning's role was likely fundamental.

Lightning helped shape the chemistry of early Earth, and may well have provided the spark (literally) needed to make essential elements such as nitrogen and phosphorus available to early organisms, before the evolution of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. When we feel the primal frisson only a late-summer thunderstorm can bring, it augurs more than just a break in the heat: it's the presence of some remarkable, potentially planet-changing chemistry.

[Kenrick Vezina is a freelance writer, naturalist, and raconteur based in the Greater Boston area. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.]

*Illustration of Lightning*

# Letters From Readers

## Where is the Money Coming From?

To the editor:

Now that the primary is over, I thought I would reach out to the voters of Greensboro, Glover, Craftsbury and Albany to explain why I believe it is so important to re-elect Vicki Strong to the new one seat Orleans-4 District.

Currently we have 46 Republican House seats out of the 150 seats total. The majority sets the agenda, and maybe rightly so, but the balance is not there for good legislation.

I believe H.715 the Clean Heat Standard Bill would have been bad for our Northeast Kingdom residents, as well as many of the smaller fuel dealers. The legislature's own Joint Fiscal Office stated "It is too soon to estimate the impact on Vermont's economy, households and businesses". The governor's veto of this bill was sustained by just one vote, 99 to 51. This is just one example of a bill, while well intentioned, needed a veto and votes to sustain that veto.

Many bills, while well-intentioned, institute more mandates, regulations and simply grow government. The registration of contractors bill, while requiring a modest fee to register, also required two new positions in the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) and one in the attorney general's office. The proponents of many bills, not knowing where the money will come from state, "we have to find another source of revenue", or simply "tax the rich." Vermont, being such a small state, that source of revenue is you, the hard-working tax payers. The 2022 report from the Tax Foundation has ranked Vermont's tax system 43rd in overall taxation.

With the 2.7 billion dollars Vermont received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) we have tried our best to make one time investments in, Climate Change Mitigation, Housing, Broadband, Water and Sewer Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery and Development. When this money runs out, Vermonters and in particular, residents of the Orleans-4 district will need Representative Strong's understanding of what invest means and where that money comes from. Vicki has lived in and served her community much longer than the 12 years she has served as State Representative. If you know Vicki, you know how much she cares and is willing to help out anyone, not just her constituency. Please help us all and re-elect Vicki!

**Mark Higley**
**Representative**
**Orleans/Lamoille**
**(Lowell, Jay,**
**Westfield, Troy, Eden)**

# In the Garden

## Is It Time to Include Ferns in Your Garden?

Telltale ridge on stem of Ostrich fern

courtesy photo

This hay-scented fern planted itself right by my front door, surrounded by stones in hot afternoon sun.

**by Henry Homeyer**

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Many gardeners who focus on flowers and flowering shrubs are missing out on a beautiful and easy addition to their landscape: ferns. A few ferns are a bit aggressive and can elbow their way into flower beds uninvited, but most are polite and offer different textures and colors of foliage with little work. You probably like and use Hostas in shady places, and they are mainly used for their foliage, not their blossoms. So introducing ferns is the logical next step.

One of my favorite ferns is the ostrich fern (Matteuccia struthiopteris). This is a big fern, with fronds up to five feet tall. Each fern tapers at both ends, and arrange themselves like the feathers of a badminton birdie. Its most distinguishing characteristic is a groove like you see in a stalk of celery, up the middle of each frond on the topside. It also produces fronds that turn brown and produce the spores. It is the fern that produces edible fiddleheads in the spring.

In the wild it prefers moist, shady places but it will grow almost anywhere that is not bone dry or in full sun. It will tolerate some sun and ordinary garden soil, but rich, moist soil is where it thrives. Ostrich fern will spread by rhizomes, adding about a square foot of territory to each plant per year. They also produce spores that can fly in the wind to expand their territory.

Although you can buy Ostrich fern and the others in this article, you may be able to transplant some from your own property, moving them in from the woods or field to a garden bed. I have successfully transplanted ostrich ferns using a long, n arrow shovel called a drain spade or transplant shovel. I push the spade into the soil on a 45 degree angle to cut roots and loosen the soil in four places around it, then push down on the spade to pop the plant, roots and all, from the ground. Best to do on a cool day after a rain. Be sure to add compost to the planting hole and water weekly in dry times until it is well established.

Another great fern is the maidenhair fern (Adiantum pedatum). In the spring it comes up on what look like black wires, then produces almost horizontal fronds that are fan-shaped. In the wild it indicates good rich soil. Books say it does well in moist, shady soil but I've had it for over 20 years in dry shade. I think once established it is fine in dry shade, but I'd water it for the first year if in dry shade, or in drought times.

Maidenhair fern is commonly sold in nurseries, and I have rarely seen it in the wild. I have also grown it in a pot on our north-facing deck. In our garden, a plant (or three?) have created a clump that is eight feet by four feet in 20 years, so it is not a fast spreader.

Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*): Unlike nearly all others, this fern stays green all winter, and has very dark green leaves. It grows in free-form clusters, and has simple leaves. The leaflets have a little bump (ear) near the base of each frond and are 1 to 3 feet long. In past times, it was commonly used by florists as a green to add to flower arrangements in winter, though that practice is no longer common as whole colonies were used up.

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*): This fern has light green leaves that are quite wide. Leaflet pairs are opposite each other (like a bow tie). Top-most leaflets are smooth, others have wavy edges. It is very frost-sensitive, hence the name. It often grows in big colonies, either in sun or shade. Can be a pest in the garden as it spreads by root. It is the only fern that I always pull out if it shows up in my garden as it spreads fast and is fairly coarse in looks.

Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*): This is a big fern with fronds up to five feet long in a vase-like arrangement. It will grow in wet or dry shade. When spores are produced, they interrupt the arrangement of leaflets with smaller spore-producing sections that are not like the other leaflets. But not all plants will have an interrupted section, so look at a colony to find some that do to confirm the I.D. The little leaflets that produce spores get dry and turn brown in mid-summer. It is common in the wild.

Another fern I like is the hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*). If you have crushed this fern and sniffed it, it smells something like fresh-cut hay. It is finely cut and stays just one to three feet tall. It is one of the few that will grow in a hot, sunny location such as a west-facing, sandy hillside, though it will grow in shade or rocky slopes. It spreads quickly, and will fill in an area, making a large colony. Sold in nurseries as a ground cover. It will out-compete weeds and grasses in sunny locations.

If you are interested in learning about ferns, many guides use lots of technical language that only fern scientists understand. One exception to this is "*Identifying Ferns the Easy Way: A Pocket Guide to Common Ferns of the Northeast"* by Lynn Levine. It's published by Heartwood Press. There are just 28 common ferns in the book, and there are silhouettes of each at the beginning of the book. The silhouettes are divided into 6 groups based on how the leaves are "cut". So a quick look will identify most ferns, and the straightforward descriptions quickly confirm which fern you are looking at.

Observe where ferns grow in your woodlands, and try digging up some to put in a shady garden in your cultivated areas. So stop discriminating against ferns and give some a try.

courtesy photo

Sensitive fern is a bit of a thug.

courtesy photo

Maidenhair ferns are dainty, but tough.

# Yankee Notebook

## Outrage Has Become Common Among Us

**by Willem Lange**

EAST MONTPELIER – I see by the news that the State of Florida has begun hiring uncredentialed teaching job applicants who've been members of the military. This slightly fatuous development suggests all kinds of scenarios – from the moment an obstreperous student challenges a former drill sergeant to "make me," to the day the new hires get their first paychecks and see how little they're making, to the day an elderly vet is told what he can and cannot teach about the Asian wars. The videos of all the interactions surely will be available – nothing goes unmonitored these days – and it might be quite interesting to us old Shakespeare snobs to see what a former sea cook does with Hamlet's soliloquy.

The general outrage around the country to the news from Florida has been pretty much that: outrage.

Once the almost private possession of Bernie Sanders, outrage has become as common among us as mosquito bites. We're worn out with outrage, and thus suspect that the Republican-controlled government of Florida will get away with this one without a scratch.

***A couple of school board shellbacks from rural hamlets seemed suspicious of popular teachers; when I grew a mustache one year, they objected to my "flaunting pubic hair in front of our young girls." I couldn't scrape that fly out of the ointment.***

But if there is any reason to hope this dramatic reduction in teacher certification requirements may possibly succeed (it has to, by the way. What certified teacher with alternatives and in their right mind would let themselves in for a job that pays insultingly low wages, dictates what portions of a subject may or may not be taught, and threatens being brought up short at the behest of an unhappy parent?) There's no teacher shortage; there is a shortage of folks willing to subject themselves to conditions like that.

My own introduction to teaching was rather similar, except that there were no political principles involved, as far as I could tell. Finally in possession of an undergraduate degree in English and Geology after nine drawn-out years, and responsible for a wife, a daughter, and an infant. it occurred to me that, even though I was still a dues-paying labor union member, I needed something more stable than seasonal construction work. So I sent a letter, blind, to the superintendent of schools in Essex County, N.Y., the closest thing to home that I knew. No, the super said, he had nothing; but I might try Francis Sprague over in Willsboro. He thought Francis might be looking for an English teacher.

Ha! He was. I interviewed, we hit it off, and I got the job, with the stipulation that I attend night school at Plattsburgh State (about a 45-minute commute in decent weather) two semesters a year, working on my permanent certification. "I hired you," he said, "to show these kids that you don't have to be a sissy to speak good English." Okay. He also gave me some really good advice: "Teaching, you'll never have enough to both have stuff and do stuff. So decide as soon as you can which you prefer." Like Robert Frost's less-traveled path, that has made all the difference.

The kids – freshman and sophomores, four classes divided by presumed academic tracks – were great. They came to me from two really excellent eighth-grade good teachers, one in American History and the other in Latin and English. We went from English, grammar, and literature to starting a drama club, directing the senior play, a track team, and an outing club. Legal issues and liability were much less intrusive then. We spent a night in our military surplus parachute tent camped on the ice of a pond called the Giants Washbowl, and another, thankfully calm moonlit New Years Eve in the same tent, arranged like the cylinders in a radial engine, on top of Mount Marcy. We took a school bus to the Catskills for a spring Shakespeare festival. I can still see a couple of our elegant girls wading through six inches of new snow in open-toed heels. Whoops!

The pay was pretty puny, but we managed to cobble together a decent house. Spring vacations, I worked in the woods, getting up firewood; summers, the blacktop crew; and winter weekends, I got my old job back, announcing the races at the Mount van Hoevenberg bobsled run.

A couple of school board shellbacks from rural hamlets seemed suspicious of popular teachers; when I grew a mustache one year, they objected to my "flaunting pubic hair in front of our young girls." I couldn't scrape that fly out of the ointment. Then came a hard look at our future and a really good offer from Outward Bound. I'll always miss those kids, but it was time to say good-by.


# The Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc., Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843

Tel. (802) 472-6521, Fax. (802) 472-6522. E-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com
Publication (ISSN 0744-5512).
The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

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# Meeting Memo

**Thursday, Sept. 1**

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 6**

•**Marshfield Select Board**, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.

•**Danville School District Board of Directors Regular Meeting**, 6 p.m., Danville School Library and remote access also available.

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

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

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

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**

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

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# Letters From Readers

## Katherine's Values Are Clear

To the editor:

Here are some of the reasons why I support Katherine Sims as the State Rep. for Craftsbury, Greensboro, Albany and Glover: She's responsive. When a state policy issue of concern was brought to her attention late last year – the PFAS contamination in the Craftsbury Common water supply – she dug right in. She got up to speed on the complicated issue, connected with those who could assist, convened interested parties and facilitated a dialogue with state officials including helping the Fire District navigate complex state funding options.

Katherine has made a difference in her first term at the State House. For many years I worked in state government including sitting in on statehouse deliberations. I've heard from former colleagues, including Committee Chairs regarding Katherine's persistence and dedication to, not only fully understanding legislative process and content, but also making sure bills serve our region and the rural economy. Long after she puts her kids to bed, she's researching issues and responding to her constituents.

She is the clerk for the House's Rural Caucus. The caucus spent last summer and fall visiting and interviewing folks in the forest products industry. This resulted in several state policy changes that Katherine championed. Portions of the 2022 Rural Economic Development Omnibus Bill include funding to help municipalities switch to locally grown advanced wood heat for public buildings instead of fossil fuels and sensibly easing Act 250 requirements for forest-based enterprises.

Her work on the House Energy and Technology Committee led directly to expanded broadband funding in the NEK.

Katherine's values are clear. Her priorities include making sure all voices are heard and easing the economic burdens and increasing the quality of life for low and moderate income families. She strongly supports the notion that reproductive decisions are between a woman and her doctor, family, and spiritual advisors. The state and federal governments should not dictate these strictly private matters.

She is transparent and is in continuous contact with her constituents. Check out her website or newsletter or attend one of her virtual monthly office hours during the legislative session where all are welcome to hear what's going on in Montpelier and share what matters most to you.

I have known Katherine for several years now. She is smart, capable, an outstanding mother and leader that I am proud to have representing us.

**Gina Campoli**
**Craftsbury Common**

## Sims is Ideal Candidate for Challenging Times

To the editor:

Chat with Representative Katherine Sims, (D) Orleans-Caledonia, and you find a sincere politician committed to enhancing Vermonters' lives, especially those in the Northeast Kingdom.

At a time when certain politicians spew divisive, hateful rhetoric, Rep. Sims remains a stalwart, calming influence in the NEK. From her legislative support of agritourism, correctional officers, healthcare workers, and equitable/quality education to her tireless work making affordable quality broadband available in areas not serviced by cable, promoting increased funding for early childcare, and championing financial assistance for energy-efficient improvements in historic buildings, her two years in office already have enabled much-needed improvements for Vermont families, businesses and communities.

Most important, she recognizes the medical privacy rights of all women. That a nation founded on an ideal notion of liberty would, in 2022, be poised to insert religious beliefs into the private conversations between a doctor and patient is alarming. It speaks of a government heading toward authoritarianism, which Sims' opponent Rep. Vicki Strong, (R) Irasburg, apparently welcomes based on her comments about the SCOTUS Roe v. Wade ruling. Rep. Strong believes states should "look towards more pro-life legislation at least to try to regulate it."

Still, in speaking with Rep. Sims, you'll also discover her passion for resolving the issues facing rural America. Interestingly, the Brookings Institution recently noted that doing so is crucial for the elimination of extreme poverty. Why? Because "[m]ost of the world's poorest live in rural areas. Roughly two out of three people living in extreme poverty live in rural settings." Ask Rep. Sims why she moved to rural Vermont and her answer reflects a dedication to helping provide greater access to markets, education, quality infrastructure, employment opportunities, health, and financial products for her constituents. All of which will, unsurprisingly, assist with the global objective to end extreme poverty by 2030.

Today when some politicians want to interfere in doctor-patient relationships, who want to sow division and hate among their fellow citizens, Rep. Katherine Sims stands out. Her ability to see the greater, broader impacts of her local efforts proves she's a visionary leader with the determination, knowledge and fortitude to bring about much-needed changes required to improve the lives of NEK Vermonters and, thereby, benefit their communities and the state as a whole.

**Victoria Hudson**
**Craftsbury**

## *Woodsmoke* by Julie Atwood

**"IT'S NOT A BACKPACK. IT'S A BUGOUT BAG FILLED WITH SUPPLIES FOR ANY APOCALYPTIC EVENT WHILE I'M IN SCHOOL!"**

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

*Andrew Marckres (right), captain of the Craftsbury Fire Department, accompanies some children riding on Engine 1 in this year's Old Home Day Parade August 13.*

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photo by Vanessa Fournier

*Pete Fecteau of Morrisville brought his 1972 Pontiac GTO Convertible to the Antique Car Show held in Hardwick August 6. Twenty cars participated in the show hosted by Adam Holbrook, Claude Fontaine and Marc Fontaine. The show was held at Dona's Car Store parking lot.*

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# SPORTS

## Conover Named new Athletic Director at Twinfield-Cabot

**by Ken Brown**

MARSHFIELD – It has been a statewide revolving door of high school athletic directors this past summer and Twinfield-Cabot will have their sixth in seven years as principal Mark Mooney aims to bring lasting sustainability to their athletic program with the hire of David Conover.

Conover replaces Carley Elkin after only one year at Twinfield-Cabot, moving his family cross country from southern Oregon and quickly falling in love with central Vermont. He has over fifteen years of teaching and coaching experience all over the country, including abroad in Kyiv, Ukraine, and central Asia. Mooney admits that with so many schools around the state having turnover at the A.D. position this summer, Twinfield-Cabot had to broaden their search parameters. Conover impressed in his initial interviews and quickly became a finalist for the position.

"Carley did a great job bringing organization and detail to the department, but she's moving on and we were dedicated to finding someone who is dedicated to the athletic department here at Twinfield-Cabot and the community long term. We have officially made the A.D. position here a full-time position and David's experience and positive energy quickly made him our first option. He has a lot on his plate getting settled here and becoming familiar with the kids and community, but he's a keeper and we are thrilled to have him," said Mooney.

*David Conover*

Conover brings his experience in outdoor recreation and education, girls' and boys' clubs, student life athletics and activities, and most importantly building the youth outdoor recreation programs at Cal-State, San Bernardino and the University of Houston. He has coaching experience at both the amateur and professional levels and will dive in this fall, coaching the Twinfield-Cabot middle-school soccer teams. His specialty is building sustainable recreational systems at the youth level and he believes that is the key for future athletic success at Twinfield-Cabot.

"This is a new start for my wife and I and we are excited to get settled and familiar with the beautiful region of New England. There have been a lot of A.D.s that came before me here and I was drawn to the challenge of continuing to build the athletic program here in both the Twinfield and Cabot communities. Developing continuity, skills, and teamwork, along with hiring coaches that can teach those things at the youth level is very important for the future of athletics at Twinfield-Cabot. I've found in my experience that successful athletic programs aren't about A.D.'s or coaches, but more about building systems all the way down to the youth level that are complimentary and sustainable. We need to create these systems where everyone is on the same page and pulling in the same direction to give the kids the opportunity to be successful through hard work, dedication, while having fun doing it. It is a lot to take in, but I'm excited to get started, to coach and teach, and to get to know the kids and parents in these communities," said Conover.

Both Twinfield-Cabot varsity soccer programs are coming off stellar seasons in 2021 and Mooney believes that continuing to nurture and embrace the athletic cooperative model between the two schools is vital to future success.

"Our participation numbers aren't quite where we want them to be yet, but I think we are starting to see a full buy-in from both communities in the cooperative and that is only going to be a positive for the kids going forward. Many of the division III and IV schools that we play on our schedules now are true cooperatives, so it is essential that we continue to promote that relationship between our two communities so we do not get left behind. We have a great relationship with Cabot and we want to continue to work on making it even stronger and give the kids in both communities the opportunity to play sports at all levels. Our youth programs are growing again, we are excited to have David on board, and we feel like the future is bright for athletics at Twinfield-Cabot," said Mooney.

## Trojans Return a Ton of Talent from Final Four Squad

**by Ken Brown**

MARSHFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot boys' soccer team made their first Division IV semifinal in 21 years last fall and head coach Peter Stratman believes he returns a team that is equally talented as he enters his fourth season at the helm.

The Trojans were quite possibly a bounce away from a historic season a year ago, losing to eventual state champion Mount Saint Joseph's Academy 3-2 in the next to last match of the tournament to end their season. It was still a dream season for Stratman and his squad, setting a school record with 11 wins in their first season in the Division III-rich Mountain League, giving him a 28-12-1 record since taking over the program in 2019. He lost key starters to graduation in Brody Moran, Alec Moran, and Lucas Roberts, but returns a talented core of veteran leadership and a plethora of freshman that have been groomed by Mike Russell at the middle school level. He has a solid 19 players practicing so far this fall and credits the interest in the program to the evolution of a true cooperative and relationship between the two communities.

"Last season was magical in so many ways, but we lost three really pivotal players from that squad that we'll miss dearly. They were talented soccer players, good people, and great leaders who helped build this program, but they still stay in close contact and that is a testament to the program and culture that we are trying to build here. I love where we are heading with this program, building a culture through a sense of team, sportsmanship, and competitiveness at the varsity level. Every year here I am getting more comfortable, it is more fun, and it is great to see the cooperative between Cabot and Twinfield gain so much momentum. It is such a mutual benefit for the kids, both schools and communities, and it only makes us all stronger. We have a great mix of veteran leadership and young talent this year and top to bottom, this is one of the most talented rosters (skill-wise) I've ever coached," said Stratman.

One of the reasons Stratman might feel that way is the return of his leading goal scorer Meles Gouge. Gouge broke out in a big way as a sophomore, scoring 20 times and assisting on six others, earning him First Team All-Mountain League honors. Also returning will be junior goalkeeper Neil Alexander, who has started since his freshman year and is poised to be one of the better netminders in the division. Silas Robbins rounds out the trio of talented juniors returning for Stratman and the center back adds yet another line of defense to an already stingy defense. T.J. Bernatchy and Frank Castillo are the two lone seniors for the Trojans that possess a lot of skill and leadership qualities that will be needed on a team that has nine freshmen.

"Meles has always impacted the game with his pure athleticism, but now it is the nuances of his soccer skills and understanding of the game through experience, combined with that athleticism that makes him so impactful. He has gotten better every single year and it has been fun watching him work his way into a leadership role for this program. Neil has come so far since being an eighth grader at Cabot wanting to learn how to be a goalkeeper. He is a natural at the position and through camps and hard work has developed into a great keeper and leader. Silas has grown into such a complete player and the way he communicates with teammates and makes them better is impossible not to appreciate. Having two players like that lead from the back end of your defense is a luxury to have. We have a lot of freshman, but they are already so versatile and skilled and it's a testament to Mike's work at the middle school level. I think we'll be very balanced on both sides of the ball, but we have a lot of work to do to gel as a team and create that necessary chemistry to be successful. This is a great group of kids who are all-in on the team and that's all you can ask for as a coach. As always our goal is to get these kids to develop an absolute love for the game of soccer, create relationships, and memories that will last a lifetime. If we do that, everything else will take care of itself," said Stratman.

Twinfield-Cabot had their final tune up on Tuesday at Burke Academy and is scheduled to open up the season on the road at archrival Danville on Friday.

# SPORTS

## Patrick Hussey's Tuesday Golf

# Locked and Loaded for the Low Round

GREENSBORO – A beautiful marriage between three players with lofty handicaps and a sharp shooting sniper resulted in an easy win last Tuesday evening at Mountain View Country Club.

John Sperry was locked and loaded on Tuesday, firing his second straight round of one-over par 36, the night's low round. Meanwhile, his teammates, Dave Burnham, Marty Renaud and Bob Blake, provided him with all the handicap they would need to lock up the weekly championship.

It was a best ball event with handicaps as 39 golfers dodged some early rain and eventually played under sunny skies with warm temperatures. It was ideal golf weather and the winning foursome netted out a 21.25, winning by over a stroke.

Sperry got the low score, or tied for it, on every hole for his foursome. He only bogeyed two holes, the fourth and sixth, and he birdied the par-five seventh hole. He helped make Dave Burnham a winner on his first night out this year. Burnham is just getting back on the links after recovering from his second hip replacement surgery.

Also winning on his first night out in the league was Marty Renaud, who grew up in East Hardwick. Renaud flew in for a vacation from his home in Houston, Texas. It was a vacation delayed two years because of the COVID pandemic, but he returned home a champion. Blake, meanwhile, just seems to keep showing up in the winner's circle.

Hot on the winning foursome's heels, just over a stroke back, was the group that included Karl Ferland, Dan Mencucci, Richard Coolbeth and Dave Campbell. They got off to a great start as Ferland parred one, Mencucci parred two and Campbell carded a nifty birdie two on the third hole.

They would bogey their next four consecutive holes, but Ferland parred eight and Coolbeth nine as they carded a nice round of three-over par 38. They netted out at 22.5 to place second.

Back in third place was the foursome that included Rob Montgomery, Ivan Menard, Nate Brown and Tim Bellavance. They shot a two-over par 37 and netted a 24. Bellavance got them started with his birdie on one and then a par on two. Brown, who posted a 40, took over from there and helped post the low score over the team's final seven holes.

Montgomery matched Brown with a par on the third hole as he won closest to the pin there, dropping his drive just 10 feet, two inches from the pin. Brown got the team a par on eight after leaving his approach 17 feet, three inches from the pin. That pitch shot won him closest in two shots on the hole.

Rowdy Doyon looked to have closest to the pin locked up on the fifth hole when he put his drive just 45 inches from the pin. But in a threesome behind him, just as Doyon walked off the green, Aaron Molleur hit a gem to the back of the green. The ball rolled to the upslope of the green, but gravity took over and it then rolled slowly backwards, coming to a stop just two feet, two inches from the pin to steal the closest prize.

courtesy photo

*Marty Renaud, far right, was back in town from his home in Houston, Texas last week for a vacation that was delayed two years because of the COVID pandemic. His team of John Sperry, Dave Burnham and Bob Blake won the weekly championship last Tuesday at Mountain View Country Club. He got in a practice round of golf last week with, left to right, Pat Hussey, John Robb and Dale Rowell.*

In addition to his low round of 36, Sperry also won closest in two shots on nine. He put his approach shot six feet, two inches from the pin.

The low gross round of 36 was posted by the foursome of Joe Mulligan, Neal Mulligan, Patrick Mulligan and Darwin Thompson. Neal Mulligan fired a two-over 37 and Joe Mulligan had a 39.

With a solid 43, Jeremy Kaufmann posted the best net round of the evening, carding a six-under 29. He just nosed out Rob Montgomery and Roger Boone, who each netted a five-under par 30. Kaufmann teamed with Dan Rogers, Dave Rogers and Doug Allen and they placed fourth with a net round of 25.75.

Next up for the MVCC Tuesday nighters is the August Championship. The annual league championship tournament will be played on Sunday, Sept. 25.

# Lady Cats Aim to Bounce Back with More Experience

**by Ken Brown**

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls' soccer team struggled through a development year in 2021, winning only one match, but head coach Harry Besett didn't lose a single player to graduation and returns a young and talented core that now has varsity experience under their belt.

Last fall was a challenge for Besett and the Lady Cats after losing the core of their 2020 team that made it to the Division IV state title match to graduation. His young squad did start to play their best soccer late in the season, recording a win and a tie, but their season came to an end in the first round of the playoffs at Mount Saint Joseph's Academy. He has fifteen strong practicing on the pitch so far on Hudson Fields and will have four seniors on the team in Lily Castle, Alexis Christensen, Maverick Murphy, and Gabriela Stanciu.

"We were an extremely young team last season without a senior on the squad and there were skills we needed to develop as a team throughout the year. We have a decent number practicing so far and hopefully we can recruit a couple more as school starts, but so far the girls look further ahead than I expected," said Besett.

The Lady Cats should get a boost on offense with the return of juniors Caitlyn Davison and Tessa Luther in the middle of the field. Besett will also return a core of freshmen who logged varsity time as just eighth graders, led by Julia desGroseilliers and Isabelle Gouin. Madeline Kaiser returns to goal after a full varsity season under her belt and freshman Ella Renaud could see time in net as well.

"Kaitlyn is a great athlete and we'll be able to use her skills in multiple ways on the field and Tessa has really grown into a strong midfielder. We had a lot of soccer skills to develop last season, but so far this fall the girls have picked up right where they left off and it has allowed us to apply more match tactics into practice. This group works hard, is extremely coachable, and they attack practice with a positive attitude. We have one more scrimmage this week to measure where we are at and we're excited to get the season started," said Besett.

Hazen Union is scheduled to open the season on the road at Oxbow on Saturday and will host their home opener next Tuesday against Blue Mountain.

# SPORTS

## Lady Chargers Hungry to Keep Building Momentum

**by Ken Brown**

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' soccer team will enter their second season in the Mountain League this fall with a young and talented squad that is hungry to take the next step under first year head coach Patrick Houle.

Houle replaces Tom Silva after three seasons at the helm that saw him resurrect and increase interest in a soccer program that went away in 2018, but has returned in full force since 2019 with the collective efforts of the school and surrounding community to keep the athletic traditions at CA alive and well. Houle takes over a team that won three games in the daunting Mountain League in 2021. Ida Eames and her team-leading 14 goals are gone, along with the experience of Amelia Eagan, Maggie Royer, and Felicia Flint. All-Mountain League First Team selection Sadie Skorstad leads a talented core of underclassmen returning however, and Houle likes the talent and drive that he's seen on the pitch at Dustan Field so far.

"Numbers have been surprisingly good so far in practice and we are expecting more once school gets underway. This is a hungry group of talented athletes with very specific individual and team goals. We only have one senior on this team, but there is a lot of young talented athletes around her who have already shown great leadership skills in practice," said Houle.

Ella Gillespie will be the senior captain this fall and will be expected to anchor the defense from the back third. Skorstad will be a junior captain and will look to build off a sophomore campaign where she was asked to play multiple positions throughout the season and played them all at a high level. Sophia Augsberger rounds out the trio of Lady Charger captains as just a sophomore, but she already has two years of varsity soccer under her belt. Rachel Bailey also returns for her second season in goal and her experience and work ethic will add an extra line of defense. Houle's United Soccer Coaches level 1 goalkeeper certification should only accelerate Bailey's development.

"These girls were selected by their teammates and they have been natural leaders and examples in practice. Ella is a very strong defender, she's been a huge influence in practice so far, and has the ultimate respect from her teammates. Sadie is a great athlete and really sets the tone with her work ethic and how hard she goes in practice. Sophia is a solid midfielder and just has a calm confidence in pressure situations and that confidence that she brings to the field is infectious to the entire team. As a coach you couldn't ask for a better trio of team leaders to help build a team and a culture," said Houle.

Houle's player-centric coaching philosophy is a non-rigid system built around the strength of his players with the hopes of making the game of soccer fun for his entire team. His practices are run with the emphasis on creating game-like experiences that will prepare his student athletes to play in a game at an optimal technical and physical level.

"We will play hard and with honor and my main focus as a coach is on player development. We are really working hard in practice at gaining and maintaining possession in order to control the match. We have a challenging scrimmage ahead of our first match against a tough opponent to start the season, but this group is hungry to compete and that is exciting as a coach to see," said Houle.

Houle and the Lady Chargers will welcome powerhouse Stowe to town for their season opener on Saturday, before traveling to Winooski next Tuesday.

## There are Holes to Fill for Twinfield-Cabot Girls

**by Ken Brown**

MARSHFIELD – Head coach Seth Wilmott and his Lady Trojan soccer team broke through with the program's most successful season in over a decade last fall, but several key departures will make it challenging to equal that same success in Wilmott's sixth season at the helm.

Wilmott inherited a program that was fading away into the ether six years ago, but from the bottom up he rebuilt a talented young program that hosted a playoff match in 2020. The program took it another step last season by reaching the Division IV quarterfinals with their first winning record at Twinfield-Cabot since 2011. Principal Mark Mooney looks to the recent success of the soccer programs at Twinfield-Cabot as an example of the cooperative between the two schools working and credits Wilmott's dedication to the rebuild of the girls' program.

"Seth took over a program that was really struggling with numbers and success and has done a great job of rebuilding it with a lot of eighth and ninth graders who now have varsity experience. Their success last season is a great sign that our youth programs our getting stronger in both communities and I really credit Seth for hanging in there and continuing to teach when we were really struggling the first couple of years," said Mooney.

Wilmott already had his hands full with the graduation losses of First Team All-Mountain League selection and team captain Eva Hebert, along with starters Nicole Gouge and Julia Light, and Makayla Quintin. It will be even more challenging with the untimely transfer of Annie Dunlop to prep school, taking her team leading 11 goals a season ago with her.

"Unfortunately we are scratching for numbers so far this fall, but we hope to recruit some more players with the start of school. We had some unexpected losses, but we still have some really good soccer players on this team. We'll be very solid defensively and we'll need a couple of young players to step up to lead us offensively," said Wilmott.

Twinfield-Cabot led the Mountain League with four First Team selections last fall and Wilmott returns a pair of them to anchor the defense in Ayden Corbette and Holly Dunlop. Alice McLane, Ginger Klarich, and Camryn Hoffman should also return after breakout seasons that earned them Second Team honors. A wildcard for the Lady Trojans could be the return of Aleacya Moshinskie, who missed all of last season with a knee injury. Ida Astick also returns in goal after a full season of varsity experience under her belt. The schedule won't be any easier for Wilmott's squad in their second season in the Mountain League, but he enters the season with optimism, given the success his players have experienced over the past two years.

"We definitely don't have as much maturity on this team yet, but we are returning a really good core of players, especially in the defensive third. This core group has built up a lot of confidence the last couple of seasons and they know what to expect in this league now. The girls are going to continue to recruit and try to increase our numbers and we'll have a scrimmage this week for a final tune up to get ready for the season opener," said Wilmott.

Twinfield-Cabot scrimmaged Burke Academy on Tuesday and they are scheduled to host Northfield-Williamstown in their season opener next Tuesday.

*photo by Gazette staff*

*The Hazen Union golf team is organized and ready for competition this fall. They are, (back row, left to right: Andy Hunt (assistant coach), Zach Therrion (Danville student), Xavier Hill, Jason McArthur (coach); (front row, left to right) Gavin Stratton, Brendan Moodie, Andrew Menard, Eliot Rosendahl and Jadon Baker. Missing were Fenton Meyers and Tyler Rivard.*

# SPORTS

photo by Alan Ward

*Run-What-U-Brung Champions were Barre's Nathan Felch (middle, V-8 Champ) and Orange's Peter Childs (left, Four-cylinder Champ).*

photo by Alan Ward

*Barre's Nathan Felch won the V-8 Run-What-U-Brung division but the Widowmaker wouldn't let him take home the overall in the grudge match with Peter Childs and his four-cylinder Honda.*

## Run-What-U-Brung Thrills and Delivers Hard-Nosed Racing

BARRE – The final Thursday night of the 2022 Thunder Road season was one to remember as the championship point battles begin to come down just inches of fiberglass and seconds on the clock. Jet Service Envelope/Accura Printing Night brought the Road Warriors their second first-time winner in two weeks, a rookie that led a flag-to-flag Street Stock sprint and two stories of determination and time spent in the shop to get their respective mounts back on top at Thunder Road.

Road Warrior veteran "No-Look" Nick Copping took off like a rocket with the early lead over Worcester's Rodney Campbell in their 20-lap main event. Barre's Ryan Sayers stalked and followed before engaging the sling-shot around Copping on the backstretch with just five laps remaining. The charge was short lived with a huge lap-15 pile up in turn three taking down veteran "Flyin" Fred Fleury and newbies Tyler Wheatley and Conner Noyes. On the restart, Ryan Sayers took the jump of his life and never looked back, taking his first Thunder Road win followed by Nick Copping and "Barbie Boy" Frank Putney to round out the first feature event of the night.

The Street Stocks were 32 cars strong at the start of their 25-lap feature as Williamstown's Kyle MacAskill missed the shift and plugged up the inside lane. After earning the pole, rookie driver Curtis Franks sped away from number-two-man Thomas Peck as wily veteran Scott Weston stayed hot on his tail. Lap 13 would see Haiden Pearce dive into the front stretch grass as his Cavalier lost all power with Juan "Paco" Marshall similarly heading his Neon into the infield with a flat right-rear on Lap 22.

Impressively, Franks held off all challengers in the green to checkers event as the remainder of the 32 car field jumped and jolted around each other with both lanes of highway in rush hour. After easily 20 wrecks that could've happened, but didn't, the final lap turned things sour. A gaggle of top-10 cars went haywire in turn three as they stared down the checkered flag just 300 feet ahead. Top point chasers Jeffrey Martin, Josh Lovely and Kyler Davis were all involved as rookie Curtis Franks took down his first Street Stock win followed by Scott Weston and Mekaylah Bowen. Bowen would be disqualified in post-race technical inspection for a weight infraction, giving third to Johnson's Jamie Davis.

The annual Run-What-U-Brung tradition was far from a calming intermission with over 20 amateurs ready to duke it out at their home track. Four-door pickups, four-cylinder sedans, Dodge Durango's and Chevy Camaros battled hard for the final Thursday Night crowd knowing only one victor would reign supreme. After Peter Childs earned the four-cylinder top honors and Nathan Felch took down the V-8 top spot, the crowd demanded an overall championship match.

While the two were evenly matched through turns one and two, the Camaro showed its superior handling, powering into turn three until the ol' girl kicked sidewise. Felch would overcorrect his 1988 Chevy and slammed hard into the Widowmaker front stretch wall with Childs taking the overall win.

The 40-lap Flying Tigers took the field, attempting to follow-up the act of a lifetime with the crashing crunch of an '80s vintage Camaro. Adam Maynard took the early lead through the first five laps from the pole as a side-by-side battle with Mike MacAskill began in earnest. MacAskill, using the outside lane, methodically got around the #45VT of Maynard on lap 10 with another short-lived run. The first caution of the night would fly on lap 11 for the spinning machines of Matt Ballard, Kevin Streeter, Eric Johnson and Phil Potvin in turn two.

On the restart, it was Tanner Woodard and MacAskill with last-week's winner Mike Billado and Myers Triple Crown Champion Derrick Calkins stalking the leaders. After making a valiant effort on the outside, MacAskill's #3VT got loose coming out of turn four on lap, allowing Woodard an open raceway ahead. As Woodard stretched his lead, the battle for 8th became the highlight of the field as rookie contender Kaiden Fisher duked it out side-by-side with Maynard, bottlenecking the rest of the field. With Woodard just inches away from lapping the back end of the field, he took down the double-checkers on Jet Service/Accura Printing Night followed by Mike Billado and Derrick Calkins.

Rounding out the night, a stout field of Late Models entered the track for the final Thursday Night of the season. Waterford's Andy Hill took the early lead as Marcel Gravel, Tyler Cahoon and Keegan Lamson started taking it three-wide on lap two. By lap 10, Brandon Lanphear gained some steam under the hood and took to Hill's outside, making his #16VT work hard to gain inches on Hill. The first caution flag would wave on lap 22 for the flat front and broken front end of Chris Roberts.

On the restart, with Hill low and Lanphear high, the field took off again until Darrell Morin tried to get to the bottom coming off turn two and into the backstretch under Hill. The chain reaction caused Hill to sweep up the track into Lamson with Lamson taking Lanphear hard into the turn three wall, the reverberating thud felt throughout the crowd and ending his strong

**See RACING, next page**

photo by Alan Ward

*In Late Model Victory Lane on Jet Service Envelope/ Accura Printing Night were (left to right) Keegan Lamson (3rd), winner Marcel Gravel, Darrell Morin (2nd).*

# SPORTS

## Jim Flint's Runners' Roundup

### Local Bikers and Runners Excel in Race to the Top

STOWE – Athletes from towns covered by the Hardwick Gazette excelled at Sunday's 14th Annual Race to the Top of Vermont. The rigorous event involved biking or running up the 4.3-mile Mount Mansfield Toll Road. Two hundred and fifty runners and 57 mountain bikers conquered the 2,564 vertical feet climb.

Roger Prevot, 63, from East Hardwick placed eighth overall in the mountain bike division. Prevot faced tough competition in the M60-69 division. Jeff Nottonson, 60, from Addison, edged out Prevot, 44:46 to 44:50, to win the age group. Davis Barnett, 63, from Greensboro was sixth in the M60-69 age group. His time was 48:42.

Margie Prevot, 59, from East Hardwick, was the top local finisher in the women's division and the sixth fastest woman overall. Her time of 52:36 won the F50-59 age group. Donna Smyers, 64, from Adamant, won the F60-69 age group, in 53:10.

Buddy Majernik, 73, from Greensboro Bend, placed second in the M70+ age group. His time was 54:38. Eric Oberlin, 52, from Adamant, rounded out the roster of local finishers with a time of 1:08:51.

A cohort of Craftsbury runners placed among the top 15% of finishers in the Race to the Top. Green Racing Project team members Braden Becker and Margie Freed led the way. Becker, 26, finished second in 36:17. He won the M20-29 age group. Freed, 24, won the women's division. She moved up from a third-place finish at last year's race. Her time of 41:41 bested last year's 43:09 effort.

Matt Califano, 16, a rising junior at Craftsbury Academy, finished second in the M15-19 age group. His time of 42:14 was 11th fastest overall. GRP member Alexandra Lawson, 23, took home runner-up honors in the women's division for the second year in a row. Her time was 43:01.

The remaining Craftsbury finishers were Michaela Keller-Miller (third female, 43:52), Alexander Califano (45:05), Annika Landis (46:33), and Annie Macolgan (50:02).

photo by Alan Ward

*In Flying Tigers Victory Lane on Jet Service Envelope/Accura Printing Night were (left to right) Derrick Calkins (3rd), winner Tanner Woodard, Mike Billado (2nd).*

### Racing

**Continued from previous page**

run. Following the final caution with eight-to-go for the spinning Cooper Bouchard in turn four, it was Morin versus Lamson with the side-by-side battle quickly giving way to a hard charging Marcel Gravel. Gravel quickly dispatched a loosening Lamson. Gravel would take the lead by a bumper shroud under the white flag, finally leading by a fender to take his second win of the season.

Thunder Road roars back to life on Sunday, September 4th for the 44th New England Federal Credit Union Labor Day Classic. The Stars and Cars of the American-Canadian Tour return to their home track high atop Quarry Hill in Barre.

**UNOFFICIAL RESULTS**
**(local competitors)**
**Late Models – 50 Laps**
1. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel. Wolcott
13. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
19. 94VT, Brendan Moodie. Wolcott
**Flying Tigers – 40 Laps**
5. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury Common
20. 5VT, Tyler Austin, East Calais
**Street Stocks – 25 Laps**
9. 34. Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

### Parker Doubles Up Mount Mansfield

STOWE – Former Sterling College student Lance Parker has an unquenchable thirst for adventurous races. The Mount Mansfield Double Up race on August 14 was his latest conquest.

Parker took on the grueling 11-mile race with enthusiasm. The rigorous course included 5,000 feet of elevation gain. Along the way, Parker and fellow mountain runners ascended and descended both sides of Vermont's highest peak.

According to the race website, "the terrain is rugged, technical, slippery, steep, rocky, and full of roots." Each person entering the race was prequalified as to their ability to finish in a respectable time. Of the 56 entrants in this year's race, all but one completed the course.

Parker, 28, placed third overall. He finished the race in two hours, 22 minutes, and 57 seconds. David Sinclair, 30, from Truckee, Calif., was the winner in 2:06:26. Nigel Bates, 27, from Waterbury Center, placed second in 2:19:05.

Sinclair and Bates have some history racing in Craftsbury. Sinclair won the 2015 Mud 'n Ice Quadrathlon as a solo athlete. At the 2018 Genny Tenny Race, Sinclair easily outdistanced the field of mostly local runners. Bates was the top finisher in the 45k race at the 2019 Black River Beatdown.

### Tuesday Night Trail Series Extended

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Tuesday Night Trail Series is not over until it's over. Originally scheduled to end on August 23, a bonus 13th week of racing was added on August 30.

As of August 23, Eric Remick of Hardwick and Susan Dunklee topped the 5k series standings for male and female runners. Adrian Owens and Hallie Grossman were in second place, with the August 30 race left to determine the final standings. Each runner's top ten finishes are tallied for their series points.

Maxfield English captured his second win of the series on August 23. English outran Ethan Dreissigacker, 24:42 to 26:13, for the victory. Susan Dunklee edged out Hallie Grossman, 26:55 to 27:17, to win the women's division. Eric Remick placed fifth overall, in 27:35. Anna Ramsey was the third female finisher. Her time was 28:18.

Eve Gordon (22:26) and Wyatt Browning (22:29) were the fastest finishers in the 3k trail race on August 23. Thorin Markison (39:57) and Jack Lester (49:37) placed first and second in the 10k mountain bike race.

### Genny Tenny Race – September 11

CRAFTSBURY – The Genny Tenny, a 10-mile mostly-dirt road run, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 11. Runners will toe the starting line at 10 a.m. in Craftsbury Village, in front of the Craftsbury General Store. The hilly course winds its way to the Albany General Store via Creek Road, Page Pond Road, Pitkin Road, Center Road, and Water Street. A picnic, celebration, and awards ceremony follow the race.

The fourth annual race is sponsored by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and the Craftsbury General Store. Funds raised support the mission of the Albany Community Trust, the nonprofit organization which oversees the Albany General Store and broad efforts to revitalize the community.

Online registration and race details are posted at craftsbury.com/running/races/genny-tenny. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9. Registration is online only. When registering, runners can sign up for a pre-race shuttle from Albany Village to Craftsbury Village.

# SPORTS

## Sports Calendar

**Thursday, Sept. 1**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer scrimmage at Twinfield-Cabot.

**Friday, Sept. 2**
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer at Danville.

**Saturday, Sept. 3**
11 a.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Stowe, at Craftsbury.
11 a.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer at Oxbow.

**Tuesday, Sept. 6**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer at Winooski.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Blue Mountain at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Northfield-Williamstown, at Twinfield.
5 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Danville.

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Enosburg, at Craftsbury.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer at Fairfax.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Oxbow, at Cabot.

**Thursday, Sept. 8**
4 p.m, Hazen Union Middle School Boys Soccer at Danville.
5 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer at Danville.

**Friday, Sept. 9**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Twinfield-Cabot at Craftsbury.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer at Craftsbury Academy.

**Saturday, Sept. 10**
11 a.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Harwood, at Hazen Union.
11 a.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer at Blue Mountain.

**Monday, Sept. 12**
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer at Peoples.

**Tuesday, Sept. 13**
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Albany.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer at Blue Mountain.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer at U32.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Burke Mountain Academy, at Twinfield.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer at Burke Mountain Academy.

**Wednesday, Sept. 14**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Richford, at Craftsbury.

**Thursday, Sept. 15**
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer vs. Lamoille, at Hazen Union.
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Barton.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Blue Mountain, at Twinfield.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer at Danville.
5 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Boys Soccer vs. Lamoille, at Hazen Union.

**Friday, Sept. 16**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer at Danville.
7 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer at North Country.

**Saturday, Sept. 17**
11 a.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Winooski, at Craftsbury.
11 a.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Danville, at Hazen Union.

**Monday, Sept. 19**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer at Oxbow.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Enosburg, at Cabot.

**Tueday, Sept,. 20**
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Irasburg.
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer (Eight-Grade) at North Country.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer at Oxbow.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer at Enosburg.
5 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School (Eight-Grade) Boys Soccer at North Country.

**Wednesday, Sept. 21**
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer at Twinfield-Cabot.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Craftsbury Academy, at Cabot.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Thetford, at Hazen Union.

**Thursday, Sept. 22**
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Boys Soccer at Stowe.
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer at Stowe.
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Glover.

**Friday, Sept. 23**
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Oxbow, at Craftsbury.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer vs. BFA Fairfax, at Cabot.
5 p.m, Hazen Union Middle School Boys Soccer vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union.

**Saturday, Sept. 24**
11 a.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Montpelier, at Hazen Union.
2 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Oxbow, at Hazen Union.

**Wednesday, Sept. 28**
4 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Girls Soccer vs. Stowe, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer at Danville.
4:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Girls Varsity Soccer at Blue Mountain.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Girls Soccer at BFA Fairfax.
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer at Randolph.
5 p.m., Hazen Union Middle School Boys Soccer vs. Stowe, at Hazen Union.

**Friday, Sept. 30**
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Lamoille, at Hazen Union.
4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Middle School Soccer at Bishop Marshall.

**Saturday, Oct. 1**
3 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer at Richford.

**Tuesday,, Oct. 4**
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Missiquoi at Craftsbury.

**Friday, Oct. 7**
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer at Twinfield.

**Wednesday, Oct. 12**
4 p.m., Craftsbury Academy Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Hazen Union, at Craftsbury (homecoming).