



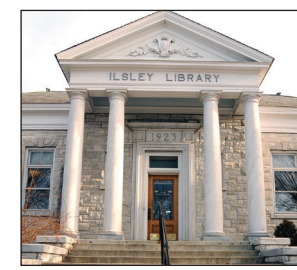
## Usable art

A Bristol man devotes his career to making fine furniture that is functional. See Arts + Leisure.



## Rutland iced

MUHS boys' hockey scored a season-high number of goals in a Tuesday win. See Sports, Page 1B.



## Facelift

A committee is making plans to update the 90-year-old Isley Library building. See Page 2A.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Bristol-area coyote hunt causes controversy

**By GAEN MURPHREE**  
BRISTOL — A coyote hunt scheduled for the second weekend in February has sparked debate in Bristol and surrounding towns, with state officials also questioning whether such hunts have any effect on coyote populations.

The "Wile E. Coyote Hunt 2017" is scheduled to begin Thursday, Feb. 9, at 12:01 a.m. and conclude the following Sunday, Feb. 12, at noon. According to the flyer advertising the hunt, coyotes must be taken by legal means and hunters must have valid Vermont hunting licenses. Coyotes can be taken from anywhere in the state, not just Addison County. The flyer stipulates that hunters must retrieve the carcasses after the contest is over and entreats hunters to "PLEASE, PLEASE dispose of them properly." It offers cash prizes for the top three "heaviest legally taken dogs."

For Bristol resident Holly Tippet, an organizer with the volunteer Vermont Coyote Coexistence Coalition, such coyote contests are "wanton waste." "It's not that any of us objects to hunting," said Tippet. "We object to this kind of hunting. Any animal that (See Hunt, Page 12A)

season and no bag limit. Coyote trapping, however, is limited to the fourth Saturday in October through Dec. 31. Hunters may use any legal weapon to hunt coyotes (rifles, handguns, bows, muzzleloaders), but may not use artificial light to take an animal. Coyotes — together with such furbearers as bobcat, fox, raccoon, muskrat, weasel, opossum, skunk — may be hunted at night. Dogs cannot be used to hunt deer or moose, but may be used to hunt coyotes and many other animals. Electronic calling devices are outlawed for moose, waterfowl and wild turkeys, but are legal for other animals.



A BRISTOL COYOTE hunting contest scheduled for Feb. 9-12 has ignited local opposition. Coyotes can be hunted year-round in Vermont with no bag limit.

Photo by John Hall/Vermont Fish and Wildlife

## Vermont hunting laws make it open season on coyotes

VERMONT — Vermont law permits coyote hunting 365 days a year, and there is no limit to the numbers of the animals a hunter may kill in a year (known as a "bag limit"). Coyotes, skunks, weasels, and opossums are the only four mammals for which state hunting regulations stipulate no closed

season and no bag limit. Coyote trapping, however, is limited to the fourth Saturday in October through Dec. 31. Hunters may use any legal weapon to hunt coyotes (rifles, handguns, bows, muzzleloaders), but may not use artificial light to take an animal. Coyotes — together with such furbearers

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## Trump order strands Weybridge family in Iran

Middlebury College helping Prof. Ata Anzali return home

**By GAEN MURPHREE**  
WEYBRIDGE and TABRIZ, Iran — Close to 6,000 miles away in the northwestern corner of Iran, a Weybridge family is hastily packing. "We are planning to fly back to the U.S. on Friday and, as you can imagine, it is mayhem here in our house with packing and stuff. We'll hopefully be in Vermont on Saturday if everything goes smoothly," wrote Middlebury College professor Ata Anzali in an email to the *Independent* on Tuesday.



Courtesy photo

SINCE LAST JUNE, Ata Anzali, his wife Fahimeh Bahrami and their daughters Esra, left, and Narges have been in Iran while Ata is on sabbatical from his job as a Middlebury College professor. After President Trump last Friday suspended travel to the United States from seven countries and barred refugees, the Anzalis have scurried to return to their Weybridge home as quickly as possible.

Anzali, his wife Fahimeh Bahrami and daughters Narges and Esra (ages 11 and nine, respectively) are among the hundreds of Americans and the untold number of people worldwide affected by President Trump's executive order suspending entry into the United States for 90 days for persons from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen; for 120 days for all refugees, regardless of nationality; and indefinitely for refugees from Syria.

Anzali, his wife and oldest daughter are green card holders: legal, permanent residents of the United States. Anzali's youngest daughter is a U.S. citizen. Since last summer the family as been living in Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan Province, as part of Anzali's year-long sabbatical from Middlebury College.



ANZALI

Anzali teaches Islamic Studies in the college's religion department, and specializes in such topics as the Islamic mystical tradition and the study of the Quran.

"We decided to be here (in Iran) for a year because, in addition to my research, we wanted our kids to learn about the Iranian culture more. We wanted them — and us — to be able to spend time with their grandparents and cousins and others," said Anzali. "The family's plan had been to remain for his full sabbatical year. But as drafts of President Trump's executive order began to circulate last week, Anzali began to reassess the family's situation. "I would have completed my research, my wife would have completed her field work for her dissertation, and our kids would have finished school here," if we could stay until June, he said.

"The (executive order) basically meant mission abort for us." As with many of those affected by the President's action, the Anzalis have seen some of the most personal aspects of their everyday lives thrown into turmoil. "We have rented a house here, bought a car. We have a life here," Ata Anzali said. "And then in the span of one week, we first learn that we cannot go back and then, with the help of lawyers and lawsuits, we were advised to leave Iran for the U.S. as soon as possible."

Andrea Lloyd, Middlebury College's dean of faculty, reported an intense week as college officials talked repeatedly with Anzali, reached out to federal representatives and legal experts, and worked nonstop to assess the ever-changing situation on the ground. Lloyd said that originally, Anzali had purchased airline tickets for the family to return to the United States on Sunday, Jan. 29. But as it became clearer over the weekend that legal permanent residents were being detained at airports, their status unclear, and as differing legal responses to the President's executive order were issued from different cities, the Anzali family changed its mind about reentering the United States in the midst of so much uncertainty. "He decided that it was too much of a risk to fly and risk getting detained," said Lloyd. The pace of events was somewhat staggering. "This was all happening in real time," Lloyd added. "And we were all sort of on the phone with Ata several of us, just trying to help him figure out what to do. I should also say that Sen. Leahy's office has been enormously helpful in helping (See Family, Page 13A)

## Five-town spending could raise school taxes

**By GAEN MURPHREE**  
BRISTOL — School boards around the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union are warning spending plans for the district's five elementary schools. When five-town voters cast ballots on Town Meeting Day they will be considering budgets that lower proposed spending at each of the schools but see small increases in the amount to be raised by taxes. "Elementary principals, school board members and central office leaders worked diligently this budget season to produce budgets that addressed both the educational needs of students as well as the needs of the physical plants at a cost believed to be acceptable to voters," said ANeSU Superintendent Patrick Reen. "Our process included community forums in early December in an attempt to engage community members early on in the conversation as budgets were just beginning to take shape."



By the way

Four Vermont Muslim teen slam poets who call themselves "Muslim Girls Making Change" will share their experiences at a program in Bristol this Thursday. So many people are expected to attend the performance by the Burlington and South Burlington residents that organizers from the One World Library Project have moved the event from the Lawrence Memorial Library to the much larger Holley Hall. The free performance and talk begins (See By the way, Page 12A)



GEORGE MERKEL

## Local chiefs contest racial bias report

Stats don't tell the story, police allege

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
ADDISON COUNTY — Police officials in Addison County said a newly released report alleging the presence of racially biased policing in Vermont provides an inaccurate and unfair portrayal of their respective departments, and is based on traffic-stop data that has been skewed to arrive at a conclusion. The report, titled "Driving While Black and Brown in Vermont," was authored by Prof. Stephanie Seguino of the University of Vermont Economic Department, and Nancy Brooks, a visiting associate professor at Cornell University. Seguino said she initiated the

report to see how Vermont's law enforcement practices measure up to its reputation as a liberal, progressive state on the subject of race relations. Seguino and her colleagues compiled and analyzed traffic stop data provided by 29 police agencies throughout the state, including Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol. Vermont police agencies have been required to collect traffic data by race since September of 2014. At the state level, Seguino evaluated racial disparities only for 2015, which is the



See the full report "Driving While Black and Brown in Vermont" with this story online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com).

only year for which she was provided complete traffic stop data from all 29 agencies. She also evaluated racial disparities by county, also for 2015, and by individual police agencies. The report authors took into consideration stop rates by race compared to racial shares of the population, males as a share of stops by race, the proportion of drivers by race receiving citations, racial differences in arrest rates, racial differences in search rates, and the percentage of searches that yield contraband. "Our goal of this study is to examine whether the treatment of black and Hispanic drivers differs

significantly from that of white and Asian drivers," reads the report. Seguino's findings included: • At the state level, black and Hispanic drivers are more likely to receive a citation once stopped than are white or Asian drivers, and the black arrest rate is almost double the white arrest rate. • At the state level, black drivers are four times more likely to be searched, after a stop, than white drivers. Also, male drivers are more likely to be stopped than female drivers, regardless of race/ethnicity. But the racial disparities in male shares of stops are notably large. • In all but a few towns, the black stop rate exceeds the black share of (See Profiling, Page 7A)

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# Hunt

(Continued from Page 1A)

can be hunted 365 days a year, day and night — it's not ethical and it's not good sound science or wildlife management. The killing contests make it entertainment.

"There's no bag limits on them so they can kill as many as they can, all at the same time running them down to exhaustion with their dogs and then they turn their dogs on them to kill them. That kind of hunting to me is unethical and most hunters that I speak with are deeply offended by it."

Coyotes are the only animals addressed in the state's hunting guidelines for which there are no closed season and no bag limit (see sidebar for other Vermont coyote hunting regulations).

Tippett also noted concerns that surfaced after a Shoreham coyote hunt a year ago, when residents reported that coyote hunters entered their property without permission, agitated livestock and threatened property owners.

Tippett and fellow coyote advocate Jeff Mack took their concerns to the Bristol selectboard at its Jan. 16 meeting. Tippett said she also contacted Vermont's top game warden, Col. Jason Batchelder, with her concerns about the hunt.

Tippett added that since she began organizing against the hunt, she's noticed more postings closing land to coyote hunting, among them at Bristol's Watershed Center.

Watershed Center Board Member David Brynn said that the Watershed Center welcomes hunters and encourages them to use the property, but the land is posted against coyote hunting because it's year round. Most hikers, said Brynn, don't want to hike during hunting season. And allowing coyote hunting could subject hikers to gunfire 365 days a year.

Postings on the Watershed Center read: "NOTICE: Hunting of deer and game birds permitted in season. For safety reasons no trapping or hunting of coyotes or any other animals is permitted."

### SEEKING MORE DEER

Contest organizer Todd Baldwin of Bristol said that for him the purpose of the contest is to improve deer hunting and to protect farms from coyotes' marauding.

"I'm not in it for pleasure, I'm just doing it to thin down the coyote population, to keep the coyote population down to have more deer," Baldwin said.

A lifelong deer hunter who hasn't taken a deer in seven years, Baldwin said coyotes' success in Addison County has reduced the deer population and made life harder for hunters.

Baldwin bought the rights to the Bristol event two years ago from the previous organizer. He said that the number of participants is down due to the public outcry — so far, only about eight hunters have signed up this year.

"There's a lot of people that don't even do it no more. They still hunt



**BIOLOGISTS SAY COYOTES occupy an important niche in the Vermont landscape as predators of small rodents, insects, small birds, fruit and plants, in addition to young deer.**

Photo by John Hall/Vermont Fish and Wildlife

coyotes, but they don't join the hunt because they don't want the hassle of anti-hunters," Baldwin said.

A coyote hunter since he first got a hunting license as a teenager, Baldwin, now 50, said that the event used to attract over 100 hunters.

"It's pretty much going down every year. And I might not do it next year because of anti-hunters and stuff like that protesting and doing what they do to get it to stop," he said.

Asked about some of the concerns raised against previous hunts, Baldwin said that

proper disposal of coyote carcasses can involve giving them to friends who use the fur, or if the fur is too mangy leaving the carcasses in the woods for crows, eagles and bobcats to scavenge. Some coyote hunters use the meat for trapping, to attract other predators.

He also said that it was important for all hunters to treat others' land with respect: "I was brought up to ask to hunt somebody's land. I don't care if I've hunted the same land 15 years in a row, I ask every year. That's the way I was brought up, to respect other people's land like I would want my land to be respected."

Among Baldwin's concerns one resonates for many outdoor enthusiasts, regardless of their stance on coyote hunting: loss of wild land to development.

"I used to hunt a lot of places when I was younger, and most of these places are getting bought up and developed," he said. "And if you go to state land, there's so many people hunting there now it's not even worth hunting there."

### COYOTE SCIENCE

But state biologists said that

although coyotes are relative newcomers as a species, they occupy an important niche in the Vermont landscape. The extermination of wolves and cougars in the 19th century left the Vermont landscape without key predators. Coyotes arrived in the 1940s and now occupy a predator niche closer to foxes than wolves, eating small rodents, insects, small birds, fruit and plants, as well as carrion, and at times killing fawns up to about six weeks old.

"By six weeks old a fawn can outrun a coyote without even trying," said Nick Fortin, Deer Project Leader for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A VFW coyote fact sheet states that "deer numbers are carefully monitored, and there is no indication that coyotes are negatively influencing deer populations in Vermont."

In fact, says Fortin, coyotes are "a benefit to the deer. Having a predator in that ecosystem keeps the deer healthy."

Moreover, Fortin explained that killing coyotes is unlikely to have an effect on the coyote population.

"Broadly speaking, the more you kill, the more pups they're going to have. You're going to have as many coyotes as there is food to support them," he said.

Fortin also noted that even if you wipe out the coyotes on one patch, sooner or later other coyotes will simply move into the area.

Asked about the objections raised by coyote advocates against hunting with dogs and coyote hunters against how coyotes kill, Fortin said, "That's nature. That's the way canids, dogs, that's the way they kill. They just start eating them. And, yeah, it's gruesome, but who are we to judge?"

*"There's a lot of people that don't even do it no more. They still hunt coyotes, but they don't join the hunt because they don't want the hassle of anti-hunters."*

— Contest organizer  
Todd Baldwin

# By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
at 7 p.m.

An important reminder for people concerned about goings-on in Montpelier: The first session of the Addison County Legislative Breakfast series is slated for this Monday, Feb. 6, at the Grange Hall in Bridport. The weekly, Monday breakfasts feature updates and lively discussion on various bills and initiatives making headlines under the Golden Dome. The legislative breakfasts are sponsored by Bridport Grange No. 303 and the Addison County Farm Bureau. They start at 7 a.m., with the program beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 8:45 a.m. Please note organizers are introducing two Saturday breakfast sessions this year, one at St. Peter's Parish Hall in Vergennes on Feb. 18, and another at the American Legion Hall in Bristol on March 4.

**Middlebury College's first Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Ira J. Schiffer, recently announced that he will retire on June 30 after serving the college community for 16 years as the associate chaplain. Schiffer has touched the lives of countless students, faculty and staff, as well as other folks in Addison County, since he arrived at Middlebury in 2001 with his wife, Linda, who later became coordinator of Cook Commons, and their children, Rachel and Ben (both Middlebury grads). Schiffer, who will turn 66 later this year, said that in retirement he expects to continue his volunteerism with the United Way of Addison County, for whom he and Linda are co-chairs of the 2016-17 fundraising drive, along with his interests as a hunter education instructor,**

chaplain to the Middlebury Police Department, and keeping up with his children's "professional circus exploits around the globe." During his first 14 years in Middlebury, Schiffer also served as director of education and rabbinic consultant for Havurah, the Addison County Jewish Congregation.

Speaking of Havurah, the house on North Pleasant Street will be the site this Sunday, Feb. 5, of a discussion on the what is the role of Havurah and the Jewish Community in this new era? Members of the community, which was the target of anti-Semitic graffiti after last November's election, wish to discuss how their spiritual needs and political priorities have changed as the national political climate has changed. The open-ended discussion will be held 4-6 p.m. and will include Matt Vogel, Ferrisburgh resident and director of UVM Hillel, who has recently done an organizational assessment of Havurah. Those planning to attend are asked to please RSVP to HHedDirector@gmail.com by Friday, Feb. 3, so organizers can plan their set up needs.

**Ever wonder why we often resist making changes that would improve our lives? Have you resisted changing how you use energy, even while knowing it could save you money? Those questions will be addressed when College of St. Joseph's Professor Robert Goddard offers a look at energy use habits and the psychology of change resistance on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Energy Innovation Center in downtown Rutland. The free event at 68-70 Merchants Row in Rutland will take place from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. with snacks served.**

# Lincoln

Have a news tip? Call  
Kathy Mikkelsen at 453-4014

### NEWS

LINCOLN — Welcome to February. I think the year is going backward. Didn't we just have March? I seem to remember a long mud season!

Here is the information I have about Hill Country Holiday.

Friday, Feb. 3, Military Whist, 6:45 p.m. at Burnham Hall, sponsored by the Lincoln Youth Group. Fun and easy to play! Cost is \$1 per person. Crowning of King and Queen Peter and Ila Halby will take place during Military Whist.

Saturday, Feb. 4, the Parade will line up at the old pallet mill at 11:15 a.m. Stand by the Lincoln Store to view the parade at 11:30 a.m., but don't be late (or blink) or you'll miss it! Theme this year is Community Magic.

The Lincoln Library will host a soup and bread lunch at Burnham Hall at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$6 per person.

From 12:30-2:30 p.m. come visit our new Town Office and also view a Historical Society display.

Also at 12:30 p.m., Capture the Flag

will be played at the Lincoln Sports Field. All ages welcome!

From 4:30-6:30 p.m., there will be an all you can eat spaghetti dinner at Burnham Hall presented by Lincoln Preschool. The cooking will be by Bobcat owners and other preschool parents. Adults \$8; seniors \$5; kids \$3; age 4 and under may eat for free.

The famous (or infamous!) Variety Show will begin at 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Perform your favorite song, poem, jokes, skit or just come, sit back and enjoy the show. Please sign up by calling Todd Goodyear at 453-8589.

Sunday, Feb. 5 there will be a pancake and sausage breakfast at the Hall from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Single meal \$6 or all the pancakes you can eat for \$8. Presented by Lincoln Sports.

Lego building from 1-5 p.m. in the basement of the Lincoln United Church. Free, all are welcome! Sounds like fun and I don't think they are predicting 30 below like it has been in the past! Enjoy!

# WELLNESS

## directory



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*practitioner of the week...*

**Robert Rex**  
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Robert introduced Roling® Structural Integration to Middlebury more than 12 years ago. Roling® is a hands-on form of bodywork that reconnects and enhances the communication of your nervous system, resulting in more energy, increased flexibility, improved posture, improved performance, & pain resolution. Robert's personal style of Roling® meets your body where it is, rather than overpowering it, to assist you in achieving your goals. His approach often leads to profound changes, and will provide you with new options to move, play, and live your life.

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Robert is a graduate of the Rolf Institute of Structural Integration, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.