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photo by Vanessa Fournier
New Staff at Hardwick Union School are, from row (left) to right: Ashley Macauliffe - library/media specialist, Marissa Medeiros - ALG 20 math teacher, Leah Capron - band director, Lynne Theriot-Bossé - special educator, and Chelsea Ross - special educator. Back row (left to right): Emily Williams - 7th grade math classroom teacher, Joshua Faw - 6th grade educator, Tori O'Connell - building and facilities manager, T.J. D'Amelio - math specialist, Miss McCurdy - special educator, and Michelle Faw - 7th grade math teacher. Missing from photo: Hilary Wilson - Health Aides and Entrepreneurship Academy coordinator.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
New Staff at Hendrick Elementary School are, from row (left) to right: Emily Macoski - special educator, Neeraj Khatiwala - music clinician, Chelsea Smith - personal care paraeducator, Stephanie Aguilera - 3rd grade teacher, Stephanie Aguilera - 3rd grade teacher, Back row (left to right): Patricia Kenna - director of PFLAG, Patricia Kenna - director of PFLAG, Patricia Kenna - director of PFLAG, Michelle Faw - special educator, Lisa Sedore - 3rd grade teacher, and Amber Foster - personal care paraeducator. Missing from photo: Pam Gushman - guidance and career teacher.

Cost of Filming Meetings Discussed

by Will Walters

PLAINFIELD - Videographer Keith Swann made a public service announcement at the recent select board meeting saying there will be a celebration night sponsored by Caladonia Spirits at the Town Hall and Opera House September 7 from 6-9 p.m. He said 20% of the proceeds will be sent to the Town Hall Opera House Fall Home campaign. Swann is an officer of the Town Hall Opera House. Town Clerk Linda Wells brought up the increased cost for videotaping the board meetings, saying it was not clear what the town would be paying for the taping. The board decided they would use VideoVision to clarify the cost at the September 9 meeting. The board has been paying a set fee for two hours of recording, but it was unclear what additional charge will be made for meetings that run over the usual two hours. Board Commissioner Brian Fowlin said Faw's Chief Greg Light will work twice in the village last weekend on a path to the Winslow River. Light had asked that there be a clearing for the first truck to access the river to pump fire water for the village. "The Weston Niko Raku will review the area and local Foreman Mike Nolan will supervise the clearing. In other tree businesses, there is a hard dimension of a tree that loads on the Winslow River in Mill Park that needs to be taken down. Sarah Albert of the conservation commission said the red oaks in Mill Park have matured over the past 20 years, and the tree in question is an ash that will not be replanted if it is removed.

Light announced that Plainfield Fire and Rescue is planning its annual chicken barbecue for Old Home Days on September 9. He noted that due to the limited number that can be served, people should purchase their tickets this week by contacting Light or Former Chief Pat Martin. Townwin said the paving for Martin Meadow and Towns Avenue will begin in mid-September or early October. He told the board that he had asked the paving company to consult with water and wastewater department Chief Facility Operator Greg Chamberlain regarding manhole covers on the town roads. Townwin said there may be other paving done due to some water issues that have appeared. The Box 2 and Main Street Intersection changes will probably start in 2020, but there have already been meetings with landowners and other interested persons. The project may start later than 2021, said Townwin, after the impact to landowners' properties is assessed.

He said the planning commission will have the first draft of the town plan ready in the next two weeks. Townwin commented that short, heavy rains have caused rutting problems on some roads, making them difficult to maintain; out-cuts on Country Club Road and Harvey Hill Road are soon to be completed, a stop sign on Brook Road has been tipped over, and he will be meeting with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, which is developing See FILMING, 5



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Nyker Wolcott (left) of Hazel protests the sale from Lyndon's Soccer Cocks (right) as well as Mike Ester follows the action on Hudson Field August 29. In back is Hazel's Tyson Davidson, Lyndon senior 1-0.

Investment Policy Gets Scrutiny

by Will Walters

CABOT - A discussion on the investments of the Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF) brought an invitation from the select board to Frank Kempf, chair of the CCIF, to attend its meeting for more information. The board had originally expressed interest in what the investment policy was at the August 6 meeting, but deferred to the August 20 meeting so that Kempf could attend and give detailed information. Kempf earlier reviewed the investment policy with Town Clerk Betty Ritter. Select board member Ruth Goodrich asked Kempf about the status of the CCIF's investments and how well they are performing. Kempf said the fund's investments are managed through Union Bank and are well with Granite Investments.

Union Bank manages the investments by choosing solid investments and brings them in to the community. "We want to see how well they invest our funds and they provide sample investments for how the committee sees its goals." Board Chair Paul Deschamps asked if the funds are safe if there is a stock market crash, and Kempf said the investments are considered to be conservative. He said the committee looks at investments that are seen as long-term rather than short-term investments. Jessica Miller said the original UDAG federal Urban Development and Urban Development department. She said this appears to her to mean the money is not to be invested, but rather spent on community and economic projects. The original UDAG plan was changed by the voters in 2010 as well as other years. Member John Cookson said the current plan has a 5% spending limit, which Kempf confirmed. Miller said the fund was not to be in a two- or three-year bond, but in an average of three quarters. The fund provides scholarships to graduating seniors of Cabot School in addition to providing economic stimulus to businesses. The fund was created by repayment of a UDAG loan under the Cabot Creamery for expansion by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with HUD stipulating that the annual repayments were to be See POLICY, 4

Road Crew to Be Union Represented

by Will Walters

CALAIS - The three members of the town's road crew will be forming the smallest union bargaining unit in the state after the select board accepted a petition and letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 300. The crew members signed authorization cards for union representation, which started the process of seeking recognition of Local 300 as the bargaining unit. The union bargaining unit is the smallest in the state, but by as much as the next smallest is a five-member unit. Chair Denise Wheeler notified Tim Noonan, executive director of the state Labor Relations Board, that Alfred Larrabee, road commissioner is considered management and will be exempt from joining the union.

The board considered recognizing the union representation because, as Wheeler said, the board was not opposed to unions. After notifying the labor board, the select board chose to voluntarily recognize the union. The town will have to wait to hear from the labor board on what steps it will take. Wheeler said the board did not see why they needed a consent election as the three members of the local sign-authorized cards. The board identified one of the three options it had as a response to being the appropriate size as set forth in 21 VSA Sec. 1724e). The Board did note that it does not know if "no rival employee organization seeks to represent the employees." The intersection of Dagar Brook Road and North Calais Road was added as a location for a stop sign, along with Kent Hill Road and Pkwa Brook Road. The board originally considered Kent Hill intersection for a first sign, but Sheriff Sam Hill met with the board recently and suggested a stop sign. An amendment to the traffic ordinance is needed to put the signs up, and the board adopted the amendments to put stop signs at both intersections. The ordinance will take effect 60 days after its adoption unless the public petitions to have a permissive referendum to limit it.

Delinquent tax collector Sandra Forver said the number of delinquent tax payers has dropped to 14. Five of the seven accounts that were sent to attorney Gloria Rice for tax sale have been paid in full. She said the current balance of the Town Hall Reserve Fund is now \$180,000, after some of it was used for the town hall restoration project. The board authorized the treasurer to use fund monies for the town hall as long as the reserve balance remains at least \$100,000. Forver said the board funds for the project around \$30,000 are expected to be received by the end of October. The grant monies will be used to reimburse the town's fund for what was used from it to pay bills.

The board will discuss the project and corresponding timeline with the Town Hall Renovation Committee at its September 9 meeting. Work continues on the town hall under coordination of the architect, John McCullough. A setback to the project developed recently with the death of Brian Parrish, the owner of the town hall. Lisa Builders, the board's representative for the Town Hall Renovation Committee and Green Hill Builders to have the work scheduled by September 9 and to continue work on the project.

Forver said the forced merger of the school district had little disruptive effect on tax bills, which went out within five days of last year's mailing. She said the reconfiguration of the town office has had a positive impact on staff working arrangements, and a contractor did some reworking in the building. She said the office computers will need to be upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10 by the end of the year and added that Windows 10 will be considered obsolete in 2026. Forver said additional funds exist after hiring the IT contractor, the needed Windows 10 computers, and the needed Windows 10 contract/supplies so less than \$100,000 can be replaced from the budget line item.

Select Board Considers Blue Algae, Dog Registration

by Michael Bielawski

WOODBURY - At its August 26 meeting, the select board will take hands full with several topics, including town projects getting put off, some residents holding out on dog registration, blue algae dog registration, and a new water tower. Board Chair Michael Gray opened the meeting in the public comments section as he warned that dangerous blue algae blooms are developing in at least two water bodies. "There has been a bloom of cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, at East Long Pond and Nichols Pond," he said. "It's not a serious health alert but there's an obvious presence of the bloom, so there are some concerns." Gray also said that there have been past water tower projects. This summer national headlines have noted that dogs are being sent to euthanasia in dog yards shortly after swimming in a lake. Board member Paul Cerutti said the project is probably not going to be completed this year because local contractors are too busy See ALGAE, 3

ample that three dogs died within hours after swimming in an un-fenced North Carolina pond. Spokesman for the state animal control officer Kim Sisk was on hand to note that some residents are going to need an extra reminder from the town to get their dogs registered, if they don't do so could - along with police officers - take the dogs away, and the cost to owners is less than \$100 to hundreds of dollars. Sisk said the town is using law enforcement for backup in unfortunately necessary. "Things can get quite ugly on a one-to-one basis," Sisk said. "But if you get two state troopers showing up at night, having a dog, they become quite scary." The town continues to have a list of uninitiated projects, including the dog paving project for the parking lot area and the lower part of Valley Lake Road. Board member Paul Cerutti said the project is probably not going to be completed this year because local contractors are too busy



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Bellel Woodcut young company dancers from the Middlebury College Dance. Alysia Delgado, Delgado, Abigail Burch, Morrisville, and Lily Cookson. Creativity performed at the Hardwick Farmers Market August 26. Seven students performed dances choreographed by students and faculty to celebrate the beginning of their fall session. The dancers were directed by instructor Wendy Hayes.

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LAKE REGION SOULS HOME OPERN

In Towns, 2
MUSIC ON A ROCK ORGAN

In Arts, 6
MASTER FIDDLER PALEY IN CONCERT

In Arts, 6
MASTER FIDDLER PALEY IN CONCERT