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# the Chronicle

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL OF ORLEANS COUNTY

TWO SECTIONS, 56 PAGES

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 49

DECEMBER 7, 2016

ONE DOLLAR

## Albany concert expected to draw thousands

by Tena Starr

Two Irasburg Masons are hoping that up to 100,000 people will come to Albany next fall for a daylong concert they're planning to raise money for the Mt. Sinai #3 Shriners, based in Montpelier. The concert lineup mainly features 1980s rock bands, but there will be 11 acts in all with country music, as well as a trio of local acts, thrown in.

Adam Johnson and Marcos Clay are working together on the concert, called Shrinedom 2017, which will be held on the grounds of the Creek Hill Barn on the Creek Road in East Albany. A hundred thousand tickets are being advertised for sale,

ranging in price from \$100 for general admission to \$300 for a stage front ticket and a chance to win an autographed guitar. Also, the Shrinedom website lists a category to make a donation, which doesn't include a ticket.

"Whether we actually sell that many tickets is another story," Mr. Clay said Sunday. He also noted that sales could be cut off if it appears the potential crowd is getting too big. Realistically, he said he expects 20,000 to 25,000 people to attend.

Mr. Clay, who moved to the area in February, has spent 12 years in the music business and said that

(Continued on page twenty-four.)

In Irasburg

## Fire leaves six without a home

by Paul Lefebvre and Tena Starr

IRASBURG — A fire late Sunday afternoon destroyed a camp off the Gage Road here and left two adults and four children homeless.

"They lost everything," said Robin Beaton, chief of the Irasburg Volunteer Fire Department, speaking Tuesday in an interview.

The two adults, Michael Josey and Kate Shatney, and the children are presently living with James Bromley of Irasburg. The children range in age from seven to 14.

Ms. Shatney said Tuesday that

the family lost pretty much everything, but she put a positive spin on the situation. "We didn't lose anyone."

The children took it hard to begin with, but the six of them are staying with family, which the kids are enjoying, she said.

The vehicles were not at home — a log cabin way back in the woods — at the time of the fire, Ms. Shatney said. Also, there was a camper and a four-wheeler there that are salvageable. The camper

(Continued on page twenty-six.)

In Coventry

## Audit finds missing money, selective charges

by Elizabeth Trail

COVENTRY — The long-awaited audit report e-mailed to select board members here on Monday afternoon just before their weekly meeting isn't yet public, but apparently it won't contain any big surprises.

Money is missing, forensic auditor Jeff Graham said at the meeting. The amount may change as Graham & Graham winds up its work, but the basic findings won't.

The audit found that at least \$31,000 in cash property tax payments over a two-year period was never deposited by delinquent tax collector Cynthia Diaz, Mr. Graham said.

It's likely that another \$5,000 in cash payments for dog licenses, marriage licenses, fish and wildlife

(Continued on page twenty.)

## OCSU puts on a fine show



Music Director Eileen Baker beats out an upbeat tempo on the tambourine while directing the Orleans Central Supervisory Union chorus through a spiritual medley, which included "When the Saints Go Marching In," "I Want to Dance," and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot." The accompanist was Johanna Kennedy. The students performed brilliantly at the Friday evening winter concert. For more photos, as well as photos of the Lake Region Union High School concert, please see page eighteen. Photo by Pete Cocoros

## New energy siting rules tough on small towns

by Elizabeth Trail

IRASBURG — When the state Legislature passed a new energy siting bill last May, it was supposedly intended to give towns more voice in siting big energy projects.

But members of the Irasburg Planning Commission were disappointed when they read the standards that the town plan they're working on will have to meet under the new law, now known as Act 174 and dubbed the Energy Development Improvement Act.

The bill had promised towns "substantial deference" before the Public Service Board (PSB) in energy siting proceedings, as long as their written town plans meet state guidelines.

Exactly what the new guidelines would be was left to the Department of Public Service (DPS) to work out over the summer.

When the new checklist for town plans was unveiled for public comment in the fall, it turned out to be long, technical, and pretty much impossible for a small town like Irasburg to meet.

Irasburg sent a letter to the DPS during the public comment period. It was signed by members of the planning commission and select board.

"Our response is one of dismay and disappointment," it says. "The effect, whether intentional or not, of the requirements of proposed new standards will be to exclude towns like Irasburg from the planning process."

The new rules for town and regional plans were formally adopted by the DPS in November.

Act 174 began life in the Vermont Legislature as a bill called S.230. It carried the tag line "an act relating to improving the siting of energy projects." S.230 passed both houses of the Legislature but Governor Peter Shumlin vetoed it.

In one very long day in May, the Legislature passed a new version of the bill — S.260 — that addressed the Governor's objections.

Senator John Rodgers of Glover was a strong supporter of S.230 and its successor, S.260, because he believed the legislation would give

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**Coming Thursday, December 15th: A special prescreening of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

# Festive Newport window display



Newport's Main Street gets a dose of holiday cheer from the window decorations created by Jim McKimm. In a project sponsored by the Newport City Renaissance Corporation, Mr. McKimm was turned loose in the old J.J. Newbury building where he created a Christmas fantasy featuring merchandise from a wide range of Newport businesses. Mr. McKimm is no stranger to this line of work. He created window displays in New York City and Boston, Massachusetts, before moving to Newport. Photo by Joseph Gresser


# AARP warns of utility scam

Residents are advised to beware of callers claiming to represent a utility company, and insisting that the bill is overdue and power will be shut off without immediate payment. Typically these callers want the money fast, usually through untraceable payment cards or a wire transfer. It's a scam.

The public should know that utility company representatives won't demand instant payment

over the phone. Written notice is always provided to customers in arrears, usually through multiple late and disconnection notices. Rate-payers who haven't received a notice, can be sure that the person calling is a scammer. Anyone who receives such a call should hang up and call their utility company directly.

People are encouraged to report scams to local law enforcement. — from the AARP.

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# News briefs from around the county

by Elizabeth Trail

## Holland hires wind attorney, seeks road foreman

The Holland Select Board has hired Cindy Hill, an attorney from Middlebury, to represent the town before the Public Service Board (PSB) in its fight against the proposed Dairy Air wind project.

Ms. Hill was hired following an executive session at a special select board meeting on November 30. The meeting was warned as a chance for town residents to talk about the wind project. About 20 residents attended.

In a nonbinding poll mailed out in October, Holland residents and landowners voted overwhelmingly against the single turbine, which would measure nearly 500 feet tall and stand on land owned by Kim and Brian Champney about a mile and a half north of the town office and school.

But on November 7, the same day that the ballots were to be counted, Dairy Air Wind, LLC, filed with the PSB for a Certificate of Public Good. That night, in response to the poll results, the select board voted to file for party status in the case, and to hire an attorney to represent the town before the PSB.

The select board has 45 days from that date to file for party status in the proceedings.

In the meantime, Holland will work on bringing its town plan into compliance with Act 174, the new law that gives towns more voice before the PSB in energy siting decisions if their plans comply with

state energy goals and a 13 page checklist of requirements.

In other business, Holland Road foreman Bard Wiesen resigned effective November 21. After meeting in executive session with Mr. Wiesen on November 30, the select board accepted his resignation and will be hunting for a new person to fill the job.

## Sanville resigns from Irasburg Select Board

With Chair Dave Warner absent from the November 28 Irasburg Select Board meeting, there wasn't much the board could do other than read Selectman Brian Sanville's letter of resignation aloud.

The resignation was to be effective immediately, but no action was taken.

Mr. Sanville is about to undergo shoulder surgery. It will take about ten weeks to recover from the procedure, his letter says. And the recovery will fall during the busy time leading up to Town Meeting and elections.

"With so many issues before the town, the board needs someone who can invest the necessary time the position requires," Mr. Sanville's letter says.

He offered to help with the transition in any way he can, but said that his health won't permit him to keep on in his current role.

Mr. Sanville is the last member of the board who was in office a year ago, when then-Chair Robin Kay resigned for personal reasons.

Since then, it's been a game of musical chairs.

Besides Mr. Sanville, the

current select board consists of Chair Dave Warner and Mark Collette.

## Coventry gets Better Roads Grant

On Monday night, the Coventry Select Board signed the paperwork for an \$8,000 Better Roads Grant from the Department of Transportation.

"The quicker we do this, the quicker we can get going," Chair Mike Marcotte said.

Sarah Damsell of the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District came to the meeting to answer any questions the selectmen might have about what comes next.

It all has to do with Act 64, a new law that sets standards for how much sediment and other pollution gets into state streams and waterways through runoff from roads and farms.

The grant will pay most of the cost of what's called a "road inventory" — a study of all of the roads in the town that are near streams and rivers.

The road inventory looks for problem areas where stormwater runoff has the potential to carry sediment or polluted runoff into waterways.

The town will have to put up \$2,000 in matching funds.

Just looking at maps, Coventry has about 57 roads that are near water, Ms. Damsell said. The

inventory will look at those roads from the ground to see how ditches, culverts and grading could be improved.

By 2021, every town in Vermont will have to get a Municipal Road General Permit, Ms. Damsell said. The permit will certify that all of the town's roads are in compliance with state laws on runoff.

Towns can start applying in 2018. Once approved, permits will be good for 20 years, she said.

Once problems are identified, Ms. Damsell will work with the Coventry road foreman and VTrans to help the town prioritize the work that needs to be done.

And she'll help the town find grants to pay for some of the improvements.

For starters, there is a second round of grants through the Better Roads program. Up to \$20,000 is available to follow up on the priorities identified in the inventory phase, Ms. Damsell said.

But there are also other sources for funding. And she can help estimate costs that will need to be presented at Town Meeting.

Earlier in the year, Selectman Brad Maxwell went to an Act 64 meeting in Derby, so board members had few additional questions before they voted to sign the grant agreement.

"We're got the grant in place, we've got you here and eager, we may as well get started," Selectman Scott Morley told Ms. Damsell.

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)


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**the Chronicle**  
 will be **CLOSED** for Christmas break starting on Wednesday, December 21. The office will reopen on Monday, January 2.  
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# Letters to the editor

Maybe it's time for Newport to think outside the box

Dear Orleans County residents:

I'm writing to express my feelings about Newport and the direction it will take in the near future. Everyone talks about the fact that Newport needs jobs. I think it is time to start thinking a little more than usual outside the box. We have to come up with new ideas to entice companies to invest in the area. For instance, I drove a friend to the local prison and was struck by the amount of firewood split and neatly stacked inside the fence. How about we contract with the prison to supply free or nearly free firewood to businesses willing to open here, because heating is a big factor in this area. Also, offer some real tax breaks for the first few years. Being a good Catholic, call it a short-term grace period, say, seven years.

Also, if we cannot get good manufacturing jobs to come, which should be the #1 priority, then maybe we should focus on being a premier destination spot (i.e., a hotel with a first class jazz or blues venue, a billiard spot with many tables, and also snooker tables, a gaming building for serious gamers to play and interact with each other). Maybe a real big-time fishing derby. I'm talking a \$20,000 first prize. (Have you ever had the salmon out of this lake? Delicious.)

Maybe it's time for some new blood in the city council. Not saying that the present one is not doing their best, but a group that will work together to get something moving in this area. Hopefully a group that won't be hoodwinked by a couple of millionaires. I worked with (or shall I say it — under) many earnest Vermonters who

are intelligent and eloquent, who would do a great job. I say get a person like John Ward to run for mayor, or Andy Capello.

I love this area, and the type of people living here. Maybe it's the sub-zero weather we get for a few weeks a year, and I plan to retire here, or at least stop working for the money I get to live on. I want the best for Newport and the surrounding area. I truly believe our goals of having a once again vibrant Newport can be achieved. I realize that every effort is now being made, but gosh darn it, a fire has to be lit under someone's ass. (At least we have a Walmart now!)

Daniel Major  
Newport

## November 29-December 5, 2016

		High	Low	Prec.	Snow	Snow on Ground
T	11/29	34	18	T	0.00"	0.50"
W	11/30	35	27	0.76"	0.00"	0.50"
Th	12/1	41	35	0.55"	0.00"	T
F	12/2	45	34	0.14"	0.00"	0.00"
S	12/3	40	30	0.18"	1.50"	1.50"
S	12/4	32	24	0.12"	1.20"	2.30"
M	12/5	29	13	T	T	2.00"

T = Trace

High and low temperatures, precipitation, snowfall, and snow depth are for 24-hour period ending 7 a.m. of the day listed.

Site is in Sutton, elevation 1,500 feet.

## Compromise urged on use of Big Hosmer

To the editor,

I am writing to urge compromise on the use of Big Hosmer as the state takes over and develops rules for the future. Most people are aware now of the decades long conflict between the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and camp owners on the lake. Many others are stakeholders, including fishermen, non-motorized boat users, and public boat launch motorboats. There have been efforts to change the discussion to whether the Craftsbury Outdoor Center is good for the community, or whether motor boating should have been grandfathered in 50 years ago. Neither of these questions, in my opinion, is relevant to a solution.

Without repeating the pros and cons of the lake conflict positions, suffice it to say that the situation has been getting worse every year.

Suggestions have been made on both sides that are drastic and a win-lose situation, such as ban motorboats, very limited rowing times. Rob and I believe that the only fair resolution would be a schedule of shared use of the lake, one that neither group is totally happy about. This is the nature of conflict resolution and compromise in my experience.

It is unfortunate that the state needs to get involved to find a solution, but seems to be the only option. The next public meeting is Tuesday, December 13, at 6:45 p.m. in the Craftsbury Town Hall. Hopefully there will be a plan in place by next summer that will calm the waters and allow all to enjoy this beautiful and wild body of water.

Rob and Linda Libby  
Albany

## the Chronicle

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Founded in 1974 with Chris Braithwaite, Ellen Braithwaite, and Edward Cowan.

## There are obvious flaws in Public Service Board practices

To the editor:

David Blittersdorf proceeds with his one-turbine wind project in Holland under a dark cloud of suspicion. On property he owns in Irasburg, David Blittersdorf erected a met tower without going through the permitting process. On Blittersdorf's Georgia Mountain project, a test tower that was to be removed by 2011 remains standing. David Blittersdorf is also being investigated for the placement of a "small" wind turbine on his property in Irasburg. A neighbor complains that it is too close to his property.

Even more troubling than David Blittersdorf's cavalier attitude toward his neighbors and state regulators, is the Public Service Board's and the Department of Public Service's inability to decide if he has done anything wrong. The Public Service Board has a history of not holding developers accountable when they break the rules.

It is hard to believe that a person with access to millions feels he has to circumvent the process that has helped create his wealth. It is hard to believe that the Public Service Board would allow David Blittersdorf to continue to run roughshod over small communities like Holland, Morgan, and Irasburg.

David Blittersdorf's ... practices point to obvious flaws in the Public Service Board process. Irasburg, Morgan, and now Holland, have all shown overwhelming opposition to his renewable energy projects. Given the Public Service Board's refusal to grant the town of Morgan a hearing on a proposed solar project, it is unlikely that the PSB will show "substantial deference" to any of these towns.

Respectfully,  
Richard H. Rumery  
Newport Center

## Chronicle office hours

We are open for business:

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## About letters, editorials, and opinions

*The Chronicle* welcomes letters from our readers from all points on the political spectrum.

The deadline is Monday at noon. Letters may be dropped off, mailed, e-mailed, or faxed. Letters on paper must be signed, and all letters must include a telephone number for confirmation. All letters must include the writer's town.

We will not publish a letter that has been sent anonymously to this office. In rare and extreme circumstances, we will publish a letter without the writer's name. If we refuse such a request, the writer has the option of withdrawing the letter.

Please keep your letters brief. Length aside,

we reserve the right to edit letters for content.

Letters should be about public issues, not personal gripes. We will not run letters that are libelous, racist, or contain personal attacks. We welcome robust debate but won't print letters which, in our opinion, are merely offensive.

If you have had a letter published lately, we won't be likely to print a second one for a few months. This is simply to give everyone a turn.

Thanks for your help making these pages thought-provoking, lively, and interesting.

Editorials are initiated by the author and reflect a consensus of the editorial staff of *the Chronicle*. Opinions and letters are the opinion of the author.

# Letter to the editor

## Searching for food in the desert

To the editor,

It has been many years since I started my search for food.

In the early 1990s, my son and I could find quality food in Vermont. But we had to travel fair distances to do so. Some food co-ops, where we found such food, were sometimes more about the social aspect of providing food to like-minded people than they were about providing a supply of high quality organic foods. For the most part, the smaller co-ops (often near organic farm suppliers) were the most knowledgeable about who was growing what, how it was grown, and where it was grown.

Our pattern of life became routine. Once a week we would pile into the truck and head down the road. Which fork we took was dependent in part on where we were coordinating the shopping trip with some other activity. For a while, it might be the Hunger Mountain Co-op in Montpelier. Then it might be Buffalo Mountain Co-op in Hardwick.

This odd lifestyle came about because we had been chemically injured in another state. Trying to find a better solution to life, I was telemarketing from a home that I owned. But environments crept in. The airport changed its landing pattern, which put jet planes at low altitude directly over our house. At that time jets would simply dump their extra fuel into the air as they began to land. A nearby garbage collection site sprayed heavily with pesticides. Three Mile Island leaked radiation, and our small town got water from a lake very near to the leak site. The list goes on.

Not being a person to simply let it happen, I was traveling around the state of Pennsylvania on weekends searching for a better environment. Every week as I traveled certain stretches of road, I would suddenly feel more well. But why?

The person who bought and sold real estate for the state of Pennsylvania clued me in as to what was the most likely answer. The entire state was being sprayed by air for pests except for state game land. We ALWAYS were in state game land when I felt well. No wonder organic food tasted so good! My son had suggested I shop at a small co-op that focused on organic food. By

this time we weren't the only people who needed or wanted it. I made the switch and the constant nagging in my stomach stopped.

We didn't find a new place to move to in Pennsylvania, and finally in desperation we left the house behind and began traveling in earnest to find a better life. That journey brought me to Vermont, taught me a lot about food systems, and indirectly is the foundation for the food systems research I did on the Vermont Food Systems Study Tour Summer 2015.

Sometimes life leads to very unusual connections, such as Fred Magdoff, the emeritus professor of plant and soil science at UVM. I never had the opportunity to meet Fred until this tour. However, I have known about Fred and his work since I came to Vermont because I rented a house owned by his secretary and her husband. Annette told me how Fred had started a series of canning kitchens around the state where people could come in and can their food. If I remember correctly, the local location for this facility was called the Barton Cannery.

In an effort to get the equipment back into some kind of production, I asked around and was able to get a few people to come to an idea meeting. But I had no local connections nor any money, nor produce from the field that needed processing. A dream simply didn't have enough momentum.

Vermonters are passionate about our land use. When Pete's Greens burned to the ground, people all over the state immediately began holding fund-raisers and collecting money so that Pete could begin to rebuild right away.

Driving Route 5 between Coventry and Barton, it is very difficult not to notice the fields and fields of very dry corn still waiting to be cut. I say a prayer of hope for the farmer. Yet a very old and worn down farm on Route 14 just east of Craftsbury began soil reclamation within the past couple of years. The soil looked beautiful at planting time and just recently I passed by to see green corn stalks gracing the fields. I say a prayer of thanks to that farmer.

And sometimes there are surprises. About a year or so ago I went to a farmers' conference and

learned that the tall, lush grass that looked so great tasted good to the cow, but milk production went down.

Everyone listened politely to the presenter. Afterwards, as final questions were answered and most had left, a farmer spoke up saying he had been able to buy hay from Butterworks Farm in Westfield. Testing of this hay showed a lower nitrogen content. (The current practice is to use a "burn test" that shows how much NPK is present.) But the farmer said his milk production went up.

I have rabbits. It has been difficult to get hay that is supporting good growth and reproduction. When I was able to get some square bale hay from Butterworks, the rabbits showed an immediate growth response. The healthiest bunny is that darned Peter Rabbit, who escaped and is busy lunching on our cabbages.

Sandy Snyder  
Westfield

## Death notices

### Edward Earl Curtis

Edward Earl Curtis, 59, died on Friday, November 18, 2016 in Coxsackie, New York, after a brief illness.

A graveside service in the Derby Center Cemetery will be announced at a later time in the spring.

### John Campbell

John Campbell of Newport died on December 6, 2016, in Derby. Services will be announced when arrangements have been completed.

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# Newport City Council Aldermen wrestle with shifting budget numbers

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT — Members of the city council wrestled with shifting numbers at their regular meeting Monday night, as they attempted to craft a budget that meets Newport's needs without raising tax rates through the roof.

By the end of their discussions on the draft budget, aldermen thought they had pared the necessary increase to 4 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

They were uncertain about that conclusion because it largely depends on how much the city will see its Grand List grow when the appraisal now in progress is completed next summer.

The municipal tax rate is calculated by dividing the amount of money that must be raised to pay city expenses by the total value of taxable property. A larger Grand List means a lower tax rate.

Individual taxpayers are more affected by the value of their property in relation to that of other properties in the city. If the Grand List rises by 10 percent overall, but a homeowner only sees a 5 percent

increase in his or her assessment, the tax bill will be lower, assuming an unchanged tax rate.

No matter how the citywide reappraisal turns out, next year's tax rate will almost certainly not be as low as this year's. The council is grappling with capital budget requests which, if granted, would add up to nearly \$700,000, a 143 percent increase over last year's capital spending.

Council members must decide how much the city can afford to put toward its long-term needs, and what can safely be deferred to future budgets.

Mayor Paul Monette said Monday that he believes Newport cannot put off needed maintenance on city roads and the purchase of equipment without facing serious consequences down the line.

He has frequently spoken at budget meetings about his experience as a new alderman finding that road work had been cut in so many budgets that the city had to float a \$1-million bond to get its streets to an acceptable level.

Newport Director of Public Works Tom Bernier said he held the increase in his operating budget

request to less than 1 percent. But his \$595,000 request for capital spending took the aldermen aback.

Mr. Bernier noted that his \$256,000 request for money to resurface the city's streets is partially offset by the \$138,000 in state aid money sent from Montpelier for that purpose.

He asked for \$151,000 for new equipment, explaining that the city has 26 pieces of equipment that get heavy usage. Their total value is something over a million dollars, Mr. Bernier said. He said he figures each piece gives about ten years of service.

"If I don't budget 10 percent a year, we're going to be riding junk," Mr. Bernier told council members.

He said that is especially true of his workhorses.

"My trucks live a hard life," he explained.

If the council needs to make cuts in his capital request, Mr. Bernier advised it to cut \$40,000 slated to pay for a new traffic light on the Causeway, near Waterfront Plaza, \$30,000 to tear down the city barn on Coventry Street, and \$40,000 to cover the cost of crushing a pile of tar that has been sitting near the city's recycling center for several years.

Once crushed the tar can be used to repair roads, Mr. Bernier said at an earlier meeting.

Council members discussed spreading Mr. Bernier's equipment request out over two years, but did not come to a resolution.

Fire Chief James LeClair resisted a similar suggestion regarding repairs for the floor of the city's fire station. The building was erected in 1998 in a swampy area adjoining the city's sewage treatment plant.


Mr. Monette said the builders had to decide between putting the building on piles or constructing a floating floor. They went with the first idea because fire trucks weigh too much for a floating floor to handle, he said.

After nearly 20 years of use, the floor of the garage has developed severe cracks, the chief told the council. Repairs will probably cost a little under \$50,000, but certainly no more than \$60,000, he said.


Chief LeClair rejected a suggestion that the city put aside half the money this year and raise the remainder and perform the work next year. He said the project has already been put off for several years.

Alderman Jacques Roberge grumbled that the fire department budget was up by almost 20 percent and every maintenance line is higher.

(Continued on page seven.)




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# Final Grand List isn't known

(Continued from page six.)

"You can't defer maintenance," Mr. Monette said.

"I know," Mr. Roberge replied, "but, I'd like to see a list of exactly what each line is for."

The council has not completed its first pass through the budget, but Alderman Steve Vincent said he was pleased to see that cuts had already reduced the tax rate increase to about 4 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

City Clerk and Treasurer James Johnson pointed out that figure did not take the capital budget into account.

"We've just started," Mr. Roberge said of the cuts made to the proposed budget.

He reminded his colleagues that city residents who depend on Social Security for their livelihood will only see a 1 percent increase in their income next year.

"A lot of people are trying to raise families," Mr. Johnson added.

Nevertheless, at this point, he said, it's futile to try guess the eventual size of the Grand List in order to reach a target tax rate.

"Just take the expenditures you're comfortable with," Mr. Johnson advised, "and whatever it is, it is."

In other business, the council agreed to give \$500 to the American Legion to pay for flags to mark the graves of veterans on Memorial Day.

Alderman John Wilson asked why the council was getting the request after it approved a similar one earlier in the year.

Mr. Monette said the veterans' organization got \$300 from last year's budget and was asked to put in its request earlier this year.

Mr. Vincent moved that the request be

granted and money taken from the "council's slush fund."

Mr. Monette corrected the motion, saying the cash would come from the "council's special project fund."

Members of the council also heard from Zoning Administrator Charles Elliott, who said his efforts to reach an agreement with the owner of a garage on East Main Street have proved futile.

Janice Ploof, who owns a home adjacent to the garage, first filed a complaint about what she called a junkyard abutting her property in June.

Luke Perry, who ran Luke's Tire and Auto there, now rents the space to Ryan Cote. Ms. Ploof complained to council members that Mr. Cote has been stockpiling junk cars for parts and has created an eyesore.

Mr. Elliott was asked by the council to try to find a solution to the problem. He said he attempted to speak with Mr. Cote, who as property owner, is responsible for the situation, but could not settle the matter.

When the subject came up at an earlier meeting, Mr. Monette suggested asking the state to intervene.

Mr. Elliott reported that he spoke to the state inspector, but was told the East Main Street garage would be "a very, very, very low priority" and would, in any event, take at least eight months to resolve.

The aldermen authorized Mr. Elliott to file a formal complaint in the Civil Division of Orleans County Superior Court, or as Mr. Monette put it, "take it across the street."

Mr. Elliott is still dealing with other zoning problems, including a vacant house on West Main Street that council members said is a threat to public safety.

Mr. Elliott asked the council to go into executive session to discuss what he said was a personnel matter. The issue, he said, involved claims that his work as zoning administrator and chair of both the city's planning commission and historic preservation committee, represents a conflict of interest.

Members of the public and representatives of the press objected to allowing the council to discuss the matter behind closed doors. The question was one of city policy, not involving personnel, they argued.

In any event the planning commission is made up of appointees, not city employees, they said.

Mr. Elliott said he was the personnel whose employment needs to be discussed, but the council decided to refer the matter to the city's lawyer, and consider it after getting legal advice.

The meeting was adjourned after the council agreed to meet at 6:30 p.m. on December 12 to continue its work on the budget.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Large primate              | 30. Kids take it to school            |
| 4. Annualized percentage rate | 31. Bowling ball's adversary          |
| 7. Frictional horsepower      | 32. 1988 NFL MVP                      |
| 8. Alternate name             | 39. Volcanic crater                   |
| 10. Incursion                 | 41. Curved shape                      |
| 12. Metrical feet             | 42. Discover by investigation         |
| 13. Musician Ingram           | 43. Up in the air (abbr.)             |
| 14. Swiss river               | 44. A son who shares his dad's name   |
| 16. Text speak for annoying   | 45. Assist in wrongdoing              |
| 17. Squelch                   | 46. Actress Lathan                    |
| 19. Will Ferrell played one   | 48. Nonsense (slang)                  |
| 20. Close violently           | 49. Sharp and forthright              |
| 21. Arrogant                  | 50. Midway between northeast and east |
| 25. Goddess of the dawn       | 51. NAACP cofounder Wells             |
| 26. Today (Spanish)           | 52. Soviet Socialist Republic         |
| 27. Ethiopian town            |                                       |
| 29. Speed                     |                                       |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Again                            | 27. Academic bill of rights              |
| 2. Erectile organs                  | 28. A pair                               |
| 3. Concluding speech                | 29. Pumpkin and apple are examples       |
| 4. Pie ___ mode                     | 31. China                                |
| 5. With pustules                    | 32. Made illegal                         |
| 6. Muslim calendar month            | 33. Be mistaken                          |
| 8. Need it to live                  | 34. Stephen King's "Pennywise"           |
| 9. Thailand                         | 35. Semite                               |
| 11. Container to serve food         | 36. Martens with short tails             |
| 14. Boxing great                    | 37. Large bodies of water                |
| 15. Woolen blankets                 | 38. Lower in position                    |
| 18. Expresses surprise              | 39. Dough used in Latin American cuisine |
| 19. Emergency medical services      | 40. Calculating tools                    |
| 20. Inflamed swelling of the eyelid | 44. Boxers do this                       |
| 22. Reporter                        | 47. Macaw                                |
| 23. Arrived extinct                 |  |
| 24. Ad ___                          |  |

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# Women queue up for business info

by Elizabeth Trail

NEWPORT — When Tara Lynn Scheidet of Sutton lost her job in 2005, she started her own business making custom natural fiber clothing, particularly wedding apparel.

Since then, Ms. Scheidet has won all sorts of grants and awards to help her move ahead with Tara Lynn Bridals.

She even won the Lowell Barn Pitch this year, but lost out in the state competition in Burlington because her business is too small — nowhere near the \$300,000 annual income that investors want to see planned before they put their money down.

So when she heard about a new program called ASPIRE!, which helps Northeast Kingdom women start and grow businesses, Ms. Scheidet was one of the first to sign up.

About 60 women showed up at the ASPIRE! kickoff luncheon at the East Side Restaurant in Newport on November 30 to network, listen to speakers, and find out more about the program, which is unfolding under the umbrella of Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA).

Women-owned businesses are smaller than businesses owned by men, said Tiffany Bluemle, head of Change the Story, an initiative of Vermont Works for Women.

Even though Vermont women own businesses at twice the national rate, they still only own about a



**Energetic Tara Lynn Scheidet was one of about 60 women who came to a the kickoff luncheon for ASPIRE!, a new program to help women start businesses. Ms. Scheidet has won a number of grants and awards to help get her business going, including this year's Lowell Barn Pitch. But to seriously attract investors, her custom natural fiber clothing business needs to be bigger, she said. Photo by Elizabeth Trail**

third of the businesses in Vermont.

Ms. Bluemle wants to see more women-owned businesses, but also bigger businesses that make more money and hire more employees.

"If women owned businesses at the same rate as men," she told the crowd at the East Side, "there would be 10,000 more businesses in Vermont."

And if women-owned businesses employed other people at the same rate as male-owned businesses, even the number of businesses that women own now in Vermont would be supplying jobs to 5,600 more people.

Ms Bluemle calls that wasted potential.

One of the problems, as she sees

it, is that most women gravitate toward types of businesses that don't make a lot of money.

A lot of women-owned businesses are involved with art, food, and services, Change the Story's literature says.

There aren't a lot of women to be found owning the tech and manufacturing businesses where the real money is.

In part, that's because there are still barriers in areas like getting funding.

And in part it's because women don't know where to begin.

"Women tend to think they have to figure things out on their own," Ms. Bluemle said.

The end result is that women give up their financial power to male figures, said Meg Smith, director of the Vermont Women's Fund.

And since the wage gap between men and women when they work for other people isn't expected to close until 2048, it's up to women to grow their own jobs as business owners, Ms. Bluemle said.

"To change the story, we need to be able to tell the story," she said.

Her part of telling the story has included a lot of data collection — getting the numbers on women-owned businesses and exactly what could be achieved if there were more of them.

Successful businesses can still support human values and respect

(Continued on page nine.)

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# Group offers circles of support for entrepreneurs

(Continued from page eight.)

the environment, said Jane Campbell, executive director of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR).

VBSR members include Vermont business giants like Seventh Generation, Ben and Jerry's, and the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

But they all subscribe to something called the "triple bottom line," where success is judged not just by profits, but also by treating employees fairly, interacting responsibly in the local community, and sticking to environmental standards, Ms. Campbell said.

Ms. Bluemle is enthusiastic about the way ASPIRE! plans to tackle the problem.

Under ASPIRE!, present and future female business owners are eligible for \$2,000 grants that can be put toward consulting, training, and startup services like web design. Each woman also gets linked up with two or three experienced businesswomen willing to meet regularly to share skills and support.

Business owners will then be eligible to pitch their ideas and business plan in hopes of winning one of four competitive \$5,000 grants each year.

The program is headed by the energetic Diana Mara Henry of Newport, who has pulled off a massive amount of organizing in the six weeks since she took the job.

Every aspirant who came to the luncheon got a folder full of information, including the application for the first round of grants and mentoring. There were also signup sheets for established businesses and women who want to offer support.

There are legal ramifications to using the term "mentor," especially when anything financial is involved, so ASPIRE! talks about building circles of support instead.

"The circles of support are the most

exhilarating thing about the ASPIRE! grant," Ms. Henry said.

After the presentation, aspirants were urged to get to their feet and network.

Some were eager, some were shy.

Ms. Scheidet jumped right in and was quickly surrounded by people.

Karin Doane hung back a little.

"I'm not very good at networking," she said.

Ms. Doane is the chef at the Newport Natural Café, and also owns the Farm Girl Bake Shop, which makes a lot of the baked goods served there.

She'd like to increase the size of her baking business, but she's not sure how to go about it. She's not even sure exactly what that would look like.

She doesn't particularly want a Main Street shop with business hours and year-round storefront overhead.

"I think I'd be more interested in building up a wholesale business with delivery," she said.

Ms. Doane hadn't yet filled out an ASPIRE! application, but after hearing the presentations, she was thinking that getting some advice, and support sounded good.

"Meeting other women may give me some confidence," she said.

On the other side of the room, 20-year-old Erin LaPlante of Barton was also thinking about how to put her baking skills to work.

Ms. LaPlante recently graduated from the New England Culinary Institute with an associate's degree. She's thinking about opening a café and bake shop somewhere in the area.

"I have no idea how to open a business, but I know how to bake," Ms. LaPlante said.

A few minutes later, she and Ms. Doane connected and started chatting away.

Carol Westinghouse described herself as the president of a small nonprofit called Informed

Green Solutions.

Her mission is to improve indoor air quality, particularly at schools and daycare facilities.

"I came to be with other women and get inspiration," she said.

NEKCA Executive Director Joe Patrissi, sees only one serious problem with the ASPIRE! approach.

Under the terms of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant, money given out to aspiring business owners can be used only for technical support.

"At some point, people need money for equipment and supplies and inventory," Mr. Patrissi said.

He's planning to look for supporters from the business community and other donors willing to give a hand up with cash grants.

After the luncheon, an indefatigable group, including most of the speakers, several aspirants, and Ms. Henry, trekked to St. Johnsbury to enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres at a gathering put on by Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.

Apparently, some of the aspiring business owners just couldn't get enough of the idea.

Linda Fox of Sumptuous Farm to Bar Syrups is definitely planning to put in an application with ASPIRE!

"I want to grow my business," she said, putting out tasting samples of her bar syrups, which are made from fruits grown by local farmers who share her commitment to the environment and small-scale farming.

And when Ms. Fox gets her business up and running, she's hoping to volunteer at the other end, helping other women.

"I want to give and get support," she said. "It's all a village."

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)

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# Welch discusses his role in a new political landscape

by Joseph Gresser

U.S. Representative Peter Welch, a Democrat, admits being shaken by the election of Donald Trump last month. In a conference call with constituents on November 30, he said he believed polls that predicted a victory for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"President-elect Trump won constituencies Democrats always thought they serve," he said. "People trusted him more than they trusted us."

With the election of Mr. Trump and continuing Republican majorities in the House and Senate, Vermont's lone Congressman said he will need to do his job differently over the next few years. He asked for suggestions on how best to serve the state as the new administration comes to office.

When Mr. Welch was first sent to Washington in 2007 he was part of a Democratic majority in the House. That majority evaporated in the 2010 mid-term elections leaving him in the minority in the House of Representatives since then.

"When we had a Republican House and a Republican Senate but a Democratic President we needed to work with Republicans to get things done and they needed us, too," Mr. Welch said. "Now it's a whole new ballgame."

Mr. Welch listed what he said were President Obama's accomplishments "over eight very

tumultuous years."

"He steered us out of a great depression. My office was getting calls from schools and companies that couldn't get bank loans to make payroll," he recalled.

"He got rid of torture, we got Obamacare covering 20 million people who never had insurance before," Mr. Welch said.

Among the other items he listed as highlights of the Obama administration were marriage equality, passage of the Lily Ledbetter Pay Equality Act, getting "out of a war we never should have been in," investment in renewable energy, and the appointment of Justices Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Welch also cited the deal limiting Iran's nuclear weapons research, the decision to reopen relations with Cuba, and Paris climate accords.

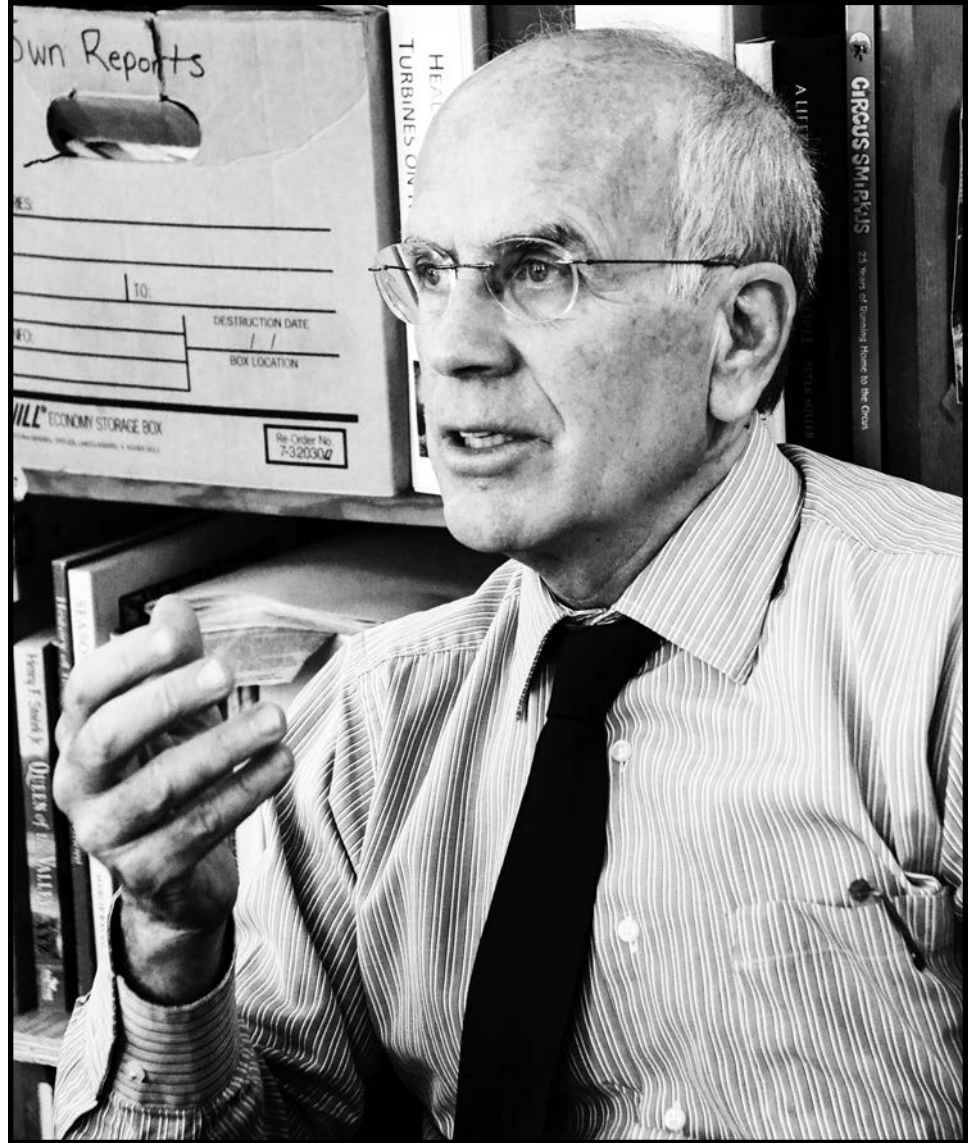
"We had two terms of a presidency that was long on dignity and very short on scandal," Mr. Welch concluded.

"Against that backdrop, we are in a new world where the President-elect wants to reverse all those things," Mr. Welch said.

"I was surprised that Mr. Trump won," he said. "The Republicans were surprised, but surprised and delighted."

Mr. Welch then opened the lines for callers. The first, a man from

(Continued on page eleven.)



U.S. Representative Peter Welch makes a point during a conversation with the Chronicle editorial staff last year. Photo by Joseph Gresser

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# It's important for the parties to work together

(Continued from page ten.)

Williston, said he was disturbed by the results of the election, but asked Mr. Welch to "please be as constructive as possible to find creative solutions without rancor or destruction."

He said, "compromise is not a dirty word" while urging Mr. Welch to base his decisions on "moral principles."

Mr. Welch said he agreed.

"Even though many Vermonters are dismayed by the results of the election, many voted for Trump. I work for them, too," he said.

He said he intends to hold his ground where necessary, but believes it is important for parties to "work together where you can."

"Some areas where Trump is concerned, I am concerned, too," Mr. Welch said.

One area of mutual concern is trying to get the cost of prescription drugs down, he said.

Medicare should be allowed to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers, Mr. Welch argued. He said Vermont's progress in health care came through a strategy that originated in the first Snelling administration and that has been carried forward by governors from both parties.

The state's experience could serve as a model for the nation, he suggested.

In response to a question from a Montpelier caller, Mr. Welch said he would "totally oppose any efforts to repeal Obamacare."

He said he would help in any effort to improve the law.

President-elect Trump has nominated Dr. Tom Price, a Republican Congressman from Georgia, to head the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Welch said Dr. Price wants to repeal Obamacare, but at least is willing to meet and talk with Democrats.

"I will absolutely resist repeal," Mr. Welch said. "It would create chaos and enormous suffering, and do real damage to our budget."

The implications of repeal would be very serious for Vermonters, Mr. Welch said.

Paul Burns, the director of Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), thanked Mr. Welch for "taking one for the team" by working in Washington.

Mr. Welch replied that everyone is on "Team Vermont," and said he feels lucky to have the congressional vote given him by Vermonters.

"I feel good," Mr. Welch said, "But it's going to be different. Obama is very elegant, I haven't met President-elect Trump, but I think it's going to be different."

To Mr. Burns' question about the future of renewable and clean energy, Mr. Welch said

Republican members of Congress see the number of jobs renewable energy companies have created in their districts.

He spoke of a trip to West Virginia coal country that he took with Representative Dave McKinley, a Republican who represents that region. The two men went down into a coal mine and spoke with a group of miners, he said.

Mr. Welch said the only people he knows who work as hard as coal miners are Vermont's dairy farmers. Many of the miners favored Donald Trump, but Mr. Welch said quite a few also supported Senator Bernie Sanders.

After the tour, the two representatives introduced legislation to provide job training and other assistance to miners who lost jobs due to downturns in their industry.

Mr. Welch said, "We Democrats have to acknowledge something, Trump beat us in the Rust Belt where traditional supporters went to Trump. It's not their fault. We failed. Why didn't they believe we could make a difference for them?"

Sandy from Waterbury said she and her husband worry about Mr. Trump's mental stability and are also concerned about the survival of Medicare under the new administration.

"I'm going to defend Medicare," Mr. Welch promised. "It's a tremendous program that has made a difference in the lives of seniors."

"I've always been for Medicare for all," he added.

He said Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has a plan that would privatize Medicare and provide vouchers to help seniors pay for private insurance.

"I'll be vigilant," Mr. Welch said.

"As for Trump's stability, we'll have to see," he said. "It's surprising to me that he's up at three in morning tweeting, just because someone said something bad about him. Though this is the highest office in the land, he will still have to suffer from petty criticism. He must rise above or be drowned in noise. He needs character and self-possession. We'll see how he does."

Another caller asked if President Obama can place Judge Merrick Garland on the Supreme Court because of the Senate's refusal to perform its constitutionally mandated duty to advise and consent on such appointments.

Mr. Welch termed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's refusal to take any action on President Obama's nomination to the court an "act of legislative infamy."

He said he would be happy if Judge Garland could be seated, but didn't hold out much hope for it happening.

Mr. Welch said he isn't very interested in the idea of amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College. He said the effort is unlikely to succeed, and it is more important for Democrats to find ways to reach out to people in the Rust Belt.

He agreed with a woman who expressed concerns about civil rights under President Trump.

He noted the President-elect insulted Mexicans when he first began his campaign, and since the election has appointed a long-time foe of civil rights legislation, Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama, to the post of U.S. Attorney General.

"I'll stand firm and say no. It's a Vermont tradition," Mr. Welch said.

He recalled Congressman Matthew Lyon, who fought the Alien and Sedition acts during the Republic's early days.

"Vermonters re-elected him while he was in jail," Mr. Welch said. "Senator Ralph Flanders was one of the first to stand up against McCarthy. I see my job in that tradition and will do that."

Mr. Welch said the nation needs local control in education, and promised to resist efforts to privatize the public system as well as efforts to do the same for the Veterans Administration's health care system.

He also said he objects to President-elect Trump's selection of Stephen Bannon as a close advisor, noting that he "showed hostility to African Americans, lesbians, gay people."

"It's objectionable to have a person of those views just a few steps from the Oval Office," Mr. Welch said.

He concluded the call by saying, "I know I'm going to defend Vermont. If tax cuts make rich people richer and make others fall behind, I'll fight it. I'll defend constitutional rights. That's important, I won't retreat a step when it comes to defending constitutional rights."

Mr. Welch promised to promote Vermont virtues and tolerance in Washington. Noting that even people who disagree with each other can come together here to coach kids on the ballfield.


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Facing Addiction In America

# Report recommends new approach to addiction

by Joseph Gresser

*Facing Addiction In America*, the 428-page report issued last month by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, offers a series of strategies to discourage the misuse of drugs and alcohol as well as ways to treat those who are addicted.

The entire report and a shorter executive summary can be found and downloaded at <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/>

The report is the first on the subject of addiction ever issued by the Surgeon General. Earlier occupants of the office published important reports on other public health issues, including the groundbreaking warning about the risks of tobacco issued in 1964.

The Surgeon General heads the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS), a uniformed public health service.

The new report draws on recent research showing how chemical substances alter a brain's structure and chemistry to argue that addiction should be seen and treated as a chronic illness.

In its explicit comparison of drug addiction to diseases such as diabetes, *Facing Addiction In America* suggests the goal of medication assisted therapy for addiction should be the treatment of an underlying medical problem, not speeding a patient to a life without

methadone or buprenorphine.

The report lays out what it calls the "substance use care continuum." The treatment options depend on the severity of the disorder and range from enhancing the health of those already free from drugs and alcohol, through prevention programs, to early intervention.

For people suffering from more serious drug issues, treatment options include medication, counseling, and other support services to "eliminate symptoms and achieve and maintain sobriety."

For instance, the report deliberately avoids the term substance abuse, substituting substance misuse for less serious cases or substance abuse disorder for situations that require treatment.

"The Surgeon General's report's big focus is on changing stigma so people can more readily accept addiction is a chronic brain disease that can require treatment as does any other condition, such as diabetes," Ms. Raboin said.

She said new advances in brain imaging have allowed scientists to

it means the term in the sense of a doctor intervening to cure an illness. The report says the old style of interventions staged by family and friends hoping to get a person off drugs did more harm than good.

*Facing Addiction In America* outlines a series of educational programs that have been proven to reduce the number of young people who go on to try or use drugs or alcohol.

Some of these are designed for children as young as preschool, others are meant for high school students. All of the programs are intended for the whole population of a school, rather than just children deemed to be at risk of drug use, the report says.

One of the report's appendices gives a list of all the programs proven effective by research along with a citation of the studies that showed their success and a summary of the study research.

For instance, the Strengthening Families Program, which is designed for students between ten and 14 and their parents was tried in rural schools in the Midwest, showed noticeable decreases in the number of kids who started using drugs or getting drunk. The studies that provided the results followed participants for more than a decade.

The report also stresses the need for medical professionals to look for substance misuse problems as they would for any other medical issue.

(Continued on page thirteen.)

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*"The problem is that around 90 percent of those who could use the services have not asked for them and are, therefore, not getting them."*

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The last stage of the continuum is recovery support, which the report says is important due to the changes drug and alcohol can make to the structure of a person's brain.

According to Julie Raboin, a substance abuse prevention counselor with the state Department of Health, the report also recommends language intended to reduce the stigma associated with addiction.

see changes or differences in the brains of people who are prone to addiction.

An early section of the report provides a detailed explanation of what parts of the brain are affected by various drugs. According to the report, it is not yet clear whether a brain that has been altered by drug use can return to a normal state, and, if it can, how long it might take to do so.

In recommending intervention in cases of substance abuse disorder, the report is careful to explain that

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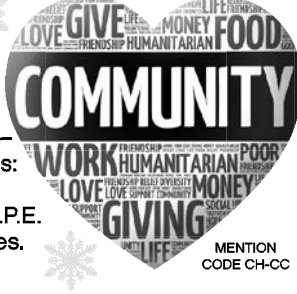



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# Substance abuse is a \$442-billion problem

(Continued from page twelve.)

Ms. Raboin said Vermont has gone from having between 800 and 1,000 people on waiting lists for addiction treatment services to having no waiting list. The problem, she added, is that around 90 percent of those who could use the services have not asked for them and are, therefore, not getting them.

The Surgeon General recommends that routine medical examinations ought to look for signs of substance use or misuse.

Ms. Raboin said Orleans County was recently awarded a prevention partnership grant, and North Country Hospital in Newport will be the lead agency for its implementation.

Despite her satisfaction with the grant, Ms. Raboin noted that the northeastern most part of the state, despite having a high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse, was the last region to get funding for a recovery center.

The Journey to Recovery Community Center opened its doors in September 2015 and was the twelfth of 12 centers to open in Vermont, she said.

The concluding section of the report, entitled "Vision for the Future: A Public Health Approach," begins by noting the current epidemic of opioid use. It notes with approval the move toward treatment and away from seeing drug abuse as simply a law enforcement issue.

According to the report, there is a strong economic argument for paying attention to the problem.

"Substance misuse is estimated to cost society \$442 billion each year in health care costs, lost productivity, and criminal justice costs," the report says. "However, numerous evidence-based prevention and treatment policies and programs can be implemented to reduce these costs while improving health and wellness."

The concluding portion of the report includes recommendations for different groups who are affected by those misusing drugs and alcohol.

Individuals are advised to seek help if they think they have a problem and offer help to others who need it.

Schools are urged to provide up-to-date and

scientifically accurate information about drugs and alcohol and their effects on the brain.

Medical professionals should treat substance abuse issues with the same sensitivity as they do other medical problems and to support high-quality care for those with substance misuse issues.

The report suggests that communities should create awareness of the problems that can stem from drug and alcohol use and establish programs to help those suffering from these problems.

Ms. Raboin said she sees the report as backing up the need for services even in rural areas such as the Northeast Kingdom.

"Living in a rural area should not translate into health disparities. I think the Surgeon General's report supports the idea that your access to resources shouldn't be dependent on your zip code," she said.

## Craftsbury library and Skida team up for holiday market

The Craftsbury Public Library is partnering with Burlington based Skida Headwear to raise funds for the library on December 10. During Craftsbury's annual holiday market, Skida will provide hats and headwear with the retail profit from each sale going directly to the library.

"We are passionate about being outside, being lifelong learners, working hard, and having fun along the way," a Skida representative said. "We do our best to support other folks that think outside the box, push the limits, and to us, are really, really cool."

The Craftsbury Public Library has been chosen as a recent addition to nonprofit causes

that Skida supports. There will be a range of products available at the library's booth at the market. Skida is best known for their colorful and warm hats, neckwarmers, and headbands. There will also be a selection of cashmere hats and scarves made for Skida in Nepal. And while supplies last, there will be some exceptional deals on irregular items.

The holiday sale runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Craftsbury Academy gym. For more information, contact the library at 586-9683 or view the Skida website at [www.skida.com](http://www.skida.com). — from the Craftsbury Public Library.

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In Superior Court

# Evaluation ordered for man involved in standoff

by Tena Starr

NEWPORT — The man responsible for an hours-long armed standoff between himself and police last week has been ordered to have a competency evaluation. Meanwhile, Daniel Kelley, 41, of Newport is being held without bail. He pled innocent on November 30 to six charges: three felony counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and three misdemeanor counts of reckless endangerment.

The incident that led to the charges started on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 29, when the Newport Police Department was dispatched to an apartment complex on Pleasant Street following a report that Mr. Kelley had threatened his neighbors with a firearm.

Newport Police Officer Nicholas Rivers said that, on arrival, he spoke to Mr. Kelley who was standing inside the doorway to his apartment in full camo clothing with a bulletproof vest on and an assault style rifle strapped over that. Officer Rivers' affidavit says Mr. Kelley told him that the neighbor's dog had attacked his dog the day before and had returned on that day, scratching at his door. He kicked the door and the dog ran away, he said.

According to Officer Rivers' affidavit, Mr. Kelley said that he put on his current outfit, including the rifle, which he said was a .22 with a green laser light, and walked around the building to get a video of the dog. Mr. Kelley also allegedly told the officer that he confronted the neighbors about their dog, saying it needed to be kept on a leash, then returned to his apartment.

"Kelley advised that he recorded part of the encounter but ran out of video," Officer Rivers' affidavit says. "When asked if I could see what he recorded Kelley advised that I would see it on YouTube soon enough."

The owners of the dog in question had a different story to tell.

The dog's female owner said the animal had, indeed, gotten loose but returned in about two minutes. She said she was still in her car when Mr. Kelley walked up in full camo with an assault rifle, leaned against the trunk of the car and pointed the gun through the back window,

lighting up a green laser, "pointing it at them as he pulled the slide of the rifle back, presumably loading it," Officer Rivers' affidavit says. It says she told police that Mr. Kelley walked away after saying that, if she didn't keep her dog on a leash, he would kill them and the dog.

Officer Rivers said the woman was shaking and crying while he talked to her and believed that Mr. Kelley was going to shoot them.

The man in the car confirmed the story, and said he called 911, Officer Rivers said.

A third witness basically confirmed the dog owners' version of events, he said.

Officer Rivers said he returned to speak to Mr. Kelley, who became hostile and wouldn't talk to police at the door but opened a window and accused them of being part of a bigger conspiracy in an attempt to take his guns.

"During the course of the conversation, Kelley became more aggressive and shut the window telling us to leave," Officer Rivers wrote. "From outside the residence I could hear Kelley work the action to the assault rifle, slamming the slide down, presumably loading it. Kelley then returned to the door and partially opened the inner door, exposing an improvised bullet proof shield and holding the rifle in the other hand telling us we needed to get off his property and leave."

What followed was a massive police presence and the shutdown of Pleasant Street. Police were stationed at both ends and allowed no through traffic, although they did let some residents in, depending on the proximity of their homes to the apartments at Richard's All Seasons Lodge, formerly the Bayview Inn, where the standoff was taking place. A few residents were evacuated, and the Newport Municipal Building was opened up for those who needed a place to stay during the standoff.

About 2 a.m. police entered Mr. Kelley's residence, and he was taken into custody.

An affidavit by Newport Officer David Jacobs says that he and Sergeant Charles Moulton took Mr. Kelley to North Country Hospital. While en route, he was making statements about the case, the officer said.

Again, Mr. Kelley talked about the dog,

saying it had tried to get into his apartment, he'd kicked it away, then put on his gear to confront its owners.

In court at arraignment the following day, Mr. Kelley was disruptive, refused a public defender, and accused the judge of being a war criminal, according to press reports.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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All horizontal rows of nine, all vertical columns of nine, and all the heavily outlined boxes of nine squares must contain all the numbers from one to nine.

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

The answer is on page 2B.



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In Superior Court

# Man held for lack of bail on domestic assault charge

by Paul Lefebvre

NEWPORT — Unable to make bail at \$5,000, Ryan McCullough, 32, of Newport was taken into custody after pleading innocent here Tuesday in Orleans County Superior Court to both a felony charge of aggravated domestic assault and a related misdemeanor count of domestic assault.

If he makes bail, Mr. McCullough must comply with no contact orders and engage in mental health screening and treatment.

Newport Patrolman Tanner Jacobs said the defendant was cited on December 1 over complaints about ongoing abuse that began on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

On that day, the affidavit continues, Mr. McCullough allegedly escalated an argument by pulling a pistol on a woman and warned her, "to leave him alone or else."

Police further allege that on December 1 Mr. McCullough caused bodily harm to a woman by bending back her fingers.

Both incidents allegedly occurred at a Newport residence.

For violating an abuse prevention order, Kyle Arel, 31, of Fairfield received a probationary sentence of two to four months.

Mr. Arel changed his plea to guilty to a January 31 violation of contacting a child in Newport, according to an affidavit from Newport Patrolman Jesse Testut.

Judge Howard VanBenthuyzen accepted the recommendations of a plea agreement and handed out a suspended sentence of three to 12 months to Danielle Cochran, 25, of West Burke.

Ms. Cochran changed her plea to guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) on April 12 in Barton.

State Police Sergeant Andrew Jensen cited Ms. Cochran following a one-car accident on Route 5.

After the state amended a charge of domestic assault down to simple assault, David Kircher,

44, of Greensboro Bend switched his plea to guilty.

As negotiated in a plea agreement, he received a suspended sentence of six to 12 months. A special condition of probation requires him to enter into residential treatment, if deemed necessary.

Hardwick Patrolman Daniel Locke said that Mr. Kircher blew a .315 breath alcohol count following his arrest for fighting with a family member on April 1 in Greensboro Bend.

The legal limit for driving is .08.

A jury last Thursday, December 1, found

Christopher Wells, 33, of Barton guilty of DUI. Judge VanBenthuyzen handed out a suspended sentence of three to 12 months and ordered Mr. Wells to stay out of bars and perform 20 hours of community service work during his probation.

Mr. Wells must also comply with his probation officer's order to undergo alcohol screening and counseling.

Trooper Steven Fauteux cited Mr. Wells on January 9 in Orleans after stopping to investigate a car that had gone off Route 5.

contact Paul Lefebvre at paul@bartonchronicle.com

## Treasurer announces savings plan for disabled individuals

Vermonters who experience a disability will soon be able to save money in a federally tax-advantaged VT-ABLE savings plan, making Vermont one of only a handful of states to offer a plan since President Obama signed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act into law in December 2014.

"I am excited to announce that we have reached an agreement to launch Vermont's ABLE savings plan for Vermonters who experience a disability," said State Treasurer Beth Pearce. "Once launched in early 2017, these accounts will allow eligible Vermonters to save adequate money for future needs in federal tax-deferred accounts. We are expanding access to savings, independence, and enabling individuals to save the dollars they have earned through employment. Previously, individuals with a disability were often precluded from saving by federal benefit cliffs. This federally tax-deferred plan will permit individuals to save for their future needs."

VT-ABLE will allow eligible Vermonters to

receive preferred federal tax treatment as they save for disability related expenses like housing, transportation, employment training, and other important needs. VT-ABLE participants will be able to contribute up to \$14,000 annually — greatly improving the savings options for Vermonters who experience a disability.

VT-ABLE will allow Vermonters to enroll in a savings plan through a secure web portal. A range of saving plans will be available to eligible Vermonters, with user-friendly functionality to allow online electronic funds transfers, easy withdrawals, and a debit card. The goal of the system is to maximize ease of use for VT-ABLE plan participants.

It is expected that VT-ABLE will be launched and made available to Vermonters in the first quarter of 2017. If there are questions regarding the program, please contact Mr. Lueders-Dumont at (802) 828-1451, or at treasurers.office@vermont.gov. — from the Vermont Treasurer's Office.

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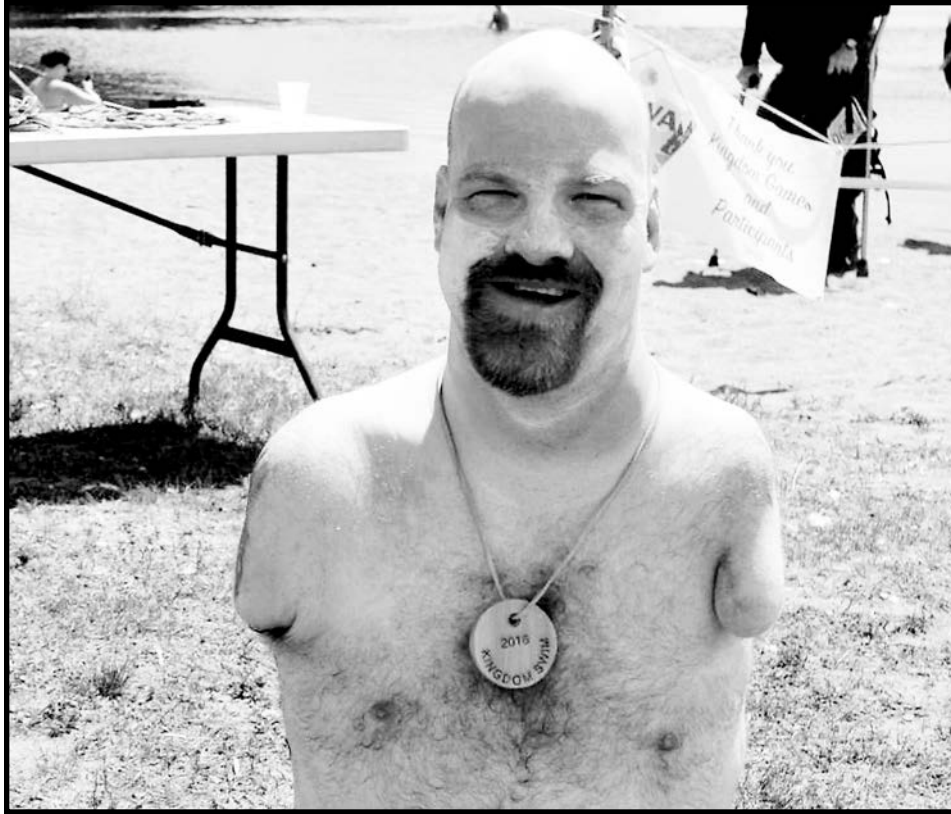
# NEKOWSA selects its swimmer of the year

The Northeast Kingdom Open Water Swimming Association (NEKOWSA) has selected Craig Dietz, aka the Limbless Waterman, as its 2016 Swimmer of the Year.

Mr. Dietz, 42, of Pennsylvania, was born without arms or legs. To swim, he uses a small fin attached to his left leg stump and undulates on his back. He swam his very first marathon distance at Kingdom Swim.

Kingdom Games Director Phil White said he first heard Mr. Dietz speak in 2012 at the World Open Water Swimming Association safety conference in Long Beach, California, where he conveyed a compelling message: "We are defined not by the challenges we face, but by how we face our challenges. Mr. Dietz swims and lives with a joy in the blessings of the life he has been given to live," Mr. White said.

This year Mr. Dietz took on the longest open water swim of his life and his first-ever marathon distance — the 10k course at Kingdom Swim. With Newport City Manager and kayaker Laura Dolgin at his side, he completed it in a time of four hours and 12 minutes. In doing so, he



Northeast Kingdom Open Water Swimming Association swimmer of the year for 2016, Craig Dietz. Photo courtesy of Phil White

joined the ranks of marathon open water swimmers.

Mr. White said Mr. Dietz had

some doubts before the swim and considered changing to the 3k course.

"Quietly talking through his decision with him at the start and watching him complete this swim, was one of those great moments of my life," said Mr. White.

Other notable NEKOWSA participants from 2016 include Paula Yankauskas, 62, of Hyde Park. In 2014, Ms. Yankauskas became the oldest person to swim the length of Lake Memphremagog, and this year she became the oldest woman to swim the English Channel.

Sisters Vera Rivard, 12, and Margaret Rivard, 9, regularly travel from Springfield, New Hampshire, to complete open water swims on Caspian Lake, Lake Willoughby and Crystal Lake.

Theresa Peck of Campton, New Hampshire, had been competing in three-mile NEKOWSA swims since 2009. But this year, at the age of 50, she ditched the wet suit and completed the 10k course in the open waters of Lake Memphremagog. — submitted by Phil White, director, Kingdom Games.

# Changes affect permanent hunting and fishing licenses

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is reminding hunters and anglers of changes to permanent license laws that go into effect starting on January 1, 2017. A permanent hunting and fishing license is currently available to Vermont residents aged 65 and older for a one-time fee of \$50. Starting January 1, the eligible age will be raised to 70 and the license will be free.

The department is urging hunters and anglers aged 65 to 68 who don't yet have a permanent license to purchase one before

midnight on December 31. Eligible current 2016 license holders can purchase a permanent license in person at a license agent or Fish and Wildlife Department district office. Those who have not purchased a 2016 license yet can either purchase a permanent license in person at a license agent or district office or go online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Hunters and anglers who already have a permanent license do not need to purchase another but should renew theirs in 2017.

Those without a permanent

license who will turn 70 before the next hunting or fishing season should wait until their seventieth birthday to pick up a 2017 permanent license, at which time it will be available to them for free.

The change in eligibility was made to bring Vermont's permanent license structures in line with neighboring states. In New York and Massachusetts, hunters and anglers are eligible for a permanent license at age 70. New Hampshire does not offer a permanent license, but instead offers a discount on annual licenses starting at age 68.

A permanent license allows the holder to hunt and fish without purchasing additional licenses for the rest of their lifetime. Vermont's permanent license includes all regular season tags, including

archery, muzzleloader, and turkey tags. An additional tag for second archery, moose and antlerless lotteries, and waterfowl stamps must be purchased separately. Permanent licenses must be renewed every year, which is free of charge online or at any district office.

Permanent licenses are different from lifetime licenses, which can be purchased at any age and are generally purchased for young children.

Anyone with questions about the change should go to the department website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com), or call the licensing office at (802) 828-1190. — from Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

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Harvest of the month

# Celebrate winter squash

December is here and that means gardens have been put to bed, the days are getting shorter, and Vermont is turning to storage crops to fill out their plates. This month, Vermont Harvest of the Month is celebrating the hardy and versatile winter squash.

Here are some tips to make the most out of winter squash this December.

Winter squash have dark yellow to orange flesh, a hard rind, and with proper storage can last for months. Remove dirt from the outside of your squash and store in a cool spot (between 50 and 60 degrees) with good ventilation. For best quality, seek squash that are heavy with a firm rind that is free of soft spots or cracks.

Locally grown squash is available now. Acorn, butternut, delicata, hubbard, and kabocha are just some of the varieties you can find at your local farmers markets or retailer. For the easiest preparation, consider halving squash, scooping out seeds, and roasting. Cooked squash can be

mashed or pureed and added to soups or baked goods. If you choose to peel your squash, cut in half first to create a flat and stable work surface.

Winter squash is an excellent source of vitamin A and carotenes. The recipe below is simple to prepare and showcases the naturally sweet flavors of winter squash and sweet potatoes.

### Butternut squash squared

Yield: 4 servings

- Ingredients:
- 2 cups butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces
  - 2 cups sweet potato (or a different variety of winter squash) peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces
  - 2 Tbsp. olive or canola oil
  - 1/2 tsp. onion powder
  - 1 tsp. dried basil

- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup
- 1 tsp. each salt and black pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375° F (convection) or 400 °F (conventional).
2. Peel winter squash and sweet potato and cut into 1-inch pieces. Make sure they are the same size so that they roast evenly.
3. In a large bowl, mix together oil, maple syrup, onion powder, basil, salt and black pepper.
4. Toss squash in the mixture, then spread in one layer on sheet pan.
5. Roast the squash uncovered, making sure to toss them occasionally so they cook evenly.
6. Roast until soft but not mushy at 400° F for 30-40 minutes.
7. Toss and continue roasting until just starting to brown, about 20 more minutes. — from Green Mountain Farm-to-School.

## Pages in the Pub offers fun night out for book lovers

The Galaxy Bookshop, Jeudevine Library, and Havana 802 are excited about the return of Pages in the Pub — an evening dedicated to talking about books with friends and neighbors while hanging out at a local restaurant. A panel of book lovers, including librarian Lisa Sammet and bookseller Andrea Jones, will offer recommendations for their favorite books — a great chance to get ideas for gift giving and

winter reading. Pages in the Pub will take place on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. at Havana 802 in Hardwick. Tickets are \$12 per person and include an appetizer and beverage, plus a donation to the Jeudevine Library.

During Pages in the Pub, panelists will share brief descriptions of favorite books for a variety of interests and ages while guests listen and add the books that appeal to them. A portion of the

evening's book sales will be donated to the library. Hardwick's Pages in the Pub is directly inspired by the Pages in the Pub event designed by Lisa Christie and Lisa Cadow of The Book Jam Blog (<https://thebookjamblog.com>).

For more information, call 472-5533 or e-mail [galaxybookgals@gmail.com](mailto:galaxybookgals@gmail.com). — from the Galaxy Bookshop.



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- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



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# Lake Region performs spectacular winter concert



Trumpet player Wayne Alexander, a member of Lake Region Union High School's jazz ensemble, solos on the classic "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The concert ended with an invitation to a community sing-along. The audience was invited to sing "Jingle Bell Rock," led by the chorus and band. Lyrics were printed in the program.



Pictured, from left to right, are select chorus members Nate Chambers, Samuel Heinrichs, Ajay Warner, and Hunter Duquette. The quartet added a little comic relief to Lake Region Union High School's winter concert Monday evening. They sang "Santa Baby," which had the appreciative audience clamoring for more.

Photos by Pete Cocoros



Lake Region's winter concert was a spectacular event. Pictured here, Music Director Sara Doncaster directs the Lake Region concert band on "Oh Come All Ye Faithful." Selections ranged widely and included "Hanukkah Festival" and "Three Jazzy Kings." The jazz ensemble played "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Beyond the Sea," "Birdland," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."



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# Mediation service now available

Mediation helps people solve their disputes and arguments. Community mediation can help people with family arguments, tenant-to-tenant disagreements, difficult discussions about elder care, and other situations. The Orleans County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is again offering mediation services to the Orleans County community.

“Mediation services of this kind work best before arguments get way out of hand,” said center director Barbara Morrow. “Both parties must agree to come to the table and when the process succeeds, it’s their success not ours.”

A trained mediator is available to the OCRJC for this project. Mediations have been shown to save people money and angst, and also present a good communication tool to participants. Some municipalities and courts use the process as well.

In Vermont, what is said during mediation is confidential. The mediator allows everyone to have their say and helps people move from their entrenched positions to see more options. The mediator may call each party in advance to learn what each will bring to the table. Sometimes more than one meeting is helpful. Mediation often breaks a logjam of conversation, so a solution may come after the actual meeting.

“Negotiation is not a skill taught to most of us,” said Ms. Morrow. “But it’s a valuable skill that can help us in our families and our community. When we feel powerless in an argument or we stop communicating, that’s when we get into trouble.”

To find out more about the center’s mediation service, or discuss if mediation would be useful, contact the OCRJC at (802) 487-9327 or e-mail [bmorrow@kingdomjustice.org](mailto:bmorrow@kingdomjustice.org). — from the OCRJC.

# OCSU holds winter concert



Saturday’s OCSU middle school concert ended with Director Amy Newton’s concert band playing “The Chimes of Liberty,” “The Moon of Winter,” and “The Tempest,” directed by co-Director Eileen Baker while Ms. Newton played baritone sax. Ms. Baker also played baritone sax on a selection, while Ms. Newton directed the band. The excellent concert band was a big hit with the audience. Photos by Pete Cocoros



Pictured above is the Orleans Central Supervisory Union (OCSU) middle school jazz band, always one of the highlights of OCSU concerts. This year’s winter concert was held on Saturday at Lake Region Union High School. The jazz band received thunderous applause following all of its selections. Soloists were Duncan Lovegrove on trumpet, Liris Haney on alto sax, Erica Thaler on flute, Connor Trevits on alto sax, Sophie Michaud on clarinet, and Samantha Hinton on clarinet. Selections includes “My Favorite Things” from *The Sound of Music*, “Baby it’s Cold Outside,” and “Rock on Merry Gents.”

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# Evidence that some taxpayers saw late fees waived

(Continued from page one.)

payments, and community center rentals that Ms. Diaz handled as Town Clerk and Treasurer is also unaccounted for, he said.

He found that low-income taxpayers seldom got a refund if state payments came in after tax bills were mailed out.

And there's evidence that the 8 percent penalty and the 1 percent monthly interest that's charged to late taxpayers was selectively waived for some people by marking their bills as though they'd been paid on time, Mr. Graham said.

Exactly what circumstances led to some people avoiding penalties or a decision about who was reimbursed when a refund was due is uncertain, he said.

One suspicion that didn't prove to be true was the possibility that some property tax bills had

been tampered with, Mr. Graham said.

Instead, it turned out that when people lost bills and asked for a replacement, or when changes needed to be made when state tax payments came in, the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) software made the new bill look like it had been freshly generated, he said.

That led to some confusion after a stack of such reissued bills was found among the documents hidden in the furnace room several months ago, Mr. Graham said.

The audit report itself runs 45 to 50 pages, he said.

Another 20 pages fills in background information and a section of recommendations of changes that the town needs to make in its procedures before next year's audit.

Any decision about whether to turn the

forensic portion of the audit over to law enforcement or to submit a claim to the town's insurance carrier, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, is up to the select board, Mr. Graham said.

The town has spent over \$200,000 for audit fees and audit preparation work to reach those conclusions, Selectman Scott Morley said.

A lot of the expense is because of information that has been willfully withheld by Ms. Diaz, hidden, or removed from the building, Mr. Graham said.

At last week's meeting, he explained that an audit for a town the size of Coventry usually costs around \$20,000. But since Coventry is now considered a high risk town, every document has to be tested, instead of just a sampling. That made the audit alone cost about \$60,000.

The rest of the money has been spent recreating documents that are missing.

The technique, as Mr. Graham explained it, is a lot like algebra.

"If you know that A times B equals C, and one of those numbers is missing, you can multiply or divide the numbers you do have to figure out the missing one," he said.

There's also been a lot of detective work to find missing documents.

There are still four items that Mr. Graham said he simply hasn't been able to find despite repeated requests.

Also missing is the 2012 Grand List. Not only are the electronic versions missing from several computers, but also the paper copy is not in the vault, he said.

State statutes require that the town clerk maintain copies of each year's Grand List in the vault, he said.

One copy was lost when a town computer had a meltdown just before State Auditor Tom Salmon tried to audit Coventry's books in 2012, Mr. Graham said.

There was a similar problem with a laptop that belonged to the listers, Lyell Reed said.

And there were none of the usual system backups that the NEMRC software would have sent to the company's central server because, in order for the nightly system backup to happen, the town clerk's computer had to be left on overnight.

It almost never was.

And the automatic notices that NEMRC's computer sent out to say that the nightly backup hadn't been performed were set up to go to the town clerk.

Mr. Graham said he finally got copies of Coventry's 2012 Grand List this week from the

(Continued on page twenty-one.)

**A letter to Santa...**

Dear Santa,

When I was little, I asked my father each year what he wanted for Christmas. He always answered, "Peace and happiness for the whole wide world," and I would just laugh.

But now it's me asking for something as big as that.

So many people with hearing loss live in a fog of denial and anxiety. They lack information and financial resources. Could you give them – these friends I don't know yet – something they really need such as the courage to speak up and say, "I have hearing loss?"

In their stockings or mailbox, perhaps you could drop a pamphlet about support organizations such as HLAA, CHHA, ALDA, AG Bell, VOICE, and NAD or CAD?

And finally, maybe you could put your weight behind our drive for more accessibility and affordability in the world of hearing health?

Thank you, Santa. I know I'll always need technology to hear well and that's okay, although I still love waking up in the morning to the sound of birds, or coffee perking in the kitchen.

And who knows, this may yet happen. As a child, I was told that hearing aids would never help me, and now I have them and they connect me to the world. It's a modern miracle.

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# Written copies to be made public next week

(Continued from page twenty.)

state and from another source.

He needs the Grand List to be sure there was no manipulation of property values since 2012 that could have affected anyone's taxes.

"It was a foundation document for this audit," he said. "If it was altered, we have a whole different set of conversations."

Mr. Graham asked Mr. Reed to get the listers' computer that Ms. Diaz is using and turn it over to him for the audit.

"It's your equipment," he told Mr. Reed. "Don't ask, just tell her you're taking it."

Mr. Graham likened the missing Grand List to a wheel.

"It's not just a missing spoke," he said. "It's so many spokes, it's the entire system."

He said his job isn't to draw conclusions from his findings. He just presents the information that he has assembled through months of painstaking work.

Written copies of the audit will be made public next week after the select board's counsel, Paul Gillies, has had a chance to go over it and redact any information that's considered confidential, Selectman Scott Morley said.

The main issue is that the report may contain information about tax payments the state has made on behalf of property owners who fall under the income sensitivity provision.

"What you're going to see is not going to be redacted all over the place," Mr. Morley assured the townspeople who had gathered in the listers office to hear the final report that has been just days from completion for the past several weeks.

"The report is public information, and the public has a right to know everything," he said.

"But the information about state payments is protected."

In the meantime, Mr. Graham is still waiting for answers from about 50 property owners who got letters over a month ago asking them to supply details about when and how they paid their property taxes over the last three years.

It turns out that a lot of people paid in cash. Those payments are considered to be missing because no cash has been deposited during the years in question.

Mr. Graham has assumed so far that anyone who filled out the detailed confirmation form did, in fact, pay if the town clerk's copy of the tax bill was marked "Paid" and the property never showed up on the delinquent tax list.

"It's not my decision to make," he told the select board, "but at some point it may be appropriate to decide that anyone who hasn't responded didn't pay their taxes."

That decision could result in some people losing their properties, Mr. Marcotte worried.

"It's up to you select board members to get responses from people however you want to," Mr. Graham replied.

A trickier question is how to handle late payments where bills were marked "Paid in full" if the payment didn't include required penalties and interest.

That's money that the town of Coventry didn't receive, Mr. Graham said.

"Should the property owner have to pay it?" he asked. "Or should you ask Ms. Diaz to pay it, since she didn't collect the taxes correctly? Or is it reimbursable through your insurance as a loss?"

One of the problems, Mr. Morley said, is that

so many jobs have drifted into the hands of the town clerk and treasurer over the 12 years she's been in office, from handling community center rentals to running Coventry Day.

"She'd offer to do it, and we'd say yes in trust," he said.

Now the select board is taking all of those jobs back in hand.

It has its own select board clerk in the form of Amanda Carlson, who will also take over most of the bookkeeping duties after NEMRC software expert Amber Baker is through helping Mr. Graham get years of back accounting put in order.

NEMRC has been removed from all town computers.

And two signatures will be required on all financial transactions.

The select board is planning to keep up with that system for the foreseeable future, Mr. Marcotte said.


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The United Church of Craftsbury is located on Craftsbury Common. More information can be found at [www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com](http://www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com), on the church's Facebook page, or at (802) 586-8028. — from the United Church of Craftsbury.

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# The standard will make it “very very difficult”

(Continued from page one.)

towns a stronger voice in making energy siting decisions within their borders.

“We thought they might come up with something workable,” he said. “We gave them the benefit of the doubt.”

But Mr. Rodgers was disappointed by what the DPS came up with.

“This is going to make things very, very difficult for our towns,” he said.

The application to get a town plan approved is 13 pages long — in small print. It comes in the form of a detailed checklist that towns have to complete to explain how their plan addresses state energy goals.

Beside each item, there’s a space to fill in the page and paragraph numbers from the town plan that fulfill the requirement.

Every town plan will have to include what the new law calls “an energy element.”

In the words of the checklist, the energy element is supposed to include “an analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the region across all energy sectors, including electric, thermal, and transportation.”

Towns are also supposed to have official policies on energy conservation, the development and siting of renewable energy resources, and “the patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy.”

And the plans have to identify areas within the town where renewable energy projects should

and shouldn’t be sited.

And it doesn’t stop there.

The DPS’ introduction to the application checklist says, “all aspects of planning must be undertaken with energy implications in mind.”

That means that each chapter of the plan — whether it’s about jobs, or housing, or land use —

*“The proposed standards call for a level of expertise in data collection, analysis, and projection that our small-town citizen planning commission cannot possibly achieve.”*

has to explain how planning in that area addresses state energy standards.

Irasburg officials are afraid that the new standards are going to discourage towns from participating in energy planning at all.

“The proposed standards call for a level of

expertise in data collection, analysis, and projection that our small-town citizen planning commission cannot possibly achieve,” Irasburg’s letter continues. “The standards do not recognize the real reality of the actual resources of small town planning commissions.”

And while Act 174 included \$300,000 to help train town and regional planning commissions in how to write the new town plans, that amount seems unlikely to be enough to go around.

“Our consultant has told us that it will cost tens of thousands of dollars to do all of the studies to meet the technical requirements,” said Irasburg Planning Commission member Judith Jackson. “She said even big city planning departments would have trouble meeting these requirements.”

Irasburg has filed for a municipal planning grant from the state to help with the expenses but hasn’t heard back yet.

“The grants are very competitive this year in our area,” said Dave Snedeker, executive director of the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA).

There are 50 towns in NVDA’s jurisdiction, he said. “It’s by far the largest region in Vermont.”

The next biggest regional planning commission covers about 30 towns. Many have fewer than ten.

People at NVDA have already started going to training sessions to learn about how to put

(Continued on page twenty-three.)

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# Scott could take a hard look at new rules

(Continued from page twenty-two.)

together a regional plan under the new standards.

"It's going to be a challenge at the regional level," Mr. Snedeker said.

Regional planning commissions have to have their energy maps completed in January 2017 and a draft energy plan by July 15.

Final regional plans are due in February 2018.

Towns will be allowed to adopt sections of their regional plans, just as they could before, Mr. Snedeker said.

And as regional maps are adopted, NVDA will produce a set of local maps for each town.

But for a town like Irasburg, where the planning commission is looking at a finished town plan as a tool in their fight against the Kidder Hill wind proposal, time is against waiting for the regional plan to be finished.

"We feel very vulnerable without a town plan," Ms. Jackson said months ago at the public hearing held in hopes of passing a temporary town plan for Irasburg.

That plan was, in the end, never formally adopted by the select board after a contentious public hearing in which a handful of vocal residents equated planning with zoning.

Planning is not the same as zoning, Mr. Snedeker said. And zoning rules can't be used to block renewable energy projects.

But the new planning rules do ask towns to plan expansion in areas where there is already building in order to preserve open land, keep towns compact and walkable, and minimize

commuting distances.

Only about half of the towns in the area served by NVDA have zoning, Mr. Snedeker said.

Most towns in the Northeast Kingdom don't even have building codes. And it could be hard for a town that doesn't have building codes to explain to the DPS how it's going to prioritize energy efficient construction.

Mr. Snedeker cited examples of one-size-fits-all prescriptions in the new town and regional plan checklists that were written for more urban and affluent populations.

"The Department of Public Service is asking us to get people to switch to electric vehicles and electric heat pumps," he said. "That isn't going to work here."

There aren't a lot of people in the Northeast Kingdom who can afford a new electric car, he said. Travel distances are long, and a lot of people — farmers and contractors, for example — need trucks and vans for their work.

But NVDA and the Northeast Kingdom towns will have to deal with each of the ideas on the checklist.

Mr. Snedeker used public transit as an example.

"They just have to acknowledge that having public transit would be ideal," Mr. Snedeker said. "And then explain the barriers and put out some long-range plans of how we might eventually get to that."

The new standards require towns to say not only where they don't want energy projects, but also where energy projects should be sited within town borders.

It's not okay to just say no.

And towns are supposed to be mindful of planning for enough energy production within the town to carry a fair share of the load.

"Achieving Vermont's renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals is going to require an all-hands-on-deck approach," said Department of Public Service Deputy Commissioner Jon Copans in the DPS introduction to the checklist for town plans.

Mr. Snedeker has some reservations about that concept.

NVDA is opposed to industrial wind projects on the grounds that they're divisive within local communities, Mr. Snedeker said.

Wind isn't an appropriate solution for every town anyway, he said, because it requires both elevation and access to distribution lines.

Mr. Snedeker is also guarded about additional large scale energy projects of any kind in the Northeast Kingdom.

"First, there's the concept of distributed energy," he said.

That means that the most efficient place to produce power is close to where it's needed. In Vermont that means near Burlington and other more heavily populated parts of the state.

"And we've already accommodated two very large wind projects," he said.

Mr. Rodgers hopes that under the administration of Governor-elect Phil Scott, the state will step back and take a hard look at the new rules.

"It's the only way this is going to change," he said.

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# Daylong concert to benefit Shriners

(Continued from page one.)

he's done 33 concerts, though only one other farm field concert. However, he plans to bring in experienced professionals to help with logistics. A stage will be brought in, and the outside company will handle the major logistical arrangements while Mr. Johnson deals with matters on the local end, Mr. Clay said.

As fellow Masons, he and Mr. Johnson came up with the idea of a big music show as a way to make a significant amount of money for the Shriners.

Mt. Sinai #3 Shriners has about 400 members, Mr. Johnson said. They help three hospitals, two in Vermont, and the third in Montreal, Quebec.

Shriners are a familiar, and welcome, sight at parades. They raise money, in part, by appearing with their little motorcycles and other vehicles, often in clown garb. They're paid for those appearances, but fund-raising for the work they

do at children's hospitals is a constant challenge.

"This fund-raiser started with Marc and I sitting around saying we need to do something bigger," Mr. Johnson said.

With Mr. Clay's background as a music promoter, and his contact with the music world, a concert struck them as a good plan.

"The Shriners would like to make this an annual event," Mr. Johnson said.

In addition to making money, the concert is also aimed at raising awareness of what the Shriners do, the pair said. And it should help the local economy.

Wary of comparisons with the disastrous Phish concert held in 2004, Mr. Clay was quick to point out that the show will be a one-day event with no onsite camping. However, local landowners could open up their fields to campers, or to parking, and make some money, he noted. Also, vendors, particularly food vendors, are needed for the concert.

Plenty of emergency vehicles, as well as law enforcement, will be on site, Mr. Clay said. And there will be zero tolerance for any kind of drug. An ample number of bathrooms, which will be steadily monitored for cleanliness, will be readily available.

"We went out of our way to make sure it didn't end up like the Phish concert," Mr. Clay said.

A hundred thousand people were expected to show up for what was billed as Phish's last concert, held at Brad Maxwell's farm in Coventry. It started raining, hard, before the concert even started, and the unusual amount of rain combined with the unusual amount of traffic, left thousands of cars stranded on I91, unable to move, while vehicles were towed into the muddy concert site, a tedious process that slowed entrance to a trickle.

In the end, about 68,000 people actually made it to that show, some simply by abandoning their vehicles on the highway and walking.

"The problem was you had a concert in a cornfield," Mr. Clay said. "If it rains, you've got mud. We're working in a grass field that has had grass for a long time."

He said they have also done some research, and September is a fairly dry month in northern Vermont.

The concert lineup includes the following: rock bands Trixter, Firehouse, Lita Ford, Warrant, and Ratt; country bands Caroline Gray, Southern City Band (SCB), and Alex Macgillivray; and local rock bands Raized on Radio, Mind Trap, and The Hitmen. The host will be Eddie Trunk, who hosts "Trunk Nation" on Sirius XM Hair Nation, channel 39, which features "vintage hard rock from the big hair eighties," according to the website.

The Creek Hill Barn has 60 acres for parking, Mr. Clay said. "It's an ideal location."

The two men envision the concert as a family event. Children ten and under will be admitted free, and locals will get a discount on the ticket price, Mr. Clay said. People will not be allowed to bring in backpacks of food and supplies but will

(Continued on page twenty-five.)

# Fresh Air Fund seeks host families for 2017

This November many families in the Northeast Kingdom, are thankful for something special: the gift of their friendship with a New York City child. Each summer, close to 4,000 New York City children from low-income communities visit suburban, rural, and small town communities along the east coast and southern Canada through the Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Towns Program. By volunteering as a host family for summer 2017, the spirit of Thanksgiving can continue in your home throughout the year.

"After visiting my host family, I learned to never stop trying," said Kima, age 12, from the Bronx. "The first summer that I went to stay with the Broners, I couldn't swim. They taught me, and by the end of the week, I learned how to dive off the diving board."

Fresh Air children are boys and girls who live in New York City. Children who are re-invited by host families may continue with the Fresh Air Fund through age 18, and can enjoy extended trips. Volunteer host families frequently share, how through the eyes of Fresh Air children, they rediscover the beauty of their own communities.

Since 1877, the Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free, enriching, summer experiences and academic programs for more than 1.8 million children from low-income New York City communities. For more information on hosting a Fresh Air child next summer, please contact Carol Rowell at (802) 755-6338, or visit the Fresh Air Fund online at [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org). — from the Fresh Air Fund.

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# Lineup includes Warrant, Ratt, Lita Ford

(Continued from page twenty-four.)

buy food on site from local vendors.

Irasburg Selectman Brian Goodridge said Monday that, yes, the selectmen gave their approval to the plan, although they did not hear a number of concert-goes as high as potentially 100,000.

“Basically, it’s tied in with the Freemasons in Irasburg and the Shriners,” Mr. Goodridge said.

He said the selectmen asked about traffic control and were assured there would be no parking on the road, that it would not, in any way, be a replica of the Phish concert.

“The select board didn’t see any problem with it,” Mr. Goodridge said.

Holding a big concert involves far more than getting the Albany Select Board’s permission, he noted, and the state and law enforcement will also have a say.

“It could be a positive thing for the community,” Mr. Goodridge said. “We’re hoping

it’s a good thing.”

Ann Howland manages the Creek Hill Barn site, which is owned by her brother, who is in the military.

She said the contract for use of the land has been signed, and she’s both excited and nervous, although she has nothing to do with either organizing or promoting the event.

“We’re probably not going to see 100,000 people,” Ms. Howland said. She thinks a more realistic, and manageable, number would be around 30,000 or 40,000.

The Creek Hill Barn site includes 150 acres, she said, but the field where the concert will be held is 25 acres. With other farmland nearby, she said, it’s her understanding that neighboring fields may be opened up for parking as well.

“It’s kind of exciting to have more local things in the area,” Ms. Howland said.

Yes, the roads could get backed up, so people will simply have to be patient, she said. “We’re not exposed to this amount of people very often.”

Asked why thousands of people might want to attend a remote northern Vermont music show, Mr. Clay said that, from a promoter’s point of view, the Northeast Kingdom is an ideal venue.

“One, there’s nothing here.” It’s an area starved for entertainment, he said. Yet, Orleans County is within easy driving distance of major urban hubs such as Montreal, Boston, and Connecticut.

Mr. Clay said he normally works with, and on behalf of, artists. But the Shriners asked if he could help with organizing the show.

“It’s not about my company, I just happen to be the means through which they’re doing it,” he said about the concert.

A slew of permits were put in place after the Phish concert, he said, and he’s working on securing whatever is needed for the September concert in Albany.

“It’s going to be done professionally,” Mr. Clay said.

# James Kisch chosen to head Passumpsic Savings Bank

Passumpsic Savings Bank’s board of trustees announces that James Kisch, a national banking authority with over 25 years of experience in financial institution management, has been named to succeed Peter F. Crosby as president and chief executive officer.

“The board of trustees is very pleased that Jim has chosen to join our organization,” stated board chair Bradley Gebbie. He brings a broad banking background, both from inside the industry and externally by serving the financial services industry in many different capacities.”

Mr. Kisch, was the co-founder and chief strategy and information officer for Continuity, a New Haven, Connecticut-based cloud computing software company that served community financial institutions nationwide. He joined Passumpsic Savings Bank on October 11, and will assume the CEO role before the end of the year. Mr. Crosby, who announced his intention to retire this past April, has served the bank for 43 years.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota-St.

Paul and the Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mr. Kisch held a variety of positions in the banking industry for over 14 years before joining the Minnesota Bankers Association (MBA), serving as president of the association’s insurance and services division, as well as MBA Consulting Group, its wholly owned bank compliance and IT consultancy. In 2008, he co-founded Continuity, a 200 plus client, venture-backed cloud computing company.

“I am honored to succeed Peter Crosby as the next president and CEO of Passumpsic Savings Bank,” said Mr. Kisch. “Peter has led an amazing team with a history of devotion to community and an unsurpassed commitment to customers and their success. I intend to remain steadfast to that commitment. My wife and I look forward to meeting our customers, making new friends, and fully immersing ourselves in the wonders the Northeast Kingdom and the north country have to offer.” — from Passumpsic Savings Bank.



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AGWAY VISA

# Family hopes to build in the spring

(Continued from page one.)

was somewhat damaged, she said, but the four-wheeler was far from the house.

All their clothing and furniture, as well as sentimental items, are gone, Ms. Shatney said.

She said her boyfriend, Mr. Josey, is a combat vet who did electrical work and had a lot of tools that burned. Also, he's an avid hunter, she said, and his guns are unsalvageable.

The family had recently done their Christmas shopping, and 90 percent of those gifts burned, Ms. Shatney said.

But, she said, one of the local auxiliaries — she wasn't sure which — has offered "to do Christmas for the kids."

The girls like American Girl dolls, the little

boy likes trains and arts and crafts stuff, and the older boy likes electronics, Ms. Shatney said.

Natural elements made it difficult for firefighters. In addition to Irasburg, they included volunteers from the fire departments of Albany and Barton.

Darkness had fallen by the time firefighters reached the scene.

"We had to fight it in the dark," recalled the chief.

Firemen also had difficulty reaching the cabin, due to hazardous road conditions that caused one of the fire trucks to go off the road.

"We had to drag the hose a long ways," noted Chief Beaton.

The cabin was fully engaged by the time they reached the scene, with no opportunity to save

the structure.

No one was home when smoke was initially spotted. The chief thought someone was burning brush.

Chief Beaton suspects the fire was caused by a wood stove which, he said, was located close to a wall.

Ms. Shatney said the chimney had been cleaned this year.

The family plans to get through the winter in an apartment, she said. And hopefully in the spring they can rebuild on the 20 acres, which they bought last fall.

# Holland boy competes at national dairy contest

Four Vermont teens and their coaches traveled to Wisconsin in October for the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging contest. Pictured from the left are coaches Elizabeth and Ricky Hall, East Montpelier; Jacob Patenaude, Holland; Cole Goodhue, Fairfield; Maggie Kirby, East Montpelier; and Addy Parsons, Weybridge. Photo courtesy of the World Dairy Exposition



**the Chronicle**

will be **CLOSED** for Christmas break starting on Wednesday, December 21. The office will reopen on Monday, January 2.

There will be **NO PAPER** on Wednesday, December 28.

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## Rodondi receives prestigious award



Major Danielle Rodondi, RN, CNS, hometown of Island Pond, was awarded the prestigious Military Health System 2016 Military Nursing Leadership Award in Washington, D.C., on December 1. She was chosen for her outstanding dedication and leadership in the United States Army. Major Rodondi is a 1990 graduate of North Country Union High School and is the daughter of Paul Rodondi and Corinne McCloskey. She is currently stationed in San Antonio, Texas, and will report for her new duty as professor of military science at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia, in January.

Photo courtesy of Beth Rodondi

## OCSU chosen for special ed review

The Orleans Central Supervisory Union (OCSU) was among ten supervisory unions and supervisory districts selected by the Vermont Agency for Education for a Special Education Services Review. The project will review current practices for the delivery of special education services against research-based best practices under a contract with the District Management Council (DMC).

A law passed in 2016 requires the agency to select at least three supervisory unions or districts with an average daily membership of 1,500 students or more, and at least three unified union school districts formed pursuant to Act 46.

“The purpose of this project is to build local

capacity to better manage systems and deliver services,” said Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education. “All our systems strive to get the best value for students out of every dollar. DMC’s mission is to help systems figure out how to provide high-quality care for students in the most cost-effective way possible. What we learn from these systems, we hope to share with others that were not able to participate.”

The agency’s contract with DMC provides that the cost for reviewing a supervisory union or supervisory district will be \$50,000, with the state paying \$45,000 and the supervisory union being responsible for the remaining \$5,000. Grant funding is available. — from the Agency of Education.

## Online master gardener course offered

This winter the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension is offering an online master gardener course.

This 13-week non-credit course will run from February 7 through May 16. It will be offered online through Zoom, giving students the option to participate in the interactive webinars each Tuesday night from 6:15 to 9 p.m., or watch the archived recordings at their convenience.

UVM Extension master gardener volunteers will host optional group-viewing sessions on class nights at various locations around the state.

The weekly lectures by UVM and Vermont horticultural industry experts will cover a wide range of topics including backyard vegetable gardening, annuals and perennials, fruits and berries, composting, sustainable landscaping, pest and disease control, healthy lawn and weed management, entomology and tree and shrub care, among others.

A comprehensive online training manual is

included in the registration fee.

Registrations will be accepted through January 23, with a \$15 discount off the \$440 fee if received by January 2. To register online, go to [www.uvm.edu/mastergardener](http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener). A downloadable registration form is available on the website for those who prefer to pay by check.

For questions, or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Lisa Chouinard at (802) 656-9562 by January 6.

Participants have the option of enrolling in the home horticulture course only or pursuing certification as an Extension Master Gardener by completing a 40-hour internship once they finish the course.

These volunteers are recognized gardening experts who provide locally relevant, research-based gardening information to the public. Interns have until December 31, 2018 to complete their 40 hours. — from UVM Extension.

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## Barton Senior Center December menu

The Barton Senior Center menu for December follows. Meals are served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The phone number is 525-4400.

Thursday, December 8: Boiled dinner with ham and pumpkin pie.

Tuesday, December 13: Salmon pea wiggle, potatoes, rutabagas, and apple crisp.

Thursday, December 15: Roast chicken, potatoes, winter squash, and cake.

Tuesday, December 20: Beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and carrots, and pineapple dessert.

Thursday, December 22: Christmas dinner, turkey, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and pie.

Tuesday, December 27: Spinach Florentine, pasta, potatoes, and chocolate pudding.

Thursday, December 29: Baked beans, ham,

potato salad, mixed veggies, and birthday cake.

There will be no Fifth Friday Jam in Barton this month due to New Year's celebrations.

There will be a Christmas sing-along on December 22.

All meals are served with choice of beverage and whole wheat bread.

Please sign up for the June 8-12, 2017, annual trip. This year will be Boston, Salem, Cape Ann, and Gloucester, America's oldest seaport, in Massachusetts. Five days, four nights, \$499, includes eight meals. There will be guided tours of Boston and historic Lexington and Concord, including the Minute Man National Historical Park. Call 525-4400 for more information.

## Glover meal site December menu

The Glover Senior Community Meal Center is located at the Glover Town Hall. Lunch is served at noon on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Monday, December 12 — Barbecue chicken with cranberry sauce, boiled sweet potatoes, tossed salad, corn, whole wheat rolls, and vanilla pudding with fruit.

Tuesday, December 13 — Scalloped potatoes with chunks of bacon, roasted vegetables, and Heath brownies.

Monday, December 19 — Homemade steak

and cheese calzones with marinara and ranch dressing, steamed carrots and cauliflower, and coconut cream pie with coconut Cool Whip.

Tuesday, December 20 — Chicken noodle soup, Parmesan oyster crackers, tossed salad with kale, and German chocolate cake.

Monday, December 26 — Closed for holiday.

Tuesday, December 27 — Green bean casserole, homemade rolls, roasted vegetables, and date pudding.

All meals are served in a family-style setting with choice of drinks: coffee, tea, and juices. Card games are available at the center as well. — from the Glover Senior Community Center.

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# Annual Christmas Alone Dinner to be held in North Troy

Donald St. Onge of North Troy will host the annual Christmas Day Alone meal again this year. The meal will be served at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 18 North Pleasant Street in North Troy on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Residents from the areas of North Troy, Troy, Lowell, Westfield, Newport Center, and Newport City who find themselves alone on Christmas Sunday are welcome to attend. The dinner is under the auspices of the Missisquoi Valley Historical Society.

The dinner is open to adults, children, and families. It's free and will consist of turkey and all the fixings.

Those who would like to make a donation to

help out can make checks payable to Christmas Alone account, Missisquoi Valley Historical Society, care of Donald St. Onge, 77 North Pleasant Street, Box 621, North Troy, Vermont 05859.

Those who wish to make a food contribution can also leave that information with Mr. St. Onge by calling (802) 988-2560. People may also call that number if they want a meal delivered. Meal deliveries are only available in North Troy.

This dinner would not happen if it were not for the time and generosity of the volunteers who prepare and serve the dinner, and those who contribute food and money. Please call the number above if you have any questions. — submitted by Mr. St. Onge.

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# VNA & Hospice honors staff members

The Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) & Hospice board of directors met with agency staff and volunteers on November 15. Staff and volunteers were recognized for milestone years of service and exceptional work. Also, this year's 2016 Employee of the Year was announced.

Certificates and pins for five years of service to the agency were presented by Executive Director Lyne B. Limoges and Diana Hamilton, clinical director. They were Sheila Brodsky (RN), Timothy Carpenter (RN/manager of quality improvement and staff education), Lori Griggs (RN), Beverly Hawk-Weeks (RN/clinical manager), and Lori Sparkes (PT/rehab manager). Certificates and pins for 15 years of service were given to Tina Willey (PTA) and Miriam LeBlanc (volunteer). Marcia Driscoll (volunteer) was presented with a pin and certificate for 25 years of service.

Timothy Carpenter, RN, received special recognition for obtaining his OASIS-C recertification, and Gwyneth Harris (RN) received special recognition for becoming OASIS-C certified. Both attended a certification class and examination and successfully completed a 100-item exam in order to demonstrate their OASIS competency. This exam is the only nationally standardized, psychometrically validated test that strictly evaluates a clinician's knowledge of CMS OASIS guidelines. The outcome and assessment

information set (OASIS) is a data set required for use in home health agencies across the country to measure outcomes and processes and to determine reimbursement for home health patients. Candidates who successfully complete



Lori Sparkes, left, the rehab manager at VNA, presents Brittany Petty with the organization's 2016 Employee of the Year Award. Photo courtesy of VNA & Hospice

volunteer coordinator, explained the purpose of volunteers at the agency. Volunteers have assisted with annual fund drives, fund-raising events, and with flu clinics. In the Home Care Department through the Hearts and Hands Program they have provided respite time for clients recovering from an illness or medical procedure. And with the Hospice Program, which provides end-of-life care through a team oriented approach, volunteers are available for clients and their families or caregivers. Volunteers are not compensated and attend mandatory training.

Rehab Manager Lori Sparkes presented the 2016 Employee of the Year Award to Brittany Petty, physical therapist assistant.

"Brittany Petty consistently meets daily quotas in terms of patients seen and is always asking if she can do anything to help her team out," Ms. Sparkes said. "Whether it be taking on an extra patient as needed, or helping with presenting in-services to other departments, she always steps up without hesitation. She truly is an asset to the department and patients really love her. Finally, during my maternity leave Brittany took on supervisory duties such as scheduling and case management, which she did above and beyond her regular day-to-day responsibilities and without compensation."

Since 1969 Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc., has provided home care by licensed and paraprofessional staff in 18 communities in Orleans County and six in northern Essex County encompassing a territory of just over 1,000 square miles. Home health services include nursing, rehab, social work, hospice, case management, personal care, and homemaking, as well as wellness programs. For more information on the agency's services please stop by the office or call 334-5213. — from VNA & Hospice.

the examination will be awarded the certificate for OASIS specialist — clinical (COS-C) designation.

Volunteers were thanked for their compassion toward agency clients and dedication with other programs at the agency.

Karla Lillicrap, human resources director and

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**TOWN OF GREENSBORO ROAD CREW MEMBER**

The Town of Greensboro has an immediate opening for a road crew member. This is a full-time, temporary position that will require weekend and overtime hours during adverse weather. Applicants must have a CDL and agree to a pre-employment drug test.

Please contact the office for a complete job description and application:  
Town of Greensboro,  
P.O. Box 119,  
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This newly revived historic hotel in Island Pond is looking for a Line Cook to join our team.

The ideal candidate must have enthusiasm, determination to succeed and creative flair in the kitchen. Ideally, we are looking for someone who is excited to cook, inspired by flavor, and available to start December 16. The role will involve maintaining standards of hygiene and consistently assisting to improve standards of food quality.

Requirements:  
36-40 hours/week;  
Good knowledge of cooking techniques and styles;  
Good understanding of food, hygiene, and safety; and  
Good verbal and written English.

# Vermont Film Youth Contest launches third year

The Vermont Film Youth Contest has launched its third year and opened the contest to middle-schoolers. Plus, there is a new Work-In-Progress Filmmaking Award.

All filmmakers between the ages of ten and 30, who live or go to school in Vermont are eligible. They can win cash prizes and share their work on Vermont PBS and at film festivals statewide in the 2017 Freedom and Unity TV Vermont Youth Film Contest.

The deadline for the third annual competition, which accepts short films with a Vermont focus, is March 26, 2017. To get rules, enter, and watch films from last years contest, visit: [freedomandunitytv.org](http://freedomandunitytv.org).

Since its creation in 2015, the Freedom and Unity TV Vermont Youth Film Contest has drawn over 200 entries from across Vermont. The winning films have been screened at the White River Indie Film Festival, the Vermont International Film Festival, and at Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. They've also been broadcast on Vermont PBS and on public access stations across the state.

This year's competition will step things up in a big way. In addition to including middle-school students, there will be a two-day Youth Film Festival and Media Maker Conference on May 6 and 7, 2017, at the Briggs Opera House in White River Junction. Audiences will be able to view the winning films, participate in workshops taught by professional filmmakers, and more.

"We're thrilled to expand our focus," says contest coordinator Signe Taylor. "I think middle school students will bring fantastic new voices to the festival and I can't wait to see what these young people will create. I'm also excited about adding workshops into this year's festival."

"We are looking for Vermont-focused films with a range of themes, from history and contemporary issues to personal stories, culture, and the arts," says contest founder Nora Jacobson. "We want to hear what young Vermonters have to say about their home state: What do they think about, what are their concerns, passions, and hopes for the future?"

The film contest is an outgrowth of *Freedom & Unity: The Vermont Movie*, a six-part film on

Vermont history and culture created by 30-plus Vermont filmmakers and shown statewide in 2014. Ms. Jacobson served as executive producer. "When we finished, we realized that the film was lacking young voices," says Jacobson. "We created the film competition so those voices could be heard."

Freedom and Unity TV has also announced a new \$3,500 Work-In-Progress Filmmaking Award. Vermont filmmakers working on a film in any genre or length that was shot in Vermont, or includes a Vermont theme, who are not currently enrolled in an educational institution, are eligible to apply. The deadline is February 15, 2017. To learn more, visit: <http://thevermontmovie.com>.

For more information, contact Signe Taylor, contest coordinator, at (802) 384-1111, or e-mail: [signe.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:signe.taylor@gmail.com); Nora Jacobson, contest director, at (802) 649-3242, or e-mail: [nora.jacobson@gmail.com](mailto:nora.jacobson@gmail.com); or find out more at <https://freedomandunitytv.org>. — from Freedom and Unity TV.

## Haskell Opera House appoints new director

The trustees of the Haskell Free Library and Opera House are pleased to announce the appointment of Hal Newman of Stanstead, Quebec, as the new director of the Haskell Opera House.

In keeping with the cross-border nature of the Haskell, Mr. Newman was raised in Montreal West and attended university in the United States. After a career as, among other things, a paramedic, Hal and his family moved to Stanstead six years ago, where he works as a chief marketing officer for a cardiovascular research company and social media specialist for emergency management.

Mr. Newman has been involved in the arts throughout his life. Over the past two years, he

has been the organizer and chief concert host of the Stanstead House Concerts Network, which has brought dozens of artists to Stanstead and the region.

"We're excited to welcome Hal to the Haskell team," said Haskell board president Matthew Farfan. "He cares about the community, and he brings with him an awareness of the performing arts culture on both sides of the border. We look forward to Hal putting his vision and acute networking skills in place to make the Haskell Opera House a must-perform venue for artists."

For more information on the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, contact Matthew Farfan at (819) 564-9595, or [mf@qahn.org](mailto:mf@qahn.org). — from the Haskell Opera House.

### NOTICE:

## TMA SALE DAYS



The Orleans Snowstormers Snowmobile Club will be available on December 10 & 11 from 1-5 p.m. at Village Pizza in Orleans for those who wish to purchase their Early Bird TMAs and club memberships. Applicant **MUST** have a current registration. Come and take advantage of the Early Bird discounts.

For more info, contact: Gloria, at (802) 334-6179, or e-mail: [gramg7@live.com](mailto:gramg7@live.com).

### NOTICE:

#### Town of Irasburg

### There is an open position on the Select Board.

Persons interested in the open position should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board, either through e-mail at: [irasburgtc@comcast.net](mailto:irasburgtc@comcast.net), or by mail to: P.O. Box 51, Irasburg, VT 05845, or it can be dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office.

### PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s), or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to: the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602. (802-828-2231).

#### Vermont Sales and Use Tax Regulations.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 16P077

AGENCY: Dept. of Taxes, Agency of Administration

CONCISE SUMMARY: This is a revision of the sales and use tax regulations, which were last updated November 1, 2010. The revision will help taxpayers better understand how to comply with sales and use tax law by adding language to reflect changes in the underlying statute and to address ambiguity in the current regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Candace Morgan, Department of Taxes, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401. Tel.: 802-828-0141. E-mail: [candace.morgan@vermont.gov](mailto:candace.morgan@vermont.gov). URL: <http://tax.vermont.gov>.

FOR COPIES: Kirby Keeton, Vermont Department of Taxes, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401. E-mail: [kirby.keeton@vermont.gov](mailto:kirby.keeton@vermont.gov).

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Village of Barton, in the County of Orleans and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by Barton Village, Inc. for the year 2015, and delinquent electric and water and sewer charges in favor of Barton Village, Inc. remain either in whole or in part unpaid on the following described land and premises in said town, to wit:

#### PARCEL NO. 1:

Name of Taxpayer: CHRISTINE BEASLEY

#### Description of Property

It being all and the whole of the same land and premises conveyed by Warranty Deed dated May 13, 2004 and recorded in Book 126, Page 537 of the Town of Barton Land Records from Michael J. Hunt and Kimberly A. Hunt to James Beasley and Christine M. Beasley, the interest therein of the said James Beasley having been decreed unto Christine M. Beasley by virtue of a Final Order Ancillary to Foreign Divorce issued by the Vermont Superior Court, Family Division in the matter entitled Christine Beasley vs. James Beasley, said Order being dated August 14, 2012 and recorded in Book 164, Pages 205-206 of the Town of Barton Land Records.

	AMOUNT OF TAXES
	<u>COLLECTOR'S FEES, INTEREST AND COSTS</u>
YEAR 2015:	\$ 1,112.58

#### PARCEL NO. 2:

Name of Taxpayer: MICHAEL HEALY and JULIE HEALY

#### Description of Property

It being all and the same land and premises as conveyed by Warranty Deed dated November 8, 1989 and recorded in Book 80, Pages 90-91 of the Town of Barton Land Records from Earl LaClair and Margaret LaClair to Michael Healy and Julie Bean.

	AMOUNT OF TAXES
	<u>COLLECTOR'S FEES, INTEREST AND COSTS</u>
YEAR 2015:	\$1,074.45

2015 - Water	AMOUNT OF DELINQUENT WATER
	<u>CHARGES, COLLECTOR'S FEES, INTEREST AND COSTS:</u>
	\$ 73.51

#### PARCEL NO. 3:

Name of Taxpayer: SCOTT PRAY and KENDALL OGDEN

#### Description of Property

It being all and the whole of the same land and premises conveyed by Warranty Deed dated August 23, 2012 and recorded in Book 163, Pages 755-756 of the Town of Barton Land Records from Bruce H. Conley and Janice C. Conley to Scott A. Pray and Kendell Ogden.

	AMOUNT OF TAXES
	<u>COLLECTOR'S FEES, INTEREST AND COSTS</u>
YEAR 2015	\$ 356.26

And such lands and premises will be sold at public auction at the Barton Town Clerk's Office in the Village of Barton, Vermont, a public place within said municipality, on the 18th day of January, 2017, as per the following schedule:

PARCEL NO. 1 - 10:00 A.M., PARCEL NO. 2 - 10:03 A.M., PARCEL NO. 3 - 10:06 A.M. unless such taxes respectively assessed against the aforesaid properties, together with costs, interest and fees, shall have been previously paid.

Pursuant to Title 32, Section 5254 (b), Vermont Statutes Annotated, an owner of property being sold for taxes may request in writing, not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the tax sale, that only a portion of the property be sold. Such request must clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and must be accompanied by a certification from the district environmental commission and the Village of Barton zoning administrative officer that the portion identified may be subdivided and meets the minimum lot size requirements. In the event that the portion so identified by the taxpayer cannot be sold for the amount of the unpaid tax and costs, then the entire property will be sold to pay such unpaid tax and costs.

Taxpayers are further advised of their right to have a hearing before the Village of Barton Board for the Abatement of Taxes in accordance with the provisions of Title 24, Section 1535, Vermont Statutes Annotated. Taxpayers wishing to have such a hearing must contact the Clerk of the Village of Barton to request such a hearing.

Dated at the Village of Barton, Vermont, this 6th day of December, 2016.

ATTEST: s/a Shelia Martin  
Shelia Martin, Tax Collector for the  
Village of Barton, Vermont

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# The Northeast Kingdom Fund awards \$80,000 in grants

The Northeast Kingdom Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation made \$80,000 in grants to 26 organizations in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia counties this year. The fund was established in 2011 by the Community Foundation and local partners as a permanent philanthropic resource to support the people and communities in the region.

This year's grant making was supported in part by the Stony Point Foundation and many other donors from across Vermont. The support of these donors demonstrates the importance of philanthropic collaboration and partnership in advancing the work of communities in the Northeast Kingdom.

"2016 marks the fifth year of grant making for the Northeast Kingdom Fund," said Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, senior philanthropic advisor at the Community Foundation. "We are pleased to announce that we have contributed over \$300,000 to more than 100 projects in the Kingdom from 2012 to 2016, including grants that support greater civic engagement; protect the environment; enhance education in many forms; and improve health care, food security, housing, and other social services for vulnerable Kingdom families and individuals."

The Vermont Community Foundation celebrated this year's grantees on December 7, at an event in Newport at the Gateway Center.

To learn more about the Northeast Kingdom Fund, visit [www.vermontcf.org/NEKFund](http://www.vermontcf.org/NEKFund). To register for the Northeast Kingdom Fund Grants Celebration, visit [www.vermontcf.org/Dec7](http://www.vermontcf.org/Dec7).

Grant recipients for 2016 include \$4,500 for

The Art House in Craftsbury to support a project that brings professional dancers and musicians into early childhood classrooms to develop executive functions through creative movement and music-making.

Brighton Elementary School received \$1,000 to support field trips for middle school students to extend classroom learning. About one third of the school's population receives special education services and many students experience poverty firsthand.

The town of Canaan received \$2,500 to support a project where students will repair and restore the abandoned camp and sugarhouse in the Canaan Community Forest for public use.

Catamount Film and Arts received \$4,000 to support arts integrated programming and professional development in two NEK Head Start centers in the 2016-2017 school year.

Coutts-Moriarty Camp received \$5,000 to support adding indoor rock climbing to their community recreation center, providing four-season access to a popular activity not currently available in either Orleans or Essex counties.

Craftsbury Public Library received \$2,147.60 to support a reading program, and to purchase more large print books for residents at the Craftsbury Community Care Center to help keep seniors active, thinking, and talking about reading.

Dailey Memorial Library received \$1,500 to support the installation of three new computers and software for group projects, classes, and workshops serving four towns in Orleans County

(Continued on page thirty-three.)

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www.vianor.com

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# 26 organizations received grants

(Continued from page thirty-two.)

where many people don't have access to high-speed internet at home.

North Country Supervisory Union received \$4,000 to support educational programs about diversity in the Encore After School and Summer Programs. This grant is made in memory of Kingdom poet David Budbill, who cared deeply about social justice.

Greater Barton Arts Incorporated received \$975 to support three week-long half-day workshops emphasizing drawing, color theory, and painting for students ages six to 18.

Green Mountain Farm-to-School received \$5,000 to support programs increasing access to local food and nutrition education by launching a local food marketing campaign at grocery stores in Barton, Craftsbury, Irasburg, Island Pond, and Newport.

Leach Public Library received \$2,812 to support the expansion of its afterschool program to offer Irasburg elementary school students a variety of high-quality, diverse enrichment courses for the 2016-2017 school year.

Museum of Everyday Life received \$1,500 to offer free informative exhibitions, performances, events, and workshops to residents of the Northeast Kingdom.

NEK Kids on the Move received \$4,000 to support mini-grants to area schools to foster lifelong healthy habits among youth by taking advantage of the region's abundant year-round recreational opportunities.

Northeast Kingdom All Star

Band and Chorus received \$850 to support educational and performance opportunities for Northeast Kingdom youth with the purchase of a sound system for rehearsals and small concerts.

Northeast Kingdom Human Services received \$3,081 to support addiction recovery programs for individuals including peer support and family focused materials that provide reinforcement for relatives of those living with addiction.

Vermont Council on Rural Development received \$1,000 to support an initiative bringing Kingdom residents together, setting priorities, constructing action plans, leveraging resources, and advancing community and economic revitalization projects.

Vermont Foodbank received \$4,000 to support the VeggieVanGo program in St. Johnsbury. VeggieVanGo aims to help people sustain a healthy lifestyle, providing students and hospital patients in St. Johnsbury with fresh produce.

VTDigger.org received \$4,000 to support news coverage of the Northeast Kingdom counties, exploring issues and concerns important to the people of the Northeast Kingdom through their renowned investigative journalism.

Finally, Vermont Works for Women received \$5,000 to support Dirt Divas, an outdoor adventure-based camp for middle-school girls, ages 11 to 16, which develops grit, connection, and a sense of expanded possibilities through mountain biking and bike repair.

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### Special Report

Saving money on everyday expenses is a goal for many adults. Certain expenses, loan payments, can be more difficult to pare down than others. But ways adults can save on everyday expenses without overhauling their daily routine

Transportation

Transportation is a significant expense for many adults. Federal and state taxes, administrative fees, and other costs can add up quickly. An alternative is to use public transportation, which can be a cost-effective way to get to work. Carpooling is another option that can help reduce expenses. Families with children can also save by using public transportation for school runs. For those who must drive, carpooling with a friend or family member can help reduce the cost of gas and wear and tear on the vehicle. Even when gas prices are low, carpooling can still save substantial amounts of money. Utilizing public transportation in driving to work can help reduce expenses. Even adults who live in auto-dependent areas can save by using public transportation to get to work, which allows commuters to reduce their car expenses. That reduced wear



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## The Outside Story

## The color of cranberries

by Tim Traver

As a kid fidgeting at my grandmother's Thanksgiving table, I often wondered, what's the point of cranberries? She had a live-in Irish cook who insisted on serving whole cranberries suspended in a kind of gelatinous inverted bog. If I ventured to eat a berry I experienced the power of my gag reflex.

How times change! The humble American cranberry, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, in my opinion, is worthy of a downright *homage*. I am a fan. Yes, cranberries are tart, sour, and even bitter, but that makes them both good food and strong medicine. The Wampanoag called them *ibimi*, meaning sour or bitter berries. They crushed them into animal fats and dried deer meat to make pemmican, a food full of energy and vitamin C for long winter trips. Mariners brought them on sea voyages to fend off scurvy. According to passed down knowledge, the Algonquin used the leaves of cranberry to treat bladder infections, arthritis, and diabetes-related circulation problems.

I became interested in cranberries when I discovered them growing above the tree line in the White Mountains years ago. These are mountain cranberries, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*. Smaller than their cousin *macrocarpon*, and nestled in with crowberry, bilberry, dwarfed birches and other alpine specialists, *V. vitis-idaea* is the same species Scandinavians call lingonberries. Rural Swedes gather lingon in mass quantities from their northern central valleys. They eat lingon sylt (cranberry sauce) all winter long. A dollop of lingon goes on everything from white fish to cabbage. The Finns eat lingon

and mashed potatoes with sautéed reindeer. Russians preserve lingon in water and sometimes use it to flavor vodka. The berries are so high in benzoic acid that, cooked down with sugar, they need no refrigeration.

My wife, who spent part of her childhood in Sweden, remembers going out with the family to gather lingonberries by the gallon. She used a tool shaped like a broad fork with teeth that separated berries from leaves and directed them into a canvas bag. Lingon sylt was kept in loose-lidded bean pots, served with school lunches and often eaten with blood pudding or other pork dishes.

All summer I watched the mountain cranberries, waiting for them to turn red so I could harvest and eat them. But they resisted turning uniformly until late in the fall. Instead, they exhibited a host of shades, mid-summer onward: porcelain white, verdigris, pale pink, and red as deep as my father's ruddy cheeks. (Crayola crayons recognized the skin tone qualities of cranberry when in 2005 they changed the official color cranberry, added in 1998, to "blush"). Only that part of the berry most exposed to sun turns bright red early in the season.

The color reflects the production of anthocyanins in response to bright sun exposure. Anthocyanins give cranberry skin its apparent sun-blocking and cell damage repairing powers (the same is true for the delicate new leaves of sugar maple and many other trees in the spring, when they take on a reddish tone).

According to John Sauve, a wild berry marketing expert with the Food and Wellness Group in Portland, Maine, anthocyanin is "part of

the health story," used to promote the berry as a health food. It's an anti-oxidant purported to reduce cell inflammation and prevent DNA damage, and perhaps lower the risk of some cancers. But procyanidins (PACs) are the main story. PACs seem to prevent bacteria from adhering to stomach and urinary tract linings and gums, suggesting they can help prevent ulcers, urinary tract infections, even gum disease. Cranberry juice has long been used as a treatment for urinary tract infections, although a recent study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that cranberries did not decrease urinary tract infections in a nursing home population.

Whatever their health benefits, there is plenty of reason to appreciate these little red gems. If you sat down to cranberries at Thanksgiving, you were not alone. At least when it comes to this holiday food, the country is unified. Nearly 80 percent of all the fresh cranberries consumed annually are around Thanksgiving tables. And cranberries can be fixed so that even a finicky child can learn to like them, an Irish cook and her old world ways notwithstanding.

*Tim Traver is an author and freelance writer. Previously, he served as executive director of the Upper Valley Land Trust and co-directed the social service organization COVER Home Repair. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine, and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: wellborn@nhcf.org. A book compilation of Outside Story articles is available at <http://www.northernwoodlands.org>.*

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