



Serenade in French

Eric Wallace-Snaft plays his French horn on a cloudy Friday afternoon in the park next to the Gazette.

photo by Doug McClure

Select Board votes to consider Grant for Extra Law Enforcement Officer

By Michael Bielawski
HARDWICK — A recent select board meeting, Police Chief Aaron Cochran detailed how the Hardwick Police Department's growing work load prevents the hiring of an extra police officer.

Cochran was absent from last week's meeting, but the board voted 3-to-2 in favor of applying for a grant that would provide funds to support hiring an additional officer.

The federal recommendation for law enforcement to cover an area the size of Hardwick and Greensboro in eight officers. Hardwick Police Department is one short, with seven. Cochran had also detailed how the number of police incidents has been increasing year by year.

The board asked if it is possible to back up the Federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, once it is approved. The grant

would cover three-quarters of the cost of the new hire for the first three years. The consensus was that backing it would not go over well with the U.S. Department of Justice, which funds the program.

"I'd like to see us move forward with the grant without thinking we will go through with it," said Board Member Danny Haley.

Haley said that, looking forward, applying for the grant makes sense. "We will surely need this officer in four years," he said. "In 2009, the board voted to have this officer. It's just looking at the big picture as far as what the needs of the town are."

Cochran's presentation stated that the force is not properly structured for its current work load. Investigations are often left with patrol officers, which takes them away from their regular duties. Cochran's proposal includes the hiring

of a detective, who would assume responsibility for investigations and field patrol officers to concentrate on their normal priorities.

Board chair Eric Bernick and board member Kerry Barthey voted in dissent. Bernick calculated that, with the additional salary, vehicle costs and equipment factored in, the department's budget would rise approximately \$100,000, minus the initial grant support. None disputed that estimate.

The motion to move forward with the grant application passed 3-2.

The board also voted to have Town Manager Jon Jewett write up a job description for an economic development position. The grant which this position would help Hardwick businesses expand, recruit new businesses to locate in town, and help companies find grants and other resources.

According to Jewett, interest money collected by the town from its economic development loan and the economic development loan fund the position. That would make it revenue neutral. Once the board receives the job description, it will consider the proposal further.

Elizabeth Dow wants the job description to include making Hardwick an official Designated Downtown. Designated Downtowns is an official status that the State of Vermont promotes, which would give the town priority consideration for state development grants.

The town is still considering the best approach for reaching an agreement with Burlington-based resident Robert Paulson regarding public use of the trail without trespassing. Paulson has denied trespassing with the trail.

"All the trail folks want a designated trail that is safe and harassment free," said Haley, who is also treasurer.

director of the Vermont Sportsman's Association and has been dealing with this matter for years.

Haley reminded the board that the town's right of way is twenty feet each way from the center of the trail and was debate over whether pursuing legal counsel is necessary at cost-effective at this point. For now the board decided to work on a list of agreement points without consent.

Earlier in the meeting, Haley expressed frustration about the conditions of roads in and around town. "From Hyde Park to Lowell just about everywhere," said Haley. "Route 114 from here to Franksburg just about undrivable. There's really not a good way to get out of town without getting aggressive about paving wherever it's convenient."

Mike Sullivan, general manager of the Hardwick Electric Department (HED), gave an update on its work on the South Main Street project to replace utility poles. He reported that See GRANT Page Five

New Principal for Cabot School to Start July 1

By Michael Bielawski
HARDWICK — Patrick Demrock, Danville School's Dean of Students, has been named the new principal of Cabot Elementary School.

Demrock taught science at U-32, Lamont, and Hanter for twenty-three years. He attended Syracuse University and the State University of New York.

His official start date is July 1, but he is getting involved with the school early to get a jump on things. "It's exciting to me that (Vermont Superintendent) Joanne LaBane and I have been going principal Edie Duan," said Hardwick Town School Board chair Jennifer Flanagan. "It's already working on hiring people. We have open positions and he's ready to hit the ground running."

Flanagan said that Demrock, who lives in Cabot, has expressed a great deal of interest in Hardwick's

rustic school program.

"We've heard great things about this community. We are looking forward to having him back," she said, adding that his colleague at Danville spoke very highly of Demrock.

"People really enjoy working with him. He tackles problems head-on and gets things done," said Superintendent Nancy Thoms.

"I'm very happy to have Patrick on board," she said. "I know him because he was the science teacher at Hanra a few years ago. He wants to play the community together. I think he brings a lot of unique qualities to the position," LaBane added.

She said that Demrock involved in dealing with bullying and harassment using a "multi-tiered system of

support" that OSSU encourages.

"LaBane said that Patrick has a good grasp on the local community. I think that, with his knowledge of the area and its strengths and the weaknesses, he will be able to lead the school in a very positive direction."

One of the first orders of business for Demrock will be reviewing major upgrades to the school's aging 1970s infrastructure.

"We will finally be fixing the parking lot and there will be a new front entrance to the school," LaBane said. "There are other things we're working on in the school. I would say it's an exciting new beginning."

She noted that outgoing principal Edie Duan leaves on positive terms for her new job in Bennington.

"She is very excited about her new position," said LaBane. "I think she does a great job about the work she

Act 46 Merger Proposal Fails, 699 to 435

By Will Waters
CABOT — The Act 46 merger vote to combine Danville, Dummerfield and Cabot School districts into the new CUDT Unified Union District failed in voting yesterday, delaying a final decision, possibly until November.

Ballot returns: Cab. Marshfield, Dummerfield and Danville voted for seats on the proposed new district's school board, as well.

Cabot voted against the merger, 699 to 435. Danville and Dummerfield voted in favor, 435 in favor.

In an email announcing the final results, Superintendent Nancy Thoms stated, "It will be back to the drawing board for all three districts."

Cabot had 98 absentee ballots returned by the time the polls closed at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The absentee ballots remained the same.

"In an email announcing the final results, Superintendent Nancy Thoms stated, 'It will be back to the drawing board for all three districts.'"

The candidates who were elected to sit on the new board will not take office, since no new board was approved.

A re vote could be called by petition if the new board's vote failed. According to Superintendent Jennifer Flanagan, the next vote will be See MERGER Page Four

Cabot School Board Evaluates Alternatives to Merger Proposal

By Will Waters
CABOT — Even though the merger vote held last night may pass, Cabot school board chair Chris Torney followed the boards' request to consider alternatives.

He has spoken several times with the chair of the Orleans South Supervisory Union (OSSU) Board. Torney also said he spoke with the chair of the Craftsbury School Board over the past few weeks.

The Cabot Board is exploring whether it could join the OSSU. "This would require the Agency of Education (AED) to approve Cabot for membership in an 'Alternative Structure.' Act 46 defines an Alternative Structure as a supervisory union "composed of multiple member districts, each with its separate school board," an irregular alternative to Act 6's Preferred Structure.

Combining Craftsbury and Cabot may be another option, due to their similar structures. Torney said that the Craftsbury chair is open to having discussions with Cabot.

These options are being considered in case the Cabot Danville Twin Rivers merger fails. Cabot school board unanimously supported to support an open letter urging voters not to support the merger proposal as currently written.

However, another vote on a revised merger is also possible between November. The board might request a re-vote if Act 46 fails.

Other School Board News
Superintendent Nancy Thoms, who is retiring June 30, said that Mark Tucker will transition to the Superintendent position. Tucker is See ALTERNATIVES Page Four

Church Street Project on Target For Late July Finish

By Michael Bielawski
HARDWICK — Better water pressure and water quality are on track for Church Street and Vermont Avenue. The contractor, Munson Earth Moving Inc., has indicated that the work is on pace to wrap up the water line upgrade by mid-summer.

"I think that's the best news, half of the road has been torn up. Town manager Jon Jewett gave an update on the latest at the June 15 select board meeting.

"Munson still expects to be completed by the end of July. They are already at the top of the hill on Vermont Avenue," he said. "They are going to come back down and do all the in-and-out there. It'll be done. The town engineers have indicated when to finish up of the paving."

"I think they'll do paving right around the end of July, it will just be a concrete pouring," Jewett said. It will have to be September, when it will have better weather and last longer.

Munson Earth Moving's president and chief estimator Lindsay Vincelle also said that the work is going well.

"The project is progressing on schedule. All of the 8-inch PVC water lines were recently installed, and we're currently in the process of testing and chlorinating the main. Then we'll start connecting the services."

In a print interview, Jewett said that the purpose of the project is to increase the diameter of the water lines that pressure can be increased, which will allow the project for a loop, rather than the dead-end system that exists now. This will increase water pressure and quality along the whole loop, according to Vincelle.

Vincelle said that Munson is connecting the new line at several points to existing lines. She agreed that the looped lines are likely to provide better to the Vermont Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The project is a Vermont's infrastructure gets a C- by the engineering company. The Vermont has \$200 million in drinking water infrastructure projects, according to Vincelle.

"Every year there seem to be new water infrastructure projects out there," he said. "It's hard to say for the state as a whole, but we are going to be starting another project in Bristol next week. Those original plans were installed in the

town is still considering the best approach for reaching an agreement with Burlington-based resident Robert Paulson regarding public use of the trail without trespassing. Paulson has denied trespassing with the trail.

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Police Dog Atos Makes Unexpected Journey

By Michael Bielawski
NEWPORT — During his police career, Atos worked criminal cases with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department. Now retired, he made the former 20 minutes the excitement of police work. Whatever the reason, Atos decided he was up for one more big adventure.

It all started on Thursday, June 8, in a fenced in area at the Newport house of a friend of Atos' partner, approximately 5:30 p.m.

"He peeped the latch to get out of the fenced in area," said Flanagan of his journey, "and he was out."

There were several dogs of the dog for more than 12 hours, until driers at West Woodstock's Pet saw him at 7:30 p.m., Thursday evening. But he was missing for four or five hours.

"It was a short night for me," said Gloggett, who saw him over the fence looking for Atos after the dog went missing.

Gloggett thought Atos might be heading Greensboro.

"We often drove that way over the last nine years," said Gloggett. "He had another four or five weeks to go and he would have ended up back here."

Jarvis Hill found Atos in Greensboro on Friday, just before 8 p.m. on Friday. He was about 100 miles away. He was in a rough shape, since he needs medication for Lyme Disease, which affects his joints.

"I was having an accident where when I picked him up, but he'd be going to the vet," said Gloggett.

Gloggett wants to thank everyone who helped with the search for Atos, including other Hardwick Police Department officers and the search party as far away as Burlington.

"I think he had a pretty good sense of what he was doing," said Gloggett and is normal for police dogs. He had a good sense of what he was doing. He had a good sense of what he was doing.

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Retired Hardwick Police K-9 Atos, 12, poses for a picture after his 37-hour journey, walking over 30 miles from Newport to Greensboro, before someone recognized him and picked him up. Though very tired, he was found. Atos is content to be back home with his partner, Sgt. Mike Gloggett, his partner for the past 10 years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier
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photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hardwick Elementary School 4th grader Max Fortmann poses for the school slide during the school's Act 46 Wild Day, held June 13 on the school's ballfield.