

High 48  
 Low 32



# Student forces additional hire

By **STEPHEN MILLS**  
 STAFF WRITER

## SPOTLIGHT

### In the news

A Science Friday venture into why valleys are often cooler than the high summits above. **A2**

Mother charged with obstruction of justice in son's sexual assault case. **A3**

A look at what's happening around the Washington Central Supervisory Union. **B8**

MONTPELIER — The Montpelier-Roxbury Public Schools Board has agreed to hire another teacher because the addition of a one student at Main Street Middle School exceeds the district's student capacity for sixth grade at the school.

News of the need came at a meeting of the board at Montpelier High School Wednesday when

Superintendent Libby Bonesteel asked for approval to make the hire of a full-time teacher through the rest of the school year as soon as possible.

"Currently our grade six is at the cap size for the policy that we have, and we have a family that wants to enroll with a sixth- and eighth-grader which will put us over the edge, both this year and ... next year in seventh grade and the next

year after that in eighth grade," Bonesteel said.

"Bonesteel noted that the middle school lost a few students this year to 'more private endeavors' but the school also gained an additional 35 student over the summer.

"So our middle school is at max capacity right now and like I said, as soon as the family signs their paperwork we will be over the limit in sixth grade by one student,"

Bonesteel said, adding that her request was a one-to-one ratio.

Bonesteel noted that the school didn't have the space needed to add another student, but she said Facilities Director Andrew LaRosa is looking at the configuration of classrooms to see how the addition of another student in sixth grade could be accommodated.

See Teacher, page A8

## GAME ON!



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTO

Bill Hickok, of Westminster, cooks venison cutlets Wednesday night during a free Community Wild Game Tasting at The Garage Cultural Center in Montpelier. The Fish & Wildlife Department, the Vermont Bowhunters' Association and Montpelier residents concerned with deer management in their city hosted the event, which drew a big crowd to taste dishes made with venison, bear, moose and wild turkey, as well as garden dishes from area residents.

**UVM HOOPS**  
 at the Barre Aud  
 Women's practice starts at 10:30 a.m.  
 Men's practice starts at 12:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY**  
 • FREE ADMISSION •

## HOT SPOT



### Today ARTIST & CURATOR'S TALK

SPA resident artist Anne Sarcka will discuss her paintings of local quarries in the Rock Solid XIX show and provide further discussion about her process in her studio upstairs. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Studio Place Arts, 201 N Main St, Barre, info@studioplacearts.com, 802-479-7069.

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## LOTTERY

■ **OCT. 17, 2019 DRAWS**  
 Midday: 5-5-6 and 8-1-8-0  
 Evening: 6-0-8 and 1-1-4-2  
 New York State: 4-7-4 LS15 and 1-8-6-7 LS22  
 ■ **OCT. 16, 2019 DRAWS**  
 Powerball: 1-5-25-63-67 PB3 PP2

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# Felon deemed insane by federal court

By **MIKE DONOGHUE**  
 CORRESPONDENT

BURLINGTON — A federal judge ruled Thursday that a Williamstown felon, facing a charge of illegal possession of firearms during a domestic assault case, is mentally incompetent to stand trial in U.S. District Court.

Douglas W. Bedell, 57, had pleaded not guilty in federal court in Burlington in February to a charge of being a convicted

felon in possession of firearms. Magistrate Judge John M. Conroy ordered a competency evaluation at the Federal Medical Centers in Devens, Massachusetts.

Federal Judge Christina Reiss on Thursday, after hearing testimony from a doctor at FMC Devens and reviewing various reports and filings, ruled Bedell was unable to participate in his defense and was incompetent to stand trial.

Reiss said she was postponing

signing a final order to give the defense two weeks to further contest the finding.

Unlike with two murder charges and two attempted murder charges that were dropped by Chittenden County State's Attorney Sarah George, the federal court oversight continues. George wanted to leave the release of those defendants to Vermont's mental health commissioner. One shooting case has been taken over by the U.S. Attorney's

Office.

Attorney General T. J. Donovan took over another involving one dead and one seriously injured. The fourth charge involving a fatal stabbing on Church Street remains under review by Donovan's office.

Bedell will remain in federal custody and his case will be monitored by Judge Reiss as Bureau of Prison doctors determine the best route

See Bedell, page A8

## WRITTEN CONTRACTS URGED

# Homeowners warned on fraud risk

By **ERIC BLAISDELL**  
 STAFF WRITER

BARRE — Officials urge residents to be cautious when hiring someone to work on their homes as a St. Johnsbury man continues to pick up home improvement fraud charges.

Ryan E. Kimball, 34, pleaded guilty earlier this month to two felony counts of home improvement fraud and a misdemeanor count of violating conditions of release. Kimball will be sentenced on Nov. 26 where he faces a sentence of two to six years, all suspended, and the state will argue for two years to serve while James Lamonda, Kimball's attorney, will argue for a lesser-to-serve sentence.

Kimball has admitted to taking \$10,000 from an East Montpelier woman for a roofing job he never completed. He also admitted to taking \$1,596.38 from a Montpelier resident for a siding project that he also didn't finish.

Police said Kimball

has been cited for home improvement fraud for incidents in Sheffield, Lunenburg and Danville. On Tuesday police said Kimball had been cited for another incident of home improvement fraud. This time in Craftsbury.

Assistant Attorney General Chris Curtis said his office receives complaints about home improvement fraud regularly. Between 2012 and 2018 he said his office received nearly 800 consumer complaints regarding home improvement services.

"The claimed losses by Vermont consumers totaled \$4.4 million," Curtis said.

That's just a fraction of the actual losses residents dealt with because Curtis said residents may have reported their incidents of fraud to local police or their state's attorney's office instead of contacting the state Attorney General's office.

See Fraud, page A8

## WELD VISIT



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTO

Republican presidential nominee and former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld speaks with Buddy Barnett, of Barre, during a meeting Thursday of the Washington County Republicans in Berlin. Weld is one of the first presidential candidates to make a stop in central Vermont for the 2020 election cycle.

# US, Turkey negotiate a temporary cease-fire plan

By **ZEKE MILLER**  
 and **ROBERT BURNS**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA, Turkey — The U.S. and Turkey agreed Thursday to a five-day cease-fire in the Turks' attacks on Kurdish fighters in northern Syria to allow the Kurds to withdraw to roughly 20

miles away from the Turkish border. The arrangement appeared to be a significant embrace of Turkey's position in the weeklong conflict.

After more than four hours of negotiations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, U.S. Vice

President Mike Pence said the purpose of his high-level mission was to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey's invasion of Syria. He remained silent on whether the agreement amounted to a second abandonment of

See Turkey, page A8

