

THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD

Established 1837

WWW.CALEDONIANRECORD.COM

75 Cents



SPORTS
Defying
The Odds
Page B1

LYNDON
CNEA Union Dispels
Contract 'Rumors' At LTS
Page A3

ST. JOHNSBURY
Selectboard Member
Calls Out Chairman
Page A4



ST. JOHNSBURY NEW RULE

Select Board
Updates
Noise Ordinance

BY TAYLOR REED
Staff Writer

ST. JOHNSBURY — Selectmen last week unanimously voted to prohibit objectionable noises as defined by town planners in a new ordinance.

It takes effect in about 60 days unless residents petition to appeal it. The document is built upon an existing noise ordinance.

The new ordinance regulates noise makers such as construction, stereos, car alarms, car horns, engine noise, and "defects in vehicle, or operation of vehicle."

Fines of up to \$200 may be assessed. Police have authority to determine if noise amounts to a disturbance.

St. Johnsbury does not own a decibel meter and does not plan to purchase one. Decibel meters on Amazon cost from \$21 to \$180.

Selectmen are pleased with the new ordinance. Board members said it is a "starting point," and will likely change in the future.

"It's a very good correction to what we have now, or an improvement," said Selectman Jim Rust, board chairman.

The ordinance has not yet been posted publicly, but is scheduled to be this week, according to the planning commission. The ordinance will take effect 60 days following its posting, unless five percent of registered voters sign a petition to appeal it.

The ordinance states, "The purpose of this ordinance is to protect, preserve and promote the health, safety, welfare, peace and quiet for the citizens of St. Johnsbury through the reduction, control and prevention of objectionable noise. The intent of this ordinance is to establish standards which will eliminate and reduce unnecessary noises which are physically harmful or otherwise detrimental to the enjoyment of life, property and maintenance of business."

The three-page document in-

See **Noise**, Page A6

ST. JOHNSBURY

RUST NOT A CANDIDATE FOR MANAGER

Vice-Chair Ruggles Criticizes Rust's Leadership Style

BY TODD WELLINGTON
Staff Writer

There was high drama at the St. Johnsbury select board meeting last night as vice-chairman Alan Ruggles called-out chairman Jim Rust as a bully and a "bad chair" and Rust ended weeks of speculation by declaring that he is not a candidate for the open position of Town Manager.

In addition, residents Ray Labounty asked Rust to resign from the board and said he had reason to believe that there were town employees who could file a "hos-

tile workplace" lawsuit against the town. In addition, the board opened a sealed box containing 39 resumes for the job of town manager.

But it was Ruggles' statement, which he read during the public comment section of the meeting, that kicked the proceedings into high gear.

"After witnessing the Chairman's mistreatment of town citizens and businesses and concealing items from the board, I cannot take it any longer," said Ruggles, who launched his attack on Rust's chairmanship while also defending himself

See **Management**, Page A6



The select board eyes the box containing 39 applications for Town Manager that human resources manager Courtney Daniels, right, just delivered.

See Also

■ Full text of Alan Ruggles' statement.
Page A4

LITTLETON

HORSE NEGLECT CHARGES

Police: Horses Had No
Water In New Violations

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON, N.H. — The recent case of horse neglect in Littleton has led to five charges of animal cruelty for the man who was their caretaker.

David A. Yeagle, 40, of 2220 North Littleton Road, Littleton, was arrested Friday on a warrant and charged with five misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty.

Police said Yeagle negligently and without lawful authority deprived five horses of necessary care and sustenance while they were in his possession.

Although Yeagle was told his caring of the horses would be monitored by state officials, his affidavit for arrest alleges the animals lacked water when they were checked Thursday.

Yeagle was released on \$10,000 personal recognizance bail and is scheduled to answer for the charges in Littleton District Court on Jan. 8.

His arrest comes two weeks after animal rescue volunteers confiscated 18 of 23 full-size and miniature horses on the North Littleton Road property.

In October, police began receiving calls from passersby concerned about the condition of the animals that could be seen from the road.

With Yeagle's permission, police and state veterinary officials visited the property. Authorities and rescue volunteers said they found the animals lacking food and access to fresh water and standing in 8 inches of mud and manure.

Yeagle was told conditions needed to improve or he would face criminal charges. Yeagle, they said, indicated he understood.

On Nov. 21, however, several weeks after police and veterinary officials said the conditions did not improve



David Yeagle

and the well-being of the animals was at greater risk, Yeagle was told to sign over the horses to a rescue farm or face charges.

Last week, police said five horses being lined up for new homes still remained on the property and Yeagle had agreed to take care of them until they transition to the homes.

But on Thursday, a veterinary technician from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, while conducting a followup visit, identified no water for the five horses, said police.

Upon arrival, police said they located Yeagle, who was attempting to fill the water troughs and who they said admitted he had not provided water to the horses since the previous day, 20 hours before.

"[Yeagle] also reported that two teenage males were filling the troughs with buckets due to the hose being frozen," said police.

Yeagle, according to court records, had been asked by state veterinary technicians in early November to fill

See **Animal Cruelty**, Page A6

NEK

CNSU, ECSU TALK 'VIRTUAL' MERGER

Ways to Save Money, Improve
Outcomes On Joint SU Table

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

LYNDONVILLE — The superintendents of two Northeast Kingdom supervisory unions — Caledonia North Supervisory Union and Essex Caledonia Supervisory Union — as well as a handful of school directors from both supervisory unions met for the first time recently to talk about ways the two can perhaps join hands to save money and improve their school systems.

Brian Rayburn, the superintendent of ECSU and Marie Fay, a member of the ECSU Executive Board and chair of the Guildhall school board, came to a meeting with CNSU Superintendent Victoria Scheuffer and two members of the CNSU Executive Board — Celeste Girrell, chair of the board, and Tony DeMasi, chair of the Burke school board, and Al Dilley, a Lyndon School Board director and Vice Chairman of the CNSU Executive Board.

A second ECSU board member, its chair, Jennifer Smith, a Waterford school director, also was part of the first official meeting for the two supervisory unions to talk about possible collaboration — she called in from out of state and was on speaker phone for the meeting last week at CNSU.

Rayburn handed out a copy of the ECSU draft budget for the CNSU side to look over.

"I guess the purpose of tonight is ECSU has been tasked with looking at consolidation efforts, shared services, ways that our SU can reduce costs, so we opened it up to several surrounding SUs and CNSU was kind enough to invite us for tonight, so I want to throw out some ideas and you guys can tell me if it fits within your plan or thoughts," said Rayburn.

Rayburn suggested that perhaps ECSU's payroll, now done on different schedules for differ-

See **Virtual Merger**, Page A6

ESSEX

OFFICIALS EXPLAIN HOW COUPLE 'FOUGHT TO THE END' WITH KILLER

BY WILSON RING
Associated Press

BURLINGTON — An Essex, Vt., couple who disappeared last year were the victims of an Alaska man who set out across the country intent on kidnapping and murdering someone and picked them because the layout of their house lent itself to an invasion, authorities said Monday.

Israel Keyes cut a phone line to test for the presence of an alarm system and wore a headlamp during what he called a "blitz" attack on the Essex home of Bill and Lorraine Currier in the dead of night, officials said at a news conference in Burlington.

Keyes died over the weekend in an Alaska jail, apparently in a suicide, as he awaited trial in another death in that state. Authorities say he confessed both crimes to investigators and may be responsible for

five other killings around the country.

Keyes tied up the Curriers, drove them to an abandoned house, and shot one and strangled the other, authorities said. Both tried in vain to escape.

"By all accounts, they were friendly, peaceful, good people who encountered a force of pure evil acting at random," U.S. Attorney Tristram Coffin said.

Keyes flew from Alaska to Chicago on June 2, 2011, rented a car and drove almost 1,000 miles to Vermont, carrying a gun and silencer, authorities said. He spent three days in Vermont, even buying a short-term fishing license, officials said.

Keyes told investigators he chose the Curriers' home because it had an attached garage, no evidence of children or a dog, and the style of the house clued him in to the probable location of the master bedroom.

In preparing to break in, he cut the phone line to see whether it would trigger an alarm. He removed a

fan from a window to get into the garage on June 8 and smashed a window into the house with a crowbar that had been hanging on the wall of the garage.

"Keyes then engaged in what he called a 'blitz' attack on the Curriers, and ran to the room he had earlier predicted was the bedroom. Keyes estimated it took him approximately five to six seconds to get from the broken entry door to the Curriers' bedroom," Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan said. "During this time, Keyes wore a headlamp to provide lighting in the otherwise dark home."

After binding the two with zip ties, Keyes drove the Curriers, both in their 50s, to an abandoned house in Essex that he had already scouted. He tied Bill to a stool in the basement. Lorraine Currier had been left in the car and managed to escape. Keyes tackled the fleeing woman and brought her back to the house, Donovan said.

He shot Bill Currier in the basement with the si-

lenced gun. He then sexually assaulted and strangled Lorraine Currier, Donovan said, his voice breaking.

"It's clear from the facts of this case that, though confronted with death, Bill and Lorraine Currier showed extraordinary bravery and courage and an extreme dedication and love to each other," Donovan said. "And they fought to the end."

Keyes placed the bodies in garbage bags that he covered with debris in the basement of the abandoned home, which was later demolished. After Keyes began speaking to investigators in April, FBI teams spent months searching the landfill in northern Vermont where the debris was taken. The remains were never found.

After the killings, Keyes left the Curriers' car in a parking lot and drove his rental car to Maine. He then returned to Vermont and noticed the crime scene tape around the Currier home.

See **Killing**, Page A6

INSIDE

Vol. 175, No. 101
© THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD

Classifieds B6
Entertainment B4
For the Record A2
Opinion A4
Sports B1
Television B5



TODAY: Mostly cloudy,
light sprinkles possible



HIGH: 45
LOW: 36
Details on Page A2

NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK

\$16,381,612,505,229
Population: 313,986,199
Your share: \$52,173.03

"The budget should be balanced; the treasury should be refilled; public debt should be reduced; and the arrogance of public officials should be controlled." —Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

REGIONAL

Flags To Fly At Half-Staff
In Honor Of Vermont Lawmaker

High Bail For N.H. Couple
In Child Endangerment Case

Page A8

NATIONAL

Counteroffer: Medicare, Social Security On The
Table As GOP Issues New 'Fiscal Cliff' Offer

More Heavy Rain Expected To Hit
Drenched California

Page A7

Scan For Mobile
Web Access

www.caledonianrecord.com/m



LI Theater Co. presents
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
(A Musical) • By Donation
THU., & FRI., DEC. 6 & 7 • 7 PM
SAT., DEC. 8 • 2 PM
Lyndon Institute Alumni Auditorium

BUYING
Gold • Silver • Platinum
sunshine
BOUTIQUE
EASTERN AVE., ST. JOHNSBURY, VT
802-748-2933

FOR THE RECORD

OBITUARIES

RONALD D. GAULD

Ronald D. Gauld, 78, of West Topsham, Vt., and formerly of Tewksbury, Mass., died Dec. 1, 2012, at his home after a short illness surrounded by his family.

Ron was a Korean era Marine. He worked in the banking industry in the Boston area for 29 years before he retired to Vermont in 1989. He was a long time fan of the New England Patriots and a lover of outdoor activities.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Margaret Louise "Peg" Goetz Gauld of West Topsham, Vt.; his loving children, Brenda Page and her husband David of Merrimack, N.H., Ronal S. Gauld and his wife Barbara of Milton, Mass.; grandchildren, Michael and Matthew Ferdinand, Ronald J. and Alexander Gauld, Kyle, Ryan and Kara Westover and Christopher, Benjamin and Gregory Page; one brother, James Gauld of Georgia; and one sister, Koreen Mefford of Texas; as well as several nieces and nephews.

There will be no services or visiting's hours. Burial will be held at a later date in the family lot.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to Little Rivers Health Care of East Corinth, c/o Administration, Bradford, VT 05033.

The Hale Funeral Home of Bradford, Vt., is in charge of arrangements.

ALLVIN LAWRENCE LEONARD

1934-2012

Allvin "Whitey" Lawrence Leonard, 78, of Lancaster, N.H., passed away in the comfort of his home on Monday morning Dec. 3, 2012. He was born on Jan. 28, 1934, a son to the late Carl and Rita (Johnson) Leonard.

Family and friends are invited to visiting hours on Saturday 11 to 1 p.m. at Bailey Funeral Home with a Masonic service being performed at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 147, Lancaster, NH 03584

Please go to www.baileyfh.net for more information or to send an online condolence.

CHERYL A. COOLBETH OLSON

1943-2012

Cheryl A. Coolbeth Olson, 68, of East Weymouth, Mass., and a Lyndonville native, passed away at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Mass., on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, of a heart-related ailment.

Cheryl was born in Lyndonville on Dec. 10, 1943, the older daughter of Ernest and Beverly (Simpson) Coolbeth. She graduated from Lyndon Institute with the class of 1962 and was pleased to have attended her 50th reunion this past June.

She married John M. Olson Sr. April 3, 1982 and moved to Weymouth, Mass. Previously she had worked as a cashier at Edmund's Pharmacy and White's Market both in Lyndonville. Until retiring five years ago, she worked the night shift as a pharmaceutical technician at the CVS Pharmacy in Weymouth.

She is survived by her husband John; father and mother Ernie and Beverly Coolbeth of Lyndonville; Cheryl and John's twins Jillian Louise Olson and Karl William Olson both of Weymouth, Mass.; Cheryl's older daughter Donna Laferriere and her husband Lionel of Lyndonville, and John's son John Olson Jr. of Quincy, Mass.; grandchildren; sister Judith Taylor and husband Steve of Lyndonville, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles.

Visiting hours will be held at the Guibord Funeral Home this Friday evening, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. and will conclude with a prayer service led by the Rev. Judi Horgan beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Memorial contributions, marked for the class of 1962's annual gift and directed to The Development Office, could be mailed to Lyndon Institute, PO Box 127, Lyndon Center VT 05850.

Guibord Funeral Home is located on the corner of Main and Center streets in Lyndonville.



NEWS BRIEFS

Holland Budgets To Be Decided By Australian Ballot

HOLLAND — School budgets here will be henceforth decided by Australian ballot.

Assistant Town Clerk Diana Emmerson said Monday that the issue was decided by a voice vote from the floor Nov. 28 during a special school district meeting and that there were between 30 and 40 voters present.

Better Back Roads Grant Benefits Wheelock

WHELOCK — The town received a Better Back Roads grant to deal with an erosion problem on the Vertical Mile Road, town officials announced in recent days.

The Vertical Mile Ditching Project was recently completed, said Town Clerk and Treasurer Michelle Trotter, who said the town received a grant of \$10,000 for the project. The total project cost was \$13,664.64.

"We removed trees and shrubs within the Town's right-of-way, removed ditch material 4' wide and 3' deep to prepare it for the geotextile fabric which we then lined with 12" minus rock," according to a letter the town sent to the Better Back Roads Small Grant Program in Berlin, Vt., about the completed project. "We also seeded and hayed and mulched the area to control erosion."

According to the letter, "The expected benefits of this project were to create a water channel to stabilize the road thus holding the road to a better quality surface."

Women Approach Home in Lyndonville, Alleging State Investigation

LYNDONVILLE — On Saturday afternoon, Officer Brandon Thraikill received a call of suspicious circumstances in the area of Valley Lane, said Police Chief Jack Harris. "A resident reported that at about 3:15 p.m., a Ford Escape with New York plates on it pulled into his driveway."

"In the vehicle were three females. The black female, described as being late 30s to early 40s, was dressed in business attire, whereas the two white females in the vehicle were not," said Harris. "The female in business attire verbally identified herself as working with Human Services," he said. "The female advised that she was looking to speak with the female resident of the Valley Lane address in regards to an investigation the woman was investigating. When advised that the woman requested was not at home, the female stated that she would return on Monday, Dec. 3, to speak with her," the chief continued.

Harris, in a statement issued on Monday, went on, stating, "The female resident, who is employed with a State agency, immediately made calls to her supervisor's and the Human Services (agency), to see if anyone was looking for her. The female resident was advised by both state agencies that no one was looking for her, and if so, they would have contacted her directly," he stated. "At this time, this incident is similar to an incident handled by the Vermont State Police," recently, noted Chief Harris. "In that incident, a female claimed to work for DCF," he stated.

"At this time, the Lyndonville Police are looking for any information about the three females, the Ford Escape with New York plates or the circumstances around them approaching the residence." Anyone with any information is urged to call the Lyndonville Police Department at 802-626-1271.

The Numbers

DAILY PICKS (Monday, Dec. 3)

Day Draw — Pick 3: 9-6-4; Pick 4: 0-4-9-1
Evening Draw — Pick 3: 6-4-3; Pick 4: 8-7-9-3

Local Forecast

Today: Some limited sun, then mostly cloudy, with areas of fog. Patchy drizzle and sprinkles possible. Highs in the middle 40s. South to southeast winds of 5-10 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy with a band of showers moving through from west to east. Patchy fog. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds of 5-10 mph, turning northwest and increasing to 10-15 mph late.
Tomorrow: Any rain showers ending early, then partly sunny with a few flurries developing in the afternoon, mainly over the higher terrain. Little or no snow accumulation. Early highs around 40. Northwest winds of 10-15 mph, with gusts to 25.
Extended Forecast:
Wednesday Night: A few flurries, then decreasing clouds. Lows around 25.
Thursday: Partly cloudy, then becoming mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s.
Thursday Night: Clear, then a few high clouds late. Lows 15-20.
Friday: Strongly filtered sunshine. Highs in the low to mid 30s.
Friday Night: Becoming cloudy with a rising chance for rain and snow showers late. Lows 30-35.
Saturday: Cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Highs 36-41.

Daily Weather Highlights

The cold front that moved through early yesterday morning stalled out to our south last night, and is now pushing back to the north as a warm front. While this will introduce much milder air aloft, surface winds from the south and southeast will draw in maritime air. This will mean mild temperatures, lots of clouds, and perhaps even some drizzle and sprinkles. The front will continue to lift north of the area tonight, and then a cold front will quickly zip in from the west, resulting in a band of more concentrated showers. Air of a more seasonal nature will pour in behind the front tomorrow, kicking up a few snow showers in the process. High pressure will provide fair weather through the rest of the work-week, says Chris Bouchard of the Fairbanks Museum weather station.

Maximum this date (1982) 63
Minimum this date (20)
HUMIDITY
95%
DEWPOINT
36
WINDS
2 mph, 5 max variable
BAROMETER
30.28 Rising
PRECIPITATION
New 0.25 in.
Total for Month 0.31 in.
Normal Total 0.31 in.
SNOWFALL
Past 24 Hours 0.0 in.
Monthly Total 0.7 in.
Season Total 4.6 in.
Season Norm To Date 8.9 in.
Snowpack 0.0 in.
ALMANAC
Sunrise today 7:08 a.m.
Sunset today 4:09 p.m.
Length of day 9 hrs. 1 min.
DEGREE DAYS
Average temp. difference below 65°
Yesterday' 33
To date since July 1 1787
To date last year 1503
* calculated for the day before yesterday

CONDITIONS AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY
Cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Temp. at 4 p.m. 37
Maximum past 24 hours 46
Minimum past 24 hours 37
Yesterday's average 42
Normal average 29
Maximum this month 46
Minimum this month 5

POLICE LOGS

STATE — ST. JOHNSBURY

Trooper Matthew Tarricone responded to a single vehicle crash on Nov. 30 at 1:41 p.m. on Berry Hill Road in Sheffield. Megan Austin, 20, Danville, lost control of 2005 Chevy Cobalt on a snowy roadway. Austin's vehicle sustained major front end damage. Austin was wearing a seat belt. The trooper did not indicate whether there were any injuries.

At 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 1, Trooper Matthew Tarricone responded to a two-vehicle rear end collision on the I-91 southbound exit ramp in Lyndon. Jerry Randall, 59, Danville, was the operator of a 2008 GMC Sierra pickup that sustained minor rear end damage when a 2012 Hyundai Sonata driven by Michelle Roche, 50, Jefferson, Mass., failed to stop on the snowy roadway and crashed into the back of Randall's pickup. Roche's Hyundai sustained severe front end damage. She was wearing a seat belt. The trooper did not indicate whether there were any injuries.

Trooper Sean Brennan responded to Underpass Road in Sutton at 9:48 p.m. on Nov. 30 for a single vehicle crash. Dennis Bessette, 58, West Burke, was the operator of a 2003 Toyota Tundra when he lost control of his vehicle and struck several trees. Subsequently, it was determined that Bessette was operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Bessette was taken into custody and processed for drunk driving. He is scheduled to appear in Caledonia Superior Court on Dec. 17 to answer to the charge.

A 57-year-old Quebec man was not hurt when the vehicle he was driving Sunday morning on Interstate 91 in St. Johnsbury struck a deer. Ubald Beauchesne, of Bury Quebec, was wearing a seat belt. The vehicle, a 2013 Toyota Venza, was towed from the scene.

Police cited Steven Simonds, 34, St. Johnsbury, for driving while under license suspension. Trooper Matthew Tarricone reported that Simonds was stopped while driving in Concord on Sunday morning.

Zachariah Farrington, 33, Lyndon, lost control of a 1998 Subaru Legacy

on Nov. 29, while driving near the intersection of Route 122 and Sulfur Spring Road in Wheelock. Police reported snow, speed and bald tires contributed to the crash. The car struck a granite veterans memorial, which overturned. No injuries were reported.

Josh Mathieu, 25, St. Johnsbury, was arrested, processed and released by police on Nov. 30 for violating conditions of release. Police noted he texted Karina Haslen, 20, of Lyndon, nine times. He was not supposed to contact Haslen. Mathieu is set for arraignment on Jan. 28.

ST. JOHNSBURY

Police arrested Brooke O'Dell, 38, St. Johnsbury, on Saturday, when she failed to sign in at the police department as ordered by the court. This failure is in violation of conditions of release.

Joanne C. Way, 22, of Lyndonville, was arrested on Saturday for violating a condition of release that required she sign in at the police department at a certain time.

Police stopped a vehicle Saturday evening for failing to stop at a red light at the intersection of Concord Avenue and Portland Street. Officer George Johnson stated the driver, Philip Kurtgis, 35, of St. Johnsbury, was found to be driving drunk. Kurtgis was arrested for the offense and was ordered to report for arraignment at court on Dec. 17.

STATE — DERBY

No injuries were reported in a crash on Interstate 91 in Barton on Nov. 29. Police determined that Richard Morin, 41, of Newport, was driving a Pontiac Grand Prix, left the snow-covered roadway and struck the guardrail. The vehicle spun around before stopping on the road. Morin was wearing a seat belt.

Joseph Norton III, 55, of Maidstone, was wearing a seat belt and was not injured in a crash on Route 105 in Brunswick on Nov. 29. Trooper Erika Liss stated the road at the time of the crash was covered with snow. Norton's vehicle, a 2000 Subaru Legacy slid off the road and into a tree.

PUBLIC MEETING

LITTLETON

School board, Thursday, Dec. 6, 4-6 pm., CHANGE OF LOCATION to high school cafeteria.

Meet with Littleton Town and School Budget to review school budget.

ADOPTIONS NEEDED



Mady is a sweet dainty kitty with unique facial markings hoping to find her forever home.

Sammie is about 2 years old and is one sweet and loving guy. He is housetrained and is looking for his new forever home.

All animals from Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter are spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccines, treated for internal and external parasites, health checked and microchipped.

MEADOW LEASING Littleton, N.H.



Ground Level Containers 20' - 40' Office Trailers 28' - 48' Storage Trailers 28' - 48'
1-800-762-7026 • 603-444-7026
Let Us Help You With All Your Storage Needs.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jean M. Minor and Debra A. Minor, dated April 27, 2009 and recorded in Volume 187 at Pages 447-451 of the land records of the municipality of Lyndon, of which mortgage NorthCountry Federal Credit Union is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold to the highest bidder at Public Auction at 99 York Street, Lyndon, Vermont, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of December, 2012 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, subject to any unpaid taxes and municipal assessments. The land and premises shall be sold in AS IS condition.

The real estate is described in the aforesaid mortgage as follows: Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Jean M. Minor (now deceased) and Debra A. Minor by Quit Claim Deed of Jean M. Minor dated August 25, 1982 and recorded in Volume 78 at Pages 448-449 of the Town of Lyndon Land Records and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being a certain parcel of land estimated to contain one (1) acre, more or less, together with the dwelling house and the other improvements thereon, located on the southerly side of York Street (formerly known as Little York Street) in that section of the Town of Lyndon known as Lyndon Corner. Also a small parcel of land located on the northerly side of said York Street. Also another parcel of land estimated to contain one (1) acre, more or less, located southerly of and adjacent to the parcel of land first hereinbefore mentioned. Being all of the same land and premises that were decreed to the Grantor herein, the said Jean M. Minor, but under the name Jean Minor, by the Vermont Probate Court for the District of Caledonia, in the matter of the Estate of Geraldine Provencier, by decree dated June 18, 1982 and recorded in Book 78 at Pages 327-329 of the Lyndon Land Records."

Reference is hereby made to the aforementioned instruments, the records thereof and the references therein contained, all in further aid of this description.

Terms of sale: The purchaser at the sale shall pay cash or certified funds (or a combination thereof) in full at the time of the sale, OR \$10,000 down (non-refundable) at the time of sale and the remainder within ten (10) days of the Vermont Superior Court Caledonia Civil Division's execution of the Order Confirming Sale.

The record owner is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure and Order of Public Sale dated January 3, 2012, including the costs and expenses of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale or inquire at 802-863-0307.

Dated at South Burlington, Vermont this 20th day of November, 2012.
WARD & BABB
Attorneys for NorthCountry Federal Credit Union

By: Cynthia R. Amrhein, Esq.
3069 Williston Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
Tel.: (802) 863-0307

THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD
Periodicals postage paid at St. Johnsbury, VT, Post Office, 05819. Published daily except Sunday, New Years, Thanksgiving and Christmas by The Caledonian-Record Pub. Co., Inc., 190 Federal St., P.O. Box 8, 190 Federal St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. Tel. 802-748-8121. Publication (USPS-083020). Postmaster send address changes to: The Caledonian-Record Pub. Co., Inc., 190 Federal St., P.O. Box 8, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Newsstands and Carriers: Daily.....\$0.75 Home Delivery (by carrier): 4 Weeks \$19.00 Mail Subscription Rates (Postal regulations require payment in advance) For VT and NH: 4 wks. \$19.00, 13 wks. \$57.00, 26 wks. \$110.00, 52 wks. \$212.00
Rights to layouts of advertising placed with The Caledonian-Record which are the creative effort of its staff and printing material supplied by The Caledonian-Record rest with The Caledonian-Record and may not be reproduced by photographic or similar methods without specific authorization of The Caledonian-Record.
The Caledonian-Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising but will reprint that part of any advertisement in which the typographical error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any error which may occur.

Online? Check us out:
www.caledonianrecord.com

LOCAL

HOLIDAY SCENES



ABOVE: A steady stream of parents and children wait to board the Polar Express bound for the North Pole Saturday. The train departed from the Freighthouse in Lyndonville.

RIGHT: Natalie Crockett, 4, East Burke, gives Santa Claus her wish list Saturday on the porch of the Darling Inn in Lyndonville.

PHOTO BY JAMES JARDINE



LYNDON

CNEA UNION DISPELS CONTRACT 'RUMORS' AT LTS

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

LYNDONVILLE — The co-president of the Caledonia North Education Association, Wayne Whitehill, said the union wished to clarify several rumors circulating over the initial rejection of the Lyndon School Board's ratification of the agreement for a new three-year contract with teachers.

The Lyndon board had initially rejected the contract ratification, with Chairman John Raymond citing the fee required to be paid by non-union members as the reason; a week later, the Lyndon board reconsidered and reversed its position, ratifying the contract in a re-vote. All the other schools in the SU saw their boards approve the agreement with the union, and the SU all boards meeting also approved the Tentative Agreement at its recent meeting.

At Monday night's meeting, the Lyndon board was set to re-affirm the contract ratification, the agenda showed.

In an interview last week, Whitehill said the union wished to do "a quick follow up about the Lyndon Board, which voted down the contract initially and then rescinded their vote which we're very thankful for, and so part of this is to say thank you

CONVICTED BURGLAR ASKS COURT TO SET ASIDE JURY VERDICT

Motion Based On Lost, Nondisclosed Evidence

BY JENNIFER HERSEY CLEVELAND
Staff Writer

NEWPORT CITY — A man convicted of burglarizing a Barton gravel pit — taking at least \$10,000 worth of tools and copper wire — is asking the court to set aside the jury's verdict and acquit him of the crimes.

Jason "J.D." Degreenia, 34, of Brownington, says the state withheld potentially exculpatory evidence from the defense, including his own alibi for the night in question in July 2011.

"The violations of due process in this case were extraordinarily prejudicial to the defense," Degreenia's attorney Gertrude Miller argued in her motion. "The due process violations were cumulative, staggering and devastating, and the aggregate effect generated guilty verdicts."

But State's Attorney Alan Franklin argues that lost evidence was not used in the investigation of Degreenia and that he's only speculating that it could have helped clear him.

Furthermore, Franklin argued, the jury was told they could infer that the missing evidence could have been exculpatory and constitute reasonable doubt, but convicted Degreenia nonetheless.

Degreenia stood accused of breaking into Willoughby Sand and Gravel, owned at the time by Ned and Barbara Fauser of Westmore, with co-defendants David Burns and Dean Perron, who both lived in Brownington at the time.

Degreenia was found guilty of felony counts of burglary and grand larceny after a trial in October, while the jury acquitted him of a felony count of unlawful mischief.

Miller raised the issue of lost or nondisclosed evidence prior to the trial, saying the state rushed to judgment after Burns and Perron confessed to police and implicated



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HERSEY CLEVELAND

Jason "J.D." Degreenia confers with his attorney Gertrude Miller during his October trial regarding the burglary of Willoughby Sand and Gravel in July 2011.

Degreenia in the crime.

But State's Attorney Alan Franklin said all of the stolen goods were found just where Burns said they were — right behind Degreenia's Pepin Road house.

Due Process Violation

Miller wrote that Degreenia's due process rights were violated when the state failed to disclose his waiver of his Miranda rights and his exculpatory statement.

The state's failure to preserve potentially exculpatory evidence — specifically photos, footprints, and a witness interview — constitutes a violation of Article 10 of the Vermont Constitution, Miller argued.

Miller said at an evidentiary hearing, Degreenia would testify that he told then Orleans County Sheriff's deputy David Jacobs that he'd been home drinking with Burns and Perron and that they'd taken off with his truck.

Miller wrote that Jacobs used intimidating tactics, like yelling and swearing at Degreenia while he was held in a tiny storage room, and refused to write down his statement.

When Degreenia asked if he could write it down, Jacobs didn't read the Miranda warning to him and gave him little time to read the form and sign away his Constitutional rights.

In his statement, Degreenia provided names of witnesses who could vouch for the fact that he was home all night.

"When Mr. Degreenia hurriedly scrawled his statement, he waived his Constitutional right to silence in one minute," Miller wrote. "That is not a knowing and voluntary waiver of his constitutional rights — but, because of nondisclosure, the Defense never had the opportunity to make that argument."

Believing the state had provided Miller with all evidence, Degreenia didn't mention his statement or Miranda waiver, nor did he tell her about the "highly irregular circumstances surrounding them."

In his response, Franklin wrote, "Who would know more about an alleged statement Defendant made than the Defendant himself?"

Franklin wrote it is hardly a violation on the state's part when Degreenia didn't notify his own attorney about the statement.

But Miller argued that even if the court didn't find the nondisclosure to be a due process violation, it is certainly a violation of Franklin's ethical obligations under the rules of professional conduct, which can serve as the basis for relief for the defendant as well as professional sanctions against Franklin.

Jacobs testified that he didn't find Degreenia's statement until the day before the trial began and said the reason for the delay was that the statement was of no use to the state in proving Degreenia's guilt, accord-

See **Jury Verdict**, Page A5



Introducing the new
Littleton Regional Healthcare.

Littleton Regional Healthcare is more than just a community hospital. We're a vital community resource. We're a place that's been around for more than 100 years, but has never stopped evolving to meet the healthcare needs of our patients, our community or our region. From maternity, emergency and ENT services, to pediatrics and our new surgical center, Littleton Regional Healthcare offers a full range of quality care, here at home.

Littleton Regional Healthcare — where good health begins.



Where good health begins.

LITTLETON
REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

littletonregionalhealthcare.org

Todd M. Smith, Publisher

OPINION

Dana Gray, Executive Editor

Editorial Comment ...

DEAR ALAN FRANKLIN...

Dear Alan Franklin,
Last year Walt Bogdanich, of the New York Times, was runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on medical radiation errors that injured thousands of Americans – including babies. His stories sparked a national discussion about the training and oversight of technologists operating increasingly powerful radiological equipment. Thanks to his reporting, steps were taken to protect helpless patients from serious harm.

Strangely, he was not prosecuted for trespassing – even though he ventured onto private property, at times, to gather information for his series.

Sincerely,
Todd M. Smith

Author's note: Alan Franklin is the state's attorney in Orleans County. He is prosecuting a veteran journalist, Chris Braithwaite, for "trespassing" on property that Green Mountain Power claims is theirs. The legally disputed property was the scene of a protest, and arrests, on which Braithwaite was reporting.

In unrelated cases Franklin recently signed sweetheart plea deals for a pair of confessed attempted murderers. Andrew Ladouceur confessed to repeatedly stabbing his victim during a robbery attempt for which Franklin agreed he should serve 48-months. Deontae (D-Rock) McNeil pleaded no-contest for shooting his victim, multiple times. Franklin agreed to let McNeil out of prison four years from now.

Franklin earns a salary of \$85,000, plus generous benefits, from the state of Vermont.



Will Durst

Fiscal Cliff Traffic Report



"So, expect showers and gale-force winds over the next couple of days and don't forget that high-surf advisory is in effect throughout the weekend. We may even see some downed power lines and scattered looting. That's the weather here on Capitol Hill – now let's go to Brandon with your Congressional traffic report."

"Thanks Brandon. Well, its gotten pretty ugly out there, people. My best advice is, stay in your homes. As expected, following the holiday recess, we're seeing a lot of bluster and bombast building up on the Beltway, and the obstructionist blather has managed to stall headway on nearly every budget deal ramp to a virtual crawl.

Three or four 18-wheeler jam-packed with Election Day rancor have overturned, and as you might imagine, rubbernecking has resulted in hundreds of not-so-tender fender benders in both directions. It's gotten so bad that major media outlet trucks are stuck on the shoulder filming each other, filming each other.

It's not just the Beltway that's backed up. Main Street and Wall Street and the Path to Prosperity all report major slowdowns due to a multitude of partisan pile-ups. Some drivers seem to be purposefully ramming fellow travelers right off the road while others speed across median strips to dive into oncoming traffic seemingly with no thought to life or limb. Casualties continue to mount and officials worry about running out of tarps.

Sky Nine over the Bridge to the Future reports that progress remains hopelessly clogged with all visible movement being of the backwards variety, and from their vantage all the right lanes look to be blocked as far as the eye can

see. Left lanes: not much better. Center lanes: you don't want to know.

Many reasons have been offered up for Carmageddon spreading nationwide. Pure native stubbornness, leading to refusals to merge. Infrastructure deterioration. Widespread smoke screens creating low visibility. A plethora of misread signs due to intentionally misinterpreted polls. Death wishes. Insanity. Mad Cow.

Part of the problem can be attributed to the numerous turn-arounds closed by committee chairmen to restrict desertion from party-line movement, and reports continue to stream in that a crazy person by the name of Grover Norquist has been single-handedly impeding traffic by standing in the ditch and flagging motorists off the road straight into various freeway abutments. Although it must be said, some cars do now seem to be aiming right for him, chasing the anti-cheerleader back to the safety of various rest stop bathroom stalls.

Due to the slick situation, eternal congestion and some inexplicable glitch that has turned all the surface street stop lights to red, further delays are expected to spread across the nation as the country experiences a massive impasse on all roads leading to the cutoff meant to avert the dreaded Fiscal Cliff.

Veteran observers claim this activity is expected due to the mostly poor driving skills possessed by the residents of our nation's capital. But the upshot is, we're back to stalls and jams and near-total gridlock far into the foreseeable future. So remember to keep that dial here, where we bring you weather and traffic together on the eights, although to be perfectly honest, not much is expected to change any time soon. Back to you, Brandon."

©2012



In My Opinion

Dear Mr. Chairman...

Over the last nine months I have witnessed many things in the town of St. Johnsbury: a new board of selectmen trying to come together, a firing of the town manager, public dissatisfaction, citizens of St. Johnsbury being disparaged in meetings, and reliable and good employees being mistreated and made fearful for their jobs. In addition to that, I have seen businesses treated poorly.

I was raised in St. Johnsbury and have lived here for most of my 46+ years. The town represents many things to me, but most importantly it is my home. I am fortunate to have many friends, both here in town, across the nation, and around the world. Many of them question what is happening to our town. Sadly, so do I.

During Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos' presentation earlier this year, Mr. Condos gave everyone a copy of his documents. His fourth slide stated "Officers of government are trustees and servants of the people and it is in the public interest to enable any person to review and criticize their decisions even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment."

Citizens such as Al Dunn have come to our board meetings for years and asked questions, but lately his questions have been met with ridicule and left unanswered. Frank Landry comes to the board with questions regarding the Pomerleau Building and is treated with hostility. Several other citizens ask questions during meetings and are afforded nothing in response, or have their question answered with a question. Others ask questions only to be told "you will know when we know," and then find out later the Chairman knew all along.

Businesses that have served our community for 175 years are being treated like they have no idea what they are doing. The Caledonian-Record being called a paper that you cannot believe a



word they write? If that were true, I am certain the paper would have been out of business years ago, much less flourishing, still covering the Northeast Kingdom, and providing for the community with their donations.

All of these things have been done by our Chairman of the select board.

When we, as a board, decided to fire the town manager, I commented to Mr. Rust the need to not be in the office every day as many of the town's people already felt he was there too much. I also

draft a statement and then edited it, all without the board's consent or input.

Mr. Rust states, "a couple of select board members who are throwing stones" brought this item to the paper. Actually, Mr. Wellington brought it to my attention and asked my opinions. I initially made comment to Mr. Wellington regarding the statement that was read to the public, namely the sentence beginning "While we are disappointed..." I thought rehashing the topic after the fact would not be the way to go, but since you have placed the item on the agenda I feel it is now worth mentioning. In fact, I find that YOUR statement is intended to inflict more injury to a situation that should be seen as a positive where no one needs to suffer the possible persecution of this case. We, as a community, can move forward and help businesses that are looking for financial assistance to jump start their dream and help others that require a helping hand at this point in time. In no way do I see the outcome of this situation as causing disappointment towards anyone. Personal agendas and vendettas have no business on the select board.

The original statement and I quote: "The Selectboard is pleased that the federal investigation has concluded. The investigators identified several changes to the administration of the Jay-Lyn Fund that, when implemented, will result in significant improvements to the Fund's operation. This will enhance the ability of the Jay-Lyn Fund to assist local entrepreneurs and to bring jobs to our community. The Selectboard wishes to thank the investigators for their hard work and the Jay-Lyn Fund board members for their cooperation with the investigation. We look forward to the long term positive impact on our community this investigation will bring."

While being raised in this community, I have had the good fortune of having a family for love

See **Statement**, Page A5

In my opinion, the Town of St. Johnsbury has a bad chair and we can no longer sit by and watch citizens, employees, or businesses be bullied or manipulated.

cautioned him to be wary of making unilateral binding decisions for the town. Since April I shudder to think how many items of this type have taken place.

Items and requests are being given to the chair directed to the "Board of Selectman." I am chagrined to say that most of these items do not make it to the board.

Recently, the item concerning the Jay Lynn fund came to light. The board found out about it on Nov. 21. Our chairman knew about it on Sept. 6. He took the liberty of having our legal counsel

Letters to the Editor ...

Tolerance and civility

To the Editor:

Our world has a side which is very dark and negative. The presidential political campaign we have just experienced is one example. The headlines in our newspapers are another. A recent headline in this newspaper denigrated and spotlighted, in a very negative way, Dick and Joan Downing of Lyndonville. In this bad economy many people are having difficulty paying their property taxes but it doesn't usually make the front page. Was this meant to cause them embarrassment, humiliation and pain? Was it to make an example of them and to deter other Christians from daring to practice their beliefs?

We would like to thank the Downings publicly for doing something that most of us do not have the finances or courage and conviction to do - stand up for their religious freedoms. They built a beautiful Chapel on Darling Hill and opened it to the public at no charge. It is a place where the majesty and beauty of God's creation surrounds visitors.

It is a place of quiet and peace in a very hectic and overcharged world.

As we Christians approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, we ask people of all faiths and beliefs to remember that we are all members of the human family - we are all neighbors! In the United States we are blessed to live in a society represented by many different cultures and beliefs and we are asked to be tolerant and respect the rights of our neighbors. Please extend that same tolerance and those same rights to the Downings.

We thank God that the life, love and light of Jesus Christ shines from good folks like the Downings. Because of the darkness we encounter every day, their light shines all the brighter! Dick and Joan, please take heart and know that the promise made to you in Matthew 5: 11-12 is firm and is truth. So rejoice and be glad and know that you are also loved and cherished by:

Gisele Burrington
Concord, Vt.

Editor's Note: Fourteen other people endorsed this letter. Their names are on file for review.

Trading our liberty for 'stuff'

To the Editor:

Somehow, I think we all knew an election like this was coming — but not nearly so soon! Do you sometimes in a quiet moment feel the eyes of patriots gone before us calling across the ages and asking, "How could you fail to protect the promise of America so dearly won?"

Memories of our early struggles for freedom come flooding back — the freezing winter at Valley Forge, the farm boys whose blood consecrated the ground at Gettysburg, Antietam and Chancellorsville, the suffering in the trenches of WW I, the young men who charged the beaches of Normandy and later liberated the Nazi concentration camps, brave soldiers who froze to death at the Inchon Reservoir, or slogged through the jungles of Viet Nam — all are haunting my thoughts.

Now consider the recent videos of college students, the products of the leftist garbage taught at our colleges and universities, chanting for "Karl Marx" and "socialism." They know nothing of the hideous

suffering in the gulags of Siberia, the torture endured by real freedom fighters in the communist prisons of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland in the 1950's, and have they ever even heard of Tiananmen Square? Liberalism has brought us the "slouching toward Gomorrah" in our cultural life — the trash that passes for art and entertainment, and a flagrant disregard for our Constitution and the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. Indeed it becomes apparent that we have been drifting toward, no check that, RACING toward our own demise for years — even decades.

To think we should go out with only a whisper to the screaming hordes displaying their vacuous ignorance and chanting banal demands for hand outs from a government that takes from the hard work of others is disgusting! A far cry isn't it from "Give me liberty or give me death!" I am filled with sadness not only over what we have lost, but over how easily we have let the beautiful promise of America slip through our fingers and traded our sacred LIBERTY for "stuff."

Virginia Duffly
Rutland, Vt.

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



Jury Verdict

Continued from Page A3

ing to the motion.

It is not up to the state to decide which pieces of evidence to disclose, Miller wrote.

Furthermore, if Miller had known about the circumstances surrounding Degreenia's statement prior to the trial, she would have filed a motion to suppress.

Lost Or Missing Evidence

Ned Fauser testified at the trial that there were better photos from his game camera not presented at trial, Miller wrote.

Police photos of footprints and tire tracks at the gravel pit, evidence from the Vermont State Police evidence squad, photos of Degreenia's footprints provided outside the sheriff's office, and an interview with Degreenia's girlfriend, Liza Campbell, were

not provided to the defense, Miller wrote.

Jacobs testified that all photos from the crime scene were lost, Miller wrote.

But in a sworn affidavit, Jacobs wrote that he looked at Degreenia's shoe prints outside the sheriff's office, "but they were of no evidentiary value. As it was a couple of days after the crime was committed."

Jacobs wrote in the affidavit that he had the list of witnesses to Degreenia's alibi, but didn't interview them because "Mr. Burns and Mr. Perrons had confessed and implicated Mr. Degreenia."

He wrote that missing photos were never turned over to the state's attorney and were not used in investigating Degreenia's involvement in the

crime. Jacobs wrote that photos from the game camera were provided to the defense.

Jacobs denies ever speaking with Campbell, but Campbell is prepared to testify that Jacobs called her at the Degreenia home and asked her questions concerning the investigation. Campbell will testify that she provided Jacobs with a list of witnesses who could verify Degreenia's presence at home that night.

Miller said she has evidence - not available at trial - from FairPoint that three calls were made to the Degreenia residence from the Orleans County Sheriff's Department in July and August.

Miller wrote that the state has produced no good faith argument for why the photographs were lost or

why the better photos from the game camera, which at trial showed only two individuals at the pit, were not provided to the defense.

The defense was never informed prior to trial that the state police evidence squad took part in the investigation, Miller wrote, and whatever evidence collected was not provided to the defense at all.

"The importance of the lost photographs cannot be overstated," Miller wrote. "In a case where several co-defendants testified variously as to the whereabouts and actions of one another, the physical evidence... tying identifiable individuals to the scene is perhaps the best evidence on the merits of the allegations."

"Without such evidence, the jury was left to make largely unsupported

credibility determinations," Miller wrote.

The footprint evidence, from both Degreenia and Burns, could have shown that one was present at the pit but not the other, but the defense has never had the opportunity to even examine that evidence, Miller wrote.

"The other evidence of guilt was not strong enough to render the lost evidence harmless," she continued.

The state had only two witnesses placing Degreenia at the pit, "Burns, a confessed liar, and the other, Perron, who received a 'home confinement' sentence," Miller wrote.

Perron and Burns lived on the same road as Degreenia and were familiar with his property, Miller

wrote. They could have hidden the stolen material, which was not visible from the road, behind the Degreenia home to frame him, she wrote.

"There has been an ongoing police pattern to [stymie], confound, vex, and obfuscate the defense in this matter, creating a complete and total denial of due process," Miller wrote.

Degreenia's sentencing will take place after the completion of a pre-sentence investigation. He was taken into custody after the verdict was read and bail was raised to \$10,000.

Burns, 39, is serving a two- to eight-year sentence in Kentucky, and Perron, 24, served 90 days on home confinement.

Rumors

Continued from Page A3

for changing your mind," he said to the Lyndon school directors.

Their initial vote, Whitehill said, "did cause a lot of anxiety with the Lyndon teachers, especially, which we heard a lot from our members there - we heard how upset and angry they were. We also just wanted to clarify some rumors that we've been hearing from some of our members at LTS on this Agency Fee provision. One of the rumors that we heard from some of our members there is that the union snuck this proposal in towards the very end when maybe not all the members on the negotiating team were there, and we just wanted to clarify that that is false."

Celeste Girrell, chair of the CNSU Executive Board, said she could not comment on anything pertaining to the union contract negotiations, as they were behind closed doors in executive session.

Raymond, chair of the Lyndon School Board, contacted about the union's statement, said in an email, "I took a complete transparent approach

as I knew it would be an emotional subject."

On Friday Raymond added, "I would agree that the Agency Fee was not a last minute request. I do have a concern the Union leadership feels the best way to tackle this so-called rumor, within their own membership, is to put it in the paper. To me the logical step would be to communicate with their membership about the chain of events as I feel this is not news worthy."

"This provision was agreed upon halfway through a 9-hour mediation session with the executive school board representatives (from the CNSU executive board) - at some points up to three LTS members were present," said Whitehill, "so this was not snuck in, it was negotiated in good faith. We have asked for it before in the past and that was always something that we would give up during the course of negotiations and in prior negotiations."

He explained, "We had mediation costs which just the dues members

pay for, but everybody benefits from the contract." A recent problem between the union and the SU over new teachers being given substitute teacher pay until their Vermont licenses were in hand saw the union have to step in and fight for those teachers, said Whitehill, referring to that situation as "the sub-pay debacle."

In the end, the union won that battle and the new teachers were given their full pay retroactively. "We as union members, pay for that, and uphold the contract for members and non-members," he said of the union's representation.

All teachers are covered under the contract - whether members or not - and are provided with "all the rights and benefits of the contract," said Whitehill. He said the only thing that non-members do not get is attorneys.

This week, the union was meeting with Vermont NEA to go over how the agency fees will be assessed to non-union members. Whitehill said such an agency fee to non-union

members is standard in all the SUs and Districts around CNSU. He said non-union members will be offered to join again and at about half the annual cost, for the first year of the contract. He said they will be paying about 80 percent of what union members pay as their agency fee. The union dues are about \$600 a year for dues paying union members. Whitehill said between 70 and 75 percent of the teachers in CNSU are union members presently.

Of what happened with the Lyndon School Board, Whitehill said "we heard a couple of non-members or their spouses called some board members and complained and so that was part of the reason why the board voted it down. I understand that teachers can go to the board but we have always been told by our administration that there is a chain of command...it should have come to the negotiation people. Nobody came and spoke to the union," said Whitehill. "The end result caused a lot of anxiety."

Statement

Continued from Page A4

and support, friends to share laughter and pain, teachers, business owners, and colleagues to learn from and grow with. Several virtues have been bestowed upon me, namely "do unto others as they would do unto you," and "if you have nothing good to say to or about someone, don't say anything at all."

After witnessing the Chairmen's mistreatment of town citizens and businesses and concealing items from the board, I cannot take it any longer.

Members of the board have stepped in and answered questions when

I commented to Mr. Rust the need to not be in the office every day as many of the town's people already felt he was there too much. I also cautioned him to be wary of making unilateral binding decisions for the town. Since April I shudder to think how many items of this type have taken place.

asked, given opinions on topics when asked, and generally made themselves available when needed. I have done all these things.

What I have not done is state to employees that "the board said" we should do this or that. I have not come into the town office and outright told employees what to do. I have not instructed town employees as to what to say if asked about a particular subject. And I have not told our employees to not talk to other members of the board, other town employees, or to the press. But our chairman has, all without the board's consent.

All of these things have been done under the guise of acting as Town Manager. I cannot fathom how many meetings he has sat in on and given input to groups around town, all without coming to the board for discussion and a

"A bad chair can ruin everything. A good chair makes anything possible."

vote in public session.

The most important attribute for a chair person is the respect of the board and the board's respect for the chair. We do not want someone who will try to manipulate the board to fulfill a personal agenda. We do not want someone who will dominate the debate. If anything, we want someone who will remain reserved in discussions.

The Vermont Institute for Government states "no one person enjoys any greater voting authority than any other, and no one alone is capable of making a binding decision. Usually that requires the action of the majority of the board." The Institute further states that "A bad chair can ruin everything. A good chair makes anything possible."

In my opinion, the Town of St. Johnsbury has a bad chair and we can no longer sit by and watch citizens, employees, or businesses be bullied or manipulated.

Alan Ruggles is a lifetime resident of St. Johnsbury and a member of the town's select board.

DON'T CAN THEM



RECYCLE THEM
at the
E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

COMPUTERS, MONITORS, TELEVISIONS, PRINTERS, AND COMPUTER PERIPHERALS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 12:00- 3:00 PM

MAPLE CENTER
(THE FORMER BLACK BEAR TAVERN),
151 HASTINGS HILL ROAD IN ST. JOHNSBURY

HOSTED BY
ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY
AND THE VERMONT STATE E-CYCLES PROGRAM

To learn more about preparing your computer for drop-off or additional information visit:
www.vtcycles.org or call 1-855-6ECYCLE

Just In Time For Christmas

HOLIDAY RECLINER SALE



Every Recliner On Sale!

Dozens in stock and ready to go!

Act now for best selection!

FREE glass or slate top side table with any purchase over \$499 with this ad

P&S Furniture & Mattress Gallery

12 Months 0% Financing to Qualified Buyers

Rte. 2, Concord, Vt. (7 miles east of St. Johnsbury)
802-695-3358
49 Main Street, Littleton, NH (Next to Chutters)
603-444-1188
www.pandsfurniture.net

QUALITY MOTORS SERVICE CENTER

I-91 Exit 22 Route 5 St. Johnsbury, VT




Nick Pilotte, Service Advisor • Pat Wheelock, Service Manager
Josh Bagley, Service

Lube, Oil & Filter Service

\$15⁹⁵

Includes FREE 27-Pt. Inspection

- Includes FREE battery check
- Most cars and light trucks
- Up to 5 qts. oil
- With this ad and scheduled appointment

Oil Change Club Purchase **4 Oil Changes**
Get The **5th One FREE!**

SUZUKI
Genuine Parts And Service



When it's cold outside, it's warm inside.

REMOTE CAR STARTERS



Starting at only **\$324⁹⁵** INCLUDES INSTALLATION



Hankook
driving emotion

Winter i*pike
Hankook's Newest High Performance Winter Tire

- The ideal and safe solution for winter roads
- Wide high-tensile steel belts

WINTER

FREE MOUNT & BALANCE
With purchase of 4 tires.

CALL TOLL FREE **1-800-563-7043**

Limit one offer per customer per scheduled visit. OFFERS GOOD WITH THIS AD UNTIL 1/5/13. May not be combined with other offers.

SERVICE HOURS: MON.-FRI., 7:30-4:30

Black Cyan Magenta Yellow

NEWPORT CITY

HERE'S THE BEEF

BY ROBIN SMITH
Staff Writer

NEWPORT CITY — Food shelves in Orleans and Essex counties receive many donations, but consistently, the need is for protein.

That's why the large donation of beef from Newport Center residents Fran Azur and Melanie Gefert and their Vermont Highland Cattle Co. is so welcome.

A crew representing Azur and Gefert delivered 3,000 pounds of beef worth \$18,000 to five area food shelves on Monday.

At noon, Northeast Kingdom Community Action employees turned out to help unload the beef from the Highland Cattle truck into the food shelf freezers in Newport City. Some of that beef will also go to the NEKCA food shelf in Island Pond.

Richie Descheneau unloaded the beef destined for NEKCA from Vermont Highland Cattle Co.'s distinctive refrigerated truck.

Inside, Steve Mason, representing Gefert and Azur, checked off each box of beef.

Then Nicholle Bixby, NEKCA's food shelf coordinator, and Brooke Britzell, the NEKCA outreach supervisor, carefully opened the boxes and placed the frozen nine-pound packages of beef into the three deep freezers in NEKCA's food shelf.

Half of the donated beef is in hamburger and the other half is in select cuts.

The truck had already dropped a donation at the food shelf at Orleans Federated Church Monday and was destined to stop at the food shelf at the United Church in Newport City and at the Jay Food Shelf.

NEKCA Executive Director Joe Patrissi said that the donations really fill a need at food shelves.

"It starts with a need that's been expressed by the food shelves," Patrissi said.

Protein is very much needed, he said.

And demand for food shelves has

increased dramatically in recent years, he said.

Bob Kern, superintendent of North Country Supervisory Union, told local school board members and the local Rotary last week that the percentage of students in poverty in area schools has risen from 58 percent to 70 percent.

It reflects a tough economy, he said.

According to information provided by Patrissi, 18 percent of the Northeast Kingdom population is on food stamps.

In Orleans County, food stamp use is at 20 percent. In Caledonia County, it's 16 percent.

Mason said the donation size to each food shelf depends on their freezer capacity.

This is the fifth year that Azur and Gefert have donated meat, at first turkeys and then beef from their company after that, Mason said.

NEKCA works with partners like Vermont Highland Cattle Co. to help meet the needs of area citizens.

Killing

Continued from Page A1

Keyes told police he left Vermont and continued to follow the Currier case through the Vermont press. After his arrest in Alaska, he told authorities he would stop cooperating if he was publicly linked to the Curriers.

He threw the gun he had brought from Alaska and a weapon he stole from the Curriers into a reservoir near Parishville, N.Y., where both were recovered by FBI dive teams.

Essex Police Lt. George Murtie, who interviewed Keyes about the Curriers' killing, described his demeanor as "very calm" with "no display of emotion."

When Keyes died, he was being held for the slaying of 18-year-old Samantha Koenig, who was ab-

ducted from a coffee kiosk in Anchorage in February. He was later arrested in Texas after using her debit card.

Authorities have said money appeared to be just a partial motive in Keyes' crimes. Lorraine Currier's purse was missing from her home.

In addition to the Curriers and Koenig, Keyes told authorities he had killed five other people, four in the state of Washington and one in New York.

Associated Press writer Rachel D'Oro in Anchorage and Lisa Rathke in Montpelier, Vt., contributed to this report.

Virtual Merger

Continued from Page A1

ent schools, which the supervisory union is looking to bring onto one system that pays all employees every two weeks or 26 times a year, could possibly be handled through CNSU eventually.

The boards also talked about shared professional development — to be able to bring in more leading professional development speakers to help staff in both systems — and share the costs of those presentations. Lyndon Town School would have enough space to house both staffs, and if professional development were hosted by ECSU, groups could be broken up by grade level or subject and meet in multiple locations at Concord School, for example.

School calendars which align are something the two supervisory unions are looking at to be able to start doing some things together to be more economical and efficient and improve the educational systems, which ECSU must do under Act 153. The state legislation, which is urging more cooperation and sharing among supervisory unions, is voluntary for CNSU.

There was some discussion about a shared curriculum coordinator, but that was quickly ruled a not workable share.

"It would be great if we could take one of these expensive people and only have one of them and split that cost but I think our geography prohibits that," said Girrell.

Scheufler said, "If it was a job from an office we could do it, but if it was a job from an office we would not be satisfied...the person would never be touching teachers and students; we don't need an office job we need a person on roller skates."

ECSU has about 50 teachers, and CNSU has 123.2 full-time teachers.

There is money at the state level to help systems like ECSU and CNSU who are talking about partnering — or what is called a 'virtual' merger — to study ways to find economies and to come up with solutions that will save districts money.

"There's money out there to do this sort of thing," said Scheufler, talking about payroll systems, for example, for the two districts to share to cut costs and be more efficient.

Lyndon School Board member and CNSU Executive Board Vice Chairman Al Dillely said, "The bottom line with this virtual merger is it has to be a benefit to both — it doesn't have to save money for both, but it has to be better for both."

DeMasi, of the Burke board, raised the idea of pur-

chasing power — from oil bids to paper and more, saying, "Maybe we can get better deals buying in larger quantities."

Girrell added that the CNSU is already doing that together — in purchases from copiers to technology and said adding more to that equation can only help. "Anything we can possibly do," to bring costs down, should be done, she stressed.

"It's time to look at everything we do," said DeMasi. "We have to."

Scheufler said that ideas on the table and beginning to be explored with ECSU would be for July 1 implementation, and said it will be hard to put numbers to some of what's being talked about until more is known. "We're not going to have the answers before this budget," she said. "We are estimating it won't cost more, it will either be less costly in dollars or what we got in increased benefit or performance, some benefit that Al spoke of that was worth spending the same money...something's got to be better — either the performance or the amount we spend," said Scheufler.

"If this thing blows up and costs us three times more, we put the brakes on," said Scheufler.

Rayburn said ECSU must report to the State Board of Education on steps they have taken to share with other districts by January of 2014. "That's a whole year away. We've got time to work with this, then," said DeMasi.

Because ECSU changed superintendents recently, they are required by the state to go through this process of trying to work with other districts.

The two superintendents and two business managers will team up and look at some of the ideas that were on the table at the joint meeting last week of the virtual merger — or shared services — committee.

"If we can do that then that's tax dollars we're not spending and that's a good thing," Girrell said of any possible shared services.

Girrell said it may take some time for schools to get used to working together like this — across supervisory unions. "I know there's a lot of ownership of 'Don't tell me what to do in my school, but this is really beyond that...way, way beyond that...if you can get it for 20 cents or even 5 cents a gallon less when you're burning thousands of gallons at each school, it starts adding up to a lot of money fast," she stressed of the benefits of working together to increase purchasing power.

Management

Continued from Page A1

against Rust's press statements last week that accused Ruggles of not helping to run the town in the absence of a town manager. Ruggles made his point by turning the allegation back around onto Rust.

"What I have not done is state to employees that 'the board said' we should do this or that. I have not come into the town office and outright told employees what to do. I have not instructed town employees as to what to say if asked about a particular subject. And I have not told our employees to not talk to other members of the board, other town employees, or to the press. But our Chairman has, all without the board's consent."

"In my opinion, the town of St. Johnsbury has a bad chair and we can no longer sit by and watch citizens, employees, or businesses be bullied or manipulated," said Ruggles.

Ruggles also he took issue with Rust's failure to tell him and other board members in a timely fashion about the federal government's decision to close the two-year Jay-Lyn investigation without filing charges and with Rust's revision of the public statement on the matter made at last week's board meeting.

"I thought rehashing the topic after the fact would not be the way to go, but since you have placed the item on the agenda I feel it is now worth mentioning," said Ruggles. "In fact, I find that YOUR statement is intended to inflict more injury to a situation that should be seen as a positive where no one needs to suffer the possible persecution of this case."

Ruggles received a loud ovation after his statement from the public but was immediately challenged by resident Tim Persons and board member Bernie Timson

who questioned Ruggles' recollection of the facts. Several other residents, however, spoke in support of Ruggles as well as board member Kevin Oddy who suggested to Rust that the public's anger toward toward the board was less about what it was doing and more about "how it's being done."

Rust said he felt the need to respond to some of the statements and did so by declaring that all of the "crap" that the board was dealing with in 2012 was the fault of the 2011 board — which Rust was also a member of along with Ruggles and Lamotte.

"What the board is putting up with this year is because of a lack of action from last year," said Rust.

Rust had scheduled the "town manager selection" as item 19 of 21 on the agenda but resident Bill Gilding asked for it to be moved to the front of the agenda. Rust has declined to honor similar requests at previous meeting saying it was unfair to anyone who might be planning to come late to the meeting for a late scheduled item.

This time, however, he did not protest and the board did move the agenda up resulting in a sealed brown box containing 39 applications for the Town Manager job being opened in front all five members of the board and the public by town human resources manager Courtney Daniels.

Rust took the opportunity to address the question that he has repeatedly declined to answer in recent weeks — did he apply for the job of town manager.

"I did not," said Rust. "I'm here until my term is over." His term ends at town meeting in 2014.

Additional coverage of last night's meeting will be in future editions.

Animal Cruelty

Continued from Page A1

the water troughs so the miniature horses could reach the water.

Veterinary technician Alicia Maclean confirmed the lack of water last week, said police, and in October had warned Yeagle about the importance of water.

According to Maclean's report, as she and another technician walked around the pen "the horses immediately went to the two water troughs in the pen. The lower trough was completely dry and contained no ice and the taller trough was also dry with a few large chunks of ice. The troughs contained no water."

During an inspection on Nov. 9, Yeagle was reminded of the need to keep the water troughs full, she said.

According to state statute on the proper feeding equine species, "All horses shall have available a sufficient quantity of fresh water to maintain hydration." Yeagle was given a copy of the statute during an inspection in mid-October, said police.

The two dozen horses, two llamas and an alpaca that police and veterinary officials found on the Yeagle property in October were originally intended for a home in the Littleton area, Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith said last week.

Their owner in Nevada, who police said is Stephanie Rapp-Brooks, was going to move to the area, buy the home and take care of the horses. But the sale of the home fell through and Yeagle ended up as caretaker of the animals.

The horses rescued Nov. 21 from the Yeagle property

were taken to Live and Let Live Farm in Chichester, where they now face health problems, said Teresa Paradis, the farm's executive director.

Because of the muck they stood in, abscesses developed on the horses' feet and some of the animals couldn't walk or move their hips properly, resulting in swollen back legs, she said.

And some of the mini horses, because of their size, were unable to walk through the mud to feed on the hay, said Paradis. In addition, the bodies of horses were also caked with mud that volunteers spent days cleaning and that could have led to the animals freezing during temperature drops, she said.

Many of the horses, too, she said, have extreme parasites and will require chemical wormer medicine.

Paradis estimates that food, shelter, rehabilitation, supplements, hoof and dental care, surgeries and everything else needed to rehabilitate the horses and get them into new homes will cost at least \$50,000.

Bail conditions state Yeagle is to feed, water and care for the five remaining horses on his property until custody of them is relinquished.

Littleton police officials have said the case is one of the largest cases of animal neglect they have seen in Littleton.

Paradis said it was because of concerned citizens acting fast and contacting authorities that a bad situation did not become worse.

Noise

Continued from Page A1

cludes subsections regulating seven types of noise.

The first subsection bans the use of any "radio, phonograph, musical instrument, or other sound-making or sound-producing device in such a manner as to disturb the quiet or repose of any person or persons in the vicinity thereof."

The ordinance bans the operation of cars and motorcycles in a manner that creates the squealing of tires or "loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, exploding, rattling or other types of noises."

The ordinance requires that exhaust from any "steam engine, internal-combustion engine, motorboat, or motor vehicle" must be vented through an exhaust system or similar device that significantly reduces or prevents "loud or explosive noise."

Horns on cars, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles may be used only as a danger-warning device, according to the ordinance.

It also regulates construction noise. The ordinance bans, "Noises emanating from the excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of buildings, structures, property or highways between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for emergency repairs or maintenance of town highways necessary to protect people or property."

The ordinance covers "noise in general" as well. That subsection prohibits, "Any noise which is deemed objectionable because of volume, frequency or beat, and which is not muffled or otherwise controlled."

The ordinance includes a 25-foot rule. The section states, "The creation of, permitting or operation of any of the above sets, instruments, devices or vehicles causing said noise in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet from a building, structure, vehicle, or location from which the noise emanates shall be prima-facie evidence of a nuisance and a violation of this ordinance."

The ordinance includes five exemptions.

The first is for safety equipment and warning devices like sirens and backup beepers. The second allows for the repair of municipal facilities and infrastructure if it must happen at night.

Snow removal is also exempt. So are musical, recreational and athletic events at schools and municipal facilities.

Other organizations may request permits from town officials for events.

Fines for violations may vary from \$50 to \$200. Fines will be assessed via a municipal ticket, rather than criminal citations under the current ordinance.

"That's a big change," Planner Sue Cherry, the commission's acting chairwoman, said Monday.

Other changes in the updated ordinance include the ban on overnight construction, and the exemptions for school and musical events, she said. Permits for special events are new as well.

The planning commission developed the noise ordinance over the course of several meetings, Cherry said. The job included reviewing noise ordinances from other municipalities and organizations like the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, she said.

Planners collaborated with St. Johnsbury Police Chief Clem Houde as well.

"We worked closely with Chief Houde to establish something that is reasonable for the town," Cherry said.

The new ordinance includes enforcement "teeth," she said.

Houde supports the ordinance.

His favorite part is the shift from criminal citations to municipal tickets for noise violations. It's a huge time saver for police, he said.

Officers in the past spent three hours compiling criminal-citation paperwork, Houde said. It will take police just 10 minutes to write a ticket under the new ordinance, he said.

Violators may appeal tickets to the Vermont Judicial Board.

Houde also addressed the department's authority to determine if noise amounts to a disturbance or not. Officers use the 25-foot rule, he said.

"If you can hear it 25-feet away, it's a violation," Houde said.

Residents last week at the select-board meeting were most concerned with the town's decision to forgo a sound meter in favor of police discretion in determining violations. Some residents suggested the municipality purchase a sound/decibel meter.

"It would save a lot of ambiguity," said resident Tim Persons. "Some people are real sensitive and other people aren't sensitive."

Resident Werner Heidemann recommended a sound meter as well.

"They can't be that expensive, even a good one," he said.

2012 SANTA FUND REGISTRATION FORM

TOY BOXES WILL BE DELIVERED TO PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN ONLY

ADULT'S NAME: _____

911 ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

Toy Box* Check 1 Box Only Food Box Only

* Each Toy Box Receives 1 Food Box

Up to Age 14 Only

Boys & Ages: _____

Girls & Ages: _____

Available to residents of: ST. JOHNSBURY, LYNDONVILLE, CONCORD, KIRBY, BARNET, DANVILLE AND WATERFORD.
Drop off or mail to: Santa Fund, c/o St. Johnsbury Fire Dept., 1187 Main St., Suite 3, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Online? Check us out:

www.caledonianrecord.com

NATION & WORLD

Obama Warns Syria Against Using Chemical Weapons, Says It Would Be A 'Tragic Mistake'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama warned Syria on Monday that the use of chemical weapons would be "totally unacceptable" and that the country's leaders would be held accountable.

Obama said that if Syrian President Bashar Assad made the "tragic mistake" of deploying chemical weapons, there would be consequences. Obama stopped short of detailing those consequences.

Obama's comments came as U.S. officials said intelligence had detected Syrian movement of chemical weapons components in recent days.

The White House said earlier Monday that it was increasingly concerned that the beleaguered regime in Syria might be considering use of chemical weapons against its own people and warned that doing so would "cross a red line."

White House press secretary Jay Carney said U.S. officials were closely monitoring Syria's proliferation of sensitive materials and facilities, as opposition to the Syrian government grows.

Counteroffer: Medicare, Social Security On The Table As GOP Issues New 'Fiscal Cliff' Offer

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans on Monday proposed a new 10-year, \$2.2 trillion blueprint to President Barack Obama that calls for raising the eligibility age for Medicare and lowering cost-of-living hikes for Social Security benefits, a counteroffer to jump-start stalled talks with the "fiscal cliff" just weeks away.

The proposal from House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other Republicans comes in response to Obama's plan last week to raise taxes by \$1.6 trillion over the coming decade but largely exempt Medicare and Social Security from budget cuts.

The GOP plan also proposes to raise \$800 billion in higher tax revenue over the decade but it would keep the Bush-era tax cuts — including those for wealthier earners targeted by Obama — in place for now.

Dismissing the idea of raising any tax rates, the Republicans said the new revenue would come from closing loopholes and deductions while lowering rates.

Boehner called the GOP proposal a "credible plan" and said he hopes the administration will "respond in a timely and responsible way." The offer comes after the administration urged Republicans to detail their proposal to cut popular benefit programs like Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid.

Prince William And Kate Expect Their First Child; Duchess Hospitalized With Hyperemesis Gravidarum

LONDON (AP) — The most widely anticipated pregnancy since Princess Diana's in 1981 is official: Prince William's wife, Kate, is pregnant.

St. James's Palace announced the pregnancy Monday, saying that the Duchess of Cambridge — formerly known as Kate Middleton — has a severe form of morning sickness and is currently in a London hospital. William is at his wife's side.

News of the pregnancy drew congratulations from across the world, with the hashtag "royalbaby" trending globally on Twitter.

The couple's first child will be third in line to take the throne — leapfrogging the gregarious Prince Harry and possibly setting up the first scenario in which a U.K. female heir could benefit from new gender rules about succession.

The palace would not say how far along the 30-year-old duchess is, only that she has not yet reached the 12-week mark. Palace officials said the duchess was hospitalized with hyperemesis gravidarum, a potentially dangerous type of morning sickness where vomiting is so severe no food or liquid can be kept down. They said she was expected to remain hospitalized for several days and would require a period of rest afterward.

Violence Near Syrian Capital Interrupts Air Traffic, Forces UN To Pull Staff

BEIRUT (AP) — Fighting between rebels and government forces raged near the Syrian capital Damascus on Monday, forcing an inbound commercial jet to turn back while the U.N. said it was withdrawing staff because of deteriorating security conditions.

Lebanese security officials said Jihad Makkidssi, a polished Foreign Ministry spokesman known for defending the regime of President Bashar Assad in fluent English, flew from Beirut to London. But it was not immediately clear whether he had defected.

The fighting over the past few weeks in and around Damascus has been the most serious in the capital since July, when rebels captured several neighborhoods before a swift government counteroffensive swept them out. The spike in violence recently is concentrated in the ring of mostly poor suburbs around Damascus but often bleeds into the capital itself as rebels bring their fight closer to Assad's seat of power. Assad's forces have so far repelled major rebel advances on the capital, though their hold may be slipping.

"The security situation has become extremely difficult, including in Damascus," said Radhouane Nouicer, the U.N.'s regional humanitarian coordinator for Syria.

Nouicer said the U.N. was withdrawing most of its international staff from Syria due to security issues, adding that up to one quarter of the 100 international staff working for several U.N. agencies could leave by week's end. There are about 900 more local staff working for the U.N. in Syria, officials said.

CDC Says US Flu Season Arrives Early, Could Be Bad

NEW YORK (AP) — Flu season in the U.S. is off to its earliest start in nearly a decade — and it could be a bad one.

Health officials on Monday said suspected flu cases have jumped in five Southern states, and the primary strain circulating tends to make people sicker than other types. It is particularly hard on the elderly.

"It looks like it's shaping up to be a bad flu season, but only time will tell," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The good news is that the nation seems fairly well prepared, Frieden said. More than a third of Americans have been vaccinated, and the vaccine formulated for this year is well-matched to the strains of the virus seen so far, CDC officials said.

Higher-than-normal reports of flu have come in from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. An uptick like this usually doesn't happen until after Christmas. Flu-related hospitalizations are also rising earlier than usual, and there have already been two deaths in children.

Israel Feels Heat From European And US Allies Over Settlement Announcement

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel rejected a wave of American and European condemnations Monday over plans to build thousands of new homes in West Bank settlements, vowing to press forward with the construction in the face of widespread international opposition.

The announcement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office was likely to deepen a rift that has emerged between Israel and some of its closest allies following the U.N.'s recognition of a Palestinian state last week. The U.N. decision appears to be fueling a tougher international line against Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Israeli ambassadors were summoned for consultations in five European capitals, and European officials warned of other potential measures against Israel. In Washington, the U.S. said the Israeli actions were "especially damaging" to peace prospects.

Italian Premier Mario Monti and French President Francois Hollande issued a joint statement saying they were "deeply worried" by Israel's settlement plans. The two men, meeting in Lyon, France, called the Israeli decisions "serious and illegal" and a "serious obstacle" to Mideast peace.

Netanyahu, however, showed no signs of bending. His office said Israel would continue to stand up for its interests "even in the face of international pressure, and there will be no change in the decision taken."

Fossil Fuel Subsidies Seen As 'Missing Piece' of Climate Puzzle In UN Talks

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Hassan al-Kubaisi considers it a gift from above that drivers in oil- and gas-rich Qatar only have to pay \$1 per gallon at the pump.

"Thank God that our country is an oil producer and the price of gasoline is one of the lowest," al-Kubaisi said, filling up his Toyota Land Cruiser at a gas station in Doha. "God has given us a blessing."

To those looking for a global response to climate change, it's more like a curse.

Qatar — the host of U.N. climate talks that entered their final week Monday — is among dozens of countries that keep gas prices artificially low through subsidies that exceeded \$500 billion globally last year. Renewable energy worldwide received six times less support — an imbalance that is just starting to earn attention in the divisive negotiations on curbing the carbon emissions blamed for heating the planet.

"We need to stop funding the problem, and start funding the solution," said Steve Kretzmann, of Oil Change International, an advocacy group for clean energy.

Pope Joins Tweeting Masses With Pontifex Handle, Oddsmakers Bet He'll Get 1M Followers

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Benedict XVI, the pope known for his hefty volumes of theology, is now trying brevity — spreading the faith through his own Twitter account.

The pontiff will tweet in eight languages starting Dec. 12 using his personal handle (@Pontifex), responding live to questions about faith during his weekly general audience, the Vatican said Monday.

Within six hours of the Vatican's announcement, Benedict had already garnered nearly 150,000 followers on the English version of (@)Pontifex alone, with thousands more following him in the eight other language accounts. All that, and he hadn't even sent a single tweet.

He may never hit 1 billion faithful that the Catholic Church counts around the globe, but he's odds-on to get 1 million followers by the end of the year, British bookmakers Ladbrokes said.

Families Of Chiefs Linebacker Belcher, Slain Girlfriend Perkins Grieve In Wake Of Tragedy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Breaking their silence for the first time, the family of the woman shot and killed by Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher said Monday their "hearts are truly broken" and asked for privacy while they grieve the loss of two loved ones.

Belcher shot and killed his 22-year-old girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, at their Kansas City home Saturday before driving to Arrowhead Stadium, where Belcher committed suicide in the practice facility's parking lot, police said. The couple had a 3-month-old daughter, Zoey.

"Our hearts are truly broken for Kasi was a beloved daughter, granddaughter, sister, mother, cousin and friend," the family said in an emailed statement. The family also asked that the media "respect our privacy during this difficult time."

"Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as well as the Belcher family," the statement said.

Kansas City police Sgt. Marisa Barnes said Monday that authorities hope to deliver an investigative report to prosecutors on Tuesday.

More Heavy Rain Expected To Hit Drenched California

BY TERRY COLLINS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Northern California residents recovering Monday from a series of wet, windy storms likely won't get much of a break as another system is expected to drench the area.

Up to 5 more inches of rain could fall in the region beginning Tuesday, the National Weather Service said.

The rain could be especially heavy at times in areas north of Redding and across the Sierra Nevada, meteorologist Dan Keeton said.

Still, it should be nothing like the downpours that left between 15 to 20 inches of rain in some areas over the five-day period that ended Sunday. Forecasters said the latest storm left the area faster than expected.

"It's going to be significant, but less impactful," Keeton said of the coming rain. "There will be some isolated impact in certain areas, but nothing as widespread compared to what we saw late last week. This was a down payment on our winter water supply accumulation."

Pacific Gas & Electric crews continued to work on restoring power to about 8,000 users, a figure that was down from 57,000 on Sunday in areas stretching from Santa Cruz to Eureka and parts of the San Francisco Bay area.

Three powerful storms drenched the region within a week. In the high Sierra, more than 5 feet of snow during the stretch forced the closures of a major road and a secondary roadway through Yosemite National Park, officials said Monday.

Both roads typically close in the late fall when heavy snows arrive

and reopen when weather conditions allow in the spring.

Sunday's storm dropped as much as an inch of rain an hour in some areas while toppling trees, bringing flash flooding to roadways and knocking out electrical service.

"I think everybody got nervous last week," Keeton said. "These storms came with plenty of warnings, but it rained so hard at times that many were still left surprised by what Mother Nature can do."

Rivers across Northern California swelled from the deluge but did not flood as much as expected. Flood warnings had been issued for the Napa and Russian rivers north of San Francisco, and for the Truckee River near Lake Tahoe.

In Napa, officials had handed out more than 8,000 sandbags and about 150 tons of sand, but the city appeared to avoid any major damage.

In Nevada, rescue crews searched for a homeless man in Reno who reportedly fell into the Truckee River from a limb Sunday night.

A sudden shift in the weekend weather turned rain into snow, keeping rivers and streams largely within their banks in Reno and Sparks, Nev., and Truckee, Calif.

In southern Oregon, the Coquille and Rogue rivers were both about 2 feet above flood stage as a result of storms.

The weather service said more rivers along the coast and inland in the Willamette Valley could be flooded amid heavy rains.

A Southern Oregon man was being held on \$40,000 bail after being charged with disorderly conduct and recklessly endangering rescuers after a disagreement on whether to save his three boats that went downstream, authorities said.

Little Mover

KAP Enterprises, LLC
Local & Regional Moving

45 YEARS

Keith A. Phelps
838 Keyser Hill Rd.
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone 802-748-9112
Cell: 802-793-7986
E-mail: jphelps@kingcon.com

U.S. DOT 458292

WALL-TO-WALL CLEAN

Let the beauty of your carpets show this holiday season.
Have them professionally cleaned by us!

WE CLEAN ... All Types of Rugs

We Offer
"Green" Carpet Cleaning

Have an unfinished rug booking or braiding project?

We can finish it for you.

~ Gift Certificates ~

TOP CARPET CLEANING

ST. JOHNSBURY CENTER, VERMONT
802-748-3900 • 800-626-3911

Accepting Visa and Mastercard.

DEPT. 56 • YANKEE CANDLE • LANG • CHAMPLAIN CHOCOLATES • MIDWEST

"AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER..."

DEPARTMENT

A PARTY STORE & GIFTS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



New England, Dickens, Christmas in the City, Original Snow, North Pole, Winters Frost, A Christmas Story, The Grinch

and accessories for all villages. Snowbabies, Painted Ponies & beautiful ornaments. All from DEPARTMENT

603-747-3200

WOODVILLE STATION BUILDING • 28 CENTRAL STREET • WOODVILLE, NH

WILLOW TREE • BOYDS • PLAYMOBIL • THOMAS • PRIMATIVES • JIM SHORE

All Trek & Santa Cruz Kid & Adult Bikes

15% OFF

All Summer 2012 Bike Clothing

50% OFF WOW!

Great Christmas Gifts!
Rt. 114, East Burke, Vermont
802-626-3215
Gift Certificates



East Burke Sports

IN STOCK

Salsa & Surly FATBIKES

Experience 4" wide bike tire fun with snowshoe-like floatation!

Tubbs Snowshoes

15% OFF

Kid's starting at \$67.99
Adult's starting at \$99.00

Other Great Gifts
Hotronic Boot Heater
Hydration System
Ski & Snowboard Bindings, Wax, Accessories & Tools

Friendly Professional Service

Ski Tune-ups Starting at **\$30**

Snowboard Tune-ups Starting at **\$30**

Binding Test & Adjustment **\$20**

www.eastburkesports.com

Open 7 Days
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
Layaway Program Available
Until Christmas

NEW ENGLAND

Card Shower
90TH BIRTHDAY
 (December 9, 2012)
DORIS BICKFORD
 601 Red Village Rd., Lyndonville, VT
 05851

CHUCK'S TOWING
BUYING JUNK CARS
 For a complete car \$50-\$150
SELLING USED TIRES
 Days: 802-535-7279
 After 5 p.m. 802-626-5077

ARMSTRONG'S
Better Hearing Service, Ltd.

198 Eastern Ave.
 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-748-4852
1-800-838-4327

*Sandi
 Diane
 Rebecca
 Isabelle*

**STOP BELIEVING WHAT YOU'VE HEARD -
 AND START BELIEVING WHAT YOU HEAR**
 A demo is worth a thousand words.

**6-DAY TECHNOLOGY
 DEMONSTRATION**

November 26, 27 & 28 **9:00 AM -**
 December 3, 4 & 5 **4:00 PM**

- Learn more about hearing loss
- Preview Wi Series, the latest advancement from Starkey
- Get a FREE, no-obligation hearing evaluation

By appointment only.
 Call today!

Wi series
 www.wi-series.com

**Flags To Fly At Half-Staff
 In Honor Of Vermont Lawmaker**

MONTPELIER (AP) — Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin has ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff on Tuesday in honor of a state lawmaker who was killed when he was hit by a car.

A memorial service also will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday for Rep. Gregory Clark of Vergennes at the Vergennes Congregational Church.

State Police said the 65-year-old Republican lawmaker was killed Friday morning when he was hit by a car along U.S. Route 7 in Waltham.

Police said Clark was driving south when he stopped his car at the edge of the highway to clear his windshield. Clark pulled partially onto the shoulder of the road, but he was hit by another south-bound vehicle while he was outside his car.

N.H. Officials Seek Moose Poacher(s)

LANCASTER, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire Fish and Game officials are asking for the public's help in identifying who killed a moose out of season in Berlin and left it to rot in what they are calling the most egregious case of poaching that conservation officers have seen in the North County this year.

A cow moose carcass with bullet holes in it was found off Kilkenny Loop Road on Friday night.

Officials say tracks in the snow show that someone had walked up to the moose, fired a final shot into the animal's head and then walked away. No meat was removed.

Conservation officers believe the moose was shot on Wednesday or Thursday and that multiple people may have been involved.

**High Bail For N.H. Couple
 In Child Endangerment Case**

PLAISTOW, N.H. (AP) — A fugitive couple arrested at a Florida theme park and arraigned in New Hampshire on charges in the beating and burning of the woman's 3-year-old son had high bail amounts set Monday.

Separate video arraignments were held for the two in court in Plaistow, a town of about 8,000 residents on the Massachusetts state line.

The boy's mother, Jessica Linscott, 23, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail. She appeared to wipe tears from her eyes after the charges were read. Her boyfriend, Roland Dow, 27, was ordered held on \$500,000 bail.

Both have been ordered not to have contact with each other or with the child, who is still hospitalized and recovering from brain injury, seizures and burns to his wrist and fingers.

Linscott asked for a lawyer; Dow had a lawyer present. The couple had said the boy's injuries were self-inflicted and submitted videos to support that.

"The hospital staff had a chance to evaluate those videos," prosecutor Michael Zaino said. "They found them completely inconsistent with these injuries."

Zaino said the child's body was covered with bruises. "One of the bruises seems to stretch from his rib cage, the middle of his back, all the way across and around his rib cage," he said.

Linscott and Dow were arrested last week by federal marshals at Universal Studios in Orlando following two weeks on the run. They were jailed in New Hampshire on Saturday.

Zaino said the two had agreed to turn themselves in to police on Nov. 19, but instead hid in Haverhill, Mass. From there, they went to Boston, where they took a bus to New York, and then a train to Florida.

Dow is charged with first- and second-degree assault. He and Linscott face multiple charges of child endangerment. The boy is in state custody.

Online? Check us out: www.caledonianrecord.com

the Services Guide .com

Search these and other qualified service providers online at www.theservicesguide.com

AGRICULTURE - Equipment

P & S EQUIPMENT, INC.

1091 Meadow Street, Littleton, NH
 1-603-444-7028

Authorized Dealer

Husqvarna

Global Leader
 In Outdoor Power Equipment

AGRICULTURE - Equipment

RIVERSIDE TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT

SKIDSTEERS • MADDOWS
 ROCK RAKES • SCRAPER BLADES • BOX SCRAPERS

L3800 4WD Tractor
 with loader, rotary cutter, rear blade
AS LOW AS \$18,800*

*0% Financing Available
 Cash Pricing • All Rebates to Dealer
 VERMONT'S LEADING

Kubota

Dealer Has You Covered!!
 Selection • Parts • Service
 US Rte. 2, Berlin, VT
 www.riverstrac.com • 802-223-0021

• GENERATORS • TRAILERS •

AGRICULTURE - Equipment

Jon Parks TRACTOR SALES & SERVICE

603-788-4577
 107 SUMMER STREET • LANCASTER, NH
 Check out our website at:
www.jonparkstractor.com

AGRICULTURE - Equipment

DownEaster Trailers
 "PRIMEK & FIRESTONE"
 Trygg Chaine Select Skidder Chains
 Norse Winches

BOUGHT • SOLD • TRADED

Skidder Tires, Skidders, Backhoes, Dozers & Loaders, Excavators, Skid-steers, Forklifts, Feller Bunchers, Blades, Chippers, Screeners, Bushhogs, Chains, Forwarders & Farm Tractors, New & Used Parts, Tires & Rotillers, Woodsplitters, Post Hole Diggers, Rock Rakes, Box Scrapers & Winches, 3 PH Backhoes, Finish Mowers, Trucks & Trailers

NASH EQUIPMENT
 www.nashequipment.com
 email: nash99@myfairpoint.net
 331 Route 26, Colebrook, NH 03576
 (603) 237-8857
 NO SALES TAX IN NH

AGRICULTURE - Feed

TRACK SIDE FARM & GARDEN CENTER, LLC.
 51 COTTAGE STREET, LITTLETON, NH
 603-444-6518

Nutrena

Animal Feeds • Dog Food
 Black Oil Sunflower • Shavings, Hay
 Wild Bird Food & Feeders
 Fill Propane Tanks • Grass Seed
 Bagged Shavings • Conservation Mix

GREAT SELECTION OF PET TOYS

Loyal

AGRICULTURE - Equipment

East Thetford, Vermont

CW Gray & Son's, Inc.
 AUCTIONEERS

Specializing in ...
 Equipment Auctions,
 Farm Sales, Estate Auctions &
 Going Out Of Business Auctions

Call us at
802-785-2161
 or email us at
cwgray@valley.net

Family owned & operated for over 50 years.
www.cwgray.com
 For Upcoming Auctions

AUTOMOTIVE

G-S Auto & Truck Parts, Inc.

NAPA

Get the Good Stuff

- Automobile & Heavy Duty Truck Parts
- Battery & Alternator Testing
- Specialty Paints Available
- Machine Shop - Complete Engine Work - Hydraulic Hoses

Visit www.napaonline.com

603-444-2982 225 Union St. Littleton, NH
 603-837-2402 Route 3N Whitefield, NH

AUTOMOTIVE

BURKE VIEW GARAGE, INC.
 Established 1981

Route 114 • Lyndonville, VT
 Foreign & Domestic Repairs

- Oil Change
- Vermont State Inspection
- Brakes • Exhaust • Tires

MINOR & MAJOR REPAIRS
802-626-3282
 Monday-Friday • 8-5

"Where Quality Isn't Expensive, It's Priceless."

AUTOMOTIVE

CAPITOL CITY GMC

Route 2 • Montpelier, VT

OIL & FILTER CHANGE
\$19.95

Up to 5 quarts and FREE 27 pt. inspection. Most cars & light trucks. Synthetic oil extra.

We Service All Makes & Models

Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 7-5pm • Wed 7-7pm
802-223-0001
www.capitolcityauto.com

AUTOMOTIVE

CAPITOL CITY KIA KIA MOTORS
 The Power to Surprise!

Route 2, Montpelier, VT

OIL & FILTER CHANGE
\$19.95

Up to 5 quarts and FREE 27 pt. inspection. Most cars & light trucks. Synthetic oil extra.

We Honor All Service Contracts No Matter Where You Bought Your Car

Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 7-5pm • Wed 7-7pm
802-223-0001
www.capcitykia.com

COMMERCIAL TIRE

Our customers expect the best.

COMMERCIAL TIRE. WE DELIVER!

Pete Spearin • 603-616-1573
 25 Simonds Road, Dalton, NH

CHUCK'S AUTO PARTS
 569 Main St., Lyndonville, Vt.

NAPA

Complete Line of Quality NAPA Automotive Parts & Supplies
 For Both Foreign & Domestic Vehicles

PERFORMANCE LINE
802-626-5369
802-626-9632

Mon.-Fri. 7:00-6:00
 Sat. 7:00-Noon, Sun. 9:00-12:00
 Owned & Operated by Chuck Rice

AUTOMOTIVE

Mountain View Auto, Inc.
 Sales and Service

Good Used Late Model Cars and Trucks For Sale

- Brakes • Exhaust • Tires
- Oil Change • Struts & Shocks
- Collision Repair • Used Parts
- 4-Wheel Alignment
- Auto Detailing • 24-Hour Towing
- Vt. State Inspection Station

376 Broad Street
 Lyndonville, Vermont
 802-626-4276
 802-626-9251
 (Vt.) 1-800-639-1591

Mon.-Fri. 8-5 • Sat. 8-Noon
 Dave & Diane Ainsworth

AUTOMOTIVE

GREG'S AUTO REPAIR

Greg Gervais ~ Owner
802-626-5888

WALK-INS ALWAYS WELCOME

- ✓ Complete Auto Services
- ✓ Alignments
- ✓ State Inspection Station
- ✓ All Season & Winter Tires In Stock

724 BROAD STREET, LYNDONVILLE, VT 05851
HOURS:
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30; Sat. 8-12

AUTOMOTIVE

NELSON'S AUTO REPAIR & TIRE CENTER

nokian TYRES
 Specializing in
 2 & 4 Wheel Alignments
603-444-1115
 Locally Owned & Operated
 Redington Street, Littleton, NH

AUTOMOTIVE

LANCASTER AUTO SALES

USED CARS

"You're just a click away from getting a great deal!"

Open 24 Hours a Day at
www.lancasterautodeals.com
 475 MAIN STREET
 603-788-2886

VILLE AUTO SUPPLY

CARQUEST YOU'LL FIND IT AT CARQUEST

Quality parts and service for domestic and foreign cars. Hard to find parts.

CUSTOM MADE HYDRAULIC HOSES

Mark Valois, Owner

721 Broad St., Lyndonville, Vt.
 802-626-8181
 Mon.-Fri. 7:00-5:00 • Sat. 7:30-Noon

South Main AUTO SALES & SERVICE

- SNOW PLOWS
- TRAILER HITCHES
- SAND SPREADERS
- DUMP BODIES

Complete Auto & Light Truck repair for over 20 years

448 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-3219
www.southmainauto.biz
 Let Them EARN Your Trust

AUTOMOTIVE

GOODYEAR **AMERICAN CALL TIRE & AUTO REPAIR**

NOW SERVICING COMMERCIAL TRUCKS

L.O.F. • TIRES BRAKES/EXHAUST 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENTS NH STATE INSPECTIONS

603-837-8700
 ALLTIRE1@GMAIL.COM
 104 LANCASTER ROAD
 WHITEFIELD, NH 03598

BARBERS

American Hairsthith
 Master Barber Stylist

603-991-2332

Haircuts and Styles For the Entire Family
 Open Tuesday through Saturday

Look Good and Feel Good at a Reasonable Price — Just Walk In —
 21 Main Street • Littleton, NH

BUILDING

New Homes Arriving Daily!

FECTEAU Homes!

Come and check out our large selection of Modular and Manufactured Homes.

Our used center offers a large variety of Pre-owned double wides & single wides.

Located across from The Wayside and at 350 River Street in Montpelier
 802-229-2721 • 1-800-391-7488
www.fecteauhomes.com

BUILDING - Materials

BARGAIN BUILDING PRODUCTS!

"Where A Bargain Becomes A Steal!"
 1315 Route 5 North • Gray's Field
 Fairlee, VT • www.cwgray.com
 802-333-4375

5% OFF PURCHASE
 Over \$25 • With This Ad

- Interior Pine Doors
- Exterior Doors
- Tub/Shower Units
- Kitchen/Bathroom Cabinets
- PlyGem Windows

M-F 8am-5pm • SAT 8am-1pm

CLOTHING

bella funk boutique
www.bellafunkboutique.com
 Citizens of Humanity
 7 for all mankind
 Hudson
 Eileen Fisher
 Free People
 Frye

165 Main Street, Lincoln Square Mall, Lincoln, NH • 603-745-4700
 9 Main Street, Littleton, NH
 603-444-6597

ELIZABETH'S
 Large Size Fashions

Specializing in women's sizes 16 and up & fun and unusual accessories.

REDEEM THIS AD IN 2012 FOR 20% OFF ANY ONE NON-SALE CLOTHING ITEM

Open Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30
 1 Eastern Avenue
 St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-3180