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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Seven church bells rang out

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

Family and friends mark the anniversary of Scott Garvey's
death; state A.G.'s investigation clears VSP trooper for shooting

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

On July 7, family, friends, and strangers gathered in
memory of Scott Garvey, who was shot and killed by a Vermont
State Police (VSP) officer in his home on that day one year earlier.

At the beginning of the vigil, church bells rang for seven
minutes — each minute for each of the shots fired on the day
Garvey was killed.

11 Attendees showed support to the family throughout the
12 evening, with several of Garvey's friends and acquaintances
13 sharing stories, special encounters, poems, and songs.

14 Garvey's family said they discovered after his death that
15 he had made friends all around the world, offering support,
16 connection, and genuine kindness to anyone who needed it.

17 "He'd find a sad person on Facebook who needed
18 connection, and he'd send them a book, or a postcard, or just a
19 message" Garvey's brother, Shawn, said.

20 Shawn Garvey recalled the vigil that was held a few days
21 after the shooting.

22 "I remember looking out at the crowd and talking, and
23 seeing tears in everyone's eyes, realizing that they're all crying,
24 not only for Scott, but — they're all crying for their own Scott,"
25 he said.

26 Kara Garvey-Knapp, Shawn and Scott's sister, spoke
27 about how she originally planned not to attend this year's vigil.

28 "I wasn't going to be here," she said. "I just think about
29 this day last year. It's hard."

30 Garvey-Knapp went on to read a poem Scott wrote.

31 **A crisis ends in violence**

32 On June 2, Officer Peter Romeo was cleared of any
33 criminal wrongdoing by Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark,
34 whose office issued a news release recounting a chronology of
35 the events and the conclusion of an independent investigation.

36 On July 7, 2025, the VSP responded to Putney Landing
37 Apartments, where Garvey resided with his mother. He had
38 moved in only days before.

39 Garvey suffered from "auditory hallucinations and
40 schizophrenia," and his family has been candid about the
41 psychiatric challenges that he has faced through the years.

42 The investigation described a 911 phone call from
43 Garvey, expressing "concern that people were in the woods with

44 guns, and that someone had tried to break into his house with a
45 gun a few nights before.”

46 Later that morning, a neighbor reported that “a male was
47 banging on the windows and stating that the voices are telling
48 him to kill everyone,” the attorney general’s office said.

49 When the VSP responded, troopers and an embedded
50 mental health clinician found themselves in an hours-long
51 standoff with Garvey.

52 “At times, Mr. Garvey indicated he possessed a firearm.
53 The embedded mental health clinician relayed that Mr. Garvey
54 ‘said he had a gun’ and ‘if he came out, you would have your
55 guns drawn, and he would have his as well,’” the account
56 continued.

57 “Both VSP and the embedded mental health clinicians
58 agreed that it was unsafe for the public [...] if VSP left the scene
59 without taking Mr. Garvey into custody,” the report said.

60 Despite her pleas to help de-escalate the situation, VSP
61 denied Garvey’s sister, Kara Garvey-Knapp, entry to the home.

62 After four hours, the police entered the apartment and
63 saw Garvey holding that Romeo believed was a gun.

64 Romeo’s actions were “objectively reasonable
65 considering the totality of the circumstances.” The release also
66 states that a use of force expert was independently consulted,
67 also deeming his use of force “reasonable and necessary.”

68 A later search of the apartment revealed no weapons of
69 any kind. According to his family, Garvey “hated guns” and had
70 “never owned a firearm.”

71 According to the Vermont Department of Public Safety,
72 there have been 49 officer-involved shootings since 1977. Each of
73 these cases have been ruled as justified.

74 **‘My brother wanted to be**
75 **seen’**

76 Shawn Garvey expressed the family’s discontent with the
77 ruling, placing emphasis on the fact that they were largely left in
78 the dark throughout the investigation.

79 He said family members sent “45 emails, texts, and
80 phone calls” to Gov. Phil Scott’s office to no avail.

81 “None of them [were] returned,” Shawn Garvey said.
82 “Not even an auto reply.”

83 The Garvey family filed a civil lawsuit against the
84 Vermont State Police on June 29, alleging that troopers used
85 excessive force and escalated the situation.

86 Scott Garvey was remembered in a number of ways, one
87 of which was his talent as a phenomenal drummer. Drums were
88 passed around among attendees and played in his honor.

89 Garvey’s family want him to be remembered for the
90 many things he was: a poet, a drummer, an uncle, a local.

91 “My brother wanted to be seen,” Shawn Garvey said.
92 “He wanted to be seen as more than his mental illness”

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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