



**WEATHER**

High 12  
Low -3



**GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

## FCC rule change delayed

By KEITH WHITCOMB JR.  
STAFF WRITER

The government shutdown has given public access stations some extra time to rally their supporters against a proposed federal rule they fear would impact their funding.

The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 requires cable

companies to divert some of the profit they make from subscribers to public-access stations such as Onion River Community Access Media in Montpelier, and PEG-TV in Rutland. A rule proposed by the Federal Communications Commission would let cable companies set the value for in-kind services they

provide to these stations. The fear for many in public access television is that the cable companies might set these values so high it would hurt the stations' operations.

Kevin Christopher, president of Vermont Access Network, an umbrella organization for Vermont's public access stations, said

Thursday that while the official public-comment period for the rule change ended in the middle of December, residents are free to contact the agency with their concerns.

He said a decision on the rule

See Rule, page A5

**SPOTLIGHT**

**"So we're either going to have a win, make a compromise ... or I will declare a national emergency."**

President Donald Trump, in McAllen, Texas, on Thursday, responding to a reporter's question about a national emergency declaration. — A6



**77 Gallery**

The Grove Street art gallery will bring back artist residencies this year in an expanded program providing studio space for artists and outreach into the community. A2

**HOT SPOT**



**Tonight**

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

A series of nights with board games and family fun. All ages welcome. Complimentary popcorn and light snacks. 6-8 p.m. Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church, 67 Gecha Lane, Pittsford, mary@furnacebrook.org, 802-483-2531.

**ONLINE**



**Talking Pictures**

Brandon photographer Paul Gamba says the best camera to use is the one you've got. See this week's video at bit.ly/0107PaulGamba



**LOTTERY**

**JAN. 10, 2019 DRAWS**  
Midday: 9-2-9 and 1-0-5-3  
Evening: 4-3-2 and 9-1-5-6  
New York State  
7-5-0LS12 and 8-2-6-4 LS20  
**JAN. 9, 2019 DRAWS**  
Powerball: -19-37-49-59  
PB:22

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Gov. Phil Scott hugs his wife, Diana McTeague Scott, after taking the oath of office Thursday in Montpelier.

JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTOS

**2019 INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

## Scott: 'Common ground'

Inaugural aims for bipartisan tone toward progress

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

MONTPELIER — It was not the usual mandate from a governor at an inaugural.

On Thursday, Phil Scott, the re-elected Republican incumbent, called on lawmakers in the Democrat-controlled Legislature to find common ground with him in seeking out answers to the challenges the state is facing and to inspire a renewed faith in government.

Scott made the comments at the State House after he took the oath of office for his second two-year term. He said Vermont can show the rest of the nation that it is possible to debate difficult issues and still remain civil.

"We must look for common ground instead of highlighting or exploiting our differences, view consensus and compromise not as a weakness, but as a strength," he said during his 32-minute speech.

Scott laid out some broad policy goals designed to reverse the state's demographic challenge, which he said has seen Vermont's school population drop by 30,000 in the last 22 years while, in the last decade, the state's workforce



Senators, including Becca Balint, D-Windham, center, listen to Gov. Phil Scott's inaugural address Thursday in Montpelier.

has shrunk by 15,000.

"Our stagnant population is threatening every service we deliver, every program we administer and every investment we hope to make," he said.

During his first term as governor, the Republican Party had enough members in the

Legislature to support the governor's vetoes. In the November election though, the party lost ground, giving Democrats at least a theoretical veto-proof majority.

There were several areas toward that progress highlighted in the speech.

The governor said he wanted

to work together with Democratic leaders to develop solutions to the key issues of the session.

"The good is in our hearts, it's in our minds and it's who we've always been," said Scott. "Today, more than ever, it's who America needs us to be. And to meet the challenges ahead, to best serve Vermonters, it's who we have to be."

Scott said all sides need to be flexible as they work together on programs to properly fund education and to create a long-term clean water fund.

The governor said the challenges affect virtually every aspect of life in Vermont. Both the governor and legislative leaders say they hope to find ways to work together.

"These trends not only mean fewer in our workforce and schools," Scott said, "but fewer customers at businesses, rate-payers for utilities. ... And fewer to share the costs of state government, with ongoing needs in areas like transportation, building maintenance, public safety and human services."

See Scott, page A5

## Man gets 10 years in accidental shooting case

By PATRICK MCARDLE  
STAFF WRITER

A Poultney man was sentenced on Thursday to serve 10 to 20 years in prison for providing the gun that was used to accidentally kill another man in 2016.

Jonathan Testa, 23, was sentenced in Rutland criminal court on Thursday after pleading no contest to a felony count of assault and robbery resulting in an injury and pleading guilty to a felony count of false personation and one misdemeanor count each of reckless endangerment, possession of stolen property and petty larceny.

The charges stem from a series of events that resulted in William Edward Bailey, 21, of Granville, New York, fatally shooting Daniel Hein, 19, of Poultney.

Bailey told police he didn't know the gun was loaded. He said Testa had encouraged him to point the gun at Hein and pull the trigger to prove the gun wasn't loaded, but Testa denied that.

Bailey was charged with a felony count of manslaughter. He pleaded no contest to the charge in January



Testa

2018 and received a sentence of two years in June.

Testa was also charged with manslaughter but entered a plea agreement in August under which the charge was amended to reckless endangerment.

On Thursday, Rutland County State's Attorney Rose Kennedy asked Judge Thomas Zonay to sentence

Testa to 12 to 20 years. Under the plea agreement, it was the longest sentence the state could request.

Attorney Mark Furlan asked for a sentence of 3½ to four years.

Zonay's sentence was cumulative, with the longest piece, 8 to 17 years, attached to the reckless endangerment charge.

In a statement, Kennedy supported the sentence.

"I think (Zonay) thoughtfully took into consideration (Testa's) reckless actions that led to Daniel Hein's death and his willful actions of hitting Ryan Lowell over the head with a crowbar and stealing from Deanna Fifield. (Testa) chose his behaviors and the sentence handed down (Thursday) is an

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