

London, Sarah

From: Ashley Burke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:36 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Internship Dates

Thanks! Where would you like me to come on Monday?

Ashely

On May 17, 2012, at 7:34 AM, Wengroff, Ariel wrote:

> Great Ashley!

>

> Ariel Wengroff

> Special Assistant to the Governor

> 109 State Street

> Montpelier, VT 05609

>

> Office: 802-828-3333

> Cell: 802-279-6825

>

> On May 16, 2012, at 4:01 PM, "Ashley Burke" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

>> Hi Ari,

>> Would the 4th of June be a good day to start the internship? I just need to give my landlord dates. Thanks,

>> Ashley Burke

London, Sarah

From: Flood, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 8:00 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: FYI - mental health letter

Thanks. No surprise.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Flood, Patrick; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: FYI - mental health letter

Thought you all would like to know, this letter to Jeb and Patrick is being put out by VPR on Twitter. It's spreading a bit.

http://www.vpr.net/uploads/files/spaulding_5.30.12.pdf

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
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London, Sarah

From: Microsoft At Work
Posted At: Thursday, May 31, 2012 7:45 PM
Conversation: Windows 8 Release Preview is here
Posted To: Ari Del 5-2012

Subject: Windows 8 Release Preview is here

It's the next chapter of Windows—a new Windows for new devices, with an all-new touch interface, plus built-in parental controls and other new features. Be one of the first to try it out.

[View article...](#)

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London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:51 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: FW: Summer Internship
Attachments: [REDACTED] Resume2012.docx

Hi Ari – here is [REDACTED] resume in case you haven't gotten it from the mail yet. ☺

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:37 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Summer Internship

Hi Ms. Spaulding,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a junior at Champlain Valley Union High School. I am also [REDACTED] granddaughter. I understand the two of you communicated a while back discussing an internship for the summer. I've sent my resume to Ari Wengroff but haven't gotten a response, so I decided to send a copy to you just in case. I can imagine you all are incredibly busy. I appreciate you taking the time to pass on my resume to others working in the state government. Let me know if you have any questions, and enjoy the weekend!

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

London, Sarah

From: Schutz, David
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:46 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Martin, Tracy
Subject: RE: bca

Ari— This email is intended to allay your worries. Tracy and I, upon not hearing back from you, decided awhile ago that there must be no BCA show. Therefore, we contacted painter Paul Gruhler—who in turn led us to a quilter named Judy Dales. She has agreed to hang her work (with Paul's help) next Thursday for the June/July time slot. So—crisis averted—but clearly we need to talk.... Suggestions? David

David Schütz
State Curator
2 Gov. Aiken Ave.
Montpelier, VT 05633
802 828-5657
802 828-3533 fax
david.schutz@state.vt.us

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 9:53 AM
To: Schutz, David; Martin, Tracy
Subject: bca

Hey,

I hate to do this, but the BCA's artist fell through today. They were all lined up to come in and install on Monday...what do you propose? I know a few artists that would probably be interested...but if you know one in particular I think we should go with that. I hate that this happened, it was completely set.

Let me know what you think,
Ari

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London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:45 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Wesley, Carolyn; Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: Allen, Susan; Arteaga, Alma; Bartlett, Susan; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Wengroff, Ariel; Wiltshire, Serge; GPS; Yacovone, Dave; Maloney, Carol; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Johnson, Harriet; Racine, Doug; Nealy, Diane; Casey, Carson; Murray-Clasen, Madeline
Subject: GIRO Daily Report- May 24-31, 2012

Top issues:

- 15 emails against F-35 deployment to Burlington International. 1 in support.
- 14 letters in support of inmate [REDACTED] being released from the St. Johnsbury work camp.

Notable Contacts:

- A woman who didn't leave her name called to express concern about the well-being of [REDACTED] in the Springfield Correctional Facility. [REDACTED] was recently sent to the ER with an ulcerated intestine and she feels this was left untreated for too long. [REDACTED] has been segregated for 6 months and she says the corrections officers taunt him saying he will get out soon, but he never does. She doesn't think he should be on segregation. She doesn't feel she has been treated well in her interactions with the warden.
- [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] called the office to make a complaint about DOC/ Probation and Parole on behalf of a friend, [REDACTED] has been out on FSU for over a year, very successfully and maintains steady employment. For the past year, he has been living in [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] who has recently been in the hospital. Last week, [REDACTED] called his probation officer to let him know that [REDACTED] would soon be returning from the hospital and asked for assistance in finding a new place to live. [REDACTED] parole officer issued an emergency arrest and sent him back to jail for lack of adequate housing. This was not what [REDACTED] intended with this call and immediately called back to tell probation and parole that [REDACTED] was welcome to stay in her house until the end of the summer or until he could find a more permanent solution. This was denied [REDACTED] then called probation and parole and offered his residence at [REDACTED], which has been pre-approved for transitional housing and has housed 5 to 6 inmates over the past several years. Although [REDACTED] had once attempted to use this as residence and was denied because an offender with a drug conviction was living in the house, that offender has moved on and now the house is occupied only by [REDACTED] and his landlord, [REDACTED]. This housing was denied by [REDACTED] parole officer, but [REDACTED] does not believe the officer had any reason for this denial.
- [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] is having issues with her state health insurance. She has been covered on VHAP since last year and will be covered through June, at which point she and her husband will be covered on Catamount Blue. She was told by DVHA that she needed to submit all requisite paperwork to be covered on Catamount and did so in April and believed she was all set to be covered. Yesterday, she received mail that said that she would no longer be covered on Catamount. When she called DVHA she was told that although she had filled out all of the necessary paperwork, she did not call DVHA to let them know her selection of coverage, forcing her to begin the application process all over again. She says that she had no idea that she needed to make this call and thinks it's completely a waste of time for her to be restarting her application.

Leigh Appleby | Director of Constituent Services
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin

109 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
(802)828-3333
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:18 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: 5:30 post

Photo Gallery: Memorial Day Honored at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery

Ariel Wengroff
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109 State Street
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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:15 PM
To: EXE
Subject: who knew?

Video of gps dancing in the statehouse

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijz4LsmA3Hc>

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:56 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: who knew?

Video of gps dancing in the statehouse

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjz4LsmA3Hc>

Ariel Wengroff
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London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:46 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Friday, June 1st

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Trombley, Shana
Subject: slow living summit talking points

Here are a few pieces you might like to use, if not, Alison at Ag also can provide details on the summit:

- There has never been a more opportune time for a Summit to convene and discuss ways to build healthy, thriving local economies while encouraging and supporting a new generation of entrepreneurs and engaged citizens. There is no better setting to enhance this conversation than the great state of Vermont.
- Much to the credit of the **Summit's organizer, Orly Munzing**, teachers, activists, small business owners, farmers, and academics are given equal time.
- Agriculture fuels our economy, our communities, and our schools. Vermont leads the nation in Farm to School curriculum, bringing locally grown foods into schools to promote nutrition, agricultural literacy and educational opportunities for children.
- Vermont farmers also lead the nation in direct marketing per capita, which means Vermonters are truly living the idea "know your farmer, know your food." The direct connection between farmers and consumers in our state – through farmers markets, CSAs, and the Farm to Plate initiative – has helped to build a community that truly values food and the people who grow and raise it.
- Here in Vermont, we understand the necessity for a more thoughtful, responsible way of living. By listening to the farm community, we recognized that if we as a state made small investments in our farm future, it means more agriculture jobs, more prosperity and a better Vermont. That creates a bright agriculture future for our economy.
- Working with the Vermont Legislature, I recently signed the Working Lands Investment Enterprise bill, a commitment to strategically investing capital and technical resources in land-based enterprises that will fuel the economy while preserving the state's landscape.
- There's no stopping this progression. In Vermont, we have the ability to slow down, reflect, and make mindful choices about how we live. That's what the Slow Living Summit is all about, and I can't think of a better place to host it than Vermont.

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 4:01 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Flood, Patrick; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: FYI - mental health letter

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: parade line-up

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 15:44:40 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: parade line-up

Section 2, unit 20

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: parade line-up

Section 2, unit 20

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: parade line-up

Awesome! I'll spread the word

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 13:33:11 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: parade line-up

Not much in the way of details. GPS has to be at the 'reviewing stand' on Main st at 9:15 to make remarks. Parade organizers will drive him via golf cart to the front of the parade. The parade lines up on Pleasant Street. I was going to tell vols to go to Pleasant street and call you!!! How's that?

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: parade line-up

Do you know the line-up/time for the two parades Saturday morning?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31 (FINAL):

STOWE REPORTER:

Donovan challenges Sorrell in AG race

By Nathan Burgess

Vermont's top cop needs to be practical, creative and a strong leader, says T.J. Donovan — three things he thinks are lacking in the current attorney general.

"We've got to be engaged," he said this week in an interview with the Stowe Reporter.

Donovan, 38, is challenging Bill Sorrell, 65, the attorney general for the past 15 years, in the Democratic Party primary Aug. 28.

Since 2007, Donovan has been Chittenden County state's attorney. He thinks he can bring fresh blood to an important, but often under-the-radar, position in state government.

The attorney general is essentially the state government's attorney, in charge of enforcing state laws, making sure they can hold up to legal challenges, and working with police to curb crime.

"It's about leadership," Donovan said. "You're not going to arrest your way out of a problem."

Donovan was born and raised in Burlington, attended Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., and earned his law degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston. He was an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia before returning to Burlington in 2002 to work as deputy state's attorney in Chittenden County.

From 2003 to 2006, he was in private practice with the Jarvis and Kaplan firm in Burlington.

Donovan's decision to run against Sorrell in the primary was a shock to many. Sorrell hasn't faced a serious challenger in his 15 years on the job, much less from within his own party.

State Rep. Shap Smith, D-Morrisville, speaker of the Vermont House, had also considered a run for attorney general, but decided to seek re-election to the Legislature.

No Republicans have announced for attorney general, although state Sen. Vince Illuzi, R-Essex/Orleans, has been flirting with a run.

Lost potential

Donovan said he sees a lot of lost potential in Vermont's criminal-justice system.

"I think the No. 1 issue is prescription drugs; that's what's driving your burglaries," he said.

As a prosecutor, Donovan said he has pushed to solve problems where they develop. Rather than simply trying to send criminals to jail, he said, he has tried to attack the problems that led to the crimes — poverty, drugs and mental illness.

He wants to try that approach statewide.

Donovan pointed to the Rapid Intervention Community Court, a pilot project he started in Chittenden County, which tries to get help for criminals with drug and mental-health problems instead of locking them away.

In 18 months, he said, the program has diverted 680 cases away from jail, and 80 percent are complying with the terms of the program.

He said he supports a "Good Samaritan law" that allows people to help friends who may be dying of a drug overdose into the emergency room, without worrying about whether they would be arrested.

"It's about saving lives and not passing blame," he said.

Donovan also said the attorney general could play a more active role in working with law enforcement statewide, in case different standards are being applied to crime in different counties.

"Part of the problem is you've got 14 different justice systems" in the state's 14 counties, each with its own prosecutor, he said. "The system is broken."

Voice of Vermont

As attorney general, Donovan said he would take a more practical approach than Sorrell to defending the state's laws.

Donovan criticizes Sorrell for using "too much political rhetoric" in the state's dispute with the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant and for being "silent" on major issues such as prescription-drug abuse.

On Vermont Yankee, he thinks the state should focus on the decommissioning fund for shutting down the plant, which he said is \$500 million short of what's needed to do the job.

The state is waging an expensive fight to shut down Vermont Yankee now, he noted, but the oldest nuclear plant in the world is 44 years old, and Vermont Yankee is 40 years old. "It's probably going to be shut down, either by regulators or as a business decision by the owners," he said. "We've got to be involved."

Donovan criticized Sorrell for waiting too long to hire a constitutional expert to help on the case, and trying to argue the state's position himself.

"You don't just dabble in appellate work in the U.S. Supreme Court," he said. "In my opinion, we've been reactive the whole way through this. We've called in the cavalry after the fact."

In general, he said, the state should be prepared to defend itself in court if it takes a stand on an issue like health care, for example.

"I'm all for pushing the envelope, but we have to be careful about what we do in this state," he said.

Donovan said the attorney general's office needs to be involved as the Legislature considers new laws, such as the state's plan for single-payer health care, crafting the laws so the state doesn't have to spend millions defending them in court.

"The days of signing laws that are unconstitutional are over," he said. "We can't afford it."

Public records

Access to public records has been a thorny issue in recent years.

In recent cases, the Vermont Supreme Court has ruled that, under current law, police investigative records are not open to the public — which shuts the door on issues of police conduct and raises questions about how police operate.

Donovan said police records always involve a balance between personal privacy and the public's right to know.

But, because "it's about the public's trust," he said, the public's right to know tends to override privacy concerns. There is a middle ground — names can be redacted, some documents need not be released, Donovan said. "It's not black and white, but I think we can develop a policy," he said.

He believes it's important to stand up for what's right, and treat police the way regular citizens are treated.

"I'm the most sued-by-police state's attorney in the state," he said. "I stand up to them. Everybody should be treated the same."

As an independent voice in state government, Donovan believes, the attorney general can play a key role in advocating for citizens. If that means disagreeing with the governor or the Legislature, he said, that's OK.

"You always have to maintain independence," he said. "The most powerful word a lawyer can use sometimes is 'no.'"

OP-ED BY JOHN FRANCO: Doing nothing on health care is unacceptable

Lawmakers in the next biennium are scheduled to take up the financing of the Green Mountain Care single-payer health-care system.

That has already generated much discussion, including criticism from Rutland City Treasurer Wendy Wilton.

What is a single-payer?

The best definition I have come across is that by Harvard economist William Hsiao: "One insurance fund and a uniform benefit package for all non-Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries."

This saves money in two ways. A single insurance fund creates a consolidated risk pool, which eliminates all the jockeying by insurers trying to sell coverage to the healthy and avoid the sick. The uniform benefit package provides coverage that is universal, comprehensive and portable (not dependent on your employment). By streamlining coverage, it creates administrative savings by relieving providers of the burden of having to administer differing coverage plans.

Medicare and Medicaid are excluded only because of history. They are distinct federally financed programs whose full cost no state is in a position to take over. However, they will be coordinated with the single-payer to the degree possible in what is called a "single pipe."

How big is the single insurance fund?

It would cover about 400,000 Vermonters — the 355,000 currently privately insured, plus the 47,500 uninsured. Our single-payer would be smaller than the number of people covered by Blue Cross of North Dakota.

But isn't the government the insurer?

Not necessarily. When George Aiken brought universal electric service to Vermont, he created electric cooperatives, rather than a state power authority.

Maybe we need to channel a little George Aiken in providing universal health insurance. A mutual or cooperative insurer could serve as the single insurance fund. Nova Scotia's single-payer is provided by its Blue Cross plan (Medavie Blue Cross). By having an insurer self-governed by the members — all those covered by Green Mountain Care — we would go a long way to eliminating the specter of "government rationing."

Think of it as a hybrid of a school district and an electric cooperative. Its members could have the authority to approve the annual budget, any change to the benefits, and any changes in payroll, income or other taxes, and would make the appropriate choices in a self-governing democracy.

How much will the uniform benefit package cost?

The answer is less than what we are already spending in private insurance premiums. A good benchmark is about one-third of our total health spending in any given year. So, if our spending reached \$6 billion by 2014 or 2015, the single-payer would cost about \$2 billion.

How do we know that? Dr. Hsiao recommended a benefit package equal to the average coverage now enjoyed by privately insured Vermonters. We are currently paying about \$1.7 billion in private insurance premiums for comparable levels of coverage. When we add the cost of insuring the uninsured and increase the coverage of those underinsured — about \$200 million — and subtract the short-term administrative savings generated — about \$250 million — we get a net cost of about \$1.65 billion.

If we're smart about it, the credits from the federal Affordable Care Act could reduce the cost paid by Vermonters by another \$300 million to \$400 million, for a net cost of a single-payer of about \$1.3 billion. That's \$350 million less than the cost of private coverage. And that is after we have covered everyone.

This is a significant difference from the numbers bandied about by single-payer opponents such as Ms. Wilton.

Her analysis errs because it:

- Uses a program cost number of over \$3 billion, which is almost double the actual cost. This sum is actually close to the amount we will be spending in private premiums by 2020 if we do nothing.
- Erroneously adds the cost of private supplemental insurance to the cost of the single-payer. This is like including the cost of supplemental policies sold by AARP as part of the cost of Medicare.
- Adds to the cost of the single-payer the co-payments and deductibles that would be paid out of pocket.
- Double-counts administrative costs that are already included in the baseline premium she used to estimate total costs, and does not accurately account for the accruing administrative savings identified by the Hsiao report.
- Makes no allowance for any of the new federal funds from the Affordable Care Act.
- Most importantly, assumes a rate of growth in health-care spending significantly higher than that even under a do-nothing scenario.

The cost of doing nothing is unacceptable.

In 1999, Vermont spent \$2 billion a year on health care. By 2010, this grew to \$5 billion annually. In other words, our doing nothing "business plan" was to spend an additional \$3 billion a year, but still not cover everyone.

If we continue to do nothing, our spending will have doubled again, to \$10 billion, by 2020. Our private health-insurance premiums will have ballooned to \$3.4 billion.

And we still won't have covered everyone.

John Franco, a Burlington attorney, was been active in health-care reform for more than 25 years. Comment on this article at stowereporter.com, or email letters to news@stowereporter.com.

WATERBURY RECORD:

People reach for help: Flood victims are worn down

Kristen Fountain

The workload is only growing for ReBuild Waterbury, nine months after Tropical Storm Irene slammed into town and almost eight months since the long-term recovery organization was formed.

When the group came up with \$918,000 as its fundraising goal in late winter, its three staff members were working with 70 households.

Now that number stands at 81, and new people are reaching out every week, said Theresa Wood, who chairs the ReBuild steering committee.

In February, staff members went door-to-door in town, where more than 200 structures were flooded, to survey the need.

"People who said they were fine then are now realizing that they need help," Wood said. "People are saying, 'I'm just too tired. I can't do it (on my own) any more.'"

As of this week, the organization, which is part of the nonprofit Revitalizing Waterbury, had raised \$535,000.

The people they are working with face a variety of unique situations, staff members said.

There are households that have exhausted their savings and borrowing limits and still haven't finished crucial house renovations.

Some are living in houses that lack conveniences most people take for granted, such as a washer and dryer or consistent plumbing.

There are displaced renters who want to return to their former community. People who need help moving, or getting the silt off their lawn. People suffering from the stress of their situation who need counseling or other social services.

"Some people have hit their financial gap, others have hit their emotional gap, their own energy gap," said Mame McKee, the organization's volunteer coordinator. "It's all across the board."

The group has a two-part mission. On the construction side, staff members marshal money and volunteers to complete renovation projects. They take in donations of furniture and fixtures and distribute them.

But there is also the financial and interpersonal side, which falls under the broad umbrella of “case management.”

“In case management, you wear many different hats,” said Wood, who has taken on some of that work since the organization’s official case manager, Eileen Simpson, stepped down this spring for health reasons.

The staffing gap has been filled by several regular volunteers with case-management skills, and by a staffer from the Central Vermont Community Action Council who comes to the office part-time. “Between all those different things, we are making sure that everyone is covered,” Wood said.

Case management means connecting people with existing services and government agencies, said Wood and McKee. That includes specific flood-response groups, such as Starting Over Strong, which provides free short-term counseling to flood victims.

“The emotional challenges for people, they don’t even recognize them sometimes,” Wood said.

It also includes basic state-run human services for children or the elderly, and federal housing programs, both long- and short-term. For example, the group helped two Waterbury families settle into a house in Barre, purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where they can stay rent-free for up to a year.

A number of foundations and funds that have set aside money to help flood victims require that the requests come through groups such as ReBuild Waterbury. Last week, Wood completed applications for three different households to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, requesting a total of about \$40,000. That money will fund large-scale construction work still needed by people whose mortgage payments tripled in some cases after they took out additional loans for repairs.

More broadly, case management means helping households think through what next steps make sense for them. The answers can be very different in every case.

What seems to be universal in Vermont, at least, is that case managers also have to persuade people that it is all right to apply for help.

Admitting that has been a challenge for many people, which is why they have not come forward until now, Wood said.

“The realization that you need help is tough for people who have never asked before,” she said. “We’re trying to help people feel OK about asking for help.”

Opinions sought on offices overhaul

Kristen Fountain

The plan for renovating Waterbury’s State Office Complex calls for tearing down a half-dozen large buildings that have been part of the town landscape for more than 80 years.

Before helping to fund the massive demolition and reconstruction project, the Federal Emergency Management Agency wants to know what residents in and around Waterbury think about losing that connection to history.

That is one of several reasons the agency is seeking public comment on a draft “environmental assessment” available at the town offices and library. A public hearing Wednesday night offered one opportunity for people to air their views. Comments will also be accepted in writing until June 15 at 4 p.m.

"People have different kinds of attachments," said Peter Thomas, an archeologist formerly with the University of Vermont who co-authored the report on behalf of the agency. "Part of what we need to do is to get a sense of what people are thinking in the community."

Every project that the federal government either undertakes or, in this case, funds must undergo this kind of assessment. The goal is to consider what effects the project would have on the surrounding environment, both natural and manmade, and whether the project conforms with federal laws and regulations.

For the State Office Complex, the main impacts will be on the floodplain and on historic buildings, and those impacts are related, Thomas said. To restore the floodplain to its original state, many historic buildings there will have to be demolished.

"What it winds up in part being is a balancing act," Thomas said. "There is definitely a trade-off."

FEMA, the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, and the Department of Buildings and General Services are close to an agreement on how to handle the historic buildings, Thomas said.

Each one, whether it is being demolished or preserved, must be looked at individually and a holistic plan developed. "If you are going to have an adverse effect, you look to do something to counterbalance it," he said.

Historic Complex

Construction of the Vermont State Hospital began in 1889, prompted by overcrowding at the Vermont Asylum for the Insane in Brattleboro, which opened in 1834.

The early core of the complex was designed by the Rand & Taylor architectural firm of Boston, which was involved in the design of many of the country's early hospitals and asylums.

The Waterbury buildings constructed between 1889 and 1896 are the most historically significant, according to a recent analysis by another Boston-based firm, Goody Clancy.

"The Vermont State Hospital at Waterbury is by far the largest and most intact collection of hospital buildings by Rand & Taylor anywhere in the United States," the draft environmental assessment states. The firm also designed Worcester (Mass.) State Hospital and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, N.H., but neither still exists in its former condition.

The alignment and structure of these hospital buildings — in one long, connected line — was thought by physicians and scientists at the time to be particularly conducive to the treatment of mental health. For a period, they also emphasized the importance of circular wards, which are another prominent feature of the Vermont State Hospital's design.

"There are very few examples of circular hospital wards all over the world, even fewer in the United States," the report states. "And hardly any that are still intact within their original layout."

The first group of patients arrived in Waterbury in 1891 and by the turn of the century the population was already greater than the original design was intended to house. The first additional buildings constructed included a residence for nurses, now called Wasson Hall, in 1901 and a unit to house patients with tuberculosis, now called the Sewing Building, in 1904.

More and more buildings were added to the complex over the next 50 years, until outpatient programs, begun in the mid-1950s, began to slow the demand for space. The Vermont Agency of Human Services was the first non-hospital tenant of the buildings, starting in 1978.

Over time, many historical aspects of buildings were changed to adapt to the new use as office buildings. The report suggests that the state government could make up for the impact of tearing down some of the historic buildings by restoring exterior aspects, such as cupolas and towers, to the buildings it plans to keep and restore.

The A Building, which is slated for demolition, is of particular interest to historic preservationists. It was built in 1932 as a treatment center for "acutely disturbed female patients." The construction occurred when Eugene A. Stanley was superintendent of the state hospital; he headed operations from 1918 and 1936, and Stanley Hall is named after him.

Stanley was a proponent of eugenics, a movement that advocated the forced sterilization of the "feeble-minded and insane." He testified in favor of bills approved in 1927 and 1931 that made the practice legal in Vermont until the mid-1950s.

Because A Building has been remodeled, "the extent to which this building architecturally manifests any association with the eugenics movement is debatable," the report states, but says the issue should be studied.

Comments can be mailed to Peter Thomas, FEMA Essex Junction Joint Field Office, 30 Allen Martin Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452.

State offers Waterbury 'fair price' to buy buildings

Kristen Fountain

Vermont's state government is willing to sell Stanley Hall and Wasson Hall — buildings at the State Office Complex in Waterbury — for a "fair and equitable price" and will write a "friendly commitment letter" to that effect, said select board member Rebecca Ellis.

Waterbury is looking for new quarters for its town and village offices and the police department; their former home on South Main Street was badly damaged in floods last August.

The state buildings could also provide space for a new public library — Waterbury's is now in a tiny, cramped building — and for the town historical society.

On Tuesday evening, Ellis briefed town and village board members, library officials and historical society leaders about a meeting held May 24 with representatives of the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services.

"I think they are feeling fairly generous toward us," said village President Skip Flanders, who also attended the meeting, in an interview.

The department said a "fair and equitable" price is not the same as the market value, according to Ellis.

The town select board, village trustees, library commissioners and historical society have assigned a subcommittee to research how the price of other state buildings has been set in the past.

Other issues assigned to subcommittees include how the design and construction should be managed and how ownership of the buildings should be structured.

The groups will meet again Monday, June 18, at 6 p.m. at the Main Street Fire Station.

Meanwhile, the town and village will ask an architect to develop more detailed proposals for a municipal complex.

One would repurpose Stanley Hall; the other would involve tearing the building down and using the site for a new building. With those proposals in hand, the groups will have another firm analyze the costs of each option.

A realistic timeframe for completing the project is likely two or three years, Ellis said.

Finding grant funding will be a challenge. Only one federal government program — the community building and development grant — would likely apply, said municipal manager Bill Shepeluk.

Grant funding for construction of libraries is rare.

"It's going to be a lot of work," said library commissioner Margaret Luce. "This is not going to fall out of the sky, by any means."

VALLEY NEWS:

Primary Source:

Primary Challenge It looks like there will be some vigorous campaigning in Orange County this summer. Thetford Selectboard Chairman Tig Tillinghast yesterday said he plans to challenge state Sen. Mark MacDonald, D-Williamstown, in August's Democratic primary for the 11-town Orange Senate district. Besides being a rare intraparty political contest for a state Senate seat, it also presents a bit of a new Vermont, old Vermont dynamic. Though both men were born in Connecticut, the 41-year-old Tillinghast moved to Vermont about seven years ago and runs both a maple syrup operation and Internet publishing business. He also made news this winter when he ran a Facebook ad campaign during an unopposed race for a two-year seat on the Selectboard. MacDonald, by contrast, is a 69-year-old retired social studies teacher at Randolph Union High School and Vietnam war veteran who raises beef cattle on the Williamstown farm his family purchased in 1947. He said he first arrived at the home by horse-drawn sled in a blizzard that year, and can still remember the horses' names. (The family summered there for years, and MacDonald moved full time to Vermont in the early 1970s). Tillinghast already has distributed campaign signs for the August primary to some supporters, and has former Strafford School Board member Sperry Wilson as his campaign manager. Tillinghast was drawn to the area as a student by Dartmouth College, where he met his wife, Elise. He has served on the Selectboard for five years and said he wants to improve "two-way communication" between the Senate and constituents, saying the Legislature has taken up issues such as a solid waste bill without, at times, adequately considering input from local officials. Among his priorities are providing high-speed Internet service to all homes and businesses, helping small villages and cutting some obstacles to hiring. "It's a get-things-done issue. We have to be focused on getting things done that have direct, positive impacts on people and the things we value most, like our natural resources and small communities," Tillinghast said. MacDonald, a tireless campaigner who was out collecting signatures to qualify for the ballot at a high school baseball game last night, serves on the Senate Finance Committee and has been a vigorous advocate for middle-class property taxpayers in the Act 60/68 school funding system. He said he wants to focus on the financing specifics of Vermont's new health care law, which moves toward a single-payer system, and also favors giving people choices about their end-of-life care and treatment. "We've got some heavy lifting coming up on this health care bill. We've got the easy stuff. The hard stuff comes next year on decision time," said MacDonald. A seven-term incumbent, MacDonald said he is also interested in running for Senate president pro tempore, a post held for the past two years by state Sen. John Campbell, D-Quechee. MacDonald, who lost his seat in 2000 after voting for the civil unions bill, has defeated several Republican challenges since then, and no GOP challenger has emerged, so far. The filing deadline is Thursday, June 14.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: parade line-up

Awesome! I'll spread the word

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 13:33:11 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: parade line-up

Not much in the way of details. GPS has to be at the 'reviewing stand' on Main st at 9:15 to make remarks. Parade organizers will drive him via golf cart to the front of the parade. The parade lines up on Pleasant Street. I was going to tell vols to go to Pleasant street and call you!!! How's that?

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: parade line-up

Do you know the line-up/time for the two parades Saturday morning?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Burlington School Board statement on Collins' contract

Burlington School Board statement on contract involving Superintendent Jeanne Collins:

Your School Board has the critical responsibility to determine the educational program in our City. The Board's role is to ensure the children of Burlington the highest quality public education possible. We are obligated to set an educational philosophy, adopt policies to carry out our philosophy, and employ the best possible Superintendent of Schools to act on our behalf, both individually and through the administrative team the Superintendent assembles. The Board takes seriously its on-going responsibility to most carefully monitor and evaluate the work of our superintendent to make sure she implements our expectations. We have completed our annual evaluation of the superintendent for 2011-12, established our board goals for 2012-13. The superintendent is preparing her response to board goals which will include an action plan to meet the board's vision and goals for the school district. It is critically important that we hear the views of our constituents. We are elected to be representatives of the citizens of the City and the Wards who elect us. We have been hearing from parents, teachers, and other members of the public about the challenges we face. At the end of the day, however, we must also be true to our own values. Our ultimate obligation is to our elected responsibilities and to our oaths of office.

This Board's vision is a district that provides an excellent, comprehensive and equitable academic program which challenges all students to achieve their potential in a rich multi-racial and multi-cultural learning environment taught by a high quality, dedicated, diverse faculty. No child shall be excluded from the support that they need to achieve their potential or participate in any activity due to race/ethnicity, class, ability, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

In recent weeks, we have had an increasingly intense discussion about whether we are moving toward our vision as comprehensively and as rapidly as possible. Against the backdrop of this discussion, the Board also must exercise an important obligation regarding our superintendent. We must decide whether to allow her contractual period of service to be extended from June 30, 2013 to June 30, 2014, or instead serve notice that we are not committed to grant such an extension. The Superintendent's period of service will automatically extend until June 30, 2014 unless we give her notice of our intent not to extend her contract after June 30, 2013 on or before June 30, 2012. The Superintendent has made it clear that she would like to have her period of service extended, and is personally committed to implementing an action plan to achieve our vision.

Beginning at its June 12, 2012 meeting, the Board will formally begin its intentional and thoughtful annual deliberation regarding the leadership needs of the district. Board members will seriously consider the comments we have received concerning the superintendent's leadership, but we will also exercise the independent judgment we were elected to carry out. We will also process the extensive information we have received from our Superintendent. We expect to make the most informed decision possible concerning extension of the contract by our June 30, 2012 deadline. We are also mindful that this District is also continuing a host of other responsibilities that the superintendent's leadership must successfully advance. Among such responsibilities are the following:

- planning professional development in understanding, recognizing, and responding to bullying, harassment and racism consistent with new statutory obligations;

- the construction project at Flynn Elementary;
- training teachers and building the infrastructure for the 1 to 1 technology initiative at the middle schools and high school
- writing and adopting a district strategic plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- the implementation of Nellie Mae Foundation grant planning for ninth grade teaming and "Year End Studies" alternative learning workshops for all high school students;
- extending the school day 15 minutes for all elementary students beginning in August 2012;
- managing the summer sessions for elementary students and incoming high school freshmen;
- registration and school placement of new students to our district;
- providing meals to eligible students at various locations;
- upgrading our financial management system for improved fiscal planning;
- preparing for upcoming contract negotiations with the teachers' union,
- recruiting and hiring a diverse staff of para-educators for kindergarten classrooms and vacant faculty positions.
- continuing the district's commitment to building the magnet schools and strengthening and ensuring a demographic balance in all the schools.

In closing, our responsibilities are significant and complex, but this Board is fully up to the task, and will make the best possible decision on behalf of the children we are charged to educate.

Court: Heart of gay marriage law unconstitutional

BY DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON — A federal appeals court Thursday declared that the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutionally denies federal benefits to married gay couples, a groundbreaking ruling all but certain to wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In its unanimous decision, the three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said the 1996 law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman deprives gay couples of the rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples.

The court didn't rule on the law's more politically combustible provision, which said states without same-sex marriage cannot be forced to recognize gay unions performed in states where it's legal. It also wasn't asked to address whether gay couples have a constitutional right to marry.

The law was passed at a time when it appeared Hawaii would legalize gay marriage. Since then, many states have instituted their own bans on gay marriage, while eight states have approved it, led by Massachusetts in 2004.

The court, the first federal appeals panel to deem the benefits section of the law unconstitutional, agreed with a lower level judge who ruled in 2010 that the law interferes with the right of a state to define marriage and denies married gay couples federal benefits given to heterosexual married couples, including the ability to file joint tax returns.

The 1st Circuit said its ruling wouldn't be enforced until the U.S. Supreme Court decides the case, meaning that same-sex married couples will not be eligible to receive the economic benefits denied by DOMA until the high court rules.

That's because the ruling only applies to states within the circuit, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Puerto Rico. Only the Supreme Court has the final say in deciding whether a law passed by Congress is unconstitutional.

Although most Americans live in states where the law still is that marriage can only be the union of a man and a woman, the power to define marriage had always been left to the individual states before Congress passed DOMA, the appeals court said in its ruling.

(Page 2 of 2)

"One virtue of federalism is that it permits this diversity of governance based on local choice, but this applies as well to the states that have chosen to legalize same-sex marriage," Judge Michael Boudin wrote for the court. "Under current Supreme Court authority, Congress' denial of federal benefits to same-sex couples lawfully married in Massachusetts has not been adequately supported by any permissible federal interest."

During arguments before the court last month, a lawyer for gay married couples said the law amounts to "across-the-board disrespect." The couples argued that the power to define and regulate marriage had been left to the states for more than 200 years before Congress passed DOMA.

An attorney defending the law argued that Congress had a rational basis for passing it in 1996, when opponents worried that states would be forced to recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere. The group said Congress wanted to preserve a traditional and uniform definition of marriage and has the power to define terms used to federal statutes to distribute federal benefits.

Since DOMA was passed in 1996, many states have instituted their own bans on gay marriage, while eight states have approved it, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, Washington state and the District of Columbia. Maryland and Washington's laws are not yet in effect and may be subject to referendums.

Last year, President Barack Obama announced the U.S. Department of Justice would no longer defend the constitutionality of the law. After that, House Speaker John Boehner convened the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group to defend it. The legal group argued the case before the appeals court.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the Boston-based legal group that brought one of the lawsuits on behalf of gay married couples, said the law takes one group of legally married people and treats them as "a different class" by making them ineligible for benefits given to other married couples.

"We've been working on this issue for so many years, and for the court to acknowledge that yes, same-sex couples are legally married, just as any other couple, is fantastic and extraordinary," said Lee Swislow, GLAD's executive director.

Two of the three judges who decided the case Thursday were Republican appointees, while the other was a Democratic appointee. Boudin was appointed by President George H.W. Bush, while Judge Juan Torruella was appointed by President Ronald Reagan. Chief Judge Sandra Lynch is an appointee of President Bill Clinton.

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Vermont House Majority Leader Leriche stepping down

Posted on May 31, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

House Majority Leader Lucy Leriche, D-Hardwick, will not be seeking re-election, she said today.

Leriche said she's looking to return to work full-time and could not manage that on top of legislative duties.

"I'm just feeling pulled to more of a year-round stable income," Leriche said.

She has been majority leader in the House for two year, after two years as assistant majority leader. She has served in the House for eight years. She will remain in office through the end of her term in December and said she will continue working on recruiting Democratic legislative candidates statewide.

"It's been such a good experience," she said. "It's hard to give up."

Leriche has worked in nonprofit and affordable housing management and previously taught at Johnson State College. She said she has several job offers she's considering.

Leriche said Assistant Majority Leader Willem Jewett, D-Ripton, is interested in running for majority leader and she supports him. The position will be voted on by House Democrats, presuming they maintain a majority after this fall's election.

For her legislative seat, she said, lawyer Kristina Michelson is interested in running.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:19 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

WCAX:

VTrans: Storm caused short term road damage

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Severe thunderstorms and accompanying wind, rain and lightning affected many areas of the state Tuesday.

Some towns only saw a sprinkling while others got hammered, but the state says the damage to roads and bridges was relatively light. In Lowell, flash flooding surpassed water levels seen in last year's historic floods. There were approximately 10 short term road closures Tuesday but all of those were opened to at least one lane by 10 p.m. Tuesday night.

"There are a couple of shoulder washouts that are going to take a couple days to fix but we anticipate recovering in a couple of days, but all in all we were very fortunate, very happy with how we made it through and our crews did," said Scott Roger with VTrans.

While the damage to public infrastructure was minimal, especially compared to last year's big storm damage, there were still many individual private property owners who sustained costly losses.

State economist predicts "slow" recovery for jobs

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The Vermont state economist is predicting a "slow" recovery when it comes to adding jobs.

That's the latest economic outlook by Jeff Carr who is delivering his report today at a New England conference in Boston.

The detailed report says over the next four years Vermont is expected to have a "moderate" recovery followed by "moderate" growth.

According to Carr, the recovery is expected to be fueled by a revival in the global economy, good niche positioning by Vermont firms and a return to normal functioning financial markets.

Carr says the pace of the economic recovery will continue to be impacted by the lingering effects of Tropical Storm Irene which hit Vermont last August.

The report also says the United States and the New England economies face "significant headwinds" That's because of unfolding European debt, high energy prices and a national housing market that has "not firmly bottomed."

FOX44:

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant to Support Vt. Health Reform Projects

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded the State of Vermont's Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) nearly \$500,000 to partner with Vermont hospitals and other health care providers on projects to reform health care payments.

A press release says, the goal of the programs is to evaluate several methods to control health care cost increase while improving quality.

"Health care payment change is central to our goals of moderating health care cost growth and improving the health of Vermonters," said Anya Rader Wallack, chair of the GMCB. "We're honored that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has chosen to invest in this critical effort. As international authorities on what works in health care, they recognize that payment change is necessary and Vermont is on track to demonstrate some groundbreaking models."

The grant will be implemented over 3 years and evaluating 3 alternatives to the fee-for-service payments:

- Bundled payments, which provide a lump-sum to a group of health care practitioners to care for patients with a specific medical condition or surgical procedure;
- Hospital/physician global budgets, which provide a total budget to hospitals and their employed physicians; and
- Global payments, which provide a payment to fully integrated systems of facilities, physicians and other health care providers who can meet the whole range of health care needs of a group of patients.

Five Vermont hospitals and health systems expressed interest in participating in the pilot projects: Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury, Porter Medical Center in Middlebury, Rutland Regional Medical Center and Springfield Medical Care Systems.

The Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, Cigna of New England, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and Mark Larson, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access sent letters of support for the programs, the press release said.

Vermont is also looking for ways incorporate the state's Medicaid program in these payment programs. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation offer similar opportunities to pilot reform programs in Medicare.

WPTZ:

Vt. town commits water to biomass project Group concerned about water sources

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The town select board in Springfield, Vt., has voted for an agreement to commit 30,000 of gallons of municipal water a day to a proposed biomass project.

Developers are hopeful they also will capture rainfall and acquire water from other sources so as not to dip into the town supply as much.

Town Manager Robert Forguites tells the Eagle Times the original application called for a greater water need, but switching to an air-cooling system has caused that figure to drop.

The Vermont Public Service Board is not expected to make a decision on the project for at least a year.

Advocates say it will create jobs and bring economic development. But the North Springfield Action group is gathering petition signatures against it. It's concerned about the water sources.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD BLOG:

Sorrell: "Let the campaign officially begin"

Posted on May 30, 2012 by Peter Hirschfeld | 1 Comment

Bill Sorrell convened a press conference earlier today to "officially" kickoff his campaign for attorney general. The seven-term incumbent Democrat is looking to fend off a primary challenge from political upstart TJ Donovan, who racked up a key endorsement from the Vermont Troopers Association earlier this week. Sorrell address a crowd of supporters at the Cedar Creek room in the Statehouse. Here's what he had to say (sorry in advance for the caps - this is from a Sorrell release)

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF REMARKS

MAY 30, 2012

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME HERE TODAY.

IT HAS BEEN MY GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE TO SERVE ALL VERMONTERS AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS. I AM PROUD OF MY RECORD IN THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE. I WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT STATE.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED A "TWO-FISTED ATTORNEY GENERAL". AND THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT. I HAVE NEVER BACKED AWAY FROM AGGRESSIVELY BUT FAIRLY ENFORCING OUR LAWS, EVEN WHEN CONFRONTING WEALTHY AND POWERFUL OPPONENTS.

FOUR WEEKS TO THE DAY AFTER TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE, I SUED BIG TOBACCO. AS A RESULT OF THAT SUIT, VERMONT HAS RECEIVED OVER \$300 MILLION. AND UNLESS AMERICANS STOP THEIR ADDICTION TO CIGARETTES AND THEREBY CONQUER WHAT REMAINS THE GREATEST AVOIDABLE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM CONFRONTING THIS STATE AND THIS NATION, VERMONT WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AT LEAST \$25 MILLION EVERY YEAR -FOREVER.

THE AUTO INDUSTRY FOUGHT VERMONT'S ADOPTION OF MORE RESTRICTIVE EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

BUT MY OFFICE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE INDUSTRY ATTACKS IN FEDERAL COURT HERE IN VERMONT. OUR VICTORY IS ONE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN THE EFFORT TO HAVE CLEANER, MORE FUEL EFFICIENT CARS AND TRUCKS ON THE ROADWAYS OF AMERICA. THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A VICTORY FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.

AS A RESULT OF ENFORCING OUR CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ANTITRUST LAWS, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO VERMONT CONSUMERS' WALLETS. AND SINCE PREVENTION IS SO VITALLY IMPORTANT, OUR EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO EDUCATE VERMONTERS ON THE DANGERS OF IDENTITY THIEVES AND SCAM ARTISTS HAVE ALLOWED MANY MORE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO REMAIN IN VERMONTERS' POCKETS AND NOT BE LOST TO CRIMINALS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN.

IN THE CRIMINAL ARENA, MY OFFICE HAS WORKED EFFICIENTLY AND PRODUCTIVELY WITH ALL LEVELS OF POLICE IN MANY OF VERMONT'S MOST NOTORIOUS CASES. WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED MURDERERS, RAPISTS AND THOSE WHO PREY ON OUR MOST VULNERABLE. WE LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS.

VERMONTERS WANT, EXPECT AND ARE ENTITLED TO EVEN-HANDED JUSTICE. I TAKE THIS VERY SERIOUSLY. WE DON'T PLAY FAVORITES. THERE IS NO DOUBLE STANDARD WHEN IT COMES TO WRONGDOING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS. JUST ASK THE DOZENS OF FORMER COUNTY SHERIFFS, STATE AND LOCAL POLICE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS WHOM WE HAVE CONVICTED OF VIOLATING VERMONT'S CRIMINAL STATUTES.

WE HAVE WORKED EFFECTIVELY IN THE LEGISLATURE AND

HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SEEN THE PASSAGE OF NEW LAWS TO OUTLAW THE POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, HAZING IN OUR SCHOOLS – FROM OUR EARLIEST GRADES THROUGH COLLEGE, AND TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO REPORT SUSPECTED INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE. I HAVE CHAMPIONED THE AVAILABILITY OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNITS FOR SEX CRIMES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. AND THAT IS WHY TODAY I FORMALLY DECLARE MY CANDIDACY FOR RE-ELECTION AS VERMONT'S ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CAMPAIGNING ALL OVER THIS STATE TO HELP VERMONTERS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MY RECORD IN THIS OFFICE AND MY

PRIORITIES FOR MY NEXT TERM.

THANKS TO MY INITIATIVE, THE LEGISLATURE HAS JUST APPROPRIATED \$200 THOUSAND TO ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT'S BATTLES AGAINST THE ONLINE SHARING OF IDENTIFIED CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. A NEWLY-AUTHORIZED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR IN MY OFFICE WILL BE DEDICATED TO THIS FIGHT. WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS, WE WILL INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TO GO AFTER THE HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUAL COMPUTER USERS IN THIS STATE WHO VIOLATE OUR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LAWS AND POSE SUCH REAL RISK OF SEXUAL PREDATION ON VERMONT'S CHILDREN.

I WILL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO SEE THAT THERE IS

RESPONSIBLE AND SAFE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, LIKE FACEBOOK. VERMONTERS WILL BE BETTER INFORMED AS TO HOW TO PROTECT THEIR PERSONAL PRIVACY IN THE ONLINE WORLD. AND WE WILL RESPOND AGGRESSIVELY TO CYBER BULLYING AND UNLAWFUL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION.

ZEALOUS AND IMPARTIAL ENFORCEMENT OF OUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS WILL REMAIN A PRIORITY. AND THIS TWO-FISTED ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT TO UPHOLD VERMONT'S LAWS GIVING VERMONTERS A REAL SAY AS TO THE FUTURE OF ENTERGY'S OPERATIONS IN THIS STATE.

IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING, I CANNOT DO ALL OF THIS AND MORE WITHOUT THE VERY ABLE ASSISTANCE OF THE HARD-WORKING MEMBERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. MY THANKS TO MY STAFF FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO ENHANCING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL VERMONTERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE MOST IN NEED.

I LOOK FORWARD TO DEBATE WITH MY OPPONENT, TO COMPARING OUR RECORDS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

I THANK THE MANY THOUSANDS OF VERMONT VOTERS WHO, IN SO MANY PAST ELECTIONS, HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN ME AS THE STATE'S CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. I SEEK THAT STRONG SUPPORT AGAIN IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION IN AUGUST AND THEN IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

BUT FOR NOW, I CLOSE BY SAYING: LET THE CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY BEGIN!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

London, Sarah

From: Briggs, Michael (Sanders) <Michael_Briggs@sanders.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:11 PM
Subject: NEWS: Strentghen Security Security



Who's a Greedy Geezer?

BURLINGTON, Vt., May 31 – Raising the Social Security payroll tax cap would strengthen the retirement program while affecting only a small percentage of the wealthiest workers in the United States, according to a new study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The researchers found that legislation proposed by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) would affect only 1.4 percent of all American workers with earned incomes of more than \$250,000 a year.

Currently, only earned income under \$110,100 a year is subject to the payroll tax that funds Social Security. There is no tax on income above that cap.

“Today’s report makes clear that we do not have to cut Social Security benefits, raise the retirement age, or privatize this life-or-death program that over 55 million Americans rely on. If we simply asked the top 1.4 percent of Americans to pay their fair share into the Social Security Trust Fund, Social Security would be solvent for the next 75 years,” Sanders said.

Sanders’ bill has 10 co-sponsors, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.). The legislation is patterned after a proposal made by President Barack Obama during his 2008 campaign for the White House. Stephen Goss, the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration, projected in a letter to Sanders that the legislation will ensure that Social Security remains solvent for at least the next 75 years.

Former Sen. Alan Simpson recently referred to seniors worried about cuts to Social Security as “greedy geezers.” In fact, the average annual Social Security benefit is \$14,000 a year.

Simpson was co-chairman of a White House debt-reduction commission created in 2010. A plan by Simpson and Erskine Bowles that included cuts to Social Security failed to draw the support necessary to send a proposal to Congress for a vote.

“Wall Street Democrats like Erskine Bowles and extreme right wingers like Alan Simpson should stop talking about harmful cuts to Social Security and start asking their billionaire friends to contribute the same percentage of their earned income into Social Security as the middle class,” Sanders said.

Contact: Michael Briggs (202) 224-5141

###

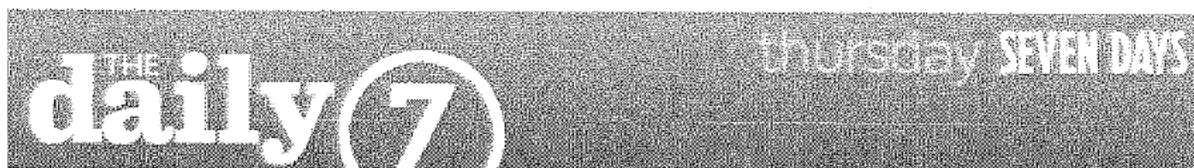
London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail169.us1.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:55 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Sorrell Goes On Offensive At Campaign Launch; Tornado Hit West Glover on Tuesday

Meteorologists confirm that a tornado did touch down in the Northeast Kingdom during Tuesday's severe weather.

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THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2012



At Reelection Launch, Attorney General Bill Sorrell Dusts Off the Boxing Gloves

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS BLURT, 05/30/12

Attorney General Bill Sorrell officially kicked off his reelection campaign yesterday. Facing a primary challenger in T.J. Donovan, Sorrell touted his record and warned of the dangers of Internet crime. [Click to read.](#)



Tornado Touches Down in Northeast Kingdom

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/31/12

National Weather Service meteorologists have confirmed that a tornado *did* touch down in West Glover during Tuesday's spate of severe weather. The twister didn't cause any injuries, but it damaged a chimney and ripped 45 trees out of the ground. [Click to read.](#)



Berlin Residents Pan Proposal To Locate Psychiatric Hospital Near Elementary School

SOURCE: VTDIGGER.ORG, 05/31/12

The state plans to build a new psychiatric hospital in Berlin as a partial replacement for the Vermont State Hospital. One of the two potential locations, close to an elementary school, is garnering negative reviews. [Click to read.](#)



Burlington weather forecast

Today: Partly sunny; slight chance for a shower. High 73°, low 48°.

Tomorrow: AM sun; increasing clouds; rain developing overnight. High 76°, low 56°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

[sponsored links](#)



F-35 or Bust? Other Towns Clamor for "the Most Expensive Weapon Ever"

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/30/12

The opposition to basing the F-35 fighter jet at Burlington International Airport is fierce, but the other towns that might host the new jet are welcoming it with open arms. [Click to read.](#)



Mysterious Killing of Campus Rabbit Rattles VLS Community

SOURCE: VALLEY NEWS, 05/31/12

The quad at Vermont Law School has been home to three domesticated rabbits, serving as "unofficial mascots," for years. Now the campus community is on edge after one of the rabbits was apparently killed. [Click to read.](#)



In Memoriam: Bernie Beaudoin, Burlington Philanthropist and "Unsung Hero"

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS BLURT, 05/31/12

Bernie Beaudoin died earlier this month at the age of 89. Beaudoin, who sold his home at a deep discount to the Women's Rape Crisis Center, now HOPE Works, absolved the organization of its quarter-million-dollar debt when he died. [Click to read.](#)



Written Test Keeps Vermont Vermont Speller from Spelling Bee Semifinals

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/30/12

A Middlebury seventh-grader correctly spelled "comandante" and "rendezvous" at the Scripps National Spelling Bee yesterday, but he didn't advance to the next round because he missed a few words on the written test. B-U-M-M-E-R. [Click to read.](#)

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Burlington, VT 05401

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Murphy, Kathy
Subject: Re: retooling the ag huff post draft

Don't have the full list. Thinking Jasper Hill, local farms that are working/growing – open to your suggestions.
Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Murphy, Kathy" <Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 13:48:57 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: retooling the ag huff post draft

Am not in the office. Can you email list please? I can keep your request moving while offsite.

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: "Murphy, Kathy" <Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>, "Kosakowski, Alison" <Alison.Kosakowski@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Ross, Chuck" <Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us>
Sent: Thu, May 31, 2012 17:21:46 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: retooling the ag huff post draft

Yes, definitely! Thanks Kathy. I'll call you

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Murphy, Kathy" <Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 12:56:39 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Kosakowski, Alison" <Alison.Kosakowski@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Ross, Chuck" <Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: retooling the ag huff post draft

Happy to assist with imagery....could someone provide me a bit more context for the 8-10 images you'd like to highlight this topic please? Thank you!

Kathleen A. Murphy

Chief Marketing Officer
State of Vermont
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Kosakowski, Alison
Cc: Ross, Chuck; Murphy, Kathy
Subject: retooling the ag huff post draft

Hey Alison,

We've decided to retool the Ag draft and do a shorter story on how Vermont is the leader in locally grown food. We sort of want to do: Vermont achieved this, here are a few takeaways of how you can do it (a way to get people in other states involved). Then we want to do a slideshow at the bottom of Vermont farmers/businesses that are successfully doing this in Vermont (Jasper Hill, Cabot, etc.).

Kathy that's where you come in. Do you have a list of five or ten with pictures from ACCD that we could use?

This doesn't have to be long. If you could get me talking points or work off the old draft then I'll make edits and get it off to Bill.

Thanks!
Ari

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: irene
Attachments: Irene Toolkit.docx

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Murphy, Kathy
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: retooling the ag huff post draft

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-----Original message-----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
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Ari

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: notes
Attachments: One Year Irene Anniversary.docx

Irene

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: notes
Attachments: One Year Irene Anniversary.docx

Irene

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:33 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: parade line-up

Not much in the way of details. GPS has to be at the 'reviewing stand' on Main st at 9:15 to make remarks. Parade organizers will drive him via golf cart to the front of the parade. The parade lines up on Pleasant Street. I was going to tell vols to go to Pleasant street and call you!!! How's that?

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: parade line-up

Do you know the line-up/time for the two parades Saturday morning?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: Re: One-Year Irene Recovery

Yes can do

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 13:32:03 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: One-Year Irene Recovery

Ari
Can you bring 5 copies of these notes to our meeting?
Thank you!!
S

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 4:22 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: One-Year Irene Recovery

Hey Sue,

I took some notes during our one-year brainstorming session and am attaching them here. I added in some information that I'm focusing on, but I thought they might be helpful!

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY

-----Original Message-----

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: Re: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY

Yea, let me give you a call. One minute.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/31/12 1:30 PM, "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Maybe we should talk this through? She has two convictions, one which
>is a felony.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Wengroff, Ariel
>Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:12 PM
>To: Pallito, Andy
>Subject: FW: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY

>

>Here's her file - let me know if you have any questions, I'm stepping
>out for just a minute.

>

>

>Ariel Wengroff
>Special Assistant to the Governor
>109 State Street
>Montpelier, VT 05609

>

>Office: 802-828-3333

>Cell: 802-279-6825

>

>

>

>

>On 5/31/12 7:05 AM, "EXE-Copier@state.vt.us" <EXE-Copier@state.vt.us>

>wrote:

>

>>Attachment from EXE-Copier.

>>

>>Please do not reply to this email.

>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: Re: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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wrote:

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>

>Please do not reply to this email.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

WCAX:

Shumlin signs 'ambitious' transportation bill

RICHMOND, Vt. - Governor Peter Shumlin approved on Wednesday what he calls the biggest and most ambitious transportation bill in Vermont's history, and it means a busy summer on roads across the state.

Neon might be a hot color for summer fashions, especially if you work on a road crew.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation says it's going to be a busy summer. With the swipe of a pen, the Governor Peter signed the largest transportation bill in Vermont's history -- 685 million dollars.

"We made a promise to Vermonters that we would rebuild Vermont better than Irene found us -- this transportation bill reflects that commitment," Shumlin said.

The new budget increases transportation spending by 105-million dollars over last year. Roadway projects are up 8-million and there's an 18-million dollar increase for state and town bridges. The budget also reduces the local match communities must pay for road and bridge repairs to 5-percent. Most of this -- a direct result of Irene.

"This transportation bill cuts in half the allocation that local communities have to make and put on the back of hard pressed property tax payers over previous transportation bills -- that's a big deal," Shumlin said.

"We will do Irene restoration this year, probably next year and maybe into the following year -- but the fact is, it won't interrupt our regular cue of projects," said V Agency of Transportation Secretary Brian Searles.

Regular projects, like an alternative truck route in Morristown that will cost 30-million dollars and the continuation of the Barre Main Street project.

So where are drivers going to be disrupted by construction this Summer most? VTrans says the four biggest projects are the Route 100 Corridor from Waterbury to Jamaica, Route 9 from Marlboro to Brattleboro, Route 4 from White River Junction to Route 100 South and Route 131 at Junction 106 through Cavendish. All of these repairs are results of Irene.

Non-Irene related projects that are going to impact drivers this summer are in South Burlington along Route 2, also called Williston Road. Another big project will be Route 7 from Brandon to Pittsford. Work will also continue on Route 2 in Danville.

Tornado touches down in Vermont

West Glover, Vt. - One day after severe storms rolled across Vermont, experts confirm a tornado touched down in the Northeast Kingdom.

The National Weather Service is rating the twister as an EF0. The smallest category, it's characterized by winds between 65 and 86 m.p.h.

Investigators say tornado wind speeds peaked at approximately 70 m.p.h. as it tore about 45 feet out of the ground or apart on Beach Hill Road in West Glover. The twister touched down at 3:30 Monday afternoon - crossing an area about a third of a mile long and 100 yards wide.

Sue Medor's house lies within that path. She says she hid in the basement as the storm pelted her home with marble-size hail from all angles.

The former Oklahoma resident says she's never experienced a tornado before. "Can you imagine - living in Oklahoma all those years, and never having seen or been in a tornado, and then having one in Vermont," she said, "it's unheard of, ridiculous.

The storm also ripped heavy stonework from the house's chimney top, but left several small items near the downed trees undisturbed. Medor said she doesn't know how much repairs will cost yet.

So far this is the only confirmed touchdown from Monday's storm. No injuries have been reported.

Rutland Regional Medical Center rehab unit to close

RUTLAND, Vt. - Rehab patients at Rutland Regional Medical Center will need to find a new place to receive care.

According to the Rutland Herald, the medical center's board of directors voted 8 to 7 Wednesday to close the rehab unit. The cost-saving measure will save the hospital more than three million dollars a year.

Patients will now have to travel to Windsor or Burlington to receive care.

The 12-unit facility will shut its doors for good on October 1.

Sorrell campaign kickoff

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell kicked off his re-election campaign in Montpelier Wednesday.

A crowd of Sorrell supporters cheered as he regaled success stories from his 15 years of service as Attorney General. He says his biggest priority right now is educating kids about social media safety. He says he's excited for debates with his opponent, State's Attorney T.J. Donovan.

"I endorsed T.J. Donovan for State's Attorney when he ran, my hope is that the voters of Vermont in the Democratic primary in August will decide that he should remain the Chittenden County State's Attorney," Sorrell said.

Sorrell stood his ground on the Entergy case and says he'll continue to fight the organization as appropriate. Supporters argue the last thing Vermont needs is someone like Donovan who lacks experience in the case.

Signs of post Irene progress in Upper Valley

QUECHEE, Vt. - Glass blowing at Simon Pearce in Quechee is once again an attraction for visitors.

"Anyone who was here who saw the flood that day was personally effected, because it was just emotional," said Rosemarie Scibetta, a Quechee resident.

Pictures on the wall of the iconic Vermont business are reminders. The glass blowing section of the building was completely swamped by the storm. "When you get dealt a bad hand like that you just got to jump back up and say, ok lets rebuild it, lets make it better than it was and lets do it really quickly," said owner Andrew Pearce.

Nine months later -- it's back open -- with a new look. "We put in handicapped accessibility to the glass blowing shop which we wanted to do for years," Pearce said.

One of the more awe inspiring photos is of the covered bridge. The shot was taken when the water had not even crested. Today the bridge is a far cry from its earlier self. The flood water that once hit the bridge receded nearly 50 feet, but the bridge was severely damaged. It has yet to reopen, cutting off a major route into the Village. That's a big concern for businesses as the summer tourism season quickly approaches.

"As a business person and as someone who loves Quechee, we are frustrated and we worry about what the summer is going to bring for us," said Alexandra LaNoue-Adlrer of the Parker House Inn and Restaurant.

Bids for the covered bridge are going out next week and construction is scheduled start in July, but It will not be open to traffic until December.

But down Route 4 in Woodstock, there are signs of more progress. The White Cottage Snack Bar recently reopened -- like Simon Pearce -- better than before. "I wasn't going to lose my livelihood over something like that and there were some renovations that I kind of wanted to do anyhow, so it is almost a blessing in disguise," said the snack bar's John Hurley.

The businesses bouncing back have given those who witnessed Irene's fury an emotional boost. "We drove by and it was open and it was like a beacon of hope. It was like, oh wow, we came back from this," said local resident, Jennifer Beckwith.

But damage in this area and throughout the region remains great. And while big steps are being made, business owners, like Andrew Pearce, are mindful of those who are still struggling. "This was our business that got damaged, but it is nothing compared to losing your home and there is a lot of people that still really need help and we got to remember them while we are celebrating our successes," he said.

Simon Pearce will be having on official grand opening celebration Saturday. Just one business, like countless others throughout the region, bouncing back after the storm.

FOX44:

Public Comments on Exit 16 Proposed Project

Colchester, Vt. - A plan to alleviate heavy traffic near Exit 16 in Colchester is making progress. Wednesday night the public got a chance to voice concerns and ask questions about the multi-million dollar project. The proposed project is called a 'Double Crossover Diamond Interchange,' and while a number of residents seem happy change is being made to the overpopulated intersection there a number of concerns when it comes to pedestrian safety and overall driver confusion.

Driving down Route 2 and Route 7 in Colchester can be a gridlock headache, but a project is in the works to improve the traffic congestion.

It requires both sides of traffic to briefly cross on opposite sides of the road. The project will also widen US Routes 2 and 7 from the Winooksi town line up one mile north into Colchester.

"It will allow a free flow of traffic for the left turn lane as you get southbound on the interchange and will actually free up a lot of the congestion on the interchange," said Kevin Marshia with the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Some people at the meeting agree it will be beneficial for drivers.

"It's clear that its well thought out and carefully designed in regard to motor vehicles," said a member in the audience.

However, several had concerns about pedestrian safety, "They may have difficulties trying to get across these ramps."

Project designers say they hope to start construction in 2014-2015. The public has 10 days from Wednesday's meeting to submit commits and concerns on the project.

FOX44 ALSO RAN SORRELL KICK-OFF AND TORNADO CONFIRMATION STORIES.

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 5:17 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: wnated to make sure you saw this...

Picture of both Peters fishing today. And a caption contest:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151744259240464&set=a.10150378241365464.602976.213320140463&type=1&theater>

Scott Coriell
Communications Director
Rep. Peter Welch (VT-AL)
202.225.4115 (o) | 202.689.5352 (c)

London, Sarah

From: Snow, Jennifer (HHS/IEA) <[REDACTED]> on behalf of HHS IEA (OS/IEA) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:52 PM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: CANCELED: Tomorrow's Affordable Care Act Conference Call with States at 4pm EDT

Good afternoon,

The weekly Affordable Care Act conference call with states that was scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, May 31st has been **canceled**. We look forward to speaking with you during our next call.

Feel free to email HHSIEA@hhs.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
US Department of Health and Human Services

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:52 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: post

Great

On May 30, 2012, at 4:43 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

"We will use the lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene to rebuild our roads and bridges more efficiently, keeping more dollars in Vermonters pockets." - Governor Shumlin today in Richmond after signing the largest Transportation Bill in Vermont's history.

With photo from earlier

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:44 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

Ah! Sorry, just saw this!!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 16:22:20 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Don't worry about it, its almost over

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:43 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: post

"We will use the lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene to rebuild our roads and bridges more efficiently, keeping more dollars in Vermonters pockets." - Governor Shumlin today in Richmond after signing the largest Transportation Bill in Vermont's history.

With photo from earlier

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:42 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen [REDACTED]'
Subject: news

Vermont Hospital Could Close Rehab Unit to Save Money - AP

http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2012/05/30/vt_hospital_could_close_rehab_unit_to_save_money/

Berlin Holds Meeting on Vermont State Hospital - AP

http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2012/05/30/berlin_holds_meeting_on_vt_state_hospital/

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: ag draft
Attachments: LocalAgriculture.Food.Draft5AW.docx

So I redid the Huffpost Ag draft today and made it focus more on the working lands bill than the summit. Let me know if you think this is in the right direction.

Also, I've been e-mailing with Noah about the bullying blog; they don't need it until next week so my plan is to get you a draft tomorrow if that works for you. I'm about half-way done with that one.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:22 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel

Don't worry about it, its almost over

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

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London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 4:21 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel

Is there any way you can come out here? The phones are intense

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:22 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: UPDATED: Sen. Stafford's granddaughter to join telephone town hall meeting tonight

I wanted to let you know that we've had an addition to tonight's telephone town hall meeting. Former Sen. Robert Stafford's granddaughter, Lana Kunkel, will now be joining to share her personal experience with Stafford Student Loans and speak to the legacy of her grandfather, for whom the loan program is named.

The interest rates on some Stafford Student Loans are set to double on July 1st unless Congress acts.

Lana will speak right at the start of the call, which begins at 730 p.m. To join, dial (toll-free) 877-229-8493 and enter PIN code 13785.

Thanks –

Scott Coriell
Communications Director
Rep. Peter Welch (VT-AL)
202.225.4115 (o) | 202.689.5352 (c)

From: Coriell, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: WEDNESDAY: Welch to hold telephone town hall meeting on student loan debt and college affordability



Congressman Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives

MEDIA ADVISORY:
Tuesday, May 29, 2012

CONTACT:
Scott Coriell
202.225.4115 (o)
202.689.5352 (c)

Welch to hold telephone town hall meeting on student loan debt and college affordability Wednesday evening

BURLINGTON, Vt. – With Congress at loggerheads over how to avoid a July 1st doubling of interest rates on some Stafford Student Loans, Rep. Peter Welch will hold a telephone town hall meeting Wednesday evening to hear from Vermonters about rising student loan debt and college costs. The town hall comes as Vermont families are trying to piece together the finances to send their children to college in the fall.

Welch will be joined on the call by Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) President and CEO Don Vickers. Following brief introductory remarks, Vermonters taking part in the call will have a chance to ask questions, share their stories and offer their ideas.

In recent weeks, Welch has been collecting stories of Vermonters' struggles with student loan debt on his website at www.welch.house.gov/studentdebt.

To join the call, dial (toll-free) [REDACTED] and enter PIN code [REDACTED].

WHAT: Student Loan Debt and College Affordability Telephone Town Hall

WHO: Rep. Peter Welch and VSAC President and CEO Don Vickers

WHEN: Wednesday, May 30th at 7:30 p.m.

HOW: To join the call, dial (toll-free) [REDACTED] and enter PIN code [REDACTED].

#

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:19 PM
To: Pallito, Andy; London, Sarah
Subject: Re: Pardon

Importance: High

Forwarded it over last week – calling you now.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 15:17:55 -0400
To: "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Pardon

I just received a phone call from Senator Joe Benning. He called to inquire about a pardon request from [REDACTED]
We do not show that pardon as forwarded to the DOC.

Any chance that one of you can call me? [REDACTED]

London, Sarah

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:18 PM
To: London, Sarah; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Pardon

Importance: High

I just received a phone call from Senator Joe Benning. He called to inquire about a pardon request from [REDACTED]
We do not show that pardon as forwarded to the DOC.

Any chance that one of you can call me? [REDACTED]

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:17 PM
To: EXE

I can see that one of you are calling but I cannot pick up—I am on a long call.

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 (FINAL):

THE COMMONS

Envisioning the 'Brattleboro Quad'

By Randolph T. Holhut/The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—If there is to be a combined Community College of Vermont/Vermont Technical College campus in downtown Brattleboro, Peter Johnson would like to see it on Flat Street.

Johnson, owner of Emerson's Furniture on Elliot Street, is touting a building he recently purchased at 47 Flat St., the former Sanel Auto Parts store, as the ideal location.

The virtues of what he calls "The Brattleboro Quad" are many.

"We've got 425 parking spaces within 200 yards of the building," Johnson said. "We're right next to the Transportation Center, and the connections for the town buses. We're directly across from the Co-op, but we're not part of the congestion on Main Street. And we can have this space ready to go in about a year."

Johnson, whose furniture store sits next to and above the Sanel building, said he has had an eye on the property for a long time.

"Over the years, I've always thought that if the chance ever came up to buy it, it would make a lot of sense to do so," he said. "It made sense to link up the two properties as one block."

The opportunity came when Sanel Auto Parts wanted to move its store to a new location on Putney Road. Johnson outbid other potential buyers for the 16,000-square-foot brick building. He said he paid \$575,000, slightly above market rate.

But when Johnson bought the property in early January, Gov. Peter Shumlin had yet to float the idea of a state college campus in downtown Brattleboro.

Johnson said he was nervous at first, for while he had a building that he long coveted, he had no firm plans for what to do with it.

Once Shumlin announced his intentions, Johnson said he immediately contacted an old family friend, Martha O'Connor, the woman tasked by Shumlin to find a suitable location for the campus.

He said he's had several meetings with O'Connor regarding the property.

"Martha has been up-front all the way with me," Johnson said. "She assured me that she would not waste my time if she and the colleges didn't think it was a viable location."

The design, by NBF Architects of Rutland, calls for an addition to be built onto the rear of the Emerson building to the Sanel building. Johnson said that the lower floors of the Emerson Building now used as a furniture warehouse would be converted into retail and restaurant space.

A small park would be built next to the Sanel building, where a parking lot now sits. It would be adjacent to a nearby lot that's currently vacant, but will eventually be the new home of Biologic Integrative Healthcare, a family health practice that combines Western and alternative medicine. Johnson said he is working with Dr. Samantha K. Eagle, one of Biologic's primary practitioners, on developing the Quad idea.

The top two floors of the Sanel building haven't been used since the 1960s, Johnson said. The bottom two floors have been an auto parts store for decades. The building itself was constructed around 1900 and was office space and a warehouse for DeWitt Grocery Co., a wholesale grocer, until the company got out of the grocery business in 1950, and became a beer and beverage distributor.

The Brooks House on Main Street is also in the running for the downtown campus. Mesabi LLC, the partnership led by architect Bob Stevens and attorney Craig Miskovich, is in the process of attracting investors to back the restoration of the historic 1871 building that was heavily damaged by a fire in April 2011.

Johnson said he wholeheartedly supports seeing the Brooks House rebuilt. "The downtown needs that space," he said, "but it needs to be retail and housing, just as it was before."

And while the Brooks House is now gutted, and awaits a top-to-bottom restoration that could cost millions of dollars to complete, Johnson said the Sanel building is structurally sound and has a fully up-to-state sprinkler system.

At a May 22 meeting with business and civic leaders in Brattleboro, CCV president Joyce Judy said that the state college system plans "to move very aggressively" on the project, now that there is about \$2 million in state funds available. The goal is to have a proposal ready to present to the Vermont State College Board of Trustees by this fall.

Judy said the school would need roughly 10,000 to 12,000 square feet of space, and that the two priorities for an ideal site are visibility and accessibility.

"Of course I'm biased, but I believe our site fits both requirements," Johnson said.

But if the state college plan falls through, Johnson said he has a "Plan B" ready, and would find a way to create housing on the upper floors of the Sanel building to go with the already existing mix of retail and office space.

Kate O'Connor, former Dean advisor, eyes House By Olga Peters/The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Kate O'Connor spent nearly 13 years as former Gov. Howard Dean's most trusted advisor.

From the chaotic beginning of the Dean administration after the then-lieutenant governor was sworn into office after the sudden death of Gov. Richard Snelling in August 1991, through five gubernatorial elections,

through the meteoric rise and the hard ending of Dean's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004, she has been in the thick of executive decision making.

Since the end of Dean's presidential campaign, O'Connor has kept a fairly low profile in Vermont politics. Now, that is about to change as she runs for the Windham 3-3 House seat recently vacated by incumbent Rep. Sarah Edwards, P/D-Brattleboro. O'Connor faces Brattleboro chef and business owner Tristan Toleno, who is also seeking the seat.

Despite moving to Winooski for work, O'Connor has always considered Brattleboro her home. When Edwards announced she would step down, O'Connor spotted an opportunity to serve her hometown.

"I can't think of anything better to do," she said.

As a member of the governor's administration, said O'Connor in a recent phone interview, every Vermonter is a constituent. A representative can focus on a smaller group. O'Connor said she looks forward to sitting "on the other side where everything begins."

The governor oversees the administration's vision, but it is the Legislature that does the work, she said.

O'Connor characterizes her years in the Dean administration as a strength, furnishing her with a solid understanding of government's inner workings and of how the legislative process works.

It also gave her a network of former colleagues, and a list of resources to tap on Brattleboro's behalf.

The forgotten county O'Connor sits on the board that reviews Community Development Block Grant applications. Appointed in 2004 by former Gov. Jim Douglas, O'Connor said she was the only Windham County resident on the board for seven years.

"We're lost in the system a lot," said O'Connor about southern Vermont.

The governor's office likes to joke that Brattleboro is in Massachusetts, said O'Connor, "but we are easily forgotten."

As a representative, O'Connor said she would see herself as Brattleboro's advocate.

Economic development and bringing jobs to town are two issues O'Connor said she feels passionate about.

Brattleboro needs the same resources that often go to Montpelier or Burlington by default. O'Connor said she plans to help business grow in Brattleboro.

"There's no reason Brattleboro can't get the computer jobs," she said. "It's about making sure people remember us."

According to O'Connor, Vermont is considering overhauling its tax structure in the next legislative session. If this happens, she said, it could have ramifications for towns bordering New Hampshire. She plans to keep an eye on these developments.

Vermont Yankee and its eventual decommissioning also is on O'Connor's list of economic development concerns. She believes the plant should close, although she said it's a hard position to take, because she has friends and relatives working at the plant.

The state must determine how to mitigate the spent nuclear fuel on-site, ensure that Entergy fully funds the plant's decommissioning fund, and fight for DECON (immediate decommissioning) over SAFSTOR (mothballing the plant indefinitely) when the plant shuts down.

DECON would help protect more workers' jobs, she said. Also, a nuclear plant sitting mothballed for 80 years under SAFSTOR doesn't sit well with O'Connor. After 80 years, her young nephews won't even be around.

"That's really scary," she said.

Politically, O'Connor defines herself as moderate. On issues like balancing the budget she tends toward conservative. On social issues, however, she lands on the liberal end of the spectrum.

Creating incremental change through compromise is a skill she said she learned from Dean, who changed the state's health care system in small steps, starting with providing health insurance for children (Dr. Dynasaur) and laying the initial groundwork that eventually led to Catamount Health.

To get things done requires agreement, she said.

"Better to compromise and get some of what you want, rather than get nothing," said O'Connor.

A political legacy Kate O'Connor comes from a family that is quite familiar with politics and public service.

Her father, Timothy O'Connor, served in the Vermont House from 1969 to 1981, and made history in 1975 as the first Democrat to be elected Speaker of the House. He also ran for governor in 1980, losing in the Democratic Primary. An attorney for 50 years, he also serves as Town Moderator.

Her mother, Martha O'Connor, is a former Brattleboro Selectboard member and currently serves on the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees. A former school teacher, she has also served on numerous town boards and committees over the years.

Kate O'Connor said her father, who retired last year, has volunteered to help her campaign.

When asked which ticket she's running on, her response was quick.

"Democrat," she said. "Always have been, always will be."

Veteran dies while paying tribute

Roger Aquadro, a Marine Corps veteran from Dummerston, suffers fatal heart attack during Memorial Day
By Isaac Nichols Baker/Special to The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The annual Memorial Day service on the Brattleboro Common on Monday morning took on an extra bit of poignancy with the news that a Marine Corps veteran had died earlier in the day during ceremonies at St. Michael's Parish Cemetery.

It was up to Richard Hodgdon, commandant of Brattleboro Detachment 798 of the Marine Corps League, to break the news at the conclusion of the service that Roger B. Aquadro of Dummerston, a member of the League's honor guard, had collapsed and died shortly after 11 a.m. at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

"A fine man and fine Marine," said Hodgdon.

Herb Meyer of Guilford, head of American Legion Post 5/VFW Post 1034 Joint Memorial Unit, said Tuesday that his group was marching behind the Marine Corps League color guard when he saw that someone had collapsed.

Meyer said a Brattleboro police officer who was at the cemetery gave Aquadro CPR until a Rescue Inc. ambulance arrived to transport him to the BMH emergency room.

Aquadro was doing what the local veterans organizations do on the morning of every Memorial Day — make the rounds of the Brattleboro cemeteries and conduct a brief memorial service, complete with a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps," for the veterans buried there.

Word of Aquadro's collapse spread quietly through the crowd on Monday as the Memorial Day ceremonies began on the common.

The featured speaker was Helen Manning of Vernon, a senior at Brattleboro Union High School.

"We gather here every year to honor those who died for our country," she said. "Each time we gather it will always be for the same reasons: to pay our respects to the fallen soldiers, [to] remember their lives and service; we gather because it is the right thing to do."

Manning went on to cite peace and liberty as the intangible goals men and women have fought and continue to fight for during her call to mindfulness, drawing on the words of John F. Kennedy to drive her point home.

Manning said after the ceremony that she had gotten the opportunity to speak through one of her BUHS teachers. Memorial Day had always been important in her family, she said, because her father and grandfather had both served in the Army and she was happy to continue the tradition.

American Legion Post 5 commander Richard Guthrie said he was pleased to have Manning as a speaker at this year's services. Legion members have been going to area schools to teach students about patriotism and honoring the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.

"It brings a tear to my eye to see kids in school with their hands on their hearts still reciting the Pledge of Allegiance," Guthrie said.

Legacy of serviceAquadro, who served in the Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956, we worked at the Book Press in Brattleboro for many years.

But his main passion was education. He served on the Brattleboro Union High School Board in the 1980s and 1990s, and at the time of his death, was a member of the Dummerston School Board.

Don Webster of Brattleboro, who served with Aquadro on the BUHS Board in the 1980s, remembers Aquadro as "a down-to-earth guy whose life was devoted to public education."

He could be critical and have strong opinions," Webster continued, "but his primary concern was always about what we as a board could do to make the schools better for the kids and the teachers."

Webster said Aquadro was quite proud that his daughter, Janel, went into education and works as a teacher in Connecticut. Aquadro is also survived by a son, Dana, who lives in Dummerston.

Aquadro's wife of 41 years, Joy, died in 2006 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

At press time, funeral arrangements for Roger Aquadro were incomplete.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Mayor Lauzon's Hedge Fun

by: BP

Wed May 30, 2012 at 14:00:00 PM EDT

Barre Mayor Republican Thom Lauzon early on established what he describes a "great relationship" with Democratic Governor Shumlin. He lobbied heavily to get a deal on locating state employees in his economically challenged city of Barre. Now it seems the mayor, who is a trained accountant is placing some hedge bets with his political endorsement capital. (It should be noted that the colorful Mayor Lauzon was the 2009 winner of the coveted GMD Sockeye Salmon Award)

Earlier this week before of any Republican entered the race, Lauzon invested in an endorsement of Democrat TJ Donovan. Donovan is taking on longtime attorney general Democrat Bill Sorrell in a primary. Today Seven Days' Fair Game has more on the Barre mayor. To start off his hedging fun, Lauzon comments with almost equal parts of snide and respect on possible Republican AG candidate Jack McMullen

Was he [McMullen] the one who had the primary against Fred Tuttle?

And then adds

I have a lot of respect for Jack as a person, but I've not had the opportunity to work with him in the context of the skill set you need as attorney general — and I have had the opportunity to work with T.J. Donovan, Lauzon's hedging on the race for governor could prove a riskier hedge of political capital. The mayor coyly offers that years back he once supported a Democrat (Tom Salmon) in a statewide race for auditor of accounts against a Republican. The Republican was Randy Brock. When asked the obvious question, would he endorse Shumlin, Lauzon says:

"I will confirm that I've had conversations with the governor's staff," Lauzon says. "They've asked about an endorsement, and I'm considering it. That's not a knock against anyone."

With Republican friends like this candidate Randy Brock better stop worrying about bears in the woods.

VTGOP scouts political graveyard for candidates

by: jvwalt

Wed May 30, 2012 at 07:14:41 AM EDT

Oh, wow. Oh, no. Oh, man. I missed this little tidbit when it was first reported by the Associated Press a few days ago. Buried deep in an article about the Sorrell/Donovan Dem primary for Attorney General was this little gem:

So far no Republican candidate has entered the race, though Burlington businessman Jack McMullen said Monday that he would probably enter if he can put a campaign team together.

Jack Bleepin' McMullen. Now, there's a name from the past. For those just joining us, McMullen was the Massachusetts millionaire who moved to Vermont in 1998 and launched a candidacy for U.S. Senate. And was humiliatingly defeated in the Republican primary by the late great dairy farmer Fred Tuttle. And then ran again for Senate in 2004 and managed to win the primary, only to get his ass whipped by Pat Leahy, 71%-25%.

I guess the statute of limitations on political embarrassment has run out. Either that, or the VTGOP is truly desperate to fill out its statewide ticket. Or both.

Jack McMullen. Sheesh.

p.s. McMullen has a law degree, but has he ever practiced law? Is he a licensed attorney in the state of Vermont?

Vince Illuzzi suffers bout of realism; and, a tattered GOP ticket

by: jvwalt

Tue May 29, 2012 at 23:00:00 PM EDT

Awww. Connoisseurs of political schadenfreude will be disappointed to learn that Sen. Vince Illuzzi (D/R, Bumptious) has decided not to run for Vermont Attorney General. The Freeps' politics blog, vtBuzz, reports that Illuzzi has narrowed his options to two: run for re-election to the Senate, or seek the Auditor's seat about to be abandoned by Tom Salmon (D/R, Opportunist). WCAX-TV, meanwhile, says Illuzzi is leaning toward Auditor, which has the two advantages of (1) a full-time salary and (2) a departing incumbent who's set the performance bar very low.

Either Illuzzi finally realized that his history of ethical troubles would be a huge hindrance in a run for AG, or he saw a better opportunity in the Auditor's contest. His fundamental assumption, I guess, is that he is innately qualified to hold any elective post in the state; it's simply a matter of which office he will deign to hold.

Illuzzi's AG abjuration, wise though it may have been, does leave another hole in the crazy-quilt Republican ticket for 2012.

jvwalt :: Vince Illuzzi suffers bout of realism; and, a tattered GOP ticket

The filing deadline for this fall's election is June 14, a bit more than two weeks away. And here's how things stand for the VTGOP. (Hint: not a pretty picture.)

Governor: Randy Brock, trailing Peter Shumlin by a 2-1 margin in the latest poll with few undecideds, and running a hard-right campaign aimed at that solid bedrock 30% conservative electorate.

Lieutenant Governor: The only bright spot, Phil Scott, popular incumbent. The Dems may not even nominate a candidate.

AG: Haven't heard any Republican names, As flawed as Illuzzi was, he had more name recognition than any other potential candidate. It's looking more and more like the real contest for AG is the Democratic primary.

Treasurer: The Great White Hope, and sworn enemy of ShummyCare, Wendy Wilton. (Well, Emerson Lynn sees her as the Repubs' GWH. Think he's all alone there.)

Secretary of State: No names out there. Can the GOP find someone willing to lose big to Jim Condos? A young conservative looking to build a resume?

Auditor: The Republicans are reduced to mooning over Tom Salmon. Hey, there's Vince Illuzzi, waving his arms in the air like the smarty-pants kid in second grade: "Pick me, pick me!" Senator Kevin Mullin is also pondering a run.

US Senate: John MacGovern and H. Brooke Paige want the privilege of giving Bernie Sanders a chance at his biggest-ever margin of victory.

Congress: Ditto Mark Donka running against Peter Welch.

Of the Senate and Congressional hopefuls, here's an encouraging word courtesy of vtBuzz:

Vermont Republican Party Chairman Jack Lindley said he doesn't know any of the candidates. Yeah, and he can't find anybody better. Wow. This isn't exactly a ticket designed to lift up the GOP's legislative candidates. No wonder the Republicans are so ornery this year.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:

SEVEN DAYS:

**It's a ... Candidate!
Fair Game**

By Paul Heintz

It's a girl! It's a boy! Actually, it's too soon to say. As of press time, Andy Bromage and his wife, Alison Mioncrief Bromage, were heading to the hospital to give birth to Baby Fair Game. We're hoping that, whatever the gender, he or she will come out looking just like Poppa Fair Game: with a red beard, a reporter's notebook and a banjo on his knee.

While Andy relishes the joys of new parenthood, you'll be stuck with me for a while. So send any tips, complaints or dirty diapers my way.

Jack Is Back

The winner of a heated Democratic primary between seven-term Attorney General Bill Sorrell and challenger T.J. Donovan, the Chittenden County state's attorney, could face a million-dollar headache this fall.

As the AP's Wilson Ring reported Monday, Republican businessman Jack McMullen is also Mc-Mullin' a run.

Remember that guy?

McMullen is probably best remembered for the drubbing he took from Tunbridge farmer Fred Tuttle in the 1998 Republican primary to take on Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy. The low point for McMullen came when, pressed by Tuttle in a Vermont Public Radio debate, the Massachusetts transplant mispronounced a few Vermont towns and couldn't identify the number of teats on a dairy cow.

For the record, it's four.

McMullen tells Fair Game that, so long as he can find a decent campaign manager, he'll jump in the race for attorney general. He's already collecting signatures to get on the ballot.

"I think there's a reason to have a contest," he says. "Evidently the Democrats feel the same. The feeling on our side is, 'Why should there be a freebie in the general election?'"

With McMullen, though, nothing's ever free.

The Burlington resident and managing principal of the Massachusetts-based Cambridge Meridian Group has a history of self-funding his runs for office. McMullen loaned his own campaign \$340,000 when he

unsuccessfully challenged Leahy again in 2004. He raised another \$390,000 from other sources that same year.

McMullen says he'd likely pony up his own cash if he ends up entering the race — and he'd also count on a little help from his friends.

"I've always had a number of my business colleagues say, 'If you run, we'll back you,'" he says.

Given his long-held desire to serve in the U.S. Senate, how come he's not taking on Sen. Bernie Sanders, as is Windsor resident John MacGovern?

"Those races are difficult. Vermont is a small state, and its citizenry seems to value the seniority of its senators," he says.

McMullen says he'd use the AG's office to crack down on drug use and crime — not nuclear energy. He calls Sorrell's appeal of a federal court decision allowing Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant to remain open "a misdirection of effort."

"You only have so much you can do in that office. Why tilt at windmills?" he says.

If he decides to jump in, McMullen better pull out his Vermont flash cards and study up. Asked if he's learned about them cow teats, McMullen said he had: "Well, that's ingrained in my mind. I've got four down pat."

Friendly Fire

In or out, McMullen won't be getting the support of two prominent Republicans. Last week, Donovan the Dem locked up the support of Barre's Republican mayor, Thom Lauzon. Two weeks before that, Rutland Mayor Chris Louras — also an R — came out for Donovan.

So does Donovan think he's running in the Republican primary or something?

Spokesman Jay Els says that, on the contrary, "The issues we're talking about, that T.J. is bringing to the forefront, are ones Vermonters care about — and they're not partisan."

Now that McMullen is considering jumping in, are Lauzon and Louras reconsidering?

Doesn't sound like it.

"Was he the one who had the primary against Fred Tuttle?" Louras wondered when Fair Game asked him about McMullen.

Scratch him off your list, Jack.

Louras says he's sticking with Donovan no matter who gets in the race — and he doesn't much care about party affiliation. After all, the former Republican state rep says, "The only 'R' I have next to my name right now is 'Rutland.'"

As for Lauzon? After a morning chasing lightning — there were at least three lightning-caused house fires in Barre — and a bomb threat at the high school, Lauzon said Tuesday that he, too, will back Donovan no matter who enters the race.

"I have a lot of respect for Jack as a person, but I've not had the opportunity to work with him in the context of the skill set you need as attorney general — and I have had the opportunity to work with T.J. Donovan," Lauzon says.

How's that one going over with fellow Rs?

"It's not a decision that is too popular among my Republican friends," the Barre mayor says. "The thing is, what I've always told them is: I took an oath to be mayor and represent my city. I didn't take an oath to be a Republican."

Lauzon points to another D he backed over an R: then-Democrat Tom Salmon when he challenged Republican Randy Brock for state auditor. Salmon has since switched teams.

"I endorsed Tom Salmon, but I was the only one smart enough to know he was a Republican," he jokes.

Does bipartisan Thom see any further Dem endorsements on the horizon? Like, say, for Gov. Peter Shumlin?

"I will confirm that I've had conversations with the governor's staff," Lauzon says. "They've asked about an endorsement, and I'm considering it. That's not a knock against anyone."

Like, say, Brock, who's now challenging Shumlin for governor?

Lauzon says that in spite of the fact that — or maybe because — he campaigned hard for Shumlin's 2010 opponent, former Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, the gov reached out to Lauzon immediately upon taking office. Literally.

"His first day on the job he was having lunch in my home. I have a great relationship with the governor. I'm going to stop short of giving you an endorsement, but I respect what he's done," Lauzon says. "In my mind, you have to give me a reason to fire someone."

So hypothetically, if Lauzon were to endorse the gov, when would he hypothetically do it?

Lauzon: "If there is one, I suspect it will come in the next couple of weeks." (Dramatic pause.) "Followed by my resignation from the Republican Party." (Loud cackling.)

Decisions, Decisions

Since March, Senate stalwart Vince Illuzzi (R-Essex/Orleans) has been running for ... something. Back then, the Northeast Kingdom pol told Seven Days he was 75 percent sure he'd challenge Sorrell for attorney general, calling the incumbent "an absentee owner" of the office and criticizing Sorrell's handling of the Vermont Yankee lawsuit.

But when Salmon announced two weeks ago that he will not seek reelection as state auditor, Illuzzi shifted gears.

"I've been talking with folks and certainly leaning strongly toward running for auditor," he says. "It's an open seat. It's a challenging office that would certainly enable me to parlay my legislative experience into looking at how well the programs we've created and funded are working."

So what changed?

Illuzzi says "the only issue" in the AG race is Sorrell's record of losing three high-profile court cases defending three state laws: VY, campaign finance reform and a ban on prescription-drug data mining.

"The problem is, the legislature passed the laws, which he was required to defend, and I voted for a couple of those," Illuzzi says.

Now that he's honed in on a job to run for, Illuzzi just has to pick a party — or not. The longtime Republican says he's thinking about running as an independent.

"In order to succeed given the current makeup of the general assembly, I have found success lies in working with both parties equally," the senator says. "I think if you asked most of my colleagues, they'd tell you I've done that effectively."

What does Vermont GOP chairman Jack Lindley think of a possible Illuzzi defection?

"Good luck!" he says. "He won't get any help from Republicans."

Lindley warns Illuzzi that eschewing the GOP label would be "a big mistake."

"I would point out that not a single independent has been elected to statewide office," Lindley says. "I just don't think an independent can win statewide."

Tell that to Bernie Sanders!

Of course, with President Barack Obama at the top of the ticket this fall — a recent Castleton State College poll had the prez leveling Mitt Romney 59 to 28 percent in Vermont — and the state GOP's finances in the tank, what exactly can Lindley offer Illuzzi to party on with the Rs?

"It takes an unusual amount of effort to run statewide, and you've gotta have some volunteers," Lindley says. "Maybe he's figured out how to get volunteers."

Volunteers?

One guy who won't be donating anything to Illuzzi is Doug Hoffer. The independent policy analyst has frequently contributed research and analysis to the Senate Economic Development Committee, which Illuzzi chairs —and the two have a strong working relationship.

Problem is, Hoffer, who lost to Salmon in 2010, is already in the race for auditor. He's hoping to pick up the endorsements of the Dems and the Progs.

"Vince is a good guy, and I've done good work with him," says Hoffer. "But I think I'm better qualified than him."

Illuzzi agrees with the whole “working together” thing — just not the “better qualified” thing.

“Doug has provided some valuable information to the committee,” Illuzzi says. “I guess the big difference is, I’ve funded the programs, I’ve created the programs and I know what the goals are. I think I’m in a better position to assess how they’re performing and whether changes should be made.”

Hoffer says that’s a stretch.

“The auditor audits the entirety of state government,” he says. “So is Vince suggesting he created state government?”

Hoffer believes Vermonters would be better served by a state auditor who focuses on, say, auditing — not simply holds down a government job.

“I’m not a career politician. I’m a numbers guy,” Hoffer says. “If I had wanted to start a career in electoral politics, I would have started a long time ago.”

Not that he has any problem with Illuzzi running or anything.

“It’s not for me to judge what people’s motivations are,” Hoffer says, “but it is of some concern that some folks seem to be shopping instead of focusing on something they’re particularly interested in.”

Mexican Evolution

Activist Danilo Lopez speaks out for Vermont's migrant farmworkers

By Andy Bromage

Demonstrators marched on the Obama reelection headquarters in Burlington last week to protest a newly activated federal program aimed at cracking down on illegal immigrants in Vermont. Leading the charge was a young man from Mexico shouting through a bullhorn.

With a translator’s help, the former farmworker railed against Secure Communities, or S-Comm, the Obama administration’s program that he says is responsible for deporting thousands of undocumented immigrants whose cheap labor is propping up struggling farms in Vermont and across America. Next to him was a giant sign that read, “Immigration Report Card for Barack Obama” and gave the president Fs on all counts.

“We don’t want the fields to be left without anybody working them, so nobody can have any milk, cheese, vegetables and ice cream,” the young Mexican man intoned. “What do we want: Do we want this program Secure Communities, or do we want milk?”

“Leche!” the boisterous crowd yelled back.

The young Mexican introduced himself to the crowd, but many of the activists and reporters in attendance already knew him well.

“My name is Danilo Lopez,” he said. “You may have seen me in the newspaper.”

Lopez has been popping up in the news a lot lately. Over the past year, the 22-year-old undocumented immigrant — one of an estimated 2000 Latinos laboring invisibly on Vermont's farms — has become a prominent spokesman for the farmworker cause. Lopez's journey from obscurity to standout activism is one of happenstance and determination. In short order, he and his allies have racked up several significant policy changes for migrant farmworkers.

In December 2009, Lopez was working on a Charlotte dairy farm and taking English-language courses through the Vermont Migrant Education Program when he received bad news. A fellow migrant farmworker, José Obeth Santis Cruz, had been killed in a Vermont farming accident. Lopez took it on himself to collect money from the migrant community to help pay the cost of returning the young man's body to his family in Chiapas, Mexico.

That accident launched the Burlington-based immigrant advocacy group Migrant Justice/Justicia Migrante, formerly called the Vermont Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project. Founded by activists Brendan O'Neill and Natalia Fajardo, Migrant Justice has quickly grown into an organized and effective advocacy group — thanks in no small part to Lopez, who has emerged as a natural leader and an effective spokesman.

Lopez's outspokenness — and a highly publicized brush with the law — has made him something of a cause célèbre among migrant farmworkers. He has earned invitations to testify at the Statehouse and to speak before numerous college classes and agriculture organizations. Friends who know him describe Lopez as intelligent, eloquent, self-effacing, shy and extremely hardworking.

But at least one party looks upon him less favorably: the feds. Lopez is currently facing deportation after being arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol following a traffic stop in Middlesex last September. After a hearing at federal immigration court in Boston last month, Lopez secured a reprieve that will allow him to stay several months longer while his lawyer appeals a part of the case.

His freedom to stay in the U.S. now depends on a prosecuting attorney from U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) granting Lopez "prosecutorial discretion" — a little-used form of leniency enacted by the Obama administration last August to clear a massive backlog of deportation cases. Before his last court hearing, Lopez asked for letters of support to bolster his case and received 35 within a few days. Letters came from state senators Philip Baruth (D-Chittenden) and Sara Kittell (D-Franklin); professors from Middlebury College and the University of Vermont; an interfaith religious leader; and dozens of friends. One even drew a parallel between Lopez and a famous 20th-century farmworker organizer.

"Danilo closely resembles Cesar Chavez," wrote Daniel B. Cohen, a 66-year-old educator who teaches English to migrant farmworkers in the Northeast Kingdom, in his letter. "He teaches people; he inspires people; he makes them aware of their own worth and dignity; and he does this without a trace of anger or negativity."

"He has become so well known for his community involvement that people he's never met sometimes stop him on the street with words of congratulation or encouragement," wrote Aaron Lackowski, a volunteer with Migrant Justice, on behalf of Lopez. "I recently joked with Danilo and some fellow volunteers that he could easily win 5 percent of the vote in the next Burlington mayoral race were he to run."

But whether all those letters will persuade the ICE attorney remains to be seen. Robert Appel, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, says prosecutorial discretion is "rarely invoked" in cases such as Lopez's.

"It would be extraordinary if prosecutorial discretion is applied and he's allowed to remain," Appel says, and adds that it's "more likely than not" that Lopez will be deported.

Like that of many migrant workers, Danilo Lopez's journey from Mexico to Vermont is at once familiar and remarkable. At 17, he set out alone from his hometown of Tapachula in the state of Chiapas for what was supposed to be a 14-day trip to Arizona. Lopez's grandfather was a farmer who raised peanuts, coffee, corn and bananas before falling prices and mounting debt forced him to sell the farm and move to the city. Lopez left his parents and two younger sisters to seek work in the U.S., specifically in Wisconsin.

It took just four days for Lopez and his hired "coyote" to reach the borderlands, but then, Lopez says, they wandered for eight days in the desert. Once on the Arizona side, Lopez continues, he was kidnapped and held for ransom in a house crowded with other Mexican border crossers. His captors — Lopez refers to them as the "mafia" but never learned their identities — demanded \$9000 for his release. It took Lopez almost two months to secure the funds from his family, who paid the kidnappers an extra \$500 to drive Lopez safely to Florida, where Danilo had relatives.

He spent a year in Tampa — working up to 18 hours a day picking tomatoes, cleaning stadiums and assembling Jacuzzis to pay back the ransom money — before his girlfriend's uncle persuaded him to head north to Vermont.

"He told me Vermont is really green; it's a beautiful place," Lopez says through a translator during an interview at the Migrant Justice office, where he now spends most of his days. "The work is really hard, but that's OK."

He landed on a dairy farm in Charlotte, where he drove tractors, did other nonmilking work and sent most of his money back home to his family. Lopez did that for nine months, until he was injured on the job: He got too close to a bull, and the massive animal tossed him through the air "like I was Superman," he says.

"I couldn't breathe," recalls Lopez. "Instinctively, I jumped over a fence and fell into a big pile of manure." He went 48 hours without medical treatment because he couldn't get a ride to the hospital.

Lopez's next job, on a horse farm, afforded him more time to pursue activism with Migrant Justice. He collected signatures from scores of undocumented farmworkers calling on Gov. Peter Shumlin to oppose S-Comm, which links local police departments to ICE immigration databases with the aim of identifying deportable aliens. Last August, Lopez and another farmworker hand-delivered the petitions to the governor on the capitol steps before a rally and press conference.

"I knew there was a risk" in speaking out publicly, Lopez says, "but I don't like to be hidden."

Just weeks later, on September 13, Lopez and another undocumented Mexican farmworker were detained by the feds after state police stopped a car in which they were passengers for speeding on I-89. Under questioning from the trooper, Lopez and Antonio-Meza Sandoval admitted they had crossed into the U.S. illegally. At the Middlesex police barracks, U.S. Border Patrol agents rumbled into the dirt parking lot in SUVs and took custody of the immigrants. This sparked a confrontation with supporters, several of whom were handcuffed and forcibly carted away for trying to block the agents' exit route.

That high-profile event put Lopez into deportation proceedings, but it also prompted Shumlin to order state police not to ask potential illegal immigrants for papers unless they were suspected of a crime — a policy change that places Vermont among the most immigrant-friendly states in America.

Migrant Justice's next victory came at the Statehouse this past session, when Lopez and other migrant workers helped win passage of a bill that puts Vermont on course to issue driver's licenses to immigrants, regardless of their status. A committee will study the idea and report back to lawmakers in January about how — not whether — to grant Vermont IDs to immigrants.

"The minute you talk about migrant workers and driver's licenses in a post-9/11 environment, a lot of people's faces get this mask on them that has a lot to do with fear," says state Sen. Baruth, who was an architect of the immigrant ID bill on the Senate Agriculture Committee. "But when Danilo would speak, you would see that mask start to fall away. [Legislators] would say, 'He's a farmer, every bit as much as my constituents are farmers.'"

With a soft-spoken demeanor and boyish face, Lopez hardly looks the part of a radical. And that, people who know him say, is what makes him an effective advocate.

"He comports himself very well in situations that could be stressful," says Appel of the Human Rights Commission. "He's not in any way a hothead and doesn't use extreme rhetoric. He's just very down-to-earth and is able to bring people together on the issues."

Lopez is slowly learning English, but most of his work is still conducted in Spanish — educating migrant farmworkers about their rights, writing newsletters and producing videos documenting the migrant experience in Vermont. In the process, Lopez and Migrant Justice are giving more immigrant workers the courage to speak out.

"He is helping a lot of our compañeros come out of the shadows," says David Santiago Bautista, a Mexican employed on an Addison County dairy farm; Bautista accompanied Lopez to the Statehouse to testify on the driver's license bill. Speaking through a translator, Bautista says Danilo's case shows that any farmworker is at risk of deportation. "But now that we've got Migrant Justice, we're not afraid anymore," he adds.

Lopez says he's not afraid, either — nor is he naïve. He knows the odds of being deported. If ICE sends him packing, Lopez says he'll return to Mexico and, he hopes, enroll in a university. He'll also continue to organize farmworkers, he says — on the other side of the border — and perhaps even establish a Mexican branch of Migrant Justice.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:

WCAX:

Police phones partially restored

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Phone service for police agencies in Northwestern Vermont have been partially restored.

The landlines to a dozen agencies, including several state police barracks, went down this weekend after a system component failed. Now all but three are back on line. State police hope to have the problem solved by the end Wednesday. 911 service was never impacted by the outage.

Alternate numbers:

Underhill/Jericho Fire 878-7111
Northfield Police after hours 229-9191
VSP Lamoille outpost 878-7111

Goodrich lands Army contract

VERGENNES, Vt. - The Goodrich Corporation in Vergennes has landed a new multi-million dollar contract with the U.S. Army.

The 9.9 million dollar deal is for the company's helicopter maintenance diagnostic systems.

The Army is purchasing Goodrich's Health and Usage Management Systems known as HUMS. The units give mechanics feedback on a helicopter's engine performance.

TIMES ARGUS:

Savoy Theater may close for lack of \$12k

By Keith Vance | Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Terrence Youk, the owner of the Savoy Theater, said that unless he can come up with \$12,000 in the next couple of weeks, on June 15 the theater will be forced to close.

Youk is calling on the Montpelier community to open their wallets to save one of Vermont's oldest arthouse theaters, which dates back to at least 1905.

People love the theater, he said, but folks just aren't coming out and supporting it.

He's crunched the numbers, and Youk said that he only needs seven more people to come see a movie every day to balance out his books.

"I'm optimistic that we're going to make our goal," he said.

As of Wednesday, Youk's received \$3,000.

And it's not just fewer people coming through the door, Youk said that film distributors are now taking 50 percent of the theater's ticket sales.

He's owned the theater since December 2009, and he said the finances have been riddled with peaks and valleys.

"We were doing sort of OK, but then right after the film festival, the numbers just dropped," Youk said.

His plan to smooth out the Savoy's finances for the long haul is to create a non-profit called the Savoy Media Lab.

With the non-profit, Youk hopes to be able to offer educational programs, seek grants and establish an endowment fund to "keep the theater financially healthy."

"We do need more consistency," he said.

To learn more about the Savoy, visit SavoyTheater.com.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Burlington College names new president

BY TIM JOHNSON

Burlington College trustees have chosen a new president by promoting from within.

Christine Plunkett, vice president of administration and finance, will take office June 1, the college announced today. She emerged from among five finalists in a national search that drew 60 applications, and replaces Jane Sanders, who resigned in September after seven years in the leadership position.

"We are very pleased to make this announcement," said Adam Dantzsch, chairman of the Burlington College Board of Trustees, in a news release. "This has been an exhaustive search, with many highly qualified candidates brought forward."

Also today, Plunkett announced that she has named Stephen St. Onge as dean of the college and vice president for academic and student affairs. St. Onge, who has served as vice president for student affairs at Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh, N.Y., replaces Art Hessler, who will retire at the end of June.

Plunkett, who grew up in Vermont, has a B.S. in business administration from the University of Vermont and a Master of Business Administration from Northeastern University. She joined Burlington College in 2007 after serving as an administrator at the Gailer School, a private secondary school in Middlebury.

"It is an honor for me to accept the Board's invitation to lead the college forward," said Plunkett in the news release. "As stewards of our newly acquired campus with historic buildings and 32 lakefront acres, we are in a unique position to develop a vibrant and innovative educational, cultural and community institution."

The college purchased the Burlington archdiocese headquarters on North Avenue for \$10 million and moved into that facility last fall.

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Challenger emerges for Orange County Vermont Senate seat

Posted on May 30, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

Sen. Mark MacDonald, D-Orange, will apparently have a primary challenge this year.

Tig Tillinghast, a selectman from Thetford, announced Wednesday that he's running for the Democratic nomination. Tillinghast said in a news release that he wants to promote more two-way communication between the Senate and selectboards, schoolboards and voters in Orange County.

Tillinghast said he has served on the Selectboard for five years and chaired from 2009 to 2012.

Tillinghast runs an Internet publishing business and a maple syrup operation. He lives in Thetford Center with his wife Elise and young daughter. Born in Danielson, Conn., Tillinghast said graduated Dartmouth with a degree in government.

London, Sarah

From: Mace, David <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Barnett, Tim; Rose, Ben; Bradley, RichardE; Brown, Eugene; Cook, Angela; Costello, Frederick; Curran, Jennifer; Rapaport, Dave; Edmonds, Darrell; Erickson, Nancy; Ferri, Albert; Filkorn, Erik; Halliday, Kathryn; Haskell, Emery; McLane, Lauren; Minter, Sue; Nygaard, Corey; Coffey, Peter; Pinkham, Dennis; Piper, Michael; Rennert, Peter; Riley, Bill; Robinson, Myrna; Nagy, Ross; Russo, James N; Ryerson, Chad; Stewart, Charlotte; Stewart, John; Stirewalt, Robert; Truman, Bennett; Wengroff, Ariel; Whedbee, Grace; Whitton, Kelli; Alvarado, Diego; Blagg, Mary; Davis Jr, Wendell; Davis, Wendell; Foglino, Annette; Mace, David; Bosma, Mark; Mccarthy Barnett, Kate; Valeja, Samir; Zuzy Zvarova
Subject: DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report May 30, 2012
Attachments: DR-4022 - 4043-VT 05-30-12 Media Monitoring.docx

DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report Wednesday, May 30, 2012

HOT ISSUE: *No hot issues.*

SUMMARY: *A Lyndon family whose home was heavily damaged during Irene has rejected a buyout offer that their neighbors took, instead opting to elevate it on the advice of a FEMA engineer (Orleans County Record); Wilmington has been selected to host the state's annual downtown conference as it works to recover from Irene, with the town manager suggesting FEMA is refusing to assist two property owners whose bank has eroded (Bennington Banner, The Commons); Morristown's select board has given its blessing to plans to temporarily locate several secure mental health beds in the community as the state works on building a new mental hospital to replace the flood-damaged Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury (Vermont Public Radio); Officials in Warren say repairing the heavily damaged Plunkton Road Bridge is now expected to cost \$428,000, which is more than the previous estimate (Valley Reporter).*

NEGATIVES: *None.*

TRENDS: *Local recovery efforts are the focus of coverage.*

Link to National FEMA Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/fema/>

Link to DHS Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/dhs/>

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Morristown Approves Plan To Host State Hospital Beds (Vermont Public Radio)

Plunkton Road bridge cost is \$428,000 (Valley Reporter)

News Clips:

DR-4043-VT:

None

DR-4022-VT:

Lyndon Home To Be Raised Out Of Harm's Way

Orleans County Record

May 30, 2012

Amy Ash Nixon Staff Writer

LYNDON CENTER -- One of the three homes badly flooded last year in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene is going to be raised above flood danger. The home is owned by Blake Barber who lives there with his young son. He was recently granted a permit to raise his home by the town's Development Review Board.

An adjacent home, also damaged in the flood, will be torn down. Owners there were relocated after accepting a settlement for the property, which will be turned into a green space, with help from the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust. The Trust will pay for demolition costs for the home between Barber's home and a third property, an apartment house, whose owner, Doug Spates, is making repairs to the structure's first floor following the major flooding event on Aug. 28.

Barber and Spates opted out of a FEMA buy-out plan. The third property owners, Dallas and Martha Willey, accepted the deal. Once that house is down, no structure can ever be built there.

Lyndon Municipal Administrator Dan Hill told selectmen earlier this year that Barber was restoring the home. He was granted a conditional use and site plan approval to elevate his existing home and porch, which is located in the regulatory flood way, to a level which is above the base flood elevation. He plans to either extend the existing foundation, the decision notes, or to place the house on pre-cast cement piers.

The house is located across from the Lyndon Institute soccer fields on the south side of Center Street on about a third of an acre.

According to the DRB ruling, Barber will place wooden lattice work around the building if he opts for installing piers, which would have a 24' by 24' base and an 8" top; the piers are 1,800 pounds.

Richard Downer, a retired University of Vermont mechanical engineering professor who works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was in Lyndonville last week, talking to business owners whose properties are flood-prone, and one of the strategies he pointed to in his presentation was the one being employed now by Barber on Center Street -- raising homes.

"We're not used to seeing elevated houses in New England," said Downer. "But if you go further south, you see homes on piers or pilings... Some are raised three, four or five feet and others as much as 14 or 15 feet off the ground." Elevation safeguards against flooding, bugs and snakes, Downer said. "It was very common to put your house up on pilings to keep the critters out."

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Wilmington to host downtown conference

Bennington Banner

May 30, 2012

NEAL P. GOSWAMI Staff Writer

WILMINGTON -- Wilmington, battered and bruised last year by Tropical Storm Irene, will host the 18th annual Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference on June 8.

This year's conference is fittingly titled "Resiliency." It will pay tribute to "community organization, altruism, and the ingenuity of adaptation that help historic places survive and thrive, even in the face of overwhelming obstacles," according to organizers. Paul Bruhn, executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, said Wilmington was a fitting place to hold this year's conference.

"We chose Wilmington for this year's conference to honor the tremendous fortitude and courage Wilmington residents and businesses demonstrated in the recovery following Irene's devastation. We're learning from Wilmington what 'community' is all about," he said.

The town was struck particularly hard by the August 2011 storm, which wiped out nearly half of its downtown businesses. "Wilmington was the hardest-hit community in the state," said Town Manager Scott Murphy. "Unfortunately, we edged out Waterbury for that dubious honor."

"Washed away flags and flower boxes"

The town has made strides in its recovery efforts, Murphy said, but plenty of work remains. "That's one of the reasons why it's very important to get the historic preservation people downtown to see the damage that was done," he said. "Simple things like washed away flags and flower boxes and trash barrels. It's things like that that you don't really think about until it's spring time."

The conference will be held at Memorial Hall, a historic building that had part of the Deerfield River running through its basement during the storm. "It goes to show you how strong those historic buildings are," Murphy said.

Vermont Community Foundation President and CEO Stuart Comstock-Gay will deliver the keynote address. It will focus on how Irene recovery efforts can help citizens rediscover Vermont.

Gov. Peter Shumlin is expected to announce a new Flood Recovery Tax Credit, which will provide \$500,000 in refundable tax credits to eligible downtown and village center small businesses, rental property owners and nonprofit groups that sustained flood-related damage in 2011.

"Many of Vermont's small businesses are still recovering from the 2011 floods. These refundable tax credits will quickly put money into their pockets and help transform this disaster into an opportunity to strengthen our economy and create more jobs for hardworking Vermonters," Shumlin said in a statement.

The conference will also offer eight afternoon workshops, including one that will detail how to apply for the new Flood Recovery Tax Credits. The tax credit workshop is open to the public and free.

Murphy said Wilmington is still facing challenges from the storm, but assistance has begun to dry up. He said part of a Deerfield River bank wall in the downtown is beginning to crumble into river, threatening a lawyer's office and the Village Pub. Finding funding to help repair it has proven difficult.

"FEMA won't touch it because they claim that it's something that didn't happen because of the flood," Murphy said. "These people have already refinanced their property just to get open. If we lost two more in the heart of the village it would not be good."

The conference could help Wilmington and other towns with such issues, and should serve as a "boon to local businesses," he said.

"It will help people remember what Wilmington was like and I think it will help them refocus their efforts a little bit on trying to help us," Murphy said.

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Rebounding from the flood

Wilmington conference will focus on rebuilding Vermont downtowns and keeping them vital

May 30, 2012

[The Commons](#)

By Jeff Potter/The Commons

WILMINGTON—With not even a full year having passed since the flooding and catastrophic destruction of so many lives and livelihoods from Tropical Storm Irene, the annual Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference plans to honor the quality that has proved so essential to so many Vermonters.

The one-day conference, "Resiliency," will focus not only on the resources, programs, and practices that downtowns can put to practical use to rebuild.

"Downtowns in the general sense remain the financial engine," said Anne Cousins, special gift officer with the nonprofit Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTOV), who is organizing the conference with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Downtown Program, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the state agency responsible for both.

She said the conference will explore what communities can do "to keep downtowns vital."

According to a PTOV press release, the conference will "pay tribute to community organization, altruism, and the ingenuity of adaptation that help historic places survive in the face of overwhelming obstacles."

And in a gesture of powerful symbolism of "overwhelming obstacles," the conference will take place in Wilmington, one of the historic villages hit the hardest by the flooding.

The PTOV hopes to bring a bit of an economic boost, with an estimated 275 conference attendees coming into town for a day.

Property owners are still struggling to restore the 19th-century storefronts on the banks of the Deerfield River and to rebuild the businesses that were washed away by the surging waters.

As described by the town's long-term recovery plan, "The deluge from Tropical Storm Irene tore through the center of the Wilmington Village, taking buildings off their foundations and flooding the streets to a height of seven feet. All the buildings in the designated Historic District were inundated.

"Two buildings on West Main Street were swept downstream. Streets, sidewalks, and landscaping were heavily damaged as well. Business was effectively destroyed for the remainder of the summer and the foliage

season," the report continues. "Following a lackluster winter, several businesses remain closed and several more are for sale."

Yet, Cousins said, "so many heroes have come out of the tragedy of Wilmington."

She described a conversation with Steve Butler, owner of North Star Bowl & Video, on Route 100, a business that was hit hard by the flood and needed to replace the hardwood floors of the bowling alley.

The urgency: "He was hosting a fundraiser for Dot's," the downtown restaurant that was moved from its foundation, Cousins said. "He was trying to get his floors in so he could help someone else."

Residents interested in attending the conference may do so at reduced cost.

Stuart Comstock-Gay, president and CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation, will offer a keynote address — "Thanks, Irene: How We're Rediscovering the Essence of Vermont" — which will offer "stories from this challenging time [that] give a human face to the essence of Vermont." Gov. Peter Shumlin will speak briefly at noon.

In "What's a Tax Credit," Chris Cochran of the Vermont Downtown Program will describe how federal and state tax credits — including the state's new disaster-relief credits — can be used to finance major work on historic buildings, whether ravaged by floods or in need of elevators or sprinkler systems:

A number of the conference leaders come from Windham County.

Wilmington architect Joseph Cincotta will lead a session on recycling old buildings, which will discuss "the tension between historic preservation and energy-saving retrofits" and show how the "reconciliation of those interests is bringing new life to beautiful old buildings."

Robert McBride of Bellows Falls, executive director of Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), will lead a discussion on arts and the economy. Joining him will be Sara Coffey, founder/director of Vermont Performance Lab of Brattleboro and Dale Doucette, lighting and set designer, producer, and special consultant to Memorial Hall in Wilmington, a downtown performance arts venue that has undergone tremendous volunteer restoration efforts in the aftermath of the flood.

And Alex Wilson, founder of BuildingGreen and executive editor of Environmental Building News, a Brattleboro-based media company specializing in environmentally conscious building news and information, will speak on "Achieving Resilience in the Restoration of Existing Buildings."

Other sessions include:

- "Downtown Vermont: Why Main Street Still Matters"
- "Preservation in Pink (Flamingos): How Historic Preservation Involves You"
- "We Dig Vermont" (downtown streetscape and road-improvement programs)
- "The Place Is the Hero: Celebrations of Community Identity in the Early 20th Century."

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Morristown Approves Plan To Host State Hospital Beds

[Vermont Public Radio](#)

May 29, 2012

Town officials in Morristown have formally approved an agreement with the state to host some beds from the state mental hospital.

The agreement comes nearly nine months after Tropical Storm Irene devastated the State Hospital in Waterbury.

The hospital will be replaced with one central and two regional facilities. Morristown will host 16 beds for a year beginning in July.

The town is slated to discuss the plan at a select board meeting Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reports town officials in Berlin will hold their own meeting Wednesday on the plan for the 25-bed central hospital in that central Vermont town.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Plunkton Road bridge cost is \$428,000

Valley Reporter

May 24, 2012

Written by Rachel Goff

Replacing a bridge on Plunkton Road in Warren will cost an estimated \$428,000. That bridge was heavily damaged during Tropical Storm Irene flooding last August. The Warren Select Board, at its May 22 meeting, discussed the bridge repairs and a variety of other issues—including the paving of Cider Hill Road and preparation for the Mad Marathon.

At the meeting, Warren Public Works director Barry Simpson discussed plans to replace Plunkton Road Bridge. Simpson announced that the most up-to-date cost to repair the bridge is \$428,000, which is more than the previous estimate.

The bridge reconstruction is slated to take place between now and October 15, and the new bridge will be wider (between 26 and 27 feet in total) than the existing bridge. Simpson said that these plans should be sufficient to meet the traffic patterns on Plunkton Road, and the town is still evaluating the best method to divert water runoff from the bridge.

Prior to that, several residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns about the town's decision not to pave Cider Hill Road, which select board members made at the last meeting. Residents who live on the road were not necessarily upset with the decision not to pave the road but with the fact that they had received no direct contact with the town regarding the potential paving plans. The select board members heard their concerns and ultimately both parties left with an understanding of the decision to not pave the road and instead focus on more pressing road repairing needs.

Next up, Dori Ingalls, event organizer for the second annual Mad Marathon, discussed plans and preparation for the event, which will take place on July 8. Both Ingalls and the select board were extremely pleased with last year's marathon, which Ingalls described as "bigger than expected" and "a big boost for The Valley."

Although registration numbers for the marathon are down this year from last, Ingalls said that there is still time to make last-minute advertising pushes and select board members said they were pleased to see that most of the lodges in the area are already completely booked.

While Ingalls said last year's race was "very well organized" and demonstrated a "great sense of community," the organizing team is looking into making some changes to help the event run even smoother, including adding more Port-a-Potties along the course and having more food for runners at the finish line.

The select board informed Ingalls that last year they received a few complaints from townspeople who felt that they were not able to leave or return to their houses on the race day, and Ingalls responded that this year they will make a better effort to educate the public as to the time and location of road closures, and she clarified that the roads will still remain open to local traffic.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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External Affairs Writer
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FEMA Joint Field Office
30 Allen Martin Drive
Essex Jct., VT 05452
Main Phone: (802) 662-8500
Office Phone: (802) 662 8706 (Business Hours Only)
FEMA Cell: 571-488-8411



FEMA

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

London, Sarah

From: Vermont Voad <vtvoad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:35 PM
Subject: Minutes from Today's (5/30) LTRC Call including a request for volunteer projects near Montpelier & Episcopal Diocese Grant
Attachments: Long Term Recovery Committee Conference Call 5.30.doc; Condensed Guidelines for applying for Grants from the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.docx

Hello,

Enclosed are the minutes from today's LTRC conference call. Please note that within the minutes there about grants from Home Depot and an email from Kelly Hamshaw asking for clean up projects near the Montpelier area that can be done on June 11 by a group of incoming Vermont Campus Compact Interns.

Also attached is information about the Episcopal Diocese grant. Below is a description from Ann Cooper of the Episcopal Diocese:

I promised at the end of our last VOAD call to let you all know when the Episcopal Diocese received final approval of its \$150,000 grant application from Episcopal Relief and Development. And we have! This new grant is for long-term recovery; its focus is not only on helping address unmet needs wherever we can, it is also on building relationships both to leverage assets and, more important, to build relationships and structures that look beyond recovery from this disaster to preparing to address the next.

To give you a fuller picture of what we hope to accomplish, I am attaching a shortened version of the guidelines sent to the individual Episcopal churches throughout the state. I hope several of them will get in touch with your organizations, but I suggest also, since relationships are the key to the success of this phase of our work, that if you have a project you think one of our parishes might help with--using their own resources as well as yours and ours, you reach out to them as well. All applications must come through an Episcopal Church or outreach group, but there is no test, religious or otherwise, for those we are willing to help. A list of our churches can be found at <http://www.dioceseofvermont.org/Churches/churches.html>.

I am also copying a list of projects funded by the prior grant.

The Diocese will receive the grant money in three installments and we have set three deadlines for grant applications: June 15, September 15, and December 1.

Please feel free to contact me for clarification and further information. I will be out of town from May 29 until June 6, but will have access to email most days.

With thanks for all you have done and are doing and in the hope that we can continue doing it together,

Ann Cooper, Irene Flood Response Consultant for the Diocese

Thank you,

Tavish MacLeod
AmeriCorps VISTA
Vermont Emergency Management
Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
vtvoad@yahoo.com
<http://vtvoad.wordpress.com>

London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail169.us1.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:33 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Stormy Weather Leaves Behind Damage; New President at Burlington College

Residents are cleaning up today after a round of severe weather left damage around Vermont yesterday.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012



Violent Storms Leave Spotty Damage Around Vermont

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/29/12

Parts of Vermont are cleaning up today after suffering lightning strikes, flash floods and high winds during yesterday's thunderstorms. Despite multiple tornado warnings, the National Weather Service says no twisters appear to have touched down. [Click to read.](#)



Burlington College Names New President

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/30/12

Christine Plunkett has been named Burlington College's new president, replacing Jane O'Meara Sanders, who resigned in October. Plunkett is currently the college's vice president of administration and finance. [Click to read.](#)



McMullen Plots Political Comeback

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/30/12

Jack McMullen, the businessman who famously lost to farmer Fred Tuttle in the 1998 U.S. Senate primary, says he's considering running for attorney general. And yes, this time he knows how many teats are on a dairy cow. [Click to read.](#)



Unusual Crossover Interchange Proposed in Colchester

SOURCE: VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO, 05/29/12

In an attempt to alleviate traffic backups at the interchange of Interstate 89 and Route 7 in Colchester, the Agency of Transportation is



Burlington weather forecast

Today: Partly sunny; chance for an isolated shower. High 78°; low 53°.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny; chance for showers, mainly north. High 72°, low 47°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

[sponsored links](#)

proposing an unusual fix — a traffic scheme that would send cars on the "wrong" side of the road, briefly. [Click to read.](#)

Tour Date with DJ Llu

SEVEN DAYS PODCAST

Local radio and dance party host

DJ Llu interviews Vermont bands, as well as internationally known musicians touring locally. Get to know some of your favorite artists better in these intimate, behind-the-scene chats. [Click here to listen to the first episode](#), featuring Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers.



Veteran Dies While Paying Tribute in Brattleboro

SOURCE: THE COMMONS, 05/30/12

A Marine Corps veteran suffered a fatal heart attack during a Memorial Day ceremony at a Brattleboro cemetery. [Click to read.](#)



So Long, "Sultana": Sen. Hinda

Miller Stages Her Exit

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/30/12

After 10 years in the Vermont Senate, Hinda Miller is retiring from the Statehouse. Miller says it's time to begin her "cycle of Sultana." [Click to read.](#)



Wind Farm Proposed for Lake Champlain?

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/30/12

Well, no, not exactly. But one activist who opposes mountaintop wind projects is creating a satirical campaign to see how Chittenden County residents feel when wind turbines are in *their* backyard. [Click to read.](#)

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photos for...

SEVEN DAYS

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BEASTS**

PRESENTED BY:

Deadline:
Thursday, June 7!



Be a tourist
in your own
backyard!



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**SUMMER
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Seven Days

255 S. Champlain Street

Burlington, VT 05401

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London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Need to check status of interns

Will do.

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Need to check status of interns

Great that Carson will be here. Easier to retrieve while here than after they leave. Suggestion though, I would give her a heads up so she can make sure that she has her badge/parking permit with her on her last day. My experience is for whatever reason the last day they have forgotten their badge. Just a suggestion.

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Carrier, Janis
Subject: RE: Need to check status of interns

And Carson will be coming in on Friday to finish up.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Need to check status of interns

Okay will do.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Need to check status of interns

Ok, I will leave Serge in place for network, etc. But whenever he does complete his projects we need him to turn in his badge and parking permit.

For the other three, we need to retrieve badges (and parking permits).

Alma – badge and parking permit

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From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:24:20 -0400
To: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Need to check status of interns

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To: Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel
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London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 1:14 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: intern

Her name is [REDACTED] ..., not [REDACTED] ... which is her grandmother's last name ☺

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

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London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Fwd: Tyler place talking points
Attachments: Lake Champlain Tyler Place Presentation -- Talking Points for Governor Shumlin-revised 5-15-12.docx; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone
Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor Shumlin

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>
Date: May 29, 2012 2:15:44 PM EDT
To: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Tyler place talking points

-----Original Message-----

From: Markowitz, Deb
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 9:44 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa
Cc: Trombley, Shana; Mears, David
Subject: Tyler place talking points

Hi Lisa and Shana,

Attached are talking points for the Governor for his Tyler Place visit. These should answer some of the specific questions you asked. Daniel LeBlanc (Charest's staff in Quebec), is preparing similar talking points for Premier Charest. We will send you some talking points about Buzz shortly. It is my sense that gifts from FNLC are not necessary - but perhaps a gift from the Governor to the premier makes sense (but you would better know the protocol.) Feel free to contact David or me if you have more questions. Deb

Deb Markowitz
Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Center Building, 2nd Floor
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0301

802-241-3600

www.anr.state.vt.us

VERMONT
RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:37 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: internship

Ha, nope!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:35:35 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: internship

Okay – I thought I missed something.

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:29 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: internship

No it's just me. It's just sometimes they come in and he brings them to me later in the day.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:25:27 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: RE: internship

I have no idea ... I thought you were the intern person ... are you both doing it?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wengroff, Ariel

Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:23 PM

To: Spaulding, Susan

Subject: Re: internship

Oh great! Does Leigh have it? I haven't seen it yet.

Left [REDACTED] a voicemail yesterday, I'm hoping that she can start soon so that I can transfer some of our videos into audio podcasts!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:21:38 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: internship

Hi Ari – a high school junior named [REDACTED]... maybe her last name is [REDACTED]... has submitted an internship application. If you have any questions let me know. Jeb and I know her grandmother ;-). Also, any word on when [REDACTED] starts?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:22 PM
To: Murphy, Kathy; Kosakowski, Alison
Cc: Ross, Chuck
Subject: Re: retooling the ag huff post draft

Yes, definitely! Thanks Kathy. I'll call you

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Murphy, Kathy" <Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 12:56:39 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Kosakowski, Alison" <Alison.Kosakowski@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Ross, Chuck" <Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: retooling the ag huff post draft

Happy to assist with imagery....could someone provide me a bit more context for the 8-10 images you'd like to highlight this topic please? Thank you!

Kathleen A. Murphy
Chief Marketing Officer
State of Vermont
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Kosakowski, Alison
Cc: Ross, Chuck; Murphy, Kathy
Subject: retooling the ag huff post draft

Hey Alison,

We've decided to retool the Ag draft and do a shorter story on how Vermont is the leader in locally grown food. We sort of want to do: Vermont achieved this, here are a few takeaways of how you can do it (a way to get people in other states involved). Then we want to do a slideshow at the bottom of Vermont farmers/businesses that are successfully doing this in Vermont (Jasper Hill, Cabot, etc.).

Kathy that's where you come in. Do you have a list of five or ten with pictures from ACCD that we could use?

This doesn't have to be long. If you could get me talking points or work off the old draft then I'll make edits and get it off to Bill.

Thanks!

Ari

<http://www.aic.com/news/nation-world/new-index-ranks-vermont-1433363.html>

I've also attached the latest draft I was working off of.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: parade line-up

Do you know the line-up/time for the two parades Saturday morning?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Omea, Jodi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [presssec] NGA Annual Meeting -- Registration Open

Dear Communications Staff:

It's almost time for the Annual Meeting! This year, we will be in Williamsburg, Virginia, from July 12-15. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. Please register at this link: [REDACTED] Please DO NOT forward this link to media – it contains private information for governors. If a member of the media wishes to register for the meeting, I can forward them an alternate site.

Below is a reminder of some of the services provided by the NGA Office of Communications during the Annual Meeting. As always, you can reach me at [REDACTED] or Krista at [REDACTED] with any questions.



Jodi

Satellite feeds will be available on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14. These do not need to be scheduled. Each governor will have an opportunity to be interviewed between sessions. All interviews will be compiled into one feed and put on a continuous loop for about an hour. Our crew will find your governor in the foyer outside of the plenary room and will ask open-ended questions. If, however, you have a particular question you would like asked, let us know. Once your governor has been interviewed, we will call the stations in your state and let them know. We will send you the feed times/coordinates closer to the meeting..

An official photographer will be capturing the meeting sessions and uploading photos to the NGA site as quickly as possible. We will send each of you a photo of your governor during that meeting for your use. If you (or a state newspaper) are in need of a particular photo by a deadline, let us know.

Additionally, we have a private room available if your governor needs to do a media interview. The room is available on a first come, first serve basis and can only be reserved for 1 hour at a time. We only asked that the room be used for interviews that are not partisan in nature.

Jodi Omea
Director, Office of Communications
National Governors Association
202-624-5346

 [Facebook](#) |  [Twitter](#)

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You are currently subscribed to [presssec] as Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-211138-
161127.165c04f32dcd6703909c1ce74aa7c1c5@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Murphy, Kathy
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Kosakowski, Alison
Cc: Ross, Chuck
Subject: RE: retooling the ag huff post draft

Happy to assist with imagery....could someone provide me a bit more context for the 8-10 images you'd like to highlight this topic please? Thank you!

Kathleen A. Murphy

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State of Vermont
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

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Cc: Ross, Chuck; Murphy, Kathy
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Thanks!
Ari

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/new-index-ranks-vermont-1433363.html>

I've also attached the latest draft I was working off of.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Briggs, Michael (Sanders) <Michael_Briggs@sanders.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:46 PM
Subject: NEWS: Koch Bros. Make Case for Campaign Finance Reform



Koch Bros. are Exhibit A in Case Against Citizens United

BURLINGTON, Vt., May 31 – A plan by the Koch brothers, a right-wing conservative family, to spend \$400 million on political campaigns this year is the latest evidence of the need to overturn a Supreme Court ruling that voided campaign finance laws, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said today.

Organizations related to Charles and David Koch, the billionaires who run a Kansas-based energy and manufacturing conglomerate, plan to lay out \$400 million on campaigns in key states, according to a report published Wednesday by Politico. This figure is double what the Kochs were expected to spend this year, and the sum surpasses the \$370 million that John McCain raised for his entire 2008 presidential campaign.

“The Koch brothers’ bid to buy elections in America speaks to the obvious need for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and subsequent rulings,” Sanders said. “In the short term, Congress must pass legislation to require disclosure of the corporations and wealthy individuals behind the ads by outside groups,” he added.

“When one wealthy family spends more money than was raised altogether by the last Republican presidential candidate, it tells us that we are no longer a country of the people, by the people and for the people. We are becoming a country of the rich, by the rich and for the rich,” he added.

Sanders cited a growing public backlash against the 2010 Supreme Court ruling in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. Vermont and four other states have now asked Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to undo that controversial ruling.

Sanders last Dec. 8 introduced the Saving American Democracy Amendment. His proposal would restore the power of Congress and state lawmakers to enact campaign spending limits like laws that were in place for a century before the controversial court ruling.

Sanders also is a cosponsor of legislation aimed at curtailing the power of special interest groups by requiring them to disclose more information about their role in

purchasing campaign advertisements. The Disclose Act would address some concerns related to the Supreme Court ruling that let corporations pour money directly into campaign ads.

Contact: Michael Briggs (202) 224-5141

###

London, Sarah

From: Twitter Counter <support=twittercounter.com@mail29.us1.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Twitter Counter <support@twittercounter.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:34 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your Twitter Stats for Last Week (22) | Managing multiple Twitter accounts?

TWITTER counter THE #1 STATS SITE
POWERED BY TWITTER

Hi @GovPeterShumlin

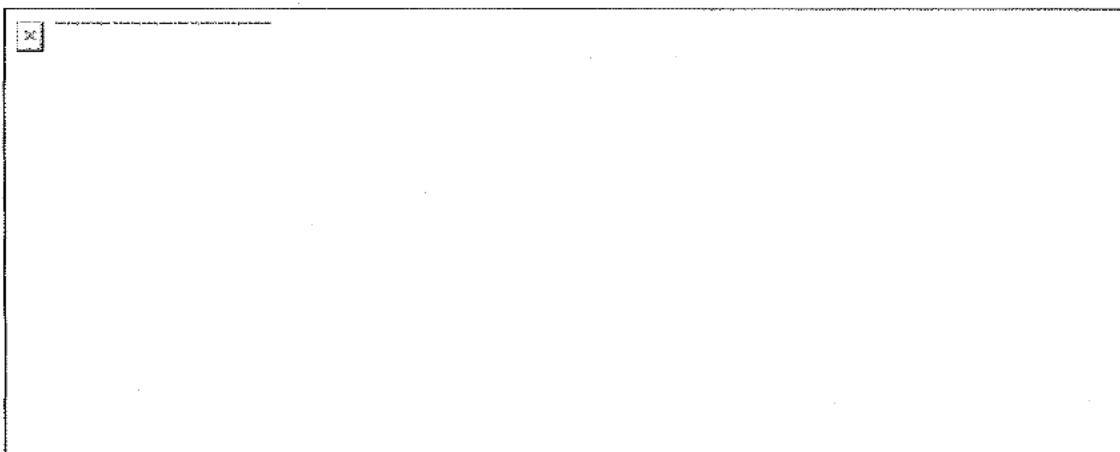
Here's your weekly update. We hope you gained some cool new followers.

Managing multiple Twitter accounts?

Then we have the perfect Twitter Stats solution for you. With Pro Stats you can add up to 10 different users that will have full access to all Pro Stats features, and switch easily between all the accounts you manage. [Learn more!](#)

Followers	Growth this week	Prediction next week
4,637	28	4,635

[See full stats and predictions on twittercounter.com](#)



TWITTER
counter
.com

Track your brand, website
or any #tag on Twitter

Get Pro Stats

You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive a weekly newsletter from
Twittercounter at <http://twittercounter.com> | [Unsubscribe](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: FW: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY
Attachments: SEXE-Copier12053111020.pdf

Here's her file - let me know if you have any questions, I'm stepping out for just a minute.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/31/12 7:05 AM, "EXE-Copier@state.vt.us" <EXE-Copier@state.vt.us>
wrote:

>Attachment from EXE-Copier.

>

>Please do not reply to this email.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Subject: pardon

I'm scanning a pardon app to send to Andy, so I probably won't go out for another ten min or so, but I'll definitely be back in time to give you an hour if you need that much time!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Pardon

excellent

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Pardon

Yes, great idea – I'll do that now.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 11:53:06 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Pardon

Any chance you can scan it and send it to me?

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Pardon

Hmm..no she didn't. That's odd. Let me make another copy and send them out to you ASAP.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 11:51:39 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: [REDACTED] Pardon

Did Penny get in touch with you regarding the [REDACTED] pardon materials? We cant seem to find them here.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Pallito, Andy
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Pardon

Yes, great idea – I'll do that now.

Ariel Wengroff
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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 11:53:06 -0400
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Office: 802-828-3333
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London, Sarah

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To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [REDACTED] Pardon

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London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: RE: CVU Graduation

I'm not too good with an i-phone camera, but if the Gov wants company, I'd be happy to go with him.

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: RE: CVU Graduation

That is CCV – my kid goes to CVU – sorry for the confusion!

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:54 AM
To: EXE
Subject: CVU Graduation

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the Dairy Days Parade on Saturday! I'm still looking for a volunteer for CVU's graduation ceremony on Saturday. It is from 1:30 – 3pm (at the latest) in Northfield. Thanks,

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Kosakowski, Alison
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: retooling the ag huff post draft

Hello,
I am out of the office today, with no access to email. Thank you for your patience.

Alison

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Kosakowski, Alison
Cc: Ross, Chuck; Murphy, Kathy
Subject: retooling the ag huff post draft
Attachments: LocalAgriculture.Food.Draft5AW.docx

Hey Alison,

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I've also attached the latest draft I was working off of.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:09 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: what do you think of this post?

Awesome

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 31 May 2012 11:08:23 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: what do you think of this post?

Great news! The First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston has declared the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional by a unanimous 3-0 vote. This is another step for other states to join Vermont in giving equal rights to all, regardless of sexual orientation.

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: what do you think of this post?

great

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: what do you think of this post?

Great news! The First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston has declared the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional by a unanimous 3-0 vote. This is another step for other states to join Vermont in giving equal rights to all, regardless of sexual orientation.

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London, Sarah

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Are we doing a proclamation for this?

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:01 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: first post

"This transportation budget is different than any passed and signed by any Legislature and governor," Shumlin said. (link to Free Press article)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 9:53 AM
To: Schutz, David; Martin, Tracy
Subject: bca

Hey,

I hate to do this, but the BCA's artist fell through today. They were all lined up to come in and install on Monday...what do you propose? I know a few artists that would probably be interested...but if you know one in particular I think we should go with that. I hate that this happened, it was completely set.

Let me know what you think,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: Re: wnated to make sure you saw this...

Ha, that's great! Thanks for sending!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Coriell, Scott" <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 17:16:57 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: wnated to make sure you saw this...

Picture of both Peters fishing today. And a caption contest:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151744259240464&set=a.10150378241365464.602976.213320140463&type=1&theater>

Scott Coriell
Communications Director
Rep. Peter Welch (VT-AL)
202.225.4115 (o) | 202.689.5352 (c)

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 8:20 AM
To: Richards, Alyson; Andes, Mary; Berube, Teri; Betsy Ide; Bothfeld, Diane; Catherine Dimitruk; Clasen, Michael; Cole, Chris; Costantino, Bob; Rapaport, Dave; Donegan, Susan; Flynn, Joe; Haas, Kristin; Hollar, Jennifer; Johnson, Justin; LaClair, Jolinda; Mackay, Noelle; Macmillan, Anne; Mears, David; Minter, Sue; Murphy, Kathy; Nagy, Ross; Peter Gregory; Pope, Aimee; Rogers, Scott; Rose, Ben; Sweet, Kitty; Tetreault, Richard; Tom Kennedy; Wengroff, Ariel; Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: meeting postponed, IRO Report & Sit. Reps

Team Irene:

1) Due to several people's schedules, I will need to postpone tomorrow's IRCT meeting. Aiming for next Fri. (6/8) at 1-2:30 (to accommodate requests for an earlier time). Please let Dave Rapaport know if you can make that date/time.

2) We will have a (nearly final?) draft of the IRO Status Report to you tomorrow for review. The media roundtable is currently scheduled for 6/14 9-10:30.

3) Please get your Situation Reports to Dave Rapaport by COB today.

Thanks all!

S

Sue Minter

Irene Recovery Officer

State of Vermont

802 828-3333

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 8:18 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Last supply order for this fiscal year

Can all of you check and make sure that you have at least 1 toner for each of your printers? I am placing a Staples order this morning and want to make sure to order toners.

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: FW: VEM Duty Officer Daily Report 5.31.12
Attachments: DO_Status Report 053112.pdf

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Bronson, Randy
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 7:27 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] VEM Duty Officer Daily Report 5.31.12

To all,

Please find the VEM Duty Officer Daily Report attached and a brief narrative below.

Sincerely,

Randy

HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DAILY SITUATION REPORT
Thursday, May 31, 2012

CURRENT SITUATION

Duty Officer: Randy Bronson

Report Covers: 5/30/2012 0700 hrs to 5/31/2012 0700 hrs

Next Scheduled Report: 6/1/2012 0830 hrs

VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS: Level 1

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- **No Hazmat Related Incidents Reported**

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE:

- **Recovery operations continue due to Tropical Storm Irene. Vermont Emergency is providing support to the State Recovery Office and maintaining a presence at the FEMA Joint Field Office in Essex. VEM is also overseeing the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for communities**

and other eligible entities. All Vermont counties are under a Public Assistance disaster declaration and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties have been included for Individual Assistance.

- EF0 Tornado confirmed near West Glover by the National Weather Service – see attachment - [EF0 Tornado in West Glover](#)

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS:

WEATHER:

[National Weather Service Burlington](#)

[National Weather Service Albany](#)

[Local Weather](#)

VERMONT HIGHWAYS:

[Vermont Road Traveler Information Service](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY

[DHS Website for Threat Levels](#)

[Vermont Homeland Security Website](#)

RIVER FLOW INFORMATION:

[Northeast River Forecast Center](#)

[USGS Daily Flow Condition](#)

[NWS Self Briefing Page](#)

NWS - EF0 Tornado confirmed near West Glover

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NOUS41 KBTB 302133

PNSBTB

NYZ026>031-034-035-087-VTZ001>012-016>019-311100-

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BURLINGTON VT

533 PM EDT WED MAY 30 2012

...EF0 TORNADO CONFIRMED NEAR WEST GLOVER IN ORLEANS COUNTY VERMONT...

LOCATION...WEST GLOVER IN ORLEANS COUNTY VERMONT

DATE...MAY 29 2012

ESTIMATED TIME...325 PM EDT

MAXIMUM EF-SCALE RATING...EF0

ESTIMATED MAXIMUM WIND SPEED...70 MPH

MAXIMUM PATH WIDTH...100 YARDS

PATH LENGTH...1/3 MILE

BEGINNING LAT/LON...44.69N / 72.26W

ENDING LAT/LON...44.69N / 72.26W

* FATALITIES...0

* INJURIES...0

* THE INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO
CHANGE PENDING FINAL REVIEW OF THE EVENT(S) AND PUBLICATION IN
NWS STORM DATA.

...SUMMARY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BURLINGTON VERMONT HAS CONFIRMED
AN EF0 TORNADO NEAR WEST GLOVER IN ORLEANS COUNTY VERMONT ON MAY 29
2012.

THIS TORNADO INITIALLY TOUCHED DOWN NEAR A PRIVATE RESIDENCE ON
BEACH HILL ROAD AND TRACKED EASTWARD FOR APPROXIMATELY A THIRD OF
A MILE BEFORE THE DAMAGE TRACK ENDED. THE DAMAGE WIDTH PEAKED AT
100 YARDS. IN THIS AREA...DAMAGE WAS LIMITED TO THE PRIVATE
RESIDENCE WHERE A PORTION OF THE CHIMNEY WAS DESTROYED AND TO
APPROXIMATELY 45 TREES.

THIS DAMAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH AN EF0 TORNADO WITH MAXIMUM WINDS
OF 65 TO 85 MPH.

THIS INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT
WEATHER.GOV/BTV.

FOR REFERENCE...THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE CLASSIFIES TORNADOES
INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

EF0...WIND SPEEDS 65 TO 85 MPH.

EF1...WIND SPEEDS 86 TO 110 MPH.

EF2...WIND SPEEDS 111 TO 135 MPH.

EF3...WIND SPEEDS 136 TO 165 MPH.

EF4...WIND SPEEDS 166 TO 200 MPH.

EF5...WIND SPEEDS GREATER THAN 200 MPH.

\$\$

Randall Bronson
Hazardous Materials Compliance Coordinator
EMAC LSR Region 1
Vermont Emergency Management
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Telephone: 802.244.8721 Fax: 802.241.5556
Email: randy.bronson@state.vt.us
VEM Website: <http://vem.vermont.gov/>



**** Please Note ****

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CAUTION: The Division of Emergency Management / Vermont Department of Public Safety cannot ensure the confidentiality or security of email transmissions.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:23 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Community support one pathway for small farmers to make a go of it in Vermont

BY MARK CANNELLA

Emily Curtis-Murphy of Fair Food Farm in Calais in many ways is your typical young and energetic Vermont farmer — full of passion and creative ideas for how she can provide good and healthy food to the people who live in her central Vermont area. And like many beginning farmers, she notes how hard it can be to find the funding to bring her ideas and plans into reality.

“As former farm workers, we didn’t have any money, and we weren’t eligible for traditional financing,” she said. “One year we were able to get a loan, but not the next. And so we started looking to our community and to folks in the larger sustainable agriculture community. We got community loans from individuals, and memberships in our CSA. We even got a few longer-term CSA members who paid for years in advance.”

Curtis-Murphy is just the kind of farmer UVM Extension’s New Farmer program staff were thinking of when we realized there was a need to help Vermont’s farmers learn about alternative financing arrangements.

In recent years, more and more Vermont farmers were asking about alternative ways to get the capital they needed to build and operate their businesses. These farmers may have had trouble getting loans elsewhere, or were not creditworthy. Many had implemented community supported agriculture (CSA) arrangements that helped get the cash infusion that farms need at the start of the growing season (in most CSA arrangements, customers pay for a season’s share of vegetables before they receive their products). But they weren’t legally able to accept investments from smaller scale investors. And it was challenging to learn what the other options might be.

The result of a recent UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture-led collaboration between farmers such as Curtis-Murphy and a team of 15 other professionals is the “Guide to Financing the Community Supported Farm,” available for free download through the New Farmer website (<http://uvm.edu/newfarmer>). The 62-page booklet covers federal and state securities laws, owner-financed sales and land contracts, equity financing and more, plus appendices that provide a look at such concepts as “patient capital” and “three dimensional analysis.” The guide also contains four case studies of the strategies that Vermont farms have used to source community capital to develop and grow.

(Page 2 of 3)

The guide’s chapters are devoted to providing a look at the ins and outs of financing options, but they point to the larger picture of Vermont agriculture and community as well. The work illustrates the experiences of real Vermont farmers and their families and neighbors, and how Vermonters seek to grow. And together, they show a picture of an energized and motivated place that’s capable of finding innovative ways to reinvigorate investment in localized food systems.

The guide was made even more relevant and timely with the passage of the federal JOBS (Jump-starting Our Business Start-Ups) bill, says Anthony Iarrapino, an attorney with the Vermont office of the Conservation Law Foundation, who assisted with the guide's development. The bill means that individuals at all income levels will be able to make investments in small businesses, and that can make a huge difference for both community investors, and the farmers and others who are able to work with them.

"I think one of the most important things about the JOBS bill is that it opens up the potential for crowd-funding in a way that scales really well in Vermont. There are a tremendous number of investors who are interested in agriculture who understand the concept of slow money (local investments that often have a lower and slower rate of return), and are willing to get involved with these financial arrangements, and they're not the millionaire folks who were eligible to take part in these arrangements before the law got passed," Iarrapino said.

UVM New Farmer program coordinator Ben Waterman, who was responsible for creating the guide, underscores the importance of the shift that the new law presents. "Crowd-funding gives many more people many more options for where to invest their savings. Now, you'll theoretically be able to make a loan directly to the pizzeria or pub you go to on Fridays, to the farm where you get your milk, or to the independently-owned book store offering live music. The food grocer that had been struggling to secure large enough loans to build its new facility could now reach out to hundreds if not thousands of people who could contribute a little bit each to make the project happen. And they all would be paid back. That's the theory at least," he said.

(Page 3 of 3)

"Skeptics claim there will not be enough regulation involved and the investments will all be unsecured, and the more transactions enabled, the more chance for unexpected defaults," Waterman continued. "Crowd-funding still unquestionably will enable small local businesses, such as community farms, to raise money in ways they never could before, increasing customers' and community members' vested interest in local businesses and in strengthening small village economies. Capital, whether it's social, environmental, financial or something else, is the basis of a vital community."

Curtis-Murphy appreciates the connections with her community supporters, but she notes the trade-off that's involved in securing small donations from many people.

"Definitely, getting to know community members better has been great. And these folks have been flexible and understanding when things go wrong and a repayment is delayed. But there are drawbacks to doing it on a really small scale ... I really do think it's important to share the reality of the difficulty that farms experience. It takes an incredible amount of work to have to talk to all these different people, but it's what we have to do."

Mark Cannella is director of UVM Extension Farm Viability Program. The "Guide to Financing the Community Supported Farm" is available to download free at uvm.edu/newfarmer or uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture/books. It was published by the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture with a grant from North East Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE).

For Free Press, a new era dawns in one week
BY JIM FOGLER, PUBLISHER

We've reached Day 116 of the press rebuild project at FreePressMedia or should I say, t-minus one week to our new compact "smart" edition launching next week on June 7. You probably noticed today's countdown teaser ad. It reads "Photos that make you feel. . .," which came from a reader in one of our focus groups that reviewed prototypes for our new printed edition. The woman who said this observed that the large color photos on every page really put the reader

right there. We take a lot of pride in our photojournalism, and that will continue to be a focus for us as we move forward.

Not sure where time is going, but we are now rounding the turn for home in our Triple Crown, which consists of the \$2.4 million press rebuild, conversion to the compact format and creation of a new subscription model for the age of digital. As of tomorrow, our new subscription model kicks into full access mode. If you are currently a subscriber of our print edition, you will need to activate your account online to receive full access to our digital content as part of your existing subscription. For others, digital-only access will be available for \$12 per month through our EZ Pay system. In either case, all of our subscribers will have access to updated news wherever they want it and whenever they want it — with distinct approaches to our standard BurlingtonFreePress.com website, to our new mobile app and to our new tablet app. You might see a Green Mountain story highlighted on the website, the latest local sports scores highlighted on the mobile site and a video of a local event highlighted on your iPad. Many of us use different devices at different times for different purposes; our full access approach recognizes this.

I began writing these columns many months ago with a focus on our press rebuild, which was completed early this month. Even now, we continue to test the enhanced press to ensure all the new parts are working properly. To guarantee consistency in color pages throughout the newspaper so that every news photo and every advertisement looks picture-perfect, we are planning to place a color bar on the edge of pages to help with the registration. This week, we continued to test the new stapler, so you will notice Hometown and TV Week stapled in coming days. As I mentioned last week, practice does make perfect.

(Page 2 of 2)

Don't forget: Our "Meet the Press" open house is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, on the South Winooski Avenue side of our plant in Burlington. Press tours will begin at 1 p.m. that day. We're also planning a guide to your new Free Press that will publish on June 6 in our new format to give you a sneak peek of what's to come. The guide, suggested by our readers, will help you get acquainted with your new reading experience. I almost forgot to mention, one of the biggest complaints and concerns I get at times is about the size of our earlier weekday papers. I will assure you that they're not going away. Actually, the opposite is true: Our plan is to grow those editions.

In closing, the next column you read from me will be published in our new compact smart edition. I want to share with you that I've been in this business more than 25 years and I have seen my share of major media projects and initiatives but nothing to this magnitude. This is industry-changing as we reinvent our business model and innovate with our daily product the Vermont way. Just one of these three Triple Crown projects is monumental in our industry. There's a lot of excitement at 191 College St. to deliver to you next Thursday your first new compact smart edition.

Yes, a lot of change is coming your way . . . but one thing is for certain, we are proudly publishing and printing here in Vermont. We are here to stay and we are here to grow.

Jim Fogler is president and publisher of FreePressMedia. If you have questions, send them to jfogler@freepressmedia.com or feel free to call 802-660-1800.

Tight race expected in Vermont attorney general race **BY TERRI HALLENBECK**

MONTPELIER — Attorney General Bill Sorrell had the kind of campaign kickoff Wednesday he's not typically had before — a roomful of supporters, campaign placards and staffers, TV cameras.

For 15 years, Sorrell has had an easy ride at election time. Any campaign kickoffs he had drew little attention. This year is different. Fellow Democrat T.J. Donovan is looking to oust Sorrell in the Aug. 28 primary before he gets to the general election.

Sorrell said he's ready.

"I look forward to debate with my opponent, to comparing our records of accomplishment and our priorities for the future," Sorrell said at an afternoon news conference at the Statehouse. He said he'll make the case that he's been effective on various fronts.

Donovan, who is Chittenden County's state's attorney, said he's ready to challenge Sorrell's record.

"I decided to run because I think we can do more out of that office," Donovan said in an interview Wednesday. He said he'll make the case that the attorney general should be more of a statewide leader when it comes to setting the tone on law enforcement.

The race features two men with a fair amount in common. Both are natives of Burlington, from families with deep political roots. Both have held the job of Chittenden County state's attorney, prosecuting crime in the state's largest metropolitan area. Both are lawyers with a competitive streak, appearing to relish the spirited debate likely to arise during the campaign.

The candidates also have distinct differences. Each hopes to accentuate those differences in his own favor.

Sorrell indicated Wednesday that he will emphasize his experience, noting he did the job Donovan is doing now, but that the attorney general's job involves a much broader set of duties than criminal law.

"I have the record in this job," Sorrell emphasized. "I am proud of my record."

He cited successful lawsuits that have brought Vermont \$300 million from the tobacco industry and required auto makers to follow more restrictive emission standards, along with a push to increase penalties for child pornography and hazing, among other successes.

Donovan said he plans to call Sorrell's record into question and argue the office needs new energy. He, too, would join national consumer protection lawsuits, he said, but attorney general, as the state's top law enforcement officer, should also lead the way on such issues as fighting prescription drug abuse by establishing a menu of best practices for law enforcement to follow and pushing prevention programs.

"There's one person in the state who can build a statewide consensus," Donovan said. "People are looking for leadership."

He cited a rapid arraignment program he helped start in Chittenden County to address chronic low-level criminals as something that should be expanded statewide.

The attorney general should also push legislators to avoid passing laws that fail in court and thus cost the state money in legal fees paid to the other side, Donovan said.

Sorrell has lost three high-profile court cases in recent years trying to defend laws governing campaign finance, prescription data mining and Vermont Yankee.

"We have to have greater interaction with the Legislature," Donovan said, suggesting that the attorney general should have argued more vehemently against those laws before they passed. "I don't think we can go forward anymore with bills we know are unconstitutional."

Sorrell said he was clear with legislators about the legal risks of those bills. "We had meetings in private and in public where we expressed concerns that the Legislature was pushing the envelope and might be sued," he said. "Vermont has not been afraid to take full advantage of our rights as a state."

The law regarding Vermont Yankee sought to give the Legislature a role in determining whether the nuclear power plant should have permission to extend its operating license for another 20 years. A federal court judge this year ruled that lawmakers veered into the federal government's domain. Sorrell is appealing the decision.

Donovan wouldn't directly say he would have opted against an appeal.

"I'm not going to second-guess Bill Sorrell's decision," Donovan said, but he indicated he thought there were other options. "You have to be willing to talk to the other side. I do not believe this plant will run for another 20 years."

Sorrell argued that the state has won its share of fights, citing a mercury labeling law and businesses' access to credit ratings. The state has paid out some \$3 million in legal fees to opponents in cases the state lost (with some potential payouts pending), but brought in \$40 million just this year from lawsuit settlements from the tobacco and other lawsuits, Sorrell said.

Donovan argued that in many of the cases where Vermont won money, Sorrell signed onto lawsuits initiated by other states. "While Bill is at the table, I'm not sure he cooked the meal," Donovan said.

Sorrell called Donovan's portrayal "revisionist history."

In the tobacco case, he said, "My predecessor did not file suit. I did four weeks to the day from taking office," Sorrell said. "We did not just file the suit and let it sit on the docket. We litigated that case very hard."

The two candidates will have three months to make their case to voters in the Democratic primary. Donovan acknowledged that he comes into the race with less name recognition than Sorrell, who's been on Vermont ballots for seven straight elections. Donovan argued he'll make that up by the August primary.

In the early weeks of the campaign, Donovan has pushed hard for endorsements, snaring support from mayors of Rutland, Barre and Winooski, the Vermont Sheriff's Association and Vermont Troopers Association.

Donovan argued those endorsements matter. "I think they give the challenger credibility," he said.

Sorrell downplayed them even as he sought to even up with a list of his own backers. Rep. Rebecca Ellis, D-Waterbury, a former assistant attorney general, introduced Sorrell at the news conference and former Gov. Madeleine Kunin was to host an evening event.

"The reality is the endorsement I'm most concerned about is Aug. 28 from Vermont voters," Sorrell said.

FREE PRESS USED AP STORY ON SHUMLIN SIGNING TRANSPORTATION BILL

Voice of the Free Press: Think about where the power comes from

What are we willing to sacrifice to feed our ever-growing hunger for electricity? That's the very real question posed by a website for a fictional wind power project on Lake Champlain.

Annette Smith, the brains behind the Champlain Wind Park website, is no friend of big wind. She heads an organization fighting the development of large-scale wind projects on Vermont ridgelines.

Yet in the photo simulation on the website, the windmills are presented in a bucolic light, standing silhouetted against a glowing sunset that casts a pink blush on the waters of Lake Champlain.

Still, many people are likely to struggle with the idea of up to 40 turbines rising 400-plus feet above the water into their view of the Adirondacks, and closing off a large swath of the lake to recreational use.

The website reads, "Champlain Wind Park shows that the people of Chittenden County are taking responsibility for the impacts of their electricity consumption."

Local power is one of arguments for the large scale wind projects going up in Lowell and Sheffield, projects opponents say are out of scale for the state and despoil wilderness mountaintop ecosystems.

There's a price that we pay for energy that's not always reflected entirely in the monthly bill from the power company. The so-called hidden costs include environmental degradation that often comes with resource extraction and power generation.

For those people who must live with the oil spills, mining that blows off mountaintops and the smoke-stack pollution in their backyards, there's nothing hidden about those costs.

Renewable power generation such as wind and solar reduce our reliance on foreign oil, without the pollution of burning fossil fuels or the radioactive threat and legacy of nuclear power plants. And moving even a slice of power generation to Vermont brings the responsibility for the electricity we use closer to home.

Champlain Wind Park extends the arguments from the mountains of the Northeast Kingdom to the lakefront properties of Chittenden County — "that's where the majority of people in favor of wind power live," as Smith points out.

We all need to think long and hard about how much electricity we use and where it comes from.

Just how much is too much is a decision that must be made firmly aware of the cost borne by the people who live near power generation plants — regardless of the source.

London, Sarah

From: Costa, Michael
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:15 AM
To: Costa, Michael
Subject: Press Release: Tax Technical Working Group

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Costa

Vermont Department of Taxes

(802) 828-0141 or Michael.Costa@state.vt.us.

May 31, 2012

Vermont Department of Taxes Creates Tax Technical Working Group

Strategic Partnership with Tax Professionals Designed to Promote Communication & Transparency

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont Department of Taxes is proud to announce the creation of the Tax Technical Working Group. Composed of thirteen tax professionals, the Tax Technical Working Group will provide a regular forum for communication and collaboration between Vermont's Commissioner of Taxes and representatives of the tax professional community. "As Tax Commissioner, I am committed to improving taxpayer engagement and communication," said Tax Commissioner Mary Peterson. "Tax professionals represent key strategic partners in this effort."

Members of the Tax Technical Working Group will keep the Commissioner apprised of developments and concerns within the tax professional community on matters of tax administration, policy, and outreach. Beyond relaying the concerns of taxpayers and the tax professional community, working group members may be asked to participate in periodic activities and projects to enhance the Department's administration of taxes and general operations.

The Tax Technical Working Group is not the only new effort to connect the Department of Taxes with taxpayers and its key strategic partners. The newly formed Vermont Tax Advisory Board and new Division of Policy, Outreach, and Legislative Affairs represent complementary initiatives designed to strengthen the Department's communication and collaboration. "Overall, our new outreach initiatives are designed to provide timely information and education, and great customer service in an increasingly complex world," said Peterson. "I am grateful that so many Vermonters continue to be willing to step up to volunteer their time and talents."

A complete list of Tax Technical Working Group members is below:

- Joseph Bilodeau, CPA, President of Bilodeau, Wells & Co.
- Patti Bisson, Compucount Inc., Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals
- Ray Cota, CPA, President of the Vermont Society of CPAs
- Michelle Eid, CPA, Hall & Holden, PC
- Robert Holden, CPA, Hall & Holden PC
- Donald Hunt, Enrolled Agent, Vice President of Pat Hunt Inc.
- Lauren Jarvi, Enrolled Agent
- Kim Loewer, Enrolled Agent, Managing Partner of Loewer and Associates; President and Founder of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals
- Donald Murray, CPA, Fothergill, Segale, & Valley CPAs

- Russell North, CPA, Wilder Business Services
- Claude Phipps, AARP Tax-Aide
- Carol Tremble, CPA
- Rick Wolfish, CPA, Gallagher, Flynn & Company

Michael Costa, Director

Division of Policy, Outreach, and Legislative Affairs

Vermont Dept. of Taxes

(802) 828-0141

Michael.Costa@state.vt.us

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

-Harry Truman

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:14 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

PRESS RELEASES:

David Coates to speak on Vermont's \$3 billion pension problem

Contact:
John McClaughry
802 605 1448

As of June 30, 2011, the state of Vermont owed an astonishing \$3.0 billion in unfunded pension and retiree health benefits for state employees and teachers. This figure was approximately six times the state's outstanding general fund, transportation fund and special fund general obligation bond debt on the same date.

How Vermont got into this enormous problem, and how it can work its way out, is the subject of a Sheraton Economic Series talk by David Coates, on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 7:00 pm in the University Amphitheatre at the Sheraton Burlington Conference Center. The public is invited.

David Coates CPA serves on the Commission on the Design and Funding of Retirement and Retiree Health Benefits Plans for State Employees and Teachers, as well as the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, the Governor's Advisory Board for Economic Development, the Vermont Debt Affordability Advisory Committee, and the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

In his business career, Coates was managing partner of KPMG's Burlington office. He has served on the board of the National Life Group since 1993, and has also held key leadership positions at the New England Culinary Institute. Coates is a Director of Green Mountain Power Corp., A.N. Deringer, Inc., and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce named Coates as its Citizen of the Year in 2003.

The Sheraton Economic Series is sponsored by the Ethan Allen Institute, hosted by the Sheraton Burlington Conference Center, and cosponsored by the Vermont Economy Newsletter, Vermont Business Magazine, Vermont Tiger, True North Radio, and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Coates' presentation is also sponsored by the Vermont Business Roundtable and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

"Healthcare is a Human Right" campaign gears up for next step

Contact:
Avery Book, avery@workerscenter.org, 802-343-7565,
Vermont Workers' Center
www.workerscenter.org

Vermont Can Lead the Way: "Healthcare is a Human Right" Campaign Gears Up for Next Step on the Road Toward Universal Healthcare

Saturday, May 26 marked the one-year anniversary of Act 48, the groundbreaking legislation in Vermont to implement a universal healthcare system grounded in human rights principles.

"It's a time to celebrate and it's a time to gear up for the next critical steps toward fully realizing our right to healthcare," said Vermont Workers' Center (VWC) President Peg Franzen.

According to the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, "human-rights based grassroots approach" of the VWC's "Healthcare is a Human Right" campaign was critical to this breakthrough, and VWC's members say it will take the same, going forward.

"As we head down the road to implementation of this new system the next year will be critical," said VWC Director James Haslam, referencing the upcoming decisions around benefits under Green Mountain Care and the 2013 decisions around financing. "Giant healthcare profiteers and other big-moneyed corporate interests have begun dumping huge sums of money to put out misinformation and confuse the people of Vermont in order to derail this effort."

"We got this far through thousands of people of Vermont coming together to challenge the notion of health care as a private good to be bought and sold," said Franzen, "and we're going to keep pushing ahead until our human right to health care is realized!"

Vermont's universal breakthrough has inspired people throughout the country to take up the struggle on a state level. To mark the one-year anniversary and the road ahead, the "Healthcare is a Human Right" campaign has created a new video detailing the story of the grassroots organizing that led to the healthcare victory, and has launched a new phase of the campaign, calling for national support through an initiative called "Vermont Can Lead the Way" that seeks endorsers of the campaign all over the country (www.healthcareisahumanright.org).

"If Vermont can actually implement universal healthcare, they can lead the way for states across the country to do the same," said Haslam. "People in Maryland, California, Oregon, New York, Pennsylvania, Maine and an increasing number of states are working together on using strategies from the Healthcare is a Human Right campaign in their states." More information can be found at www.healthcareisahumanright.org

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

2012 business plan winners announced

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- Twenty Windham County business owners are thousands of dollars closer to taking their businesses to the next level.

The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and Strolling of the Heifers announced the winners of the 2012 Business Plan Competition at a ceremony at the Marlboro Graduate School Wednesday afternoon.

The big winners were two existing businesses who convinced the judges that they had the best shot at succeeding.

Iron Arts, an ornamental metalwork studio owned by James Takaki at the Cotton Mill complex, and Deer Ridge Farm, a 13-acre Guilford vegetable, maple and flower growing operation, each won \$10,000 to expand their businesses and hire employees.

Two new businesses, The Gleanery Restaurant in Putney and Sunny Lane Daycare Center in Brookline, each won \$5,000 to help them start up their companies.

Fifteen other runners-up were awarded between \$1,000 and \$5,000 as \$60,000 in prize money was distributed in the seventh annual business plan competition.

This is the second year Strolling of the Heifers has teamed up with BDCC, and supported a separate category for food and farm based businesses.

The business plan awards kicked off five days of activities around this year's Strolling of the Heifers parade, which takes place Saturday at 10 a.m.

Lisa Holderness, co-owner of Deer Ridge Farm, said the farm entered into the competition a few years ago but never completed the full business plan.

This year, as the farm seeks to expand and hire up to two employees, she was compelled to compete, and with a \$10,000 check in her hand, she said it was well worth the effort.

Holderness said she and her husband, Jerry Smith, want to use some of the money to start a hoop house business to help other farmers and home gardeners extend the short Vermont growing season.

Takaki, owner of Iron Arts, said his \$10,000 prize will pay for about half of a new piece of equipment that will allow him to streamline his metal work business and in turn, bring on a new employee.

The winners were announced at around 3 p.m. after a long day that had each of the 20 finalists make a sales pitch in front of a panel of five judges.

When the competition opened earlier this year 66 businesses applied.

Those 66 businesses were eventually reduced to 19 finalists, and each of the 19 finalists were required to put together a complete business plan, which was part of the competition.

On Wednesday, the business owners did a sales pitch in the morning and at 3 p.m. the room was filled with the nervous crowd who each awaited the final selection.

Organizers of the competition stressed the importance of putting together a coherent business plan, both for the new and existing businesses.

Lucas Farrell, co-owner of Big Picture Farm, which won the \$5,000 new business farm prize last year, said that while the money has helped his business, the business plan he and his wife developed has been instrumental in going after additional grants and applying for loans.

When the couple entered the competition last year they had five local accounts.

They now have 50 across the country and are competing in a national confection competition.

"The \$5,000 was helpful, but the business plan was crucial," he said before the winners were announced. "Even for the runners-up, use it and revise it. It is invaluable."

Sunny Lane Daycare Center owner Tina Bills is about to open a licensed daycare center in Brookline, which will be the only childcare facility located on both the Newfane and Townshend bus routes.

Bills hopes to provide care for up to 49 children from newborn to age 12.

Elizabeth Ehrenberg, Alice James and Ismail Samad hope to raise about \$50,000 from local investors to open The Gleanery in the former Front Porch Cafe in Putney.

Samad said the group is about half way toward their goal and the \$5,000 prize will allow them to begin buying equipment.

But as important as the money is, Ehrenberg said winning the business competition proves to themselves, and to potential investors, that their idea is valid.

Ehrenberg said during Wednesday's tense presentations that she saw a whole group of other local small business owners who were just as passionate and talented.

Coming out on top of the group will go a long way toward getting their doors opened in their new restaurant, she said.

"Even if we didn't win it was satisfying knowing that we were included in this group of people with all these great ideas," said Ehrenberg. "We put a lot of work into this and this will really help us keep the momentum going."

Vermont is embarking on largest highway spending ever (THIS STORY ALSO RAN IN THE TIMES ARGUS AND RUTLAND HERALD)

By WILSON RING

RICHMOND -- The Vermont Agency of Transportation is embarking on a series of highway construction and repair projects that are part of the biggest transportation spending plan in state history.

Gov. Peter Shumlin signed the \$639 million transportation bill Wednesday in Richmond in front of the historic Checkered House Bridge on Route 2 over the Winooski River, which is being rebuilt and widened as part of that process to make it safer while preserving the historic character of the span.

"This transportation budget is different than any passed and signed by any Legislature and governor," Shumlin said. "It's the largest in our history. As you know, we've had tremendous transportation challenges after fighting the storms of April, the storms of May and Tropical Storm Irene.

"We made a promise to Vermonters that we would rebuild Vermont better than the way Irene found us. This transportation bill reflects that commitment."

Shumlin says the state is applying the lessons learned from its rapid -- and ongoing -- recovery from Tropical Storm Irene, such as the closing bridges while they are being replaced rather than building expensive temporary spans. Such efforts save time and money.

The fiscal 2013 spending plan increases transportation spending by \$105 million over the current year, which includes a \$28 million increase in funds for highway paving.

It also cuts in half the amount of money local communities have to pay as their share of state transportation projects. It cuts in half the share that local communities have to pay for road and bridge repair where there is federal aid from 20 percent to 10 percent, while the local match for local Irene recovery projects is cut from 10 percent to 5 percent. Transportation Secretary Brian Searles said the projects include more than just ongoing repairs to roads and bridges damaged in Irene. Planners are looking at five alternative proposals to the now-abandoned circumferential highway through Chittenden County around Burlington.

The state is going to start on a long-awaited \$30 million truck route in Morristown, work is going to continue on the rebuilding of Main Street in the city of Barre and Route 2 in Danville, which could be finished this year. The northern segment of the Bennington bypass project will be finished this year and add about 500 new park and ride spaces across the state.

"There's a lot going on here, and I haven't even mentioned Irene," Searles said. "We will do Irene restoration this year, next year and maybe into the following year, but the fact is it won't interrupt our regular queue of projects."

Given all the highway construction projects that are under way in Vermont this year, officials urged drivers to be careful in a record number of construction zones.

"These work zones aren't just filled with yellow and orange vests and hardhats. They're filled with people. These are peoples' parents, brothers, husbands, wives, cousins," said Transportation Agency Operations Director Scott Rogers. "They're our workers, construction contractors and they have a very hard job to do. We ask that folks please slow down when you approach a work zone, pay attention, put down your cell phone and make the work zone safer."

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Constables may lose authority BY NEAL GOSWAMI

BENNINGTON -- Some constables will lose their policing authority on July 1, after officials could not find a suitable way to work around legislation passed earlier this year.

Lawmakers have sought for years to pass legislation to have constables who are granted policing authority by municipalities be fully certified as law enforcement officers. The Legislature has passed extensions in recent years, allowing constables to continue policing despite problems achieving full certification.

At issue is a field training requirement. The constables must spend time in the field under the supervision of a certified field training officer. But many departments that have such officers will not allow constables to be trained under their authority because of liability concerns. Constables have had difficulty completing the field training as a result.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, said the Senate passed another one-year extension this year. The House made changes, however, and passed a version of the bill requiring that all three phases of training required for constables to have begun before May 1 of this year in order for them to continue policing.

Sears organized a conference call Wednesday with members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as officials with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. They could not identify any solutions that would prevent some constables from being affected.

"We were reminded that the House would not have gone along with the Senate version. They feel strongly that this thing has gone on for five years and the constables have had time," Sears said. "It may be smaller than we first thought, but the fact remains that there are going to be some constables that lose their authority."

Sears said about 15 constables began all three phases of training by May 1, as called for in the legislation passed earlier this year.

The Legislature attempted to address the training problem by calling on the council "to provide the field training necessary in order for those constables to become certified or shall provide to those constables an alternative source that will provide that field training."

VCJTC Executive Director Richard Gauthier said the council has no authority to do the training itself, however, because it is not a police agency. Additionally, Gauthier said he has not authority to compel any police agency in Vermont with a certified field training officer to train constables.

Nothing can be done this year to fix the problem, Sears said. "Really, there's nothing we can do to change what's in the law. There is no way the council can provide the training because they are not a police agency," he said.

However, Sears said Gauthier will try to speak to the Vermont Sheriff's Association about offering training to constables. And Sears said he will look into the possibility of indemnifying police agencies that provide the training from any liability through legislation.

FOX NEWS:

Fair trade purists cry foul at including big farms

MONTPELIER, Vt. — A recent open letter to Vermont's Green Mountain Coffee Roasters asking it to sever relations with the group Fair Trade USA is just one sign of a broader debate roiling the fair trade movement.

The two largest marketers of fair trade coffee in the United States both say they'll stay with Fair Trade USA. That group certifies that coffee and other products are meeting fair trade standards, for now.

But Massachusetts-based Equal Exchange and the Vermont Coffee Company are among other companies breaking ties with Fair Trade USA over what they see as a weakening of its standards.

One main complaint of theirs is that the California-based Fair Trade USA is moving beyond the small farmer cooperatives historically at the core of the free trade movement to include larger, plantation-based coffee growers.

NEW ENGLAND CABLE NEWS:

Business program for Vt. vets inspires federal legislation

(NECN: Jack Thurston, Rutland, Vt.) - Congressman Peter Welch, D-Vt., has hailed a Vermont business counseling and training program aimed at helping veterans start and manage their own businesses. Welch said at a press conference in Rutland Tuesday that he hopes the program will become a national model.

Welch pointed to success stories like Tim McCollum's as examples.

Before McCollum owned Eagle Eye Property Management in Killington, Vt., he wore the uniform of a Major in the Vermont National Guard and served three tours in Afghanistan.

When he got home, McCollum realized he could use his military skills and discipline to start a new career.

"Was I a maintenance guy in the Army? No," McCollum told New England Cable News. "But I was around it, so I understood that if you don't maintain things, they're going to break."

To launch into lawn maintenance, snow plowing, light construction and more, McCollum got help from a Vermont Guard program called Yellow Ribbon Reintegration. It teams with the Vermont Small Business Development Center to give returning troops technical assistance on business management topics including finding start-up money, marketing and, in McCollum's case, free accounting training.

NECN asked where McCollum would be without that advice.

"I'd probably be looking for a job right now," he answered.

Welch's amendment to the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act would require similar partnerships in every state, he said. He praised Rep. Chris Gibson, R-N.Y., for his bipartisan work on the legislation. It passed the U.S. House and is now awaiting a vote in the Senate, where Welch said he thinks it'll have support.

"In Vermont, we had on-the-ground leadership from the Guard, on-the-ground leadership from the Small Business Development Council, and we had the veterans who were willing to come forward and ask for the help," Rep. Welch explained. "So we had minimal bureaucracy here; it's all about getting the job done. Whether some of the bigger states would be able to overcome some of those bureaucratic challenges, I don't know. But let's give them a shot."

Welch said there has not yet been a dollar figure put on the implementation of the proposed national program. In Vermont, the Small Business Development Center's partnership with the Guard was largely funded with a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, a Vermont SBDC flyer read.

Welch said he hopes the concept could eventually bring down the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans. U.S. Labor Department figures show the national number was around 12-percent last year: several points higher than the unemployment rate for non-veterans.

"A lot of them simply want to get a job and integrate back into the community," said Brian Perry with the Vt. National Guard Veterans Outreach Team. "And those are the people we try to help."

"Many people return and they want to do something different," added Linda Rossi of the Vermont Small Business Development Center. "There are resources in this state and in the other states to take advantage of."

Tim McCollum said Eagle Eye is signing up new clients weekly.

"We're past our break-even point," he noted.

McCollum may be in business for himself, but said he never felt he was by himself, thanks to the Vermont Small Business Development Center and the Vermont Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

"It's a good ride," McCollum said of owning his own business.

WCAX (THIS MORNING'S BROADCAST, USING HIRSHFELD'S STORY):

Tax returns for Gov. Shumlin, Randy Brock released

MONTPELIER, Vt. - If elections were simply about who has the most money, Governor Shumlin would win the next race for governor by a landslide.

According to tax returns provided to the Vermont Press Bureau, Governor Shumlin made more than \$500,000 in 2011 while Republican Randy Brock raked in \$268,000.

A majority of Brock's income came from investments.

Shumlin's earnings were actually down significantly from two years ago. In 2009, prior to being elected governor, Shumlin made \$900,000, much of that from real estate holdings.

Shumlin receives of a governor's salary of \$142,000 a year. Shumlin has not announced if he will seek reelection.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 6:01 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

VTDIGGER:

At campaign launch, Sorrell defends his record

BY TAYLOR DOBBS

Attorney General Bill Sorrell kicked off his re-election campaign on Thursday in front of a crowd of supporters at the Statehouse. The 15-year incumbent, who faces a primary challenge from fellow Democrat TJ Donovan, defended his record and emphasized his achievements.

Rep. Rebecca Ellis, D-Waterbury, one of Sorrell's former employees introduced the Attorney General. "The office, under Bill Sorrell's guidance, evaluates cases free of partisanship or favoritism," she said. "The result is litigation that is fair and even-handed and a record that all Vermonters can be proud of."

Sorrell made no apologies for a string of losses in high-profile cases. Instead, at several times during his campaign launch, he pointed to his willingness to take on tobacco corporations almost immediately after he was sworn into office in 1997 as evidence of his success.

"Four weeks to the day after taking the oath of office, I sued big tobacco," he said. "As a result of that suit, Vermont has received over \$300 million, and unless Americans stop their addiction to cigarettes and thereby conquer what remains the greatest avoidable public health problem confronting this state and this nation, Vermont will continue to receive at least \$25 million a year, every year, forever from the settlement of that one lawsuit."

Sorrell's critics have suggested he jumped on the bandwagon on a suit already in the works, but he denies the claim, calling that charge "revisionist history."

Though he said he looked forward to a "positive, issues-oriented campaign," Sorrell seemed to suggest that his opponent, Chittenden County State's Attorney TJ Donovan, isn't ready for the legal big-leagues.

"The office impacts Vermonters in many, many, many different ways and the Chittenden County State's Attorney's job is an important position – as I said, I've held it twice – this is a much bigger job and I have the record in this job that I'm proud of," Sorrell said.

As for his recent losses, Sorrell said it's the price the state pays for a Legislature that tests legal limits.

"We had meetings private and public where we expressed concerns that the legislature was pushing the envelope and that we might well be sued," Sorrell said of his loss in the U.S. Supreme Court defending Vermont's strictest-in-the-nation campaign finance legislation.

That loss on top of recent defeats in suits against Entergy and the pharmaceuticals industry have been costly. The campaign finance lawsuit cost the state \$1.5 million and the pharmaceuticals suit was a \$1.8 million loss.

In answer to questions about his effectiveness as the state's chief law enforcement official, Sorrell refers again to the big tobacco lawsuit and the money it brings in.

Sorrell preferred to talk about a victory in which he successfully defended the state's strict regulation on vehicle emissions.

"I've been called a two-fisted attorney general, and there's a reason for that," Sorrell said. "I have never backed away from aggressively but fairly enforcing our laws, even when confronting wealthy and powerful opponents."

Looking forward, Sorrell doesn't plan on letting his losses slow him down.

"Zealous and impartial enforcement of our campaign finance laws will remain a priority," he said, "and this two-fisted attorney general will fight, fight, fight to uphold Vermont's laws giving Vermonters a real say as to the future of Entergy's operations in this state."

Campaign finance, Vermont Yankee and big tobacco are big issues. But the biggest facing Vermont right now? The Internet, according to Sorrell. The attorney general said Facebook and other mediums have opened the door for criminals to exploit consumers who aren't careful for their information.

"I think that issues involving the world-wide-web, the internet, social media, that all of the opportunities it offers us in commerce, in communication and such, that's wonderful but there's a downside to this and thieves, scam artists, cyber-stalkers, those who prey on people young and old are taking advantage of the web – of the internet – to go about their business, and so I think we must do a lot more to educate Vermonters not to fall prey to the scams," Sorrell said.

Problems stemming from Facebook, Twitter and other social media can especially impact young Vermonters, and Sorrell said he started an outreach effort Tuesday night to help the problem. Sorrell said he spoke with parents, teachers and students at Essex High School about the dangers of the internet and how to use it safely.

"We've got to educate more particularly young Vermonters using the social media to responsibly use the social media, protect their privacy, respond when cyberbullying takes place," he said. "So I think there are a lot of serious problems facing Vermont, but trying to stay abreast of new technology and to help Vermonters use it responsibly and effectively but don't be victimized by it, I think that's a huge challenge for us going forward."

Sorrell's opponent Donovan has put prescription drug abuse in his sights as public enemy number one, an issue Sorrell barely skimmed on in his campaign launch. Donovan's early endorsements from the Vermont Sheriffs Association and the Vermont Troopers Association sent a strong message from law enforcement, and Sorrell said he isn't sure why he didn't get those endorsements.

Sorrell went on to talk about his office's duty to prosecute wrongdoing by law enforcement officials, seeming to cite that as a reason he might not have gotten the endorsement.

"Well you'd have to ask them, but quite frankly, I mean, we review criminal conduct on the part of law enforcement, we take that seriously. I said there's not double standard. There's no prosecutor in Vermont history who has prosecuted more law enforcement than I," Sorrell said.

When a reporter asked if he was implying that his office's prosecution of law enforcement was the reason his opponent got the endorsements, Sorrell stumbled.

"No, I don't— I don't know why they did that," he said, "but to the extent that there's some thought that the Attorney General is always on the side of law enforcement as the state's chief law enforcement officer is not the case. And in order for even-handed justice, and the kind of justice that Vermonters expect, when we see violations of the law, we're expected to investigate them thoroughly and to take action if appropriate and I have done that."

Which candidate's message resonates more with Vermont Democrats remains to be seen, but polls conducted before Sorrell's launch gave him a firm lead over Donovan.

"I look forward to debate with my opponent, to comparing our records and to compare our priorities for the future," Sorrell said. "I thank the many thousands of Vermont voters who in so many past elections have placed their trust in me as the state's chief law enforcement officer."

Berlin residents pan Shumlin administration proposal to locate state psychiatric hospital near elementary school

BY ANDREW NEMETHY

The town of Berlin made it clear at a public meeting Wednesday that it wants the state's new 25-bed acute care state hospital built on a seven-acre site next to Central Vermont Medical Center.

Vermont is considering two potential sites in Berlin for the hospital, which is being built as partial replacement of the 54-bed Vermont State hospital in Waterbury after it was closed by flooding from tropical storm Irene last August.

Berlin officials told Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding in no uncertain terms that they oppose the state's other proposed location, which is close to the local elementary school and is also where the town has long planned to put a town center and once considered affordable housing.

That site, near the regional library on Paine Turnpike, is larger and quieter though it also contains a wetland, said Vermont Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding, explaining its appeal to the state.

"What I see is a nicer piece of land," Spaulding said, noting the site close to the hospital was steep and transected by a major power line.

But he told about 60 people at Berlin Elementary School he wanted to hear their views, adding, "we're not interested in forcing our way in the town of Berlin." He also noted the new hospital's construction marked an important milestone in mental health care. "It's a big decision, it's one that's going to last us for 20 to 40 years, it's a big decision for you, it's a big decision for patients," he said.

Judging from the opinions expressed, Berlin is clearly opposed to having the state develop a key parcel the town has long eyed, also taking it off the tax rolls.

"I don't even see why we're discussing the other site," said selectboard member Craig Frazier, arguing the hospital location is the only one that made sense.

"It is about location, location location, and I really can't fathom it being over by the school," said Patricia McDonald, a former GOP representative from Berlin and longtime town official who now chairs the Berlin Economic Development Council.

A town resident said an informal poll at town meeting found 105 people in favor of the hospital site and none in favor of the library location and selectboard member Roberta Haskin said she felt residents were "overwhelmingly" in favor of the hospital site.

The airing of views came after Spaulding, Mental Health Commissioner Patrick Flood and state buildings officials ran through the events that led the state to consider building the hospital in Berlin after the antiquated state hospital in Waterbury was closed by Irene. Several officials from the town of Waterbury also spoke to allay any fears that Berlin may have about hosting a mental health hospital.

Rep. Tom Stevens, a Democrat who represents Waterbury in the Legislature told the gathering having the hospital in Waterbury had been an “absolutely benign” experience and the state had been a “good neighbor and partner.”

Spaulding noted that the old hospital had been decertified for years before Irene struck, costing the state a lot of federal reimbursement funds and was also in a floodplain, all factors that led Gov. Peter Shumlin to declare it would not be used again.

The Legislature this session passed a mental health overhaul that greatly expanded community care and called for three new regional acute-care mental health facilities: the 25-bed unit in Berlin, six beds at Rutland Regional Medical Center and 14 at the Brattleboro Retreat.

Berlin’s views on the hospital location mesh with testimony of many mental health professionals who say any new acute care mental health facility should be sited in or next to a medical hospital if the goal is to set up a modern clinical treatment model. During legislative testimony, they cited how mental health patients in crisis often need medical care as well and the need to provide both in any new facility.

Flood told the gathering that Berlin was going to host a hospital that was “modern, forward-looking and absolutely the best we can have.” But he said it would differ from the state hospital in that it would not have long-term patients but people in crisis who may stay for a month or two – many who would be transferred from the psychiatric ward which is operated now at the medical center.

Flood assured everyone that public safety would not be an issue with the hospital.

“This is going to be a very secure facility,” he said, not only because of the structure, he argued, but because of the training and staffing systems in place. In the last five years, the state hospital in Waterbury had only two “elopements” or escapes. One was a patient simply trying to get a cigarette, the other a patient who climbed a fence and then sat by the river where staff retrieved him, he said.

Flood added the new facility would have a 14-foot fence around its outdoor exercise yard that would be impossible to scale.

The state’s mental health commissioner said staffing would be around 75-100 people in three shifts, and the hospital would have around 50 parking spaces. All in all, he said, the hospital would be a “pretty quiet neighbor,” with only an estimated 5-7 admissions a week of people facing the gamut of mental health issues, from depression to schizophrenia and suicidal ideation.

Flood said his department would set up a formal system to have monthly meetings to communicate with Berlin about any issues.

“We really do want to be the best neighbor we can be,” he said.

State Buildings architect Mike Kuhn showed schematics and site plans of the proposed building sites via Powerpoint but later admitted that the building design itself had completely changed.

“It probably won’t look anything like that,” he said.

According to Spaulding, a decision will be made soon so the state can move ahead with design and construction. He noted the state urgently needs to alleviate the continuing crisis in acute care caused by the closure of the state hospital. Still, he said at best, it would be 2014 before the new hospital was opened.

Why is Bruce Lisman spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to ‘start a conversation’?

BY TAYLOR DOBBS

Campaign for Vermont became a player on the political scene in Vermont late last year — thanks to the largesse of a single wealthy individual and an aggressive local media advertising blitz.

But eight months since a group of prominent conservatives founded the 501(c)(4) organization, its purpose remains unclear.

What is Campaign for Vermont, and more to the point, what is the group trying to accomplish?

The founder of Campaign for Vermont, Bruce Lisman, says the organization doesn't adhere to a political point of view, but the group has pushed for fiscally conservative ideas outside the traditional Republican Party construct.

Campaign for Vermont, through hyperlocal radio advertising, has indirectly criticized "Montpelier," a.k.a. Democrats who hold the governor's office and the Statehouse, for "out-of-control" state spending. It has also chastised the executive and legislative branches for not being transparent enough about the way taxpayer dollars are used by state government.

In a recent email missive to supporters, Lisman wrote that "Campaign for Vermont believes that higher property taxes, increased electric rates and a risky health care scheme will strangle a vibrant economy."

Lisman, a native of Burlington's North End, and a former executive with Bear Stearns and J.P. Morgan, says he is trying to draw attention to the state's financial future through a "campaign for a prosperous economy."

Listen closely to GOP candidates such as Randy Brock, who is running for governor, and Wendy Wilton, who is making a bid for state treasurer, and familiar Campaign for Vermont themes emerge.

After months of Campaign for Vermont's focus on "prosperity," Brock's media consultant Robert Wickers said in a statement that "[a]s Vermonters learn more about Randy, and hear his positive message of economic growth and prosperity, this race will tighten." Brock and Campaign for Vermont have also criticized the growth of the budget this year (an overall rate of 6.3 percent).

In the group's first radio advertisement, Lisman said, "It's time to use modern technology to make Vermont state government totally transparent and accountable to every citizen."

In the group's first radio advertisement, Lisman said, "It's time to use modern technology to make Vermont state government totally transparent and accountable to every citizen."

Wilton, at her campaign launch for treasurer, echoed that sentiment: "Information is key, but it's the ease of that information that's really important too. Because it's got to be readily available, you've got to be able to see it and understand it, and it can't be in some really arcane spot within the state's website where you'd never find it even if you put it in a search function. It's got to be somewhere where people can see it easily."

Jake Perkinson, chairman of the Vermont Democratic Party, suggests that Campaign for Vermont might be a "launching pad" for a political candidate — most likely Lisman himself. Though he is the face of the organization — his portrait is on email messages and the website — Lisman has said repeatedly that he has no interest in running for office.

Kevin Ellis, a communications strategist with KSE Partners and a supporter of Democrat Gov. Peter Shumlin, says Campaign for Vermont is the Vermont GOP's ad hoc messaging machine, laying the electoral groundwork for Republican Party candidates this election cycle.

He also speculates that Lisman wants to be a kingmaker. Ellis says Campaign for Vermont's ubiquitous advertising could be a potential prelude to financing candidates in 2014 — in the event that Vermont's campaign finance limits are knocked down in the courts.

"Sure, he may give money to candidates," Ellis said. "But I think he is a millionaire from Wall Street who came to Vermont and wanted to be a player. Spending this money is the best and fastest way to do that. Spending this money makes him a political player, scares the heck out of Democrats and makes him the toast of the Burlington cocktail party circuit among Republicans. But that is a long, long way from playing on the varsity team against pros like Peter Shumlin, Bernie Sanders and Pat Leahy. To steal a phrase from David Plouffe, those guys play chess. Lisman is still playing checkers."

Hitting the airwaves

Lisman, 65, is the mind and the money behind Campaign for Vermont, which has launched 19 radio, print and web advertising campaigns since Nov. 23, 2011 — all of which were paid for out of his own pocket. As of April 25, he had spent \$194,343 on advertising alone, according to a lobbyist filing with the Secretary of State's office.

With nearly ubiquitous radio spots playing up to six times per day on more than 10 stations statewide, the advertising blitz has drawn attention to Lisman from his detractors and supporters alike.

Until Jan. 1 of this year, Campaign for Vermont's advertisements advocated broadly for transparency, "defining prosperity" and a vibrant economy. One ad series, for example, encouraged Vermonters to donate to the United Way during the holiday season. Though Campaign for Vermont's website, which included specific talking points was online at that point, the messages the radio ads promoted were not topical.

As the legislative session began, so did the assaults on Democratic initiatives for alternative energy, Vermont's health care exchange plan, and the state budget. Campaign for Vermont launched two new radio ads, one criticizing Vermont's health care exchange — "Vermont's Act 48 will create an exchange with only one or two [health insurance] carriers. That's not choice," Lisman says in the advertisement — and another calling for accurate and realistic analysis of renewable energy and its costs before the state moves forward.

Lisman's biggest issue is the economy, especially with regard to state taxes and spending priorities, shortly followed by transparency. The former Wall Street executive wants the Legislature to give taxpayers estimates for proposed programs, so lawmakers and citizens alike can make decisions based on real cost analyses. Advertisements like this — most of which advocate for conservative economic policies — ran throughout the session. Eventually, Vermonters learned where Campaign for Vermont stood on specific topics: against the cloud computing tax, against the health care exchange and against the potential impact of high costs associated with renewable energy on consumers and businesses.

Lisman's biggest issue is the economy, especially with regard to state taxes and spending priorities, shortly followed by transparency. The former Wall Street executive wants the Legislature to give taxpayers estimates for proposed programs, so lawmakers and citizens alike can make decisions based on real cost analyses.

In an ad launched Feb. 7, Lisman encouraged Vermonters to ask four questions of their legislators on Town Meeting Day: "Are the policies they are considering based on facts and common sense? Will the policy lead to shared prosperity? Is the policy being developed in a non-partisan manner? And lastly, are they listening to you?" In a run of newspaper advertisements in 26 weeklies across the state the campaign reiterated the same message the week before Town Meeting Day.

Campaign for Vermont, Lisman says, is based on principles all Vermonters can agree on.

"Can you tell me if there is something wrong with building a vibrant economy?" Lisman said in an interview. "Honestly?"

The answer, presumably, is no. But Lisman, his past and the views he promotes have made some Vermont politicians uneasy.

A scrape with the Democrats

Campaign for Vermont came under fire from the Vermont Democratic Party after launching a Feb. 6 radio advertisement which they claimed was an attack ad advocating against the re-election of Democrat Gov. Peter Shumlin — a candidate in an upcoming election.

In a Feb. 21 letter to Attorney General William Sorrell, Jesse Bragg, then the executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, alleged that Campaign for Vermont had spent more than \$500 on the ad and hadn't registered with the Secretary of State as a political committee. Bragg claimed the advertisement "can only be viewed as furthering the purpose of opposing [Shumlin's] candidacy and/or influencing the outcome of the governor's election."

Lisman argued the Campaign for Vermont was not a political committee, and the Vermont Attorney General's Office ultimately ruled in his favor, determining that the advertisement was compliant with all relevant laws. "The Attorney General's Office concluded that the ad addressed a policy issue that is currently pending in the Vermont Legislature and did not demonstrate that its purpose was to support or oppose a candidate for Vermont office," Sorrell's office announced in a press release.

Lisman argued the Campaign for Vermont was not a political committee, and the Vermont Attorney General's Office ultimately ruled in his favor, determining that the advertisement was compliant with all relevant laws. The issue was settled, but Lisman's group whose stated purpose was to put "progress ahead of partisanship" had driven a wedge between Republicans and Democrats.

Jack Lindley, chairman of the Vermont Republican Party, said the complaint was "part of the arrogance of single-party power," and called the charge "frivolous." He commended Campaign for Vermont for its work.

"Their thinking is pretty clear and their activities with regard to bringing in a better Vermont are well-intentioned and directly to the point," Lindley said.

Perkinson, the Vermont Democratic Party chair, had other thoughts about the group's obligations under its 501(c)(4) IRS status.

"They should be able to make those arguments," he said, "but I don't think they should be able to cloak those in the name of education and social welfare for the common person when they're anything but."

The Democrats fear something bigger from Lisman et al. down the line. Perkinson says he thinks Campaign for Vermont is in the early stages of becoming a vehicle for electing Republican candidates.

"In my estimation, either a stalking horse or ... a launching pad for someone who wants to be involved in politics going forward," he said.

Such a move would be possible, depending on the outcome of a case pending in Vermont District Court, where the Vermont Right to Life Committee is suing Attorney General Sorrell over the criteria defining a political committee. Right to Life argues the financial reporting requirements triggered by spending \$500 or more on ads relating to an election are too burdensome. The organization's hope is to skirt the triggers as long as most of its spending is not on such ads.

If the Vermont Right to Life Committee, which is represented by James Bopp, an attorney who has made fighting campaign finance limits in states across the country his personal quest, according to Seven Days, wins the case, the state would have to allow unlimited — and untraceable — spending by groups like Lisman's and KSE's Vermont Priorities.

Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, the assistant attorney general defending the state's interests, says it's possible the Vermont Right to Life decision would allow groups to spend unlimited amounts of money on election-based advertising as long as such ad expenditures were not the group's "major purpose."

Under IRS rules, a 501(c)(4) is a "social welfare organization," but according to the IRS "[s]eeking legislation germane to the organization's programs is a permissible means of attaining social welfare purposes. Thus, a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization may further its exempt purposes through lobbying as its primary activity without jeopardizing its exempt status." Launching ads for or against a candidate does not qualify as social welfare spending, but 501(c)(4)s are permitted to engage in political activity, "so long as that is not its primary activity."

If the organization's "major purpose" (Carnahan says that would likely be a function of where funds are dedicated) is not ads seeking to influence a Vermont state election, it would not be required to register with the Secretary of State as a political committee, even if it spent over the current \$500 limit.

"There wouldn't be any transparency, the public wouldn't know where the funds were coming from," Carnahan said.

Unlimited spending rules in North Carolina allowed a wealthy businessman, Art Pope, to finance a conservative takeover of the state legislature in 2010. (http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/10/10/111010fa_fact_mayer)

When asked whether he intended to cause a similar political sea change in Vermont, Lisman said no. He wants Campaign for Vermont to foster debate — not financially back candidates.

"Is what we're doing for somebody's personal gain, or is there something bigger, more important, to discuss?" Lisman said. "And I think it's the latter, and I think that because — and let me just be clear — I think this is a worthy effort that we should dedicate, in my case some money and time, and try to capture people's attention on some issues we're discussing."

The spending spree on local advertising

Money indeed. An April 25 filing with the Secretary of State's office gave the figure: \$212,343. Lisman confirmed that all the money came from him, with \$15,000 paid to lobbying firm Capital Connections, \$3,000 in "other expenses," and \$194,343 paid out in advertising (Disclosure: Campaign for Vermont bought a \$5,382 in sponsorship placement with VTDigger.org in March 2012, and Lisman personally gave two \$5,000 donations to the Vermont Journalism Trust in 2011.)

In an effort to track the group's spending across the state, VTDigger went to the offices of WDEV, WORK, WWFY, WSNO and WVMT where the stations disclosed advertisement spending by Campaign for Vermont. All radio advertisements were billed to Marianne Campbell, media director of McLaughlin & Associates, a New York firm that features on its website a Washington Times quote dubbing it one of the best Republican polling outfits.

In a separate trip to WVTM in Middlebury, the station declined to give the information. When VTDigger asked Lisman to disclose the group's spending on advertising with WVTM, he declined.

Though the group has advocated heavily for transparency in its advertising, Lisman said its April 25 filing of lobbyist disclosure forms with the Secretary of State was enough. The forms report spending by and payments to lobbyists by category including advertising, telemarketing and other expenses.

"We've disclosed the important things so that the public can see what we're doing, and the law didn't require us to do it," he said.

"These questions are of interest," Lisman said, "but we choose not to disclose it, and it's for the radio stations to decide."

Neither Campaign for Vermont nor the radio stations it advertises with are legally required to disclose the ad spending information, and Campaign for Vermont, Lisman says, was not required to file lobbyist disclosure forms with the Secretary of State. The group filed, Lisman said in a press release, because "Campaign for Vermont believes in transparency and is disclosing, as promised to the public, our expenditures related to direct and indirect lobbying for the period January 1 to March 31, 2012."

Lisman said he refused to disclose specific spending with certain radio stations because the "realm of detail" for such spending was too specific.

"These questions are of interest," Lisman said, "but we choose not to disclose it, and it's for the radio stations to decide."

At WVMT, a conservative talk radio station where Campaign for Vermont spent \$25,380, the group received roughly \$2,000 in free advertising. Station owner and manager Paul Goldman said he donated the free advertising because of how much Campaign for Vermont had spent.

From Willard Street to Wall Street

Lisman was born and raised in Burlington, where he lived with his brother and their parents, Irving and Lily Lisman, on North Willard Street. Lisman fondly remembers his father's refrain about his home neighborhood: "My father always said 'the best thing about the North End is leaving,' and we did," Lisman said. When Lisman was still in elementary school, the family moved to the South End.

Lisman graduated from Burlington High School and went on to UVM, where his mother worked as a secretary to earn discounted tuition for him and his brother.

After graduation, Lisman moved to New York City and got a job as a file clerk at the financial firm Bear Stearns.

"I didn't start in a management position or in a senior position," Lisman said. "I started as a basic clerk, which is filing different colored pieces of paper from different-colored files. And the guy who transitioned me, which took probably less than 90 seconds to train me, I think he hung out for 10 minutes, said, 'Try not to think too much, because when you do that, you're going to put the reds in the pink, and they're really gonna get pissed at you.'"

Lisman climbed up through the ranks of the company, from clerk to trading assistant to junior analyst to analyst to director of research, and finally he became co-head of Global Equities.

Bear Stearns folded as a result of the 2008 financial collapse, and its leadership faced criticism for reckless trading practices, but Lisman says the criticisms are baseless.

"As the crisis took hold, you could see clearly it wasn't one company or one type of transaction or even one country that you could assign a central locus of where the crisis began," Lisman said. "That's an absurd, simplistic, and probably ideologically oriented point of view. There's nothing out there that says that. People who say that are making a great leap. We were, as I look at it, a canary in the mineshaft."

Lisman says his division had no part in the problems that brought Bear Stearns down.

"Our business had nothing to do with the failure of the world," he said. "It was, I wouldn't say plain vanilla, but we were large and profitable almost to the very end."

The economic crash of 2008, as Lisman sees it, was the result of the world becoming too used to an extended period of financial growth.

"It was wretched excess at the end of a very long economic cycle that made people too comfortable," he said. "Public policy people comfortable that they could continue on, and banks and lenders thinking that things are great and they're smarter than the next guy pursuing policies that had some wretched excess attached to it, too much greed, could still work. It didn't."

Vermont in the new world

The 2008 collapse changed the world, Lisman said, in ways many leaders are still failing to grasp. The new world Vermonters live in needs a renewed focus on economic prosperity, he says. In his return to Vermont, Lisman aims to give his home state a nudge in the right direction.

After he left Bear Stearns, Lisman became head of global equities at J.P. Morgan before retiring in 2009 and coming back to Vermont full time. Lisman felt the need to reconnect with the state, so he spent 18 months touring Vermont, going to people's homes and talking to them about the issues they found important.

"I had a set of rules. One is, I had a map and I'd mark every road I went on, but more importantly I'd visit people I didn't know," he said. At the end of each meeting, Lisman says he asked his hosts who else would be interesting to talk with. "So I met with businesspeople, small entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, college presidents, people who ran restaurants, you name it. In all maybe 400 people in a period of 18 months."

On his marathon meet and greet, Lisman came across Tom Pelham, retired deputy secretary of administration under Republican Gov. Jim Douglas and head of the Department of Finance and Management for Democrat Gov. Howard Dean. Campaign for Vermont, Lisman says, was born out of his first meeting with Pelham.

"He gave me a tour of his house and only when we were sitting staring at each other across the living room did he say 'So what do you want?' and I gave him my ideas and we shook hands and he became my first partner in Campaign for Vermont," Lisman said.

The group is based on Lisman's premise that the world has changed, and its leaders haven't caught up.

"I thought, around us Washington wasn't getting it," Lisman said. "I mean after the crisis, they weren't figuring out that something had changed, Europe certainly still hasn't gotten it ... and I didn't think many of the states were getting it. Our state in particular wasn't getting it. They were marching to the same tune they had been. Maybe that's right, but I thought we oughta find out if it's right."

Campaign for Vermont was incorporated Sept. 22, 2011, with Lisman, Pelham and Mary Alice McKenzie, both prominent conservatives, listed as officers.

With over \$200,000 in expenditures by April 25, some wonder how far Lisman will reach into his deep pockets to fund the campaign.

Eric Davis, professor emeritus of political science at Middlebury College, says that based on how much he has spent so far, Lisman is on course to spend \$1 million by the time elections roll around in November.

Davis says he thinks that as much as Lisman preaches non-partisanship, Campaign for Vermont aligns with the right.

"I would say that while Campaign for Vermont is not formally or organizationally affiliated with the Republican Party, but in terms of the issues," the two groups see eye to eye.

"[Lisman] would like to see Randy Brock elected for governor, but he cannot say in his commercials 'vote for Brock' or 'vote against Shumlin,'" because such an ad would trigger campaign finance laws.

With the session over and Campaign for Vermont's three to six ads per month seeming to slow down, the group's future seems unclear, even to Lisman.

"I'll be interested to see whether the group continues in the 2014 election cycle," Davis says, "if Shumlin is re-elected and the Democrats still have a majority."

Lisman says he put more money into Campaign for Vermont initially to gain recognition and make the group known, but making predictions based on those numbers would be a mistake.

"I understand limitations, but remember we had to start bigger. I'm not sure you should extrapolate those kind of numbers anyway," he said.

One thing Lisman seems sure of is that Campaign for Vermont is here to stay.

How we fund it or how we shape ourselves is largely a function of how we do, how successful we are," Lisman said. "We could finish tomorrow if everybody agreed our themes are the themes to grab onto for the betterment of our citizens and considering the world around us."

"We started last Thanksgiving," he said. "We're still here, and I anticipate this Thanksgiving we'll still be here and the Thanksgiving after that, I think we'll still be here. How we fund it or how we shape ourselves is largely a function of how we do, how successful we are. We could finish tomorrow if everybody agreed our themes are the themes to grab onto for the betterment of our citizens and considering the world around us."

Lisman says he doesn't see that happening, so he plans on sticking with Campaign for Vermont. Funding is a different question, one he admittedly has no answer for.

"How we do it from here I'm not prepared to say and I'm not sure I know, but we'll still be here," Lisman said.

Though those words were about Campaign for Vermont, they may resonate with many of the group's critics who say Lisman has pointed to a lot of problems without naming solutions. Lisman says such criticism plays a vital role in democracy.

"My heroes on a personal level," Lisman said, "would be people who see something wrong and either raise their hand or say something. The first line of defense in a democracy are people – whether they're sane or not – who'll see something that's wrong and do something about it. Unlike other places where things are grand injustices and no one is brave enough to stand up."

Campaign for Vermont is not necessarily saying the state is approaching these issues the wrong way, Lisman says, just that citizens and lawmakers alike should be aware of the costs and successes of all programs, and keep a critical eye out for failures.

"We should at least start by saying 'This doesn't look right.' This may ultimately be the best we've got, but let's have a robust debate about it," Lisman said.

The ultimate goal, Lisman says, is to get people talking about Campaign for Vermont's central issues, all of which revolve around the state's prosperity.

"If there were a robust two-party system, I guess, they might have this debate and we wouldn't do this," Lisman said. "But there's no debate on big issues."

An alternative to the traditional bottom line?

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

Starting next year, the Legislature will consider the value of things like clean water, volunteer work and time off for employees when it creates its budget.

Under a law signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin this month, the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics will create what is called a genuine progress indicator for the state.

The "GPI" will supplement the gross state product to measure the state's economic, environmental and social well-being.

Once the report is complete, it will go back to lawmakers who will consider the costs and benefits of budget decisions.

Jon Erickson, managing director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont, spelled out how the genuine progress indicator system will work at a conference Wednesday at the college. Erickson said the institute will pull together Vermont-specific indicators of general well-being. Indicators like clean water and volunteer work would have positive financial value and those on the minus side of the equation, such as crime and pollution, would have a negative value.

Lake Champlain, for example, Erickson said, would likely be in the minus column — for now. "As we make progress in cleaning up Lake Champlain, it would be less of a minus," he said.

The genuine progress indicator is an alternative to the traditional gross state product calculations Vermont budget-writers and economists use to measure the state's prosperity. The gross state product demonstrates how many goods and service a state has produced, while a genuine progress indicator takes into account the environmental and social costs of that production.

Erickson said just looking at the objective gross state product doesn't show the whole picture.

"If we build society around one number and that number is blind to the cost of growth, then you're going to kind of get what you measure and get a society that has consumers and not citizens," he said.

Maryland already has a voluntary genuine progress indicator system in place. Vermont is the first state in the country to legislate the mechanism.

Sen. Anthony Pollina, a Washington County Progressive, shepherded the bill S.237, now Act 113, through the Legislature. Pollina said he hopes the GPI will help reshape the legislative debate over budget and public policy priorities.

"We're not putting a value on things we really cherish like clean water and safe communities and farmland and forestland and volunteering, and we're not putting an economic value on things we should be considering as we go forward," he said.

Pollina said he hopes the GPI will give advocates more solid footing to make the case economically for social and environmental issues. For example, he said, putting a dollar value on the cost of delaying clean up of Lake Champlain could help spur more action from the Legislature to act sooner.

"I think it will give policymakers and citizens the information they need to make the case," he said.

Linda Wheatley, co-founder of Gross National Happiness USA, has been analyzing the value of non-economic factors like volunteer work and social programs since the organization came together in 2009.

Wheatley said it is difficult to put an economic value on social and environmental indicators.

"We defer or default to those that are easy to measure," she said. "That's how we ended up with the GDP."

Wheatley said the Gross National Happiness idea stems from a 1972 decision by the King of Bhutan to use well-being indicators to guide national development. In 2008, she visited the International Gross National Happiness Conference in Bhutan and started a similar project in Vermont.

The movement was based on the idea of studying happiness in addition to economic growth.

Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross, who attended Wednesday's conference, said he supports the idea of measuring a happy, productive and sustainable society.

"We want to talk about what it is we want for outcomes," he said. "We need to find things to measure and figure out strategies to move us in that direction. Not as easy as falling out a log to figure out how to do it best."

Ross said the GPI is about determining what Vermonters want as a society. For example, he said, the state should maintain and conserve its natural resource base as part of its economic base.

Ross said indicators could include the number of acres under management in forestry, acres under a specified farm plan and acres sustainably managed for maple production. Those numbers could indicate how the state's resource-based economic foundation is faring. Measuring what the state has preserved can be a better indication of how well it is doing than how many goods it produces or raw unemployment figures, according to Ross and others.

The enabling legislation that allows the Gund Institute to develop the GPI system was overwhelmingly approved by the Senate and passed the House 97-41.

Critics are concerned that the law will delegate the evaluation of what is important to Vermont to unelected people who will define well-being by things they ideologically support rather than what is good for the state.

Rep. Anne Donahue, a Republican from Northfield, said on the House floor, "To endorse a bill that attempts to put numbers on abstract values without a legislative endorsement of the product prior to implementation is an irresponsible delegation of our responsibilities."

Rep. Heidi Scheuermann said she was afraid the "Genuine Progress Indicator (otherwise known as the Happiness Index) will be used as a tool to avoid addressing the real economic challenges facing Vermont families and businesses."

Rep. Duncan Kilmartin was more flippant.

"Voting 'no' on this piece of legislation puts me in a state of euphoria and ecstasy, elevated well above and beyond my normal state of 'happiness,'" he said.

The Gund Institute will spend the next six months or so refining the Genuine Progress Indicator, which will be presented to the Legislature next session.

Whether it makes Vermonters happier about the state's economy remains to be seen.

Correction: In 1972, the young King of Bhutan came up with the Gross National Happiness idea, not the Genuine Progress Indicators as we originally reported. Many thanks to an alert reader who sent us the correction through our Report an Error form located at the end of each story posted on VTDigger.org.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:49 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Shumlin, Brock reveal net worth

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

MONTPELIER — He's still in the 1 percent, but a weak commercial real estate market has dealt a blow to the personal fortunes of Gov. Peter Shumlin, who has watched his income drop by nearly half since winning election to the office in 2010.

And though Shumlin's presumptive Republican challenger isn't in the same income bracket as the Democratic incumbent, Randy Brock pulled down a healthy \$268,000 last year, the vast majority of which came from investment income.

According to tax returns provided to the Vermont Press Bureau Wednesday, Shumlin pulled down slightly more than \$500,000 in 2011, a far cry from the approximately \$950,000 he and his wife, Deborah Holway, earned in 2009.

Declining income from the couple's real estate holdings accounts for the lion's share of the drop off. In 2009, their rental properties yielded about \$617,000. Last year, they took in only \$125,000.

Though they share a legal residence in Putney, the couple has been separated for a few years. Peter Shumlin lives in Montpelier now. He said he and his wife "are great friends."

"Things are tough in commercial real estate right now and we've got a lot of vacant space in southern Vermont," Shumlin said. "We're actually starting to convert commercial space into residential units right now, so we're making adjustments based on the market."

Brock's income derives primarily from investment income and dividends, though he drew about \$15,000 in pension and annuities and another \$20,000 from a \$3 million rental property he owns in Naples, Fla.

A successful businessman, Brock was founder and CEO of a successful security services firm, which he sold before joining Fidelity Investments. He retired from the financial powerhouse as executive vice president of risk oversight.

"I think my story shows that a kid from a relatively modest background who works hard can do well," said Brock, who filed jointly with his wife, Andrea Forrest. "I'm very lucky, but prudence, risk management, and thrift also played roles."

Aside from his real estate income, Shumlin reported about \$263,000 in wages, about half of which comes from his \$142,000 governor's salary. The remainder is from his family business, Putney Student Travel.

Shumlin said he no longer works for the family business, but that he drew down "tenure pay" last year, something that will cease in 2012. Shumlin said he's doing just fine financially, 50 percent decline in income notwithstanding.

"As a kid that was born and raised in this state, I have been extraordinarily fortunate building businesses in Vermont," Shumlin said by phone Wednesday. "And my dream is to have the privilege of serving as governor, and to be able to create an economy where more Vermont kids can enjoy this kind of success."

Shumlin said his brother Jeff has largely taken over the family real estate venture while he focuses on public service.

Brock's financial statement shows \$8.5 million in assets and \$2.5 million in liabilities for a net worth of approximately \$6 million. His holdings include the \$3 million vacation property, as well as \$3 million in marketable and restricted securities and \$230,000 in cash.

Brock's home, cottage and land in Swanton are valued at \$1.35 million. He said his holdings took a "severe" hit during the last recession. He has a \$1.8 million mortgage on the Florida property.

"I saw large percentage of net worth disappear because of the financial meltdown we had — not that other Vermonters didn't as well," Brock said. "Certainly with my higher net income though, the suffering is not as acute as it is to someone who's living paycheck to paycheck. And it's that kind of person that I'm concerned about."

Shumlin's returns didn't include a financial report. However an accounting of his assets and liabilities from 2010 pegged his net worth at about \$10 million. Shumlin's holdings included 17 properties valued at slightly more than \$4.5 million, and another \$5.1 million in cash, equities and 401k retirement accounts.

Shumlin said there have been no substantive changes to his holdings since 2010.

Despite his considerable wealth, Shumlin said he hasn't lost sight of the plight of workaday Vermont families. Median household income in Vermont is about \$51,000, according to the latest Census figures.

"I used to live paycheck to paycheck. I didn't grow up with money, I got it the old-fashioned way," Shumlin said. "I know that Vermonters haven't struggled financially as much as they have during this past recession since the Great Depression. These are really tough times and my job is to try to create jobs and lift incomes."

Go 'Slow': Strolling of the Heifers promotes sustainability

By Kevin O'Connor

BRATTLEBORO — As executive director of this town's annual Strolling of the Heifers, Orly Munzing will have her hands full steering 101 cows up Main Street on Saturday. So why is she also herding four times as many people into a Slow Living Summit today and Friday?

"The Stroll is to support family farms and connect people with the food they eat," she says. "Once you begin to buy local, you start to think of other ways to live more sustainability."

Munzing took to the stage of downtown's Latchis Theatre on Wednesday to kick off almost a week of public events promoting not only agriculture but also healthier energy, economics and public policy.

Some 400 local, state and regional leaders are beginning with the Slow Living Summit, taking place at the Art Deco theater and nearby Marlboro College Graduate School.

"The concept of slow living is not simply about sustainability," Munzing says. "It embodies mindfulness, cooperation and resilience, it's a more reflective approach to how we live. I want people to better understand that when you live slow, you become more connected to your neighbors and the community."

The summit opened Wednesday night with a "Setting an Agenda for Action and Change" prelude featuring "Sacred Economics" author Charles Eisenstein, "Humanizing the Economy" author John Restakis and Slow Money network founder Woody Tasch.

The event continues today with speakers including Vermont Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross and Yes! Magazine executive editor Sarah van Gelder and concludes Friday with speeches from Gov. Peter Shumlin and U.S. Sen. Bernard Sanders.

The public can purchase one-day summit tickets, as well as partake in several free weekend events:

Friday promises a downtown Brattleboro street festival with food and entertainment from 5 to 9 p.m.

Saturday steps off with the 11th annual Strolling of the Heifers parade of farm animals, tractors and bands (dogs are discouraged because they can scare cows) up Flat and Main streets at 10 a.m., followed by a Live Green Expo of food, entertainment and exhibits on the town Common and adjacent Retreat grounds until 4 p.m.

Sunday will bring a Farm/Food/Fiber Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 10-mile, 30-mile and 60-mile "Tour de Heifer" farm-to-farm cycling rides, with more information available at www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

Organizers expect total attendance to number up to the "tens of thousands."

"We try to capture people's imaginations," Munzing says, "and bring them to the importance of supporting our local farms and the fragile planet that we live on."

Details in alleged trooper assault

By Susan Smallheer

BRATTLEBORO — Another Vermont State Police trooper had to pull off Trooper Eric Howley from repeatedly beating a Wilmington man he suspected of stealing his canoe last April, according to court records.

Howley, 40, of Jacksonville, resigned earlier this month after the Vermont Attorney General's office brought simple assault charges against him in the April 8 incident at Lake Raponda. He had been a trooper for close to eight years, most of it in the Shaftsbury and Brattleboro barracks. He had been put on administrative leave until he resigned two weeks ago.

Howley will be arraigned in Brattleboro criminal court on June 12, but Judge David Suntag has already found probable cause to support the two simple assault charges against Howley, which automatically makes the police affidavits public.

Howley, who was on duty at the time of the late afternoon incident on April 8, had gone with Trooper Genevra Cushman to the Lake Raponda boat launch and had discovered his silver \$125 canoe was missing. He said the canoe was locked to a tree and reported it stolen to the Wilmington police.

Howley and Cushman in their separate cruisers watched the two men in Howley's canoe from shore. When the two 21-year-old men got to shore, they were immediately confronted by Howley, while another trooper tried to get Howley to let her handle the case, and later tried to prevent the assaults.

Howley allegedly "bounced" Anton Pike off his cruiser's hood at least four times, and took the head of Mark Ellison, and pushed it against a rock.

Ellison and Pike, the two men who were in the canoe, told the investigating officer that they had smoked marijuana and eaten snacks while out in the canoe, court records stated. They told Howley and other police officers they had only

"borrowed" the unlocked canoe and hadn't cut any lock, which Howley alleged. Police could not find any bolt cutters or evidence of a lock, the affidavit said.

The lengthy affidavit, written by Vermont State Police Detective Robert Patten, included interviews with the two men Howley allegedly assaulted, his fellow trooper Genevra Cushman and a Wilmington Police Sgt. Matt Murano who also responded to the incident and witnessed some of the assault, eventually calling in Howley's supervisor.

The affidavit paints a picture of an out-of-control Howley, incensed with what he called "Vermont white trash pot heads," and other police officers unable to control him as his anger grew.

Howley took Ellison's head in both his hands and pushed his head forcefully back and onto a rock; he allegedly "slammed" Pike onto the trunk of his cruiser at least four times, the affidavit stated.

"Tpr. Howley told Ellison that he was sick of white trash Vermonsters and stupid potheads," wrote Patten, the investigating officer.

"Murano observed that Ellison was standing face to face with Tpr. Howley. Tpr. Howley was yelling at Ellison, telling him that he would show him what police brutality was all about," Patten wrote.

Ellison, who had a small cut on the back of his head from the rock, was treated at the scene by Deerfield Valley Rescue, but declined a recommended trip to a hospital emergency room. Later that night, his girlfriend drove him to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital where he received a staple to close the head wound, court records stated. Pike was not seriously injured and didn't seek medical treatment.

Cushman, 30, who said she was friends with Howley and his girlfriend, said she had tried to handle the situation with Ellison and Pike, but that Howley wouldn't listen to her.

Cushman said Howley thought Ellison was "smirking or thinking it was funny," which seemed to make him angrier.

Cushman said she had noticed that Howley had a hard time with alleged thieves in other cases he handled.

"Trooper Cushman conveyed that she also wanted to keep Trooper Howley from dealing with the individuals as she knows how he is about thieves. She explained that Trooper Howley went through a nasty divorce where he was subject to fraud and theft, losing a great deal of money in the process," the court affidavit stated.

She also said she told Howley at Lake Raponda that it was Wilmington's case and that he was too personally involved, and other police officers should handle it.

She told the detective that she had talked to her supervisor, Sgt. Michael Sorenson by phone "and vented her frustration that Trooper Howley had been stupid and had not listened to her."

She also told Patten that evening she called Howley and "expressed her anger with him."

Howley didn't give the investigator a statement, and his attorney, Brian Marthage of Bennington later told the state police investigator he wouldn't be providing a statement.

If convicted of simple assault, a misdemeanor, he faces the potential of a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine or both.

Patten was assigned to investigate the Howley case the day after the alleged assaults, according to court records. Patten wrote that he was assigned to the case by Lt. Timothy Oliver.

Police have said that Ellison, a resident of West Wardsboro, and Pike, a Wilmington man, face no criminal charges.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 5:41 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 31:

WPTZ:

**Berlin board members, public tour possible mental hospital locations
16-bed facility due in Berlin, but where?**

BERLIN, Vt. - About a dozen people got a sneak peek at the potential locations for a new state hospital in Berlin on Wednesday.

A state architect led Berlin town officials and mental health advocates on a tour of three potential sites for the new 16 bed facility. One was adjacent to the Central Vermont Medical Center. The other two were off of Paine Turnpike.

The architect said there are pros and cons to each site.

Some liked a site off Paine turnpike, which has woods and wetlands.

"Because it has more wildness in it, which can help people feel like there's some freedom in their life even when they're locked up in the hospital," said Xenia Williams, who identified herself as a former State Hospital patient.

Others on the tour strongly supported the site adjacent to the hospital, because they said it symbolically and physically shows the connection between health care and mental health care.

The new hospital, wherever it may be, will cost about \$25 million dollars to build.

Officials hope to done with paperwork soon so select board members and other Berlin town officials will have the chance to review them and make a decision promptly.

**Vt. gov. signs mammoth transportation bill
Drivers to feel effects in summer of unprecedented construction**

RICHMOND, Vt. - Gov. Peter Shumlin signed into law Wednesday the largest transportation budget in state history.

The \$658 million plan will dramatically expand bridge, culvert and repaving efforts over the coming year.

At a Route 2 construction site in Richmond, near I-89, the governor joined Agency of Transportation officials to prepare motorists for an unprecedented construction season. They urged patience and courtesy on the state's roadways.

"People should expect to see work zones all over the state all summer long," said Scott Rogers, V-TRANS operations manager. "We want to remind people that these work zones aren't just filled with yellow vests and hard hats. They're filled with people."

The new budget is \$105 million higher than last year, thanks to an infusion of federal cash.

The money will pay for permanent repairs, rebuilding roads and bridges ravaged by last summer's storms, including Tropical Storm Irene.

The funding augments the state's regular paving maintenance and bridge reconstruction of spans reaching the end of their useful life.

Transportation Secretary Brian Searles said the expansive package will drive down the percentage of miles of Vermont pavement judged deficient -- from 36 percent two years ago to 25 percent by next year.

Irene also taught V-TRANS how to stretch a buck, employing local detours where possible rather than permitting and erecting expensive temporary spans in bridge construction zones.

"By going to this style of construction, we're able to get the projects out quicker, do it cheaper and we'll use high-quality, pre-fabricated materials," added Mike Hedges, a manager at V-TRANS. "We're pretty excited about this."

Eighty bridge projects are in the pipeline over the next year, and the agency plans major roadwork in communities including Bennington, Danville, South Burlington, Cavendish, Brandon and Morristown.

Shumlin added that local communities who pay a portion of the repair bill for town projects will see their share fall from ten to five percent, thanks to the federal cash.

VPR:

Shumlin Signs Record Transportation Budget

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is embarking on a series of highway construction and repair projects that are part of the biggest transportation spending plan in state history.

Gov. Peter Shumlin signed the \$658 million transportation bill Wednesday in Richmond in front of the historic Checkered House Bridge on Route 2. The bridge over the Winooski River is being widened to preserve its historic character.

Shumlin said the state is applying the lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene, such as closing bridges while they are being replaced rather than building expensive temporary spans. Such efforts save time and money.

VTrans Operations Director Scott Rogers said there will be a record number of construction projects. "So we ask that folks please slow down when you approach a work zone, pay attention," Rogers said. "Put down your cell phone. And make the work zone safer for all of us."

Some of the big projects this summer include the completion of the northern leg of the Bennington Bypass and a new truck route around Morrisville. Work will also continue on Route 2 reconstruction in Danville and Route 7 work in Brandon and Pittsford.

Entergy Asks Regulators To Alter Orders Limiting Operations

Entergy Vermont Yankee wants state regulators to change legal rulings that limited its operation to March of this year.

Entergy has approval from the federal government to operate until 2032. But it still needs permission from the Vermont Public Service Board for a new 20-year state license, called a certificate of public good.

The PSB has allowed Entergy to operate its nuclear plant while it reviews the case. But now Entergy wants the board to go back and alter earlier orders that restricted storage of spent fuel, and limited operation to this past March. Entergy said it made the request out of an "abundance of caution."

But Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation says Entergy is going back on earlier commitments. "These orders were based on agreements that Entergy made with the state of Vermont six years ago and a decade ago," Levine said. "Rather than follow those commitments Entergy is now attempting to change the rules of the game."

An Entergy spokesman said the company's legal filings speak for themselves. In documents filed with the board, Entergy said it could not have foreseen that the Legislature would pass a law allowing lawmakers to effectively reject the company's request for a new license extension. In January, a federal judge struck down parts of that law as unconstitutional.

Sorrell Officially Kicks Off Re-election Bid

Incumbent Bill Sorrell formally launched his re-election campaign Wednesday in front of roughly 100 supporters at the Statehouse. Sorrell told the group that he's fought for stronger environmental laws, he's battled the national tobacco companies and he's worked to implement critical consumer protection laws.

If he's re-elected, he says his top priority will be to educate Vermonters about the dangers that exist on the Internet and other forms of social media. "There's a down side to this and thieves, scam artists, those cyber stalkers, those who prey on people young and old, are taking advantage of the web of the Internet to go about their business," Sorrell said.

Donovan is finishing his second term as Chittenden County State's Attorney and he's making the growth of prescription drug abuse his top issue. He says his goal is not necessarily to throw more people in jail but to develop a strategy that combines enforcement, treatment and community services for people who are willing to confront their abuse.

"We've done it at the county level we should do it at the state level. It enhances public safety, it saves taxpayer money," said Donovan. "There's one person in the state who could do it that's the Attorney General. It's not being soft on crime or being tough on crime it's about being smart on crime."

UVM political science professor Garrison Nelson notes that both Sorrell and Donovan come from established political families in Chittenden County and Nelson thinks the two candidates actually agree on most issues.

"It's going to be a style over substance conflict, I think that's really the issue and I think - particularly where both are from the same part of the state - they are not all that dissimilar," said Nelson. "And so consequently style is going to be the operative dimension dividing the two."

Nelson thinks the candidate who campaigns the hardest stands a good chance of winning and he says Sorrell hasn't faced a strong re-election challenge for some time. "You've got basically county fairs and there's going to be a lot of retail campaigning in order to win this race for either gentlemen," said Nelson. "And that's always the issue if you're in office for a long time sometimes your campaign organization is atrophied and you find that you have to scramble."

Both candidates are working hard to receive the endorsements of lawmakers, local officials and former governors to bolster their campaigns.

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:36 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: internship

Okay – I thought I missed something.

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
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To: Spaulding, Susan
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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Need to check status of interns

Okay will do.

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From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: T bill
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:11 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: post

Haha this is sooooo you



Ariel Wengroff
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From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:47:30 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

Just call me Babe Winkleman.

(google him!)

On May 30, 2012, at 11:42 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Ah! Great, you know the lingo!

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Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:40:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

Great. But say "caught a fish on his first cast!"

On May 30, 2012, at 11:17 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

1PM post:

This morning, Gov. Shumlin participated in the 5th Annual Lake Champlain International Governor's Cup, where he caught a fish on the first try! (with photo Sue sent)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: post

Hahahah!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 30, 2012, at 11:47 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Just call me Babe Winkleman.

(google him!)

On May 30, 2012, at 11:42 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Ah! Great, you know the lingo!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

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From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:40:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: post

Just call me Babe Winkleman.

(google him!)

On May 30, 2012, at 11:42 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Ah! Great, you know the lingo!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:40:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:43 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: post

Ah! Great, you know the lingo!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:40:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

Great. But say "caught a fish on his first cast!"

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1PM post:

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:41 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: post

Great. But say "caught a fish on his first cast!"

On May 30, 2012, at 11:17 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

1PM post:

This morning, Gov. Shumlin participated in the 5th Annual Lake Champlain International Governor's Cup, where he caught a fish on the first try! (with photo Sue sent)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Cook, Steve
Subject: Re: Build Up VT

I think it looks fantastic. I was showing Bill and Alex earlier. Going to look at it more thoroughly right now.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Cook, Steve" <Steve.Cook@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 08:34:12 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Build Up VT

<http://www.vermontlife.com/buildupvt/>

So, what do you think so far? We are working on copy now, if you have any thoughts let me know!

Steve

Steve Cook
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing
Vermont Life magazine
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-3516



London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:25 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: With James ehlers
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Philippe R. Trotin
Subject: Re: Pictures from the event at the UVM Billings Library

Hi Philippe,

Absolutely, I will have the camera this afternoon and then I can send you the pictures.

Thanks so much,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Philippe R. Trotin" <Philippe@fcidc.com>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:15:23 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Pictures from the event at the UVM Billings Library

Good morning Ariel:

I was wondering if you could forward me the pictures you took from the Canadian group after the governor's speech. The pictures were taken in the buffet's room.

Thank you,

Philippe

Philippe R. Trotin
Directeur Marketing International

philippe@fcidc.com
www.fcidc.com

FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

USA: 802-524-2194
2 North Main Street
St. Albans, VT 05478-1099

CAN: 800-499-2194
161 Oneida Drive

Pointe Claire, Quebec H9R 1A9

CEL: 802-922-3928

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: talking points

Hey Lady,

Would you forward me the Gov's talking points for the Lake Champlain event? Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: post

1PM post:

This morning, Gov. Shumlin participated in the 5th Annual Lake Champlain International Governor's Cup, where he caught a fish on the first try! (with photo Sue sent)

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109 State Street
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London, Sarah

From: Philippe R. Trotin <Philippe@fcidc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Pictures from the event at the UVM Billings Library

Good morning Ariel:

I was wondering if you could forward me the pictures you took from the Canadian group after the governor's speech. The pictures were taken in the buffet's room.

Thank you,

Philippe

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philippe@fcidc.com
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Pointe Claire, Quebec H9R 1A9

CEL: 802-922-3928

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Caught fish on first try!

Awesome!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/30/12 11:12 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>
>

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Caught fish on first try!
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Allen, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: !

"Sultanas integrate their experiences with the power of love," she writes. "They are luminous. Mosaics. Tapestries. Is it a club? A movement? A product line? Time will tell. And I, for one, look forward to finding out. Evasive? Not intentionally. We are at a moment of evolution, but no one knows exactly where we are beginning that process."

<http://www.7dvt.com/2012so-long-sultana-sen-hinda-miller-stages-her-exit>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

Okay perfect, thanks Janis
Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:07:39 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

I will wait for these forms [REDACTED] so I can submit all of them to Public Safety at the same time (with Heather Hamm's).

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

I actually have calls into all of them today to confirm different dates. I also need to bring you [REDACTED] form today and get you [REDACTED] as well.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:04:30 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>

Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Am I to assume that [REDACTED] are no longer considerations of interns? Just let me know.

From: Carrier, Janis

Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:51 AM

To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh

Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Another intern cleared, sorry this took so long -- I think it got lost in the shuffle of many forms. [REDACTED] now cleared too. I don't believe I have any pending but if you think otherwise please let me know.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Carrier, Janis

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:35 AM

To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh

Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Morning,

We will be hiring any of the interns cleared below? Just looking for an update to see if I need to submit any workorders to DII.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
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Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

Haha yes they do

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:07:16 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

They all sound like excellent softball players.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

I actually have calls into all of them today to confirm different dates. I also need to bring you [REDACTED] form today and get you [REDACTED] as well.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:04:30 -0400
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[REDACTED]

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Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

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Janis Carrier
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Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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From: Wengroff, Ariel
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To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

I actually have calls into all of them today to confirm different dates. I also need to bring you [REDACTED] form today and get you [REDACTED]'s as well.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 11:04:30 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
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London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

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From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Re: Interns Cleared

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Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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From: "Carrier, Janis" <janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
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Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

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London, Sarah

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

True dat

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:41:42 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE:

Aw that song is niceee

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

Hokay

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:26:12 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE:

That is exactly what I mean !

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

What do you mean?

If you need to tell her that I handle social media you can say I'm a Special Assistant which includes being the Social Media Director or you can tell her I do Communications. I don't care

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:22:46 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: RE:

Can I tell her that you are the social media coordinator?

From: Wengroff, Ariel

Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:03 AM

To: Roessle, Drusilla

Subject: Re:

No prob!

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:02:39 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: RE:

Awesome!! Thank you!

From: Wengroff, Ariel

Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:02 AM

To: Roessle, Drusilla

Subject: Re:

Yes, Betsy got it to me. We did one tweet on it and will probably do another one to push the video this week.

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:01:27 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Ari, did this ever get your way?

Hi Governor Shumlin! My name is Stephanie Lynn and I am a singer-songwriter who grew up in Montpelier. I have been working with Betsy Ides and the Vermont Long Term Recovery Group to use a music video to raise money for VT flood relief through ad revenue every time the video is watched. Betsy said that you were going to tweet (I am @GmMountainGrl) or post about the video and so I thought I would follow up with you to urge you to please help get the word out. Here is the video: <http://youtu.be/xdHaUIOugxQ>
I wrote the song inspired by the spirit and strength of Vermonters coming together to rebuild after the storm. I have been working hard to get it out there and already there has been an article in the Times Argus and Magic Hat brewery and Ben & Jerrys have tweeted the video. Any help you can do in sharing this video would be amazing.

Please feel free to contact me directly or you can contact my music label rep in Los Angeles, David Franz at Underground Sun: [REDACTED]

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Stephanie

www.greenmountaingirl.com

@GmMountainGrl

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

True dat

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:41:42 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Am I to assume that [REDACTED] are no longer considerations of interns? Just let me know.

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:51 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Another intern cleared, sorry this took so long -- I think it got lost in the shuffle of many forms. [REDACTED] now cleared too. I don't believe I have any pending but if you think otherwise please let me know.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Carrier, Janis; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Interns Cleared

Morning,
We will be hiring any of the interns cleared below? Just looking for an update to see if I need to submit any workorders to DII.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

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To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: post

Thanks!

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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:33:52 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

Great

On May 30, 2012, at 10:24 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Okayyyy – How about:

Infographic:

Taking Action:

Vermont has more than 100 grassroots citizen-led town energy committees that are working with state agencies to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and such clean sources of sustainable energy as solar, geothermal, biomass and wind.

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From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:21:14 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

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On May 30, 2012, at 10:16 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Infographic:

From the Spring floods to Tropical Storm Irene to yesterday's storms, Vermont will only continue to see unpredictable weather in its future. In order to mitigate the impact of climate change, we cannot move fast enough to lead the nation towards a renewable energy future.

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To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Wengroff, Ariel; Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: FW: VEM Duty Officer Report
Attachments: VEM Duty Officer Report 5-30-12.pdf

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Bornemann, Erica
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 9:39 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] VEM Duty Officer Report

Good Morning,
Please find Bob Weinert's Duty Officer Report attached. A brief narrative is provided below. Thank you.
-Erica

Erica Bornemann, MPA
Emergency Management Program Specialist
Vermont Emergency Management
103 South Main St.
Waterbury VT, 05671
800-347-0488



Please note my new email address: erica.bornemann@state.vt.us

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DAILY SITUATION REPORT
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

CURRENT SITUATION:

Duty Officer: Bob Weinert
Report Covers: 5/29/2012 0700 hrs to 5/30/2012 0700 hrs
Next Scheduled Report: 5/31/2012 0830 hrs

VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS: Level 2

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- 80 gallon diesel fuel spill in Randolph

NON-HAZMAT RELATED INCIDENTS:

- Severe storms impacted much of the state yesterday. The State EOC activated to a Level 2 in the late afternoon and through the evening in order to respond to potential requests for assistance. Several Flash Flood Warnings and Tornado Warnings were issued as the storms moved through the state.
 - Power outages reached approximately 3,500 and 150 outages remain today as restoration continues.
 - Several roads were closed due to high water, trees down and washouts. The roads that remain closed are as follows (as reported to VEM)
 - Shoreham
 - Buttolph Road – Closed at south end, open at north end
 - Quiet Valley – Closed to the south (by the bridge)
 - Shackboro Road – Closed to the north (by the bridge)
 - Lowell
 - Irish Hill Road – Closed
 - Cheney Road – Closed
 - Valley Road – Closed
 - Rickaby Road – Closed
 - Mines Road – barely passable.
 - Cornwall
 - Clark Road – Closed. Should be repaired next week.
 - Belvidere
 - Smithville Rd - Town Highway working on it today.
 - The towns of Cambridge and Montpelier opened their EOCs for a short period in the evening (closed by 1900hrs)
 - Fires due to lightning strikes were reported in Barre, Montpelier, and Mt. Holly as the storms passed across the state during the day and into the evening..
 - National Weather Service in Burlington will be surveying flooding damage in Northern Lamoille county area (Belvidere). They will also seek to confirm whether a tornado touched down in the town of Albany.
- State EOC recovery operation continues due to Tropical Storm Irene. A major disaster was declared on September 1, 2011 for the State of Vermont. All counties are included for Public Assistance and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties have been included for Individual Assistance.

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS:

WEATHER:

[National Weather Service Burlington](#)

[National Weather Service Albany](#)

[Local Weather](#)

VERMONT HIGHWAYS:

[Vermont Road Traveler Information Service](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY

[DHS Website for Threat Levels](#)

[Vermont Homeland Security Website](#)

RIVER FLOW INFORMATION:

[Northeast River Forecast Center](#)

[USGS Daily Flow Condition](#)

[NWS Self Briefing Page](#)

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Thank you so much for helping to share the video!
Stephanie
www.greenmountaingirl.com
@GrnMountainGrl

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:25 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: post

Okayyyy – How about:

Infographic:

Taking Action:

Vermont has more than 100 grassroots citizen-led town energy committees that are working with state agencies to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and such clean sources of sustainable energy as solar, geothermal, biomass and wind.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:21:14 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: post

I hear you but I think it's too much of a stretch to tie this to yesterday's storms.

On May 30, 2012, at 10:16 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Infographic:

From the Spring floods to Tropical Storm Irene to yesterday's storms, Vermont will only continue to see unpredictable weather in its future. In order to mitigate the impact of climate change, we cannot move fast enough to lead the nation towards a renewable energy future.

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Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE:

Can I tell her that you are the social media coordinator?

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:03 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

No prob!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:02:39 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE:

Awesome!! Thank you!

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

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From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 10:01:27 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

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London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: heya baby

Hey lady!

So Leigh is being incredibly accommodating and letting me take the day off tomorrow for the move. Are you comfortable with my telling him that if he needs you to come help at some point, that you're okay with that? I'm asking you: would you be able to step out if Leigh needs an extra hand on deck? He's a lone star, so probably he'll be fine, but I thought I would ask you in an effort to help cover the bases.

What do you think?

Thank you,
Dru

Drusilla Roessle
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London, Sarah

From: Cook, Steve
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 8:34 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Build Up VT

<http://www.vermontlife.com/buildupvt/>

So, what do you think so far? We are working on copy now, if you have any thoughts let me know!

Steve

Steve Cook

Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing
Vermont Life magazine
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-3516



London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: FW: Storm Summary

From: Recovery Support Function Leads [mailto:SSF_RSF_LEADS@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Bornemann, Erica
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 8:05 PM
To: DPS - SSF_RSF_LEADS
Subject: [SSF_RSF_LEADS] Storm Summary

Good Evening,

A summary of this afternoon and evening's storms.

After a round of early morning thunderstorms that brought a couple of inches of rain to some parts of the state, the National Weather Service issued Flash Flood Watches for this afternoon and evening in anticipation of another round of storms. This afternoon a Tornado Watch was added. Soon after the watch was issued storms travelled from New York and made their way from west to east across the state. Several Tornado Warnings were issued across Northern Vermont (Franklin, Orleans, Northern Lamoille and Caledonia counties) as well as some in Rutland and Windham counties. Representatives from the National weather Service will assess tomorrow whether tornados actually occurred. The storms brought large hail in some areas (multiple reports in Franklin, Addison, Rutland and Orleans counties) as well as locally heavy rain and downed trees in others. The cloud-to-ground lightning caused a few fires. The towns of Cambridge and Montpelier opened their emergency operations centers in response to the storms. There were approximately 3,500 power outages due to the storms and restoration efforts by the utilities are continuing as long as they can be safely accomplished. The SEOC activated to a Level 2 at 1430 hours and downgraded to a Level 1 as of 2000 hours. There were no requests for assistance made to the State EOC. The VEM Duty Officer will continue to monitor any additional developments throughout the remainder of the night.

The cumulative road closures from flash flooding as reported are below.

Shoreham
Route 74 at VT 22A
Webster Road
Cutting Hill Road
Buttolph Road
Quiet Way
Shackboro Road
Doolittle Road

Lowell
Hazen's Notch Road between North Road and VT 58
VT Route 100 near Mink Farm Rd. (re-opened)
Intersection of VT 100 and 58 (re-opened)

Ripton
Route 125

Cornwall

Route 74 by Evergreen Cemetery

Route 30 near swamp road flooded

Shaftsbury

Tree down blocking Daniels Rd

Tree down blocking 1/2 of Airport road

Tree down blocking all of 7A

Dorset

Route 7 tree down blocking one lane by Emerald Lake

Albany

VT 14 between North Craftsbury Rd. and Vermont 58

Erica Bornemann, MPA

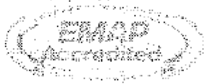
Emergency Management Program Specialist

Vermont Emergency Management

103 South Main St.

Waterbury VT, 05671

800-347-0488



Please note my new email address: erica.bornemann@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 7:25 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: First Post

Sure

On May 30, 2012, at 7:20 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Just posted:
>
> Gov. Shumlin will be on WVNR/WNYV Radio at 7:45 this morning. Tune in and share your thoughts!
>
> Ariel Wengroff
> Special Assistant to the Governor
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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 6:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Wind farm proposed for Lake Champlain?

BY CANDY PAGE

At first glance, the website looks like the real thing — an announcement, complete with visual simulation, of a multi-turbine wind farm looming large on the waters of Lake Champlain.

"Twenty to 40 turbines... powering 80,000 homes in Chittenden County ... payments of more than \$1 million to area towns," the website, www.champlainwindpark.com, promises.

The site looks so real some Burlington Electric Department employees wondered for a moment whether they were out of the loop on a wind proposal in the city's backyard.

Nope.

Champlain Wind Park is a figment of Annette Smith's imagination, created to suggest that Chittenden County residents should consider what it would mean to have windmills — 450 feet high to the top of their turning blades — in their backyard.

Smith leads Vermonters for a Clean Environment, and is a dedicated opponent of wind energy projects on the state's mountaintops. She believes industrial wind turbines damage human health and wreck the ridgeline environment. That conclusion is challenged by wind developers and has not prevailed with the state Public Service Board, which has permitted four utility-scale ridgetop wind farms.

"Chittenden County — that's where the majority of people in favor of windpower live. It's not in their backyard, they don't have to look at it or live with it, they just get power from Burlington Electric," she said.

The city electric department buys 16 megawatts of power from a new wind development in Sheffield, about 40 percent of the project's output. BED will buy all the power, 10 megawatts, from a wind development going up on Georgia Mountain in Milton and is considering a 15 megawatt purchase from a proposed wind farm on Grandpa's Knob outside Rutland.

"This is part of our commitment to our clean energy future," BED spokesman Mary Sullivan said. "We like to buy local, we like to buy renewable and wind really fits into our large power portfolio."

Reaction to Champlain Wind Park might not be exactly what Smith hoped. The first email she received through a link on the website came from a utility company employee who applauded the idea of putting turbines on the lake.

(Page 2 of 2)

Sullivan, too, said "I personally would be fine provided a wind project on the lake was economically viable." She noted that BED does generate power in its own backyard, at the McNeil biomass plant in the Burlington Intervale.

Landscape architect Julie Campoli had a different reaction, saying the fake website may not accurately portray how large turbines in the lake would look from the waterfront, a point Smith concedes.

"Images are very powerful," Campoli, a supporter of wind energy, said. "What I got from the picture was that the turbines are enormous — the photograph is so negative. It's not necessarily accurate. I was concerned it could influence how people feel about wind turbines."

Smith said she hopes that is exactly what happens.

"I hope the website makes people stop and think and go and do their homework, and see what the issues are with wind," she said.

Spectrum opens new Burlington shelter for youths

Spectrum Youth and Family Services today will celebrate its new residence for youths at risk of becoming homeless.

The residence at 177 Pearl St. in Burlington replaces the old housing on Maple Street. The project has eight units and is located just upstairs from Spectrum's drop-in center and next to its shelter.

"Opening this new residence is something we have been working toward and planning on for over a year," Spectrum Executive Director Mark Redmond said.

He said the Maple Street center had impressive results, with 92 percent of residents leaving and moving on to stable housing. The Pearl Street residence will offer assistance finding employment, returning to school and learning independent living skills.

The shelter provides an element of stability for displaced young people. It is not uncommon for some teens to go to school during the day while sleeping at the shelter at night.

Money for the new residence came from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Vermont's Department of Children and Families, the Burlington Housing Authority, and several private donors and foundations.

Redmond said the cost of the new residence amounted to roughly \$260,000.

Youths who stay at the residences are typically there for about a year. Roughly a dozen youths stay at the residence each year, he said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 6:01 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:

VTDIGGER:

Vermont Yankee: Entergy asks PSB to change previous decisions; Conduit seal missing during inspection

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

Entergy Corp., the owner of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, has asked the Vermont Public Service Board to change its past decisions.

In a filing Friday, the Louisiana company asked the state energy regulatory board to modify conditions in orders from 2002 and 2006 that would prohibit the plant from operating past March 21, 2012, without a new license.

The board is allowing the plant to operate during the relicensing proceeding, but state laws and board orders say the plant cannot operate or store spent nuclear fuel after that date without a new license.

Entergy is embroiled with the state on multiple legal fronts as it attempts to renew its license with the Vermont Public Service Board. A federal judge issued the company a favorable decision earlier this year, finding state laws requiring legislative approval for the plant to continue operating violated the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Both the state and Entergy appealed that decision to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Meanwhile, Entergy is also asking for a renewed certificate of public good to continue operating in the state.

Entergy says conditions in the older dockets that say the plant cannot operate beyond March 21, 2012, without a new license or store spent nuclear fuel produced after that date should be changed "to prevent hardship and injustice."

Entergy argues that it would be unfair if the state penalized it for operating outside the bounds of state law, especially when those orders came out before the state passed laws that ended in a legislative veto of the plant's relicensing.

"Entergy VY had no reason to expect in 2002 or 2006 that the State would engage in efforts to delay or prevent approval of operations after March 21, 2012," the company's filing states.

The filing also states that it was the Legislature's fault that Entergy was unable to get a new license by the March 21 date, when its old one expired. In February 2010, the Vermont Senate voted against allowing the Public Service Board to consider relicensing the plant. That decision was based on a law that a federal judge found unconstitutional.

"It would be especially unfair to punish Entergy VY for these delays given that they stemmed from Vermont statutes that have now been found (by the District Court) to be preempted by federal law or enjoined," the filing reads.

A spokesman for Entergy said the company would let Friday's filing speak for itself.

Sandra Levine, senior attorney at the Conservation Law Foundation in Vermont, said Entergy is trying to go back on its word.

The requirements that Entergy wants to change are based on agreements they entered into with the State of Vermont, Levine said.

"Rather than abide by its commitments, Entergy is seeking to change the rules to allow it to do whatever it wants," she said.

She said the company knew 10 years ago when it bought the plant that there was no guarantee of its operation beyond March, when its license expired.

Elizabeth Miller, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service, said her department is currently reviewing the filing and plans to respond within the time frame the board sets.

The department, which represents ratepayers before the Public Service Board, has taken the position that the plant can operate under state law while the relicensing process is ongoing.

The plant will continue to operate on its expired license well into 2013. Final briefs are due in August 2013.

Inspection finds conduit seal missing at Vermont Yankee

The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant has replaced a missing conduit seal between an outside manhole and an interior switchgear room.

The seal is designed to prevent water from entering the gear room and causing issues with the plant's electrical system.

According to Vermont Yankee spokesman Rob Williams, the missing seal came to light during an inspection. Williams said plant operators replaced the seal and are checking other conduits.

Advocates for shutting the plant down say a missing seal could result in failing safety components in the event of heavy rain or snowmelt.

Raymond Shadis, technical adviser to the New England Coalition, a group that opposes the plant's continued operation, said in the worst case scenario flooding of the plant's underground wiring system could result in a short circuit and potential blackout.

"The issue is flooding from storm runoff, like rain or snowmelt, of the conduit system," Shadis said.

According to a report to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the incident, "internal flooding of both Switchgear Rooms could possibly affect (a.)safe shutdown, (b.)removal of decay heat, (c.)control of release of radioactive material and (d.)mitigating an accident."

Williams said the plant is situated well above the Connecticut River, which it borders, and it is well-drained. He said the plant had no issues during Tropical Storm Irene. Williams said when there are flooding events, people are assigned to look for leakage at the plant and have a pump available.

Shadis said he has concerns that if water was able to penetrate some of the electrical system, there could be issues with operating cooling pumps or controls for the reactor.

"This is a very serious issue for Vermont Yankee," Shadis said. "What we don't know is how long the plant operated in this condition."

On March 5, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an annual assessment letter finding the Vermont Yankee plant was operating at a satisfactory level according to its performance indicators.

"The NRC determined that overall, Vermont Yankee operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives," the letter states.

Shadis said his group is concerned that the NRC report only reflects an inspection of 5 to 10 percent of the facility and its operations, and does not guarantee the entire plant is operating safely.

At a meeting last week in Brattleboro when federal officials came to discuss the annual assessment, protesters disrupted the meeting.

The plant has also experienced problems with its steam condenser, which turns heated steam that spins the plant's turbines back into water.

Trail Tidbits: Early birds file; Illuzzi moves from mulling AG race to auditor; Senate races in Chittenden County heat up

BY TAYLOR DOBBS

For some, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer, but in Vermont politics, it's when the campaign season begins in earnest. With politicians stacking up en masse at parades around the state, the games have begun.

Tuesday morning opened a two-week window in which candidates can submit their petitions to be added to the ballot. No new candidates can enter a race after June 14.

Five candidates filed petitions on Tuesday: Attorney General William Sorrell, Cris Ericson (running for the United States Marijuana Party for both U.S. Senate and governor), H. Brook Paige, a Republican for U.S. Senate, Peta Lindsay from the Socialism & Liberation Party entered a petition for president. Randy Brock, a Republican state senator, submitted 1,028 signatures for his gubernatorial run.

"This is the first step, it shows that the campaign season is heating up and we're ready to move forward," Brock said. "We have all the signatures that we need – in fact more than twice the number that we need. Our consent form is filed, and so our campaign is moving full steam ahead."

Brock said he is "going anywhere and everywhere throughout the state," campaigning. Fundraising, he said is "going well," but he didn't elaborate. "You'll see on the 15th of July when we do our first report," he said.

Brock is the only candidate to formally announce a gubernatorial run so far, and he says he isn't centering his efforts on Shumlin — at least at this juncture. "I'm focusing on what I need to do rather than what the governor is doing," Brock said.

Gov. Peter Shumlin has insisted for months that he won't begin his re-election bid until after Labor Day, and he has been loathe to acknowledge that he has spent any money or hired campaign staff. Shumlin's approach to this election season is in stark contrast to his bid in 2010 when he narrowly defeated contenders in the five-way Democratic primary and ended up squeaking to the finish line past Republican Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie.

As an incumbent now, with a large lead in the polls, Shumlin can perhaps afford to put off the fight. The governor traverses the state with great frequency, engaging in the kind of retail politics his predecessor, Gov. Jim Douglas, a Republican, was famous for. The glad-handing as a form of governing appears to make the kind of aggressive, on-the-ground campaigning typical of a first run at the Fifth Floor unnecessary.

The pols come marching in

While many Vermonters enjoyed a three-day Memorial Day weekend, Vermont's politicians were hard at work. The Essex parade on Saturday drew Gov. Peter Shumlin, Sen. Randy Brock, Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Secretary of State Jim Condos and others. Brock was especially busy over the weekend — he marched in the Essex, Middlebury and Vergennes parades.

Shumlin also made an appearance at the Vergennes parade, where he posed for photos with attorney general candidate TJ Donovan.

Donovan's campaign announced Tuesday that the Vermont Troopers Association endorsed the Chittenden County state's attorney in his run for attorney general. Campaign spokesman Jay Els said this is the first time the troopers have ever endorsed a candidate for attorney general since they started endorsing politicians in the 1990s. The Vermont Troopers Association was not reachable for comment Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Sen. Vince Illuzzi, R/D-Essex-Orleans, has abandoned his bid as a Republican candidate for attorney general. He is circulating petitions for the state auditor's race now that Tom Salmon, the incumbent Republican, has dropped out. Still, Illuzzi is cagey about whether he is running for auditor as he says he hasn't completely ruled out a run for his Senate seat.

Why the big shift from AG to auditor? Illuzzi says his skills as a prosecutor (he's state's attorney for Essex County) could come in handy — since the auditor's role is to investigate state finances. "It's a question of where would my experience best lead me and is there a realistic opportunity that I could run for and win the office?"

Another factor? Illuzzi said it would have been difficult to challenge Sorrell on the grounds he lost three cases trying to represent laws passed by the General Assembly involving campaign finance limits, a prohibition on sales of prescription drug information and the Legislature's unwillingness to allow Entergy to continue operating Vermont Yankee beyond the life of its original permit — because he has been a member of the Legislature for 32 years.

Several Senate races start to take shape

Former Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss is launching a run as an independent for state Senate. Kiss says he has just begun collecting signatures and he plans to soon appoint a treasurer and get the campaign under way before a late-June trip to the Grand Canyon.

Kiss faced criticism as Burlington's mayor after the Burlington Telecom scandal, but says his six years in that office left a positive legacy in the city.

"I think, by and large, that Burlington was a success story," he said.

On the issues, Kiss says he wants to focus on moving single-payer health care forward, keeping a sustainable budget and affordable housing.

Kiss hopes to take the open seat left by Hinda Miller, D-Chittenden, who is retiring from the Senate this year.

One of Kiss' challengers in the open six-member district will be a new contender — Burlington City Council member Ed Adrian, who works as an attorney for the Secretary of State.

GOP lacks statewide options

Vermont GOP chairman Jack Lindley said on Tuesday there are only three Republican candidates he knows of who are running for state office: Randy Brock for governor and Wendy Wilton for treasurer. Republican Lt. Gov. Phil Scott will run for his seat again.

"The next three weeks, obviously, we'll know what the total picture will be," he said. But right now, with only two known candidates for statewide office — Lindley hadn't heard from Sen. Vince Illuzzi, who is considering a run for auditor, or Jack McMullen, a prominent Burlington businessman the AP reports is trying to put together a campaign for attorney general — the GOP turns to the Legislature for a glint of hope.

Lindley said he was "very pleased" with Republican candidates for the state Legislature, and "the statewide races will fall into place as time goes on."

Correction: We originally reported that there were two Republican candidates for statewide office, inadvertently omitting Phil Scott, the incumbent candidate for lieutenant governor.

McClaughry: Vermont's \$3 billion problem

Editor's note: John McClaughry is vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute.

Three billion dollars is about six times the state of Vermont's total bonded debt. It's also what the state owes to the retired state employees and teachers covered by the two state retirement funds, including their post-retirement health care benefits. This \$3 billion — the unfunded liability — is above and beyond what the Legislature has already funded to meet those obligations.

This is an enormous debt — \$4,830 for every man, woman and child in the state. Whose fault is it? It's the fault of legislators and governors of both parties stretching far back into the past. Long years ago legislatures and governors established state-managed pension plans for state employees (1944) and public school teachers (1947). The two plans require contributions from future beneficiaries and from taxpayers. The plans promise defined benefits on the future day when the beneficiaries reach certain ages and accumulate sufficient years of service and then retire. The two state retirement plan management boards, supervised by the treasurer, hired fund managers to manage and grow the money until it would be paid out. They also hired actuaries to compute how much the Legislature had to appropriate each year to make sure there would be enough in the funds to make the defined future payments.

So far so good. But a latent peril of the funding system was the fact that the annual required contributions came to a very large number in the appropriations bill. When revenues were scarce, and other spending demands more popular, legislators shaved the pension fund contributions to reach a supposedly balanced budget. That of course pushed the fund's accrued deficit further into the red.

David Coates CPA has watchdogged the status of Vermont's retirement funds for a long time, as a member of the Commission on the Design and Funding of Retirement and Retiree Health Benefit Plans for State Employees and Teachers (CDFRRHBPSET!). In a recent commentary for the Vermont Business Roundtable, Coates laid out the dimensions of Vermont's current problem.

The unfunded pension liabilities for state employees and teachers now total \$1.2 billion. The unfunded retiree health benefits promised to state employees and teachers total \$1.8 billion. That adds to \$3 billion — \$4,830 for every man, woman and child in Vermont.

The unfunded pension liabilities for state employees and teachers now total \$1.2 billion. The unfunded retiree health benefits promised to state employees and teachers total \$1.8 billion. That adds to \$3 billion — \$4,830 for every man, woman and child in Vermont.

These numbers were as of mid-2011. Two years prior to that date, the total was \$2.7 billion. In just two years, despite appropriations, the total liabilities increased by \$300 million. In the year since it is likely that the deficits have increased yet further.

A further disappointing fact is that the great bulk of the Vermont retiree post-employment health benefits are "pay as you go." The Legislature appropriates around 40 percent of the annual required contribution for state employee health benefits.

The teachers' health benefits are not funded at all. Whatever is needed to pay retired teachers' benefits is simply subtracted from their retirement fund assets, driving that fund \$24 million further out of whack.

In fairness, the state has in recent years created an additional fund for the purpose of paying down the shortfall in the primary fund. This effort to catch up with years of irresponsibility shows some good faith, but ultimately fiscal solvency can only be achieved by making the annual required contributions to the respective funds.

The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) prescribes the way in which governments present their financial condition. GASB is on the verge of requiring state and municipal governments to tell the whole truth about their unfunded retirement benefit obligations. This will, nationally, suddenly drag \$3 trillion of buried liabilities into the daylight.

Kevin Williamson, writing in National Review (May 5, 2012), observes that "pension funding costs already are a significant and growing share of state and local spending. That means that taxpayers right now are going to have to bear higher taxes or reduced services (or both) in exchange for precisely nothing."

If the state of Vermont launches a government-run single payer health care plan — Green Mountain Care — in 2017, it will have to raise well over \$1 billion in new taxes to finance its benefits. It is

frankly impossible to imagine that the Legislature will ever be able to do that, and also come to grips with today's horrendous retirement liability shortfalls.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Care for a Stroll? Five day festival features more than just parade of cows

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- This year's Strolling of the Heifers will feature plenty of parading cows, but the ever-expanding five day festival will also include racing goats, biking environmentalists, swinging trapeze artists and even a NASCAR race car.

The first official event will be held Wednesday, at 3 p.m., at the Marlboro Graduate School, when this year's Windham Regional Business Plan winners will be announced.

Both existing, and proposed, businesses, in both agriculture and food, and general business will share in \$60,000 in prize money.

The Slow Living Summit, with dozens of national speakers taking on issues of economics, media, agriculture and spirituality kicks off Wednesday night and goes through Friday.

Talks are scheduled around Brattleboro, and the plenary sessions at the Latchis Theatre are open to the public by donation.

For more information go to www.slowlivingsummit.org.

The town will begin to get primed Friday night when a portion of Main Street is closed for Gallery Walk.

There will be no vehicles allowed between Elliot and High Streets as the road will be turned over to jugglers, skate board riders, fashionistas and a magician.

A stage will be set up near the River Garden, and after a 5:30 fashion show highlighting the collection at Twice Upon a Time, there will be free music starting at 6:15 and including two BUHS a cappella groups.

Final judging of this year's New England Bread Baking Competition will be held inside the River Garden and Gov. Peter Shumlin and Sen. Bernie Sanders will announce the winners at around 7 p.m. from the stage.

Also at Gallery Walk Friday, a month-long exhibit at three venues will open which will feature farm-inspired art with a portion of the proceeds going toward Strolling of the Heifers Farm/Food Business Plan Competition Fund.

Works Bakery and Cafe and A Candle in the Night in downtown Brattleboro, and The Marina Restaurant off of Putney Road, will all feature works by local artists who have been inspired by Vermont's agricultural landscape and barnyard animals.

The art work is for sale and will be up throughout the month of June.

Saturday starts early with Pete and Gerry's Organic eggs serving breakfast on the Common at 7 a.m. Parade goers are encouraged to get a good seat along Main Street early.

The 11th annual Stroll starts at 10 a.m. and will include almost 100 heifer calves who will lead the parade, joined by two Scottish Highland's, two mules, two donkeys, two baby goats and four alpacas. Dozens of Brattleboro organizations will follow the animals toward the Brattleboro Common and on to the Brattleboro Retreat gate.

The animals will gather on the Common and the annual Celebrity Milking Contest will be held.

The heifers will also compete for the honor of being named this year's Miss Vermont.

After the parade there will be 11 acres of music, cheese and yogurt tasting, sustainability demonstrations and exhibits at the Live Green Expo on the Common and the Brattleboro Retreat campus.

Along with free samples and plenty of food for sale, there will be goat racing, a crafts village, an antique tractor show, four stages of entertainment, and even a NASCAR exhibit near the corner of Linden Street and Park Place.

The important role that forestry plays in Vermont agriculture will be honored at a special forestry exhibit on the Brattleboro Common, where exhibits and demonstrations about forestry, logging, conservation, invasive species and more will be held throughout the afternoon.

On Sunday The Chelsea Royal Diner on Route 9 will once again offer its Royal Farmers' Feast from 7 a.m. to noon, featuring Vermont and organic products.

Money raised at the breakfast will be contributed to the Strolling of the Heifers Educational Fund.

The second annual Tour de Heifer takes off from Lilac Ridge Farm in West Brattleboro throughout the day Sunday.

The 60 mile ride leaves at 8 a.m., the 30 miler begins at 10 a.m. and the 10 mile ride starts at 10:30 a.m.

All of the rides travel over some of Windham County's most picturesque roads with views of farms, fields, covered bridges and historic villages.

Lunch is included in the registration fee and money raised on the ride goes toward the Strolling of the Heifers Farm/Food Business Plan Competition.

Riders can register online at www.bikereg.com/Net/15508, or at the starting locations prior to the rides.

The Farm, Food and Fiber tour will feature 31 locations which will be open to visitors all day, and will highlight the farmers and food producers who call southeastern Vermont home.

Cheese makers, beef cattle farmers, vegetable growers, wine makers and weavers will open their farms and studios to visitors.

A full listing of the sites, and more information about everything taking place over the next five days, can be found at www.strollingoftheheifers.com.

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Former DMV worker pleads guilty to felony embezzlement and forgery charges BY KEITH WHITCOMB JR.

BENNINGTON -- A former Department of Motor Vehicles worker was given a suspended and deferred sentence for his role in a scheme that involved what a prosecutor described as "international gangsters."

Marvin C. Bourn, 53, of Shaftsbury, pleaded guilty to a felony count of embezzlement, four felony counts of authoring a forged vehicle title, and one misdemeanor count of making false statements on a vehicle title. The state dropped four counts of the latter type of charge.

According to an affidavit by DMV Investigator Mary McIntyre, in October 2011 she began investigation the DMV office in Bennington because a number of registration and title applications from there had incomplete, inaccurate, or missing information. One involved information from a Bennington inspection station that does not exist.

McIntyre said the paperwork involved four vehicles, all from New York: A 2004 Acura, 2001 Volkswagen Beetle, 2007 Acura, and a 2004 Audi. She said she sent civil tickets to each owner to see if one could tell her who authored each one's paperwork. She said she was eventually contacted by Vladimir Kravchenya, 29, owner of the 2004 Audi.

He said he tried to register his car in New York, but had difficulty, and so went through a man he knew as "Venny," who could do it in Vermont where the process is easier. He said he gave Venny \$842 for the registration and \$642 for the "Vermont tax," plus \$200 for Venny's fee. They never met in person, money and paper changing hands by being left in a car.

McIntyre said Bourn was interviewed about the four questionable titles he processed and was able to identify Venny as Veniamin Skorobogach, 19, of Frankfort, N.Y.

McIntyre wrote that she confronted Bourn with her suspicion that Skorobogach was scamming people by inflating the cost of what it took to get a Vermont registration and that she believed Bourn was getting a cut. Bourn said he was given \$10 once, and then one time Skorobogach left \$5. He said he tried to slip him more, but he always refused.

Bourn's attorney, Stephen Saltonstall, said some of that money went to an office pool used for coffee and doughnuts. He said Bourn felt threatened by Skorobogach and was being used as a "patsy."

Deputy State's Attorney Robert Plunkett agreed that Bourn's role in the scheme was the least of it. He said Skorobogach, after being contacted by police, went to Ukraine, but has since returned. An arrest warrant has been issued for him.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 5:50 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Single-payer forum seeks public input

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

MONTPELIER — In a public hearing being aired on interactive television sites across the state this week, Vermonters will tell the Shumlin administration what kinds of health care benefits they want in a single-payer system scheduled to come online by 2017.

Robin Lunge, director of health care reform, said the hearing, to be held from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, will help give her office the information it needs to craft a universal benefits package.

"It's really just a chance for people to tell us anything they think we should know about what's important to them," Lunge said. "We're interested to hear what they think should be covered, what shouldn't be covered, and really hear any input they have."

Many of the most important decisions have already been made. Existing laws in Vermont mandate minimum thresholds that all insurance plans must meet, and the Legislature last year stipulated that the single-payer plan will provide benefits at least as robust as those offered in Catamount Health.

But policymakers face some potentially costly decisions about whether dental, vision or mental health care services will be included in the benefits package.

"The things that are often neglected by insurance plans are usually from the neck up," says Dr. Deb Richter, founder of the nonprofit group Vermont for Single Payer. "If people think taking care of teeth, eyes and the mind are important to maintaining health, then they really should be involved in this process of determining what gets covered."

Jeffrey Wennberg, executive director of the anti-single-payer group Vermonters for Health Care Freedom, said it's "ridiculous" to assemble a health care wish list before government knows how much money it has to spend on prospective benefit plans.

He and other members of his organization will use the forum Thursday to urge administration officials to reconsider the single-payer proposal altogether, or at least solve the financing puzzle before embarking on a plan design.

"It just seems completely backwards. How can you ask people to participate in this kind of exercise when you have no idea how much money you have to spend," Wennberg said. "To suggest we should all go out and fantasize, and assume this is a perfect world and we can fund anything we want, is ridiculous. Let's get some reasonable answers about our financial constraints, and then look

at our options within those limits."

Cassandra Gekas, health care advocate for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, said it's Wennberg who's putting the cart before the horse.

"It's really important that as we go through this planning process we build a list of priorities together, and use that as the basis for the discussion about how we're going to pay for it," Gekas said. "We need to figure out what we need to keep Vermonters happy and healthy and prosperous, and then look at financing."

Gekas said achieving public health goals might mean including services outside the scope of conventional insurance plans. Including things like chiropractic care or appointments with nutritionists, Gekas said, could expand the scope of benefits but lower overall health costs in the long run.

Peter Sterling, executive director of Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security, said it's not just about what's in the benefits package, but how much it costs for the average Vermonter to access the services. In his report to the Legislature last year, Harvard economist William Hsiao recommends the use of co-pays to control costs in the single-payer system. If those co-pays are too steep, Sterling said, then many Vermonters won't be able to access the benefits accorded them under a single-payer system.

"My experience is that for people on VHAP, even \$1 to \$2 prescription drug co-pays for people at that income level are real barriers," Sterling said. "One big question I'm focused on is, what will out-of-pocket costs look like for people trying to access care?"

Payment-reform initiatives under way at hospitals and doctors offices across Vermont, Lunge said, will enhance the state's ability to configure the benefits structure in a way that drives public health.

"We could, for example, provide incentives for doctors to spend more time talking to patients about diet and exercise," Lunge said. "Or we could try to create incentives for people to seek preventive care, and we could do that by not having co-payments for those services."

People can attend the hearing at any one of 11 Vermont Interactive Television sites across the state. To find the location nearest you, visit vitlink.org. To secure speaking time in advance, send an email to SOV.HCR@state.vt.us, or call Marisa Melamed at 828-2316.

EDITORIAL:

Health care choice

If you like your health insurance company, you may favor Randy Brock for governor in the election in November.

But if you have been priced out of the insurance market or can afford only bare-bones, high-deductible plans, you may think twice about the market choices Brock proposes to unleash on the state. Of if you find the complexity of insurance paperwork and the denial of care that it seems designed to effect to be offensive and predatory, then you may have little patience for Brock's nostrums.

Brock, state senator from Franklin County and former state auditor, is the Republican candidate for governor, and last week he unveiled the outline of a market-based alternative to the health reforms spearheaded by Gov. Peter Shumlin.

It would seem that Brock is proposing to turn back the clock to a time before state government started to try to bring fairness and humanity to the health care system. He wants to open up the state insurance marketplace, bringing in numerous new insurance companies to offer customers an array of choices. It is the free-market mantra: Give customers choices, and the market will provide.

According to this view, the real problem is not the insurance industry; it is the government's interference in the insurance industry. If the government had not placed so many restrictions and mandates on the insurance business, then insurance companies would be here by the dozens, tripping over each other to meet our needs.

Except the reason that the state interfered in the insurance business in the first place was that it was not meeting our needs. Insurance is a business with the aim, not of providing health care, but of denying care. It makes its money when it takes your premiums and then finds reasons not to cover you. The million-dollar earnings of top insurance executives are icing on the cake for the companies.

Before the state and federal governments interfered, insurance companies routinely denied coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, or who became ill or who had an illness that didn't fit a certain category. It charged low prices for young people who were not likely to get sick and prohibitive prices for people more likely to get sick.

One of the ways that the state interfered to bring fairness to the system was through community ratings, which required insurance companies to maintain fairness in pricing. One result was that company profits were reduced, and companies that were no longer able to exploit customers to their satisfaction left the state.

Another way the state has interfered has been to require companies to provide services they had been unwilling to provide, such as mental health care, birth control, chiropractic care. These mandates cut into profits but ensured that customer needs, rather than company bottom lines, had priority.

Brock's solution is to open up the state once again to predatory insurance practices so as to lure companies back to the state to provide customers with choices. People happy with their coverage may calculate that if Brock succeeds, their rates might go down. Maybe they are right.

But the state has embarked on an effort under Gov. Peter Shumlin that is going in the opposite direction. If Shumlin succeeds, the state will finally be free of the interference of insurance companies in our health care decisions.

Brock believes the free market will give Vermonters choice, when it often takes choice away by denying coverage. Shumlin's plan would deny coverage to no one, and everyone would have the choice of seeing a doctor.

There are many details to be worked out by the Shumlin administration as it figures out how to

finance and administer a new system. Brock is providing a service by laying out a clear alternative for Vermont voters to consider. Thus, health reform will come in for healthy debate during the campaign, and voters will be presented with what everyone believes the consumer should have: a choice.

PRESS BUREAU BLOG:

Donovan wins troopers' endorsement

Posted on May 29, 2012 by Peter Hirschfeld | 0 comment

Democratic candidate for attorney general TJ Donovan has snagged a key endorsement from the Vermont Troopers Association. A nod from the state's largest police union is a nice feather in the cap of any political candidate, but even more so for one running to be the state's top law-enforcement officer.

The endorsement marks the first ever in the AG's race by the nearly 300-member union. In a release fired off this morning by the Donovan campaign, VTA president Michael O'Neil said his members "know that TJ will be an energetic and engaged Attorney General who understands that justice and fairness apply to all Vermonters. We look forward to working closely with TJ as Vermont's next Attorney General to protect Vermonters throughout our state."

Donovan called the endorsement an "honor" and said he looked forward "to developing a close relationship with the hard-working men and women of this union and our state police more broadly." "I am committed to being an engaged Attorney General working with the VTA and law enforcement statewide to develop a consistent, transparent and fair criminal justice system," Donovan said.

Thunderstorms flood weary Vermonters

By Brent Curtis

Floods are getting to be a routine for Rutland resident Jim Watson.

The Hopkins Street resident couldn't see the road outside his front door on Tuesday evening because flood waters had converted the residential street into a pond where a group of swimmers and their dogs were at play.

Conditions were bad enough that police cruisers blocked either end of the road while public works employees tried to figure out how to divert the rising tide of waters dumped within minutes by a series of thunderstorms passing through Vermont.

But as he stood on his porch with water seeping slowly into his basement, Watson's assessment of the situation was that it could have been worse.

"We had flooding last year and the year before that," said Watson whose basement filled with water when Tropical Storm Irene passed through the state. "I'm getting nervous with five kids around here. But this isn't that bad. Last year, it was up over the steps."

There were probably more than a few other Vermont residents with the same perspective on Tuesday.

Almost 10 months after Irene hit dozens of communities, the deluge dumped by the thunderstorms that rumbled through were the metaphorical equivalent of getting your feet wet.

But the floods created by the storms were still disruptive and contributed to plenty of damage.

Central Vermont Public Service reported about 2,600 people without power shortly after 6 p.m. — a number down from the roughly 6,600 outages earlier in the day.

Flooding also closed portions of Route 22A in Shoreham and Route 74 in Cornwall.

Fist-sized balls of hail also dented police cruisers parked at the Bellows Falls police station, according to Police Detective Shane Harris.

But for the most part, the flooding was a nuisance — an all too familiar one.

At the back of the transit center in downtown Rutland — where sandbags from past floods remain stacked — a woman with a broomstick stood waist-deep in water trying to clear a drain at about 6 p.m.

But the effort was in vain because the city's stormwater drains were so swollen that the water was being pushed back out, erupting in miniature geysers throughout the ground level of the parking deck.

In Rutland Town, firefighters with pumps and fans were called to Bennington Furniture at the corner of West Street and Ripley Road to clear water from the store's basement.

And around the state, fire chiefs, emergency crews and utility workers spent most of their day watching satellite images depicting approaching thunder cells while trying to calculate odds.

"There's no way really to predict far in advance which areas are going to get hit and how hard hit they will be," National Weather Service meteorologist Jason Neilson said. "These types of storm systems are very unpredictable."

By late Tuesday afternoon, thunderstorms had been tracked through the width and breadth of the state, with varying amounts of rainfall and winds that gusted up to 50 mph in places.

The conditions were ripe for tornadoes — and most of the state was under a tornado watch until 6:30 p.m. — but no twisters had been reported as of 7:30 p.m.

Flash flood warnings were in effect in northern Vermont until 8:15 p.m. while a flash flood watch was in place for most of the rest of the state until midnight. The only reported flash flooding as of 7:30 p.m. was in Belvidere where Route 109 was closed and many other roads were impassable, according to the National Weather Service.

Inspection reveals missing flood seal at Yankee

By Susan Smallheer

BRATTLEBORO — A flood seal that would keep water from leaking into a power distribution room at Vermont Yankee nuclear plant was discovered missing last week during a regular inspection, according to a report from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said Tuesday that the seal had been replaced, but that the NRC

wanted to know why the missing seal wasn't identified last year during a similar inspection.

Sheehan said last Thursday's inspection was not connected to post-Fukushima inspections that the NRC recently ordered at Yankee and other nuclear reactors.

Sheehan said that the lack of the seal "compromised the interior flood design for both east and west switchgear rooms" at Yankee.

Sheehan said Entergy has been performing inspections on underground pathway flood seals to check if they had experienced any degradation, and had identified the missing conduit seal, which was between an outside manhole and the interior of the electrical switchgear rooms.

While the NRC categorized the problem as non-emergency, it said the lack of the 4-inch wide seal could have had serious ramifications, saying that it could have led to an unsafe shutdown of Yankee, the release of radioactive material, removal of decay heat at the reactor, as well as interfered with "mitigating an accident."

Robert Williams, spokesman for Entergy Nuclear, said that the missing seal had been identified by Entergy workers, and that the company was doing a survey of all similar conduits to make sure there weren't any other missing seals.

But he said that if there had been flooding in the conduit, which ended up in the switchgear room, there was a pump available in the room to remove the water. He said the rooms, which are located north of the turbine on a lower floor below ground level, would be periodically checked in the event of flooding.

Williams said that the conduit that was missing the flood seal was a "spare," and did not contain wiring, which most of the conduits underneath Yankee do contain.

He said the conduit was in Yankee's front yard, and about 100 feet from the room in question.

He noted that Yankee was not affected by Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011, despite the fact that it sits on the banks of the Connecticut River.

"We had no problems during Irene, we are well above the Connecticut River," he said.

But Raymond Shadis, senior technical advisor for the New England Coalition, said that epic floods like Irene, which caused widespread devastation in some sections of Vermont including Windham County, weren't the only flooding threat.

He said that any homeowner knows that an overflowing bathtub can cause a lot of damage, and it's not just a rainstorm that can cause flooding.

Electrical equipment is usually found in the conduits, Shadis said, and electrical equipment and water don't mix in serious ways, including power surges or short-circuits.

"Short circuits can send power surges which can result in the loss of instrumentation and the loss of control of vital equipment," he said.

LETTER:**Private insurance is no solution**

The Rutland Herald recently reported that Republican gubernatorial candidate Randy Brock is preparing "a free market" alternative to Gov. Shumlin's single-payer health care proposal. Brock offers the usual Republican prescription about the need for less government involvement and more free market forces. He reverts to the illogic that Vermont "needs to recruit lots of new insurance companies to come to Vermont so consumers have more plans to choose from." And he describes his team of advisers as "people from more than 50 miles away."

We have long known that more private insurance companies and so-called "free market competition" do not lead to cost containment or health care for all. Might some of Brock's advisers come from as far away as, say, Texas, which has a huge number of health insurance companies and, still, the highest percentage of uninsured people, 26.1 percent as of 2010?

Moreover, one of Brock's outside sources offers the old fallacy that the private health insurance industry is "pro-patient," offering patients "options and choice," as opposed to a single-payer system in which "politicians will play doctor." This ignores the reality of today's private health insurance industry in which corporate bureaucrats play doctor by deciding whether or not to pay for necessary health care.

Regarding "options and choice," single-payer health care provides free choice of physicians and hospitals and a system in which health care is not a commodity for which one must "go shopping." Rather, it provides health care as a public good with a single, comprehensive plan that covers everyone's necessary health care needs, regardless of pre-existing conditions, employment status, or financial circumstances. I don't mind "shopping" for a car or a pair of shoes. But I don't want to have to "shop" for health care, any more than I would want to "shop" for fire and police protection.

FRANK NICOSIA

Middlebury

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 5:40 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30:

WCAX:

Storms batter Vermont

LOWELL, Vt. -

Heavy storms batter Vermont wreaking havoc throughout the state. Some received only a sprinkling; other cities and towns got hammered.

Tuesday night Lowell residents surveyed the damage after water rose higher than last spring's 500-year flood with little warning. On Mink Road, Ginger and Dennis Guyette witnessed the destruction first-hand.

"Forty years," said Ginger of how long she's lived in the area, "I've seen a lot of floods, (they've) never gone up as high as this."

"From the bottom of the guard-rail over to here was just a solid body of water," said Dennis as he pointed across a 200-yard expanse. He said he saw a large tree uproot and wash-up along his property.

The pair watched the same happen to a pair of their spare cars and said they lost thousands of dollars worth of property Tuesday.

Just down the river, Albert Pion snapped several pictures as the water rose. He said the flood's rapid onset astounded him, "just a matter of minutes, I pulled down the street and less than five minutes later the water was 6 inches in the road."

Across the state most saw a far different picture. One viewer in Poultney captured images of golf ball-size hail. Another in Malletts Bay captured an incredible image of lightning shooting into the sky.

Wind led to tornado warnings and watches, but no touchdowns. Trees and powerlines toppled, including one in Milton that landed on a set of power lines spanning Rte. 7. The mess stalled traffic and forced the evacuation of a small day-care.

The large tree and live wire blocked the day-care's driveway. "Everybody went out through the woods," said Doodlebug Daycare Operator Julie McCarty, "we made an adventure out of it so that they could get out."

McCarty says typically she has about five kids at her home and business, but Tuesday, only had two when the tree fell.

"I've been here 32 years and I've never seen anything like this," she said of the high-wind and hail.

Far away in Lowell, Albert Pion echoed her thoughts. "Nothing," he repeated three times when asked if he had ever seen anything like Tuesday's flood, "seen a lot of water but nothing like this."

Repairs are already underway in Waterville, where rainwater rose too quickly for culverts, washing away parts of 109 and closing 118. Lowell's repairs may take far more time.

As of Tuesday night, more than 2,000 homes were without power, with Bennington and Orleans county hit the hardest.

Campaign season officially underway

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

It's the first day to file petitions if you're running for elected office in Vermont.

With 1,028 signatures in tow, Sen. Randy Brock, a Republican running for governor, became the first candidate to file a petition for the 2012 election.

"It shows the campaign is heating up and we're ready to move forward. We have all the signatures we need -- in fact more than double what we need. The consent form has been filed, so the campaign is full steam ahead," Brock said.

"He may not say this on the record but Randy Brock needs to do things to get his name in the news, he needs to build up his name recognition," said Political Analyst, Eric Davis. Davis says Brock's decision to invite cameras and be the first candidate to file was a smart one. He's currently polling more than thirty percentage points behind the governor according to a recent Castleton College poll.

"If Randy Brock can narrow that gap by half and get it to say 15 points behind the governor by Labor Day, then we can have a competitive race. It'll be hard to win, but then we'd have a competitive race," Davis said.

As for Governor Shumlin? He had no comment Tuesday. The governor's office says he's focused on being the governor rather than statewide campaigns. Davis says this is to be expected of an incumbent. Candidates have until June 14th to file. "Shumlin will file on the last day. He will say, I'm too busy being governor to campaign and he will run a very low key campaign until Labor Day," he said.

Davis says this incumbent mentality has worked well in the past. He advises both of them to stay away from negativity. He says Brian Dubie's campaign in 2010 showed that negativity gets you nowhere in Vermont.

Illuzzi leaning toward auditor race

BURLINGTON, Vt. -

State Senator Vince Illuzzi says he will not seek the Attorney General's job but is leaning toward running for auditor. The long-time Republican Senator from Essex and Orleans Counties tells WCAX he has ruled out a run for Attorney General but now that Auditor Tom Salmon is not seeking re-election he is leaning toward a run for state auditor. A recent poll by WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine had Illuzzi losing the AG's race against a Democratic opponent. Illuzzi is also the State's Attorney in Essex County and chairs the Economic Development Committee in the Vermont Senate.

FOX44:

Storm Damages Vt. Roads, Floods Fields

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. -

Strong thunderstorms which packed rain, wind and lightning caused problems all across our area Tuesday. Vermont Emergency Management says that there are no reports of serious damage. The worst appears to be roads that were washed out, including a part of Route 74.

Flooding also affected Vermont routes 14, 100, and 302.

For about fifty-feet, parts underneath Route 74 were washed out. That forced the road to be temporarily closed. Crews planned to narrow the lanes so the road could re-open.

"There was a lot of rain. I think we got three, three and a half inches of rain total in like an hour period," says Leo Audet, who lives on Route 74 near Cornwall.

We actually first met Audet three years ago, after flash flooding also washed out this road.

"It's in the same area but not as bad as it was last time," says Audet.

Heavy rain also caused minor flooding including in fields and around streams and rivers.

VPR:

Rutland Hospital's Plan To Close Rehab Unit Draws Protest

A petition drive has started in Rutland to save the local hospital's inpatient rehabilitation unit.

But hospital officials say they have no choice. They're grappling with a \$7 million budget shortfall, and closing the rehab unit will save \$3.5 million.

Rutland's 12-bed inpatient rehab unit helps people recover from strokes, head or spinal injuries, joint replacements and some long-term ailments.

It's one of only three acute rehab facilities affiliated with a hospital in the state. So if it closes, patients will have to travel to Burlington or Mount Ascutney Hospital for such care. Dr. Dan McCauliffe, a Rutland dermatologist, says he understands that cutting the unit will save money for the system.

"But if you take into account the inconvenience and lost productivity of people traveling back and forth - family to visit a great distance from one's home - then you're saving money for the system, yes, but you're not doing a service for the community," he said.

Tom Huebner, president of Rutland Regional Medical Center, says he doesn't want to close the rehab unit. But he says with federal Medicare reimbursements expected to decline and a smaller state imposed revenue cap for hospitals, there is no easy way to mend their current budget shortfall.

"We have not been able to identify another program that is not central to the services of the organization or as central," Huebner said. "Here are the big things that lose money at the hospital - the emergency department - inpatient medicine in general - the labor and delivery birthing suit, pediatrics - all of those are money losers but they are so central and vital to the needs of the community that you can't think of closing them."

To rein in health care spending and force cost containment, the state sets yearly caps on how much hospital budgets can increase.

Huebner says over the years, those caps have pushed the hospital to trim as much as possible. But he says they're now at the point where more drastic cuts are needed. He says inpatient rehabilitative care is already available in Rutland at area nursing homes and those facilities provide care much more cost effectively than hospitals.

But Dr. Mike Kenosh, director of rehab services at Rutland Regional Medical Center, says the level of care is not the same. While nursing homes do good work, he believes closing the hospital's rehab unit will lead to higher costs and worse outcomes for the neediest patients.

"We can see complications sooner and treat them before they get out of hand," Kenosh said. "If we move this care outside the hospital - to a skilled nursing facility for instance - they don't have the ability to manage those complications, especially the serious complications we get. So people are going to be coming back through the emergency room. Or they're going to be staying longer at the hospital. That's what's going to cost the hospital more money."

Kenosh also worries about the long-term consequences. He says it will become more difficult to attract physicians to Rutland. He isn't alone. Many Rutland area doctors worry that this is just the first of many health care cuts for the community.

Dr. Dan McCauliffe says he can appreciate how difficult it is for the Green Mountain Care Board to design a statewide health care program that ensures cost containment. But he says communities outside Burlington, that may lose specialists, need to understand what that may mean.

"Rutland Regional is a major employer of this community," McCauliffe said. "And if you start cutting services and cutting employment, it's going to have a significant local impact on our economy. So again the health care system saves money, but what it's going to do patients, providers and what's it going to do to local communities?"

Hospital President Tom Huebner says these are the kinds of tough decisions he faces every day and they're not getting easier. But he says that if the rehab unit is not closed, the hospital will be forced to cut \$75 million elsewhere - which could mean a reduction of about 85 jobs across the board, as well as several million dollars worth of non-labor costs. Rutland Regional Medical Center's board of directors will decide this week whether to go along with the plan to close the rehab center or to try a different approach.

But hospital officials say they have no choice. They're grappling with a \$7 million budget shortfall, and closing the rehab unit will save \$3.5 million.

London, Sarah

From: Edward L. Rubin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:45 PM
To: Devin Burgess
Subject: E. Rubin Vermont Photo Book Update

Dear Vermont Friends,

HELLO! Sam and I are finally back in Los Angeles!

I wanted to check in with everyone, and let you know that I am beginning to work on my photography book: "MY VERMONT, AN OUTSIDERS INSIDE VIEW."

When we met, I was taking about 400 photos a day, and now I have to start organizing, deleting, and adjusting. This will be a long process, as I also begin Art Directing the second season of the TV series AMERICAN HORROR STORY (FX Channel) tomorrow (Wednesday). So.....be patient, and know that I will keep you updated.

Also, for those of you who did not sign model releases (I ran out in Vermont), I will be emailing them to you as the work progresses.

I cannot thank you all enough for allowing me to photograph you, and for allowing Sam and me to enter into your world, even for such a short time. It has so enriched us, and made our time in Vermont very, very special. And this is exactly what I hope to express, through the photos of you, in this upcoming book.

So stay tuned, please feel free to contact me anytime, and I will be in touch.

Thank you so much! All the best to you--

Ed

cell: [REDACTED]

ALSO: you will be receiving my ED RUBIN ART UPDATES, that I send out, so you can keep track of what I am doing. I am also on FACEBOOK, and have YOUTUBE SLIDESHOWS: Search 'Edward L. Rubin'

I'm also planning on updating my WEBSITE, www.edwardlrubin.com, but you can still check it out and see my paintings and design work.

I've also included my photo, taken last year, of ELLIOTT AND FLORENCE MORSE, of Montpelier. This photo has been a finalist in several international competitions, and has been published in The Worldwide Photography Gala Awards PORTRAITS & PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD 2011. Enjoy!!



ELLIOTT AND FLORENCE MORSE, by Edward L. Rubin
Digital Photo, 2011

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: RE: Got Weekend Plans?

Ari,
I will join you Saturday morning.

Lisa

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:50 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: Re: Got Weekend Plans?

I can do Saturday morning in Enosburg – we can probably get my friends Sam & Cayla to come to the parade if they don't have to farm. Sam is the one who sang to Lisa on her bday, he loves gps.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 10:46:12 -0400
To: EXE <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Got Weekend Plans?

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to everyone who helped out this weekend! It was a busy weekend with a lot of events. This upcoming weekend is a busy one too. Please let me know if you are available to volunteer. Thanks!

Friday, June 1st

Saturday, June 2nd

Saturday, June 2nd

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

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To: Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: Re: Got Weekend Plans?

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: camera

I don't have it – never did. I think it is in the car

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: camera

Hey,

Do you know if I can get the big camera before they go off to Colchester tomorrow? There are a ton of pictures that I really would like to use/upload and I'm not sure if you knew at all....

Thanks
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
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Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:05 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: Weekly Report Ideas
Attachments: May 29 Weekly Report Ideas.docx

Here are some things I pulled from this set.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: camera

Yep, thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 09:32:35 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: camera

It should have sent...

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: camera

Okay, if you could send it that'd be great.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 09:21:14 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: camera

I have a good one of him and a family w/ a veteran grandfather. I'll send it. We didn't use the big camera, but it's in GPS's car I believe.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:20 AM

To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana

Subject: camera

Hey!

Do either of you have the big camera? Or were you able to get a photo of gps yesterday with someone from the military/veteran?

Thanks,

Ari

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:33 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Trombley, Shana
Subject: RE: camera

It should have sent...

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: camera

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Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: first post

I like it, but it's kind of a weird quote at the end. I wonder if you could just say "sacrificed so much for our freedom."

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: first post

Infographic (check out the attachment)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:30 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: first post
Attachments: veterans.memorialday.jpg

Infographic (check out the attachment)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:26 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: camera

I have it – thanks
Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 09:24:37 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: camera

Yes, use May Fay – she is a former Navy Cryptographer. Do you have the photo – I sent it. I can resend.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana
Subject: camera

Hey!

Do either of you have the big camera? Or were you able to get a photo of gps yesterday with someone from the military/veteran?

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
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London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: camera

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Drusilla.roessle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:22 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: camera

Okay, if you could send it that'd be great.

Ariel Wengroff
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London, Sarah

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:06 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: With May Fay - parade Marshall

I don't know why, but I just got all of these e-mails from you this morning.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/29/12 8:17 AM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

>And Diane Lanpher
>

London, Sarah

From: Vermont Voad <vtvoad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:00 AM
Subject: Re: Reminder-LTRC Conference Call Tomorrow (5/30) at 12:00 pm

Hi everyone,

Please note that the call is on Wednesday 5/30, not 5/29.

Sorry for the confusion,

Tavish MacLeod
AmeriCorps VISTA
Vermont Emergency Management
Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
vtvoad@yahoo.com
<http://vtvoad.wordpress.com>

From: Vermont Voad <vtvoad@yahoo.com>
To:
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 8:13 AM
Subject: Reminder-LTRC Conference Call Tomorrow (5/29) at 12:00 pm

Hi everyone,

This is a reminder that there is a Long Term Recovery Committee Conference call tomorrow, Wednesday (5/29) at 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. The call in number is [REDACTED]

Tavish MacLeod
AmeriCorps VISTA
Vermont Emergency Management
Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
vtvoad@yahoo.com
<http://vtvoad.wordpress.com>

London, Sarah

From: Vermont Voad <vtvoad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 8:14 AM
Subject: Reminder-LTRC Conference Call Tomorrow (5/29) at 12:00 pm

Hi everyone,

This is a reminder that there is a Long Term Recovery Committee Conference call tomorrow, Wednesday (5/29) at 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. The call in number is **800-320-3400**

Tavish MacLeod
AmeriCorps VISTA
Vermont Emergency Management
Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
vtvoad@yahoo.com
<http://vtvoad.wordpress.com>

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 7:45 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Allen, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: FW: VEM Duty Officer Report
Attachments: VEM Duty Officer Report 5-29-12.pdf

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Weinert, Bob
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 6:59 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] VEM Duty Officer Report

Good Morning All,

Please find the Duty Officer Daily Report attached and a brief narrative below.

Bob

Bob Weinert, MSEM/ERP
Emergency Management Coordinator &
State System Administrator for VEPARDS-DisasterLAN-Vermont Alert

Vermont Emergency Management
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671
Direct (802) 241-5243
BB (802) 839-6071
General (800) 347-0488
Fax (802) 241-5556
Email: bob.weinert@state.vt.us

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

CURRENT SITUATION:

Duty Officer: Bob Weinert

Report Covers: 5/25/2012 0700 hrs to 5/29/2012 0700 hrs

Next Scheduled Report: 5/30/2012 0830 hrs

VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS: Level 1

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- **5-10 gallon kerosene spill in Burlington**
- **Minor heating oil spill in Montpelier**
- **5 gallon gasoline spill Lyndonville**
- **2 gallon transformer oil spill in Wells**

NON-HAZMAT RELATED INCIDENTS:

- **Smoke from a large wildfire near Timmins Ontario affecting skies over Vermont**
- **State EOC recovery operation continues due to Tropical Storm Irene. A major disaster was declared on September 1, 2011 for the State of Vermont. All counties are included for Public Assistance and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties have been included for Individual Assistance.**

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS:

WEATHER:

[National Weather Service Burlington](#)

[National Weather Service Albany](#)

[Local Weather](#)

VERMONT HIGHWAYS:

[Vermont Road Traveler Information Service](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY

[DHS Website for Threat Levels](#)

[Vermont Homeland Security Website](#)

RIVER FLOW INFORMATION:

[Northeast River Forecast Center](#)

[USGS Daily Flow Condition](#)

[NWS Self Briefing Page](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 7:13 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Can do

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 28, 2012, at 11:10 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

Press release for gps guest host gig w energy game this week. A little social media on this would be welcome...liz

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Kathryn Blume <kathryn@kathrynblume.com>
Sent: Tue, May 29, 2012 03:02:38 GMT+00:00
Subject: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 29, 2012

Contact: Kathryn Blume - kathryn@kathrynblume.com 802-233-5856

Vermontivate! Ramps Up With Week 3
Governor Shumlin to Guest Host Energy Competition

Vermontivate!, a month-long intertown energy conservation challenge, **welcomes Governor Peter Shumlin as a guest host for Week 3 of the game.**

"It's an honor to have Governor Shumlin, who's a well-known Climate Champion, willing to participate in our game" says Vermontivate! Co-founder Nick Lange. "The Governor's come up with a slate of challenges which all have to do with spreading the word both locally and nationally about energy conservation, and supporting Vermonters still recovering from Tropical Storm Irene."

"We expect a big boost in players from Governor Shumlin's participation," says Vermontivate! co-founder Kathryn Blume. "Between that and players starting to wander around their towns in Energy Superhero costumes," muses Blume, "the next couple weeks could be one heck of a ride!"

The community energy game, which runs until June 15, has already gained over 100 players from 12 towns across the state. Two of those towns - Brattleboro and Charlotte - have completed the eligibility requirements for the Grand Prize and are in the running to win a town ice cream party from Ben&Jerry's.

Shelburne, which is awaiting final Eligibility Confirmation, got its own boost when State Representative Jason Lorber visited their Memorial Day launch party. "Vermontivate is onto something real," said Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington). "Through addictive environmental games, Vermontivate connects Vermonters to environmental action. The ultimate winner, though, is the world."

For more information, curious onlookers and interested potential players can visit www.vermontivate.com.

###

--

Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

www.kathrynblume.com

c. 802.233.5856

kablume@gmail.com

Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:33 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: Morn

I have a meeting tomorrow morning with Jeff from Sanders office to talk social media, he's in town from D.C. I'll be in the office right afterwards so I should be in by 9:30.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 8:01 PM
To: Trombley, Shana; EXE
Subject: RE: Got Weekend Plans?

Are you still looking for a volunteer in Brattleboro or do you have that figured out? I can probably rally someone if need be, but you may have people on hand already. Let me know.

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:46 AM
To: EXE
Subject: Got Weekend Plans?

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to everyone who helped out this weekend! It was a busy weekend with a lot of events. This upcoming weekend is a busy one too. Please let me know if you are available to volunteer. Thanks!

Friday, June 1st
1 staff + a local volunteer
Strolling with the Heifers, Brattleboro, VT

Join GPS in Brattleboro for the Slow Living Summit at 3pm.
Art Walk at 5pm
Bill Signing Re-enactment at Trust Company of Vermont at 6pm More Art Walk Announce Bread Competition at 6:45
7:45/8ish Depart for Montpelier

Saturday, June 2nd
2 staff + 2 volunteers (local?)
Very Dairy Festival Parade, Enosburg, VT

GPS to speak on the Reviewing stand at 9:15am

Walk in Parade from 10:30 – 11:30am

Saturday, June 2nd
1 staff (must meet him there and drive back as GPS is headed for MA)

CCV Graduation, Northfield, VT

GPS will speak briefly and take pics/greet graduates from 1:30 to 3pm

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)

shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

Website<<http://governor.vermont.gov/>> | Facebook<<http://www.facebook.com/Governor.Peter.Shumlin>> |

Twitter<<https://twitter.com/#!/GovPeterShumlin>> | YouTube<<http://www.youtube.com/user/VTGovernor>>

London, Sarah

From: Grace Vincent [mailto:grace.vincent@cvuhs.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:55 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Summer Internship and Resume
Attachments: GraceVincent Resume2012.docx

Hi Ms. Wengroff,

My name is [redacted] and I am a junior at Champlain Valley Union High School. My grandmother is friends with someone who passed on your email, it's complicated! Anyway, I am interested in government/law and am looking for a paid summer internship/job where I can learn more about the field. Would you be able to pass along the resume I've attached and put me in contact with someone who would be interested in working with me? Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

[redacted]
Grace Vincent

London, Sarah

From: Hutt, Monica
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: child poverty

You are most welcome!

Monica Caserta Hutt

Director of Policy and Planning
Agency of Human Services
AHS Secretary's Office
5 North, 103 So. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-0204
monica.hutt@state.vt.us
802-871-3251
802-793-3610 (mobile phone)

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN EMAIL ADDRESS. FOR ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE USE:
monica.hutt@state.vt.us

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Hutt, Monica; Racine, Doug
Subject: Re: child poverty

Thanks so much

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Hutt, Monica" <Monica.Hutt@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 17:00:10 -0400
To: "Racine, Doug" <doug.racine@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: child poverty

Ariel, Doug is out of the office and asked me to reply on his behalf. Child poverty data is generally compiled from the census data which is available to us annually. At last census, the % of total Vermont children living in low income households (less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level) was 34.7%. We have trend data back to 2008 on this number. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need more information.

Thanks,
Monica

Monica Caserta Hutt

Director of Policy and Planning
Agency of Human Services
AHS Secretary's Office
5 North, 103 So. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-0204
monica.hutt@state.vt.us
802-871-3251
802-793-3610 (mobile phone)

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN EMAIL ADDRESS. FOR ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE USE:
monica.hutt@state.vt.us

From: Racine, Doug
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 4:27 PM
To: Hutt, Monica
Subject: Fwd: child poverty

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: May 29, 2012 3:52:22 PM EDT
To: "Racine, Doug" <doug.racine@state.vt.us>
Subject: child poverty

What's the child poverty rate in Vermont?

<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2012/05/29/491443/un-report-child-poverty/>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
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Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Hutt, Monica; Racine, Doug
Subject: Re: child poverty

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
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Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Hutt, Monica
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Racine, Doug; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: child poverty

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Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Erickson, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 4:38 PM
To: Erickson, Nancy; VT Health Department
Cc: Cimaglio, Barbara; Chen, Harry; Dolan, Tracy; Henry, Dixie; Clark, Leo; Philibert, Dawn; Racine, Doug; Allen, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Wilcox, Debra; AHS - VDH - District Directors-Exclusive; AHS - VDH - Directors Extended; AHS - VDH - Communication Office; Bosma, Mark; Oliver, Christine
Subject: Health Media Contacts: May 29, 2012

Water Testing

Bridget Shanahan, WPTZ-TV, requested Health Department data on the number of water test kits, for both drinking water and recreational water, that have been distributed so far this year compared to last year after the spring/summer flooding. The information is being compiled by the Health Department Laboratory.

Binge Drinking

Ric Cengeri, producer at VPR, pre-interviewed Barbara Cimaglio, deputy commissioner ADAP, this morning before her appearance on Vermont Edition live Wednesday at noon. The show will focus on a recent survey that ranks Vermont college students higher than the national average for binge drinking. Cengeri asked Cimaglio to discuss what constitutes binge drinking, the statistics on where Vermont ranks, and what efforts the state is making to prevent binge drinking.

Nancy Erickson / Communication Director / Vermont Department of Health
108 Cherry Street Box 70 Burlington, VT 05402

nancy.erickson@state.vt.us / www.healthvermont.gov
802.863.7281 (desk) / 802.316.2121 (mobile)

Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/HealthVermont

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 4:28 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

We did a Facebook post and I've been tweeting about it this afternoon – it's getting good play by 350 and VPR online so far.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609


Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Date: Mon, 28 May 2012 23:11:01 -0400
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Fw: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Press release for gps guest host gig w energy game this week. A little social media on this would be welcome...liz

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Kathryn Blume <>
Sent: Tue, May 29, 2012 03:02:38 GMT+00:00
Subject: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 29, 2012
Contact: Kathryn Blume - kathryn@kathrynblume.com 802-233-5856

Vermontivate! Ramps Up With Week 3
Governor Shumlin to Guest Host Energy Competition

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The community energy game, which runs until June 15, has already gained over 100 players from 12 towns across the state. Two of those towns - Brattleboro and Charlotte - have completed the eligibility requirements for the Grand Prize and are in the running to win a town ice cream party from Ben&Jerry's.

Shelburne, which is awaiting final Eligibility Confirmation, got its own boost when State Representative Jason Lorber visited their Memorial Day launch party. "Vermontivate is onto something real," said Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington). "Through addictive environmental games, Vermontivate connects Vermonters to environmental action. The ultimate winner, though, is the world."

For more information, curious onlookers and interested potential players can visit www.vermontivate.com.

###

--

Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

www.kathrynblume.com

c. 802.233.5856

kablume@gmail.com

Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Racine, Doug
Subject: child poverty

What's the child poverty rate in Vermont?

<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2012/05/29/491443/un-report-child-poverty/>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Madeline Murray-Clasen <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:42 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Workflow Reassignment Alert (Contact 801465) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100822)

User Madeline Murray-Clasen has reassigned the following Workflow for **Jonathan R. Wheeler** People ID #7009309, to you:

<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801465&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Cc: Roessle, Drusilla; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: poetry quote

If he comes asking again, this is the quote to be used from the Governor:

"Congratulations to Idesz Carritica on his first literary publication *Another Day, Another Cycle, Another Way*. A strong supporter of the arts, I am pleased to see your name added to the list of Vermont's authors. I wish you the best as you continue to pursue your dedication to writing." Governor Shumlin

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Becky Raymond [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:25 PM
Subject: Meeting This Thursday

Hello all

I wanted to extend an invitation to the next Central Vermont CASH Coalition meeting which will be held this Thursday, 5/31/12 at 2:00 pm at the Northfield Savings Bank in Northfield, VT. CASH stands for Creating Assets Savings and Hope and the Central Vermont CASH Coalition aspires to assist all individuals residing in the counties of Washington, Orange and Lamoille to reach and maintain self-sufficiency and economic security.

Our meeting this week will feature a presentation by Tony Orzech on Identity Theft and will be supported by the following individuals:

- Ryan Kriger, State of Vermont Assistant Attorney General
- Sgt Carbo, Vermont State Police
- Bob Fett, Federal Taxpayer Advocate
- Lisa Helme, Director of Financial Literacy and Communications

This is a presentation not to be missed! If you are interested in attending, please reply to me by email no later than 5pm tomorrow so we can plan for enough seating.

Becky Raymond
Community Impact Director
Green Mountain United Way
963 Paine Turnpike N #2
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-9532
www.gmunityedway.org

LIVE UNITED

"Like" us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/gmunityedway.

For disaster updates, visit Becky's Blog at www.gmunityedway.wordpress.com

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:21 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: Build Up Vermont Photo Contest

Cool

Alexandra MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
1-802-272-0443

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 12:06 PM
To: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Build Up Vermont Photo Contest

Hey,

Steve Cook and I have been working on a Build Up Vermont photo contest, based on the #ILoveNYC contest in Manhattan. I know different people have seen different stages of the plan, so here's our project summary and the latest web portal. None of this is live yet, it's just a prototype.

Let me know what you think!

Thanks,
Ari

Build up Vermont photo contest:

The title of the contest "Build Up Vermont" is two-fold. The photos submitted will literally build an image library on the website in a creatively displayed build up of thumbnails on the page. The term "build up" evolved from early Irene "re-build" messaging, but with a more positive focus on highlighting Vermont's character with real images by real people. By not invoking Irene as the platform or issuing a call for "post-Irene" photos, submission of images of smiling faces in stunning places will showcase Vermont's integrity; it is when the visual stories of beauty and joy rise above, that our Vermont Strong resilience shines the brightest.

Link to build up Vermont prototype: <http://www.vermontlife.com/buildupvt/>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29 (FINAL):

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Someone's been fluffing Bill Sorrell's Wikipedia page

by: jvwalt

Tue May 29, 2012 at 06:00:00 AM EDT

Funny doings over at Wikipedia. Until early May, Bill Sorrell's page was basically a stub -- a couple paragraphs of basic biographical material, nothing more. Then, between May 4 and 6, there were eleven separate edits, each adding information that was completely one-sided, and always flattering to Sorrell.

All eleven edits were made from the same IP address, 24.147.93.129, which traces to South Burlington. Aside from this burst of edits, 24.147.92.129 has done almost nothing on Wikipedia.

Thanks to 24.147.92.129's literary efforts, Bill Sorrell's Wikipedia page has been turned into a fluff piece extolling his accomplishments large and small and completely omitting any negatives or controversies. (Not a word about Vermont Yankee or campaign finance, for instance.) One of his "major accomplishments" is so vastly overstated that it's entirely misleading.

It's a statement that is repeated in Sorrell's own campaign puffery. It concerns his role in the multi-state settlement with the tobacco industry. Here it is, as it appears on Wikipedia (as of Tuesday May 29 at 7:00 a.m., in case 24.147 gets busy again):

Within weeks of taking office, Sorrell brought suit against the nation's largest tobacco companies to end their deceitful behavior of lying about the harmful effects of their products.

The lawsuit resulted in a historic settlement with Big Tobacco that to date has yielded over \$300 million dollars for Vermont taxpayers; and, as a result of Bill's leadership*, Big Tobacco will continue to pay Vermont approximately \$25 million dollars a year in perpetuity.

*A curiously familiar phrase there: "as a result of Bill's leadership." You don't usually see Wikipedia postings on a first-name basis.

We'll get to the truth momentarily. But first, here's a curiously similar passage from Sorrell's campaign website:

As Attorney General, only a matter of weeks after taking office, I filed suit against the country's largest tobacco companies for lying about the addictive qualities of cigarettes, marketing to children and causing the expenditure of millions of dollars of Vermont taxpayer money each year to treat tobacco-related illnesses. The settlement of the case has resulted in payments of approximately \$300 million to the state and these payments of approximately \$25 million per year are to continue forever.

There's a lot of word-swapping between the two versions, but in terms of shape, thrust, and meaning, they are identical. It's hard to imagine that 24.147 could have written the Wikipedia entry without using Sorrell's own statement as a

template. (It could have happened the other way around as well, but I hope Bill Sorrell hasn't been reduced to cadging his campaign material from Wikipedia.)

After the jump: the truth about the tobacco settlement.

jvwalt :: Someone's been fluffing Bill Sorrell's Wikipedia page

Now, aside from the issue of Wiki-fluffing, there's a larger question: how much credit should Bill Sorrell get for the tobacco settlement? The historical record suggests that he's claiming far more than he deserves.

(The following information largely taken from a PBS Frontline history of the tobacco lawsuits.)

The first state lawsuit was brought in 1994 by the AG of Mississippi. Three other states joined by early 1995. About a year later, the Liggett Group reached its own settlement with five states and numerous private plaintiffs. That touched off a series of filings; 14 more states joined the party by the end of 1996.

In March 1997, Liggett settled with the rest of the states that had filed suit by then. That touched off a flood of filings; 18 states filed in May and June alone.

Bill Sorrell took office as Vermont AG on May 1, 1997 (according to his Wikipedia page, heh). Vermont filed its tobacco suit on May 29. It was the 10th state in that flood of 18. So, the truth is, Sorrell filed suit a few weeks after taking office - but he did so at a time when Attorneys General were jumping on the bandwagon as quickly as they could. It took no particular "leadership" on Sorrell's part.

The tobacco settlement was announced not long thereafter, on June 20, 1997. These things take a lot of time, and the deal had obviously been in the works long before May 29. It's unlikely that Sorrell had much to do with it aside from signing his name.

There's an Associated Press article about the Sorrell/Donovan primary race which includes an interestingly written account of Sorrell's boast.

During his tenure, Sorrell said, he ushered hundreds of millions of dollars into the state through enforcement actions, including the tobacco settlement, which will bring \$25 million a year to the state for as long as the tobacco industry is in business.

That much is true. He "ushered in" the big bucks, the same way an usher shows you to your seat in a theater. Which is a long way from asserting that the usher produced the evening's entertainment.

I hope our ever-diligent Vermont political media will closely question Mr. Sorrell on the truth of the tobacco settlement. While they're at it, maybe they can track down 24.147.93.127.

Poor people just have too darn much money

by: jvwalt

Sun May 27, 2012 at 18:04:52 PM EDT

That, apparently, is what the Republican Party believes, including the most prominent conservatives in Vermont. Because in spite of their anti-tax rhetoric, they would really, really like to raise taxes on the poor and working class. Sheesh. And they accuse liberals of engaging in class warfare.

I've reported the following comments before in this space, but I think they deserve to be spotlighted. Especially since they are part of a nationwide trend.

First, Bruce Lisman of the allegedly nonpartisan (but clearly conservative) Campaign for Vermont. This is from a 2010 speech in Burlington, previously documented here.

"The taxpaying base is quite thin. Because of the progressive nature of it, there's a cutoff that excludes more than 50% of potential taxpayers from paying taxes. My view: I think everyone is either in the enterprise or they're not. You'd want everyone to pay something in."

That's double mendacity, but we'll come back to Cousin Brucie. Right now, we turn to presumptive Republican gubernatorial candidate Randy Brock, from the Issues page of his website:

Simplify the tax code and even the load by making sure everyone pays at least something.

That's right: what Vermont needs is higher taxes for its poorest residents. And these aren't just one-off, throw-away comments; they are part of a national pattern, as documented on Friday's Rachel Maddow Show. Republicans nationwide, as well as in Vermont, are loudly and broadly putting forth the idea that Poor People Need To Pay More Taxes.

Republicans across the country, including Mitt Romney, are complaining about the fact that 47% -- or maybe 50%, or 51%, or 53% -- of all Americans are not paying income taxes. That statement is technically true but fundamentally misleading, and Republicans know that. Sometimes they get sloppy, like Bruce Lisman, and simplify it to "not paying taxes," which is completely false.

After the jump: The truth about taxes.

jvwalt :: Poor people just have too darn much money

On the federal level, low-income Americans don't pay income taxes because of deductions and the Earned Income Tax Credit -- which is designed to encourage people to work, by allowing them to keep more of their meager paychecks*. But they still have to pay payroll taxes, including Social Security and Medicare. Those taxes hit low-income people proportionately harder.

*And here I thought Republicans wanted poor people to get off their duffs and work.

On the state level, the poorest Vermonters don't pay income taxes -- but they still pay property and sales taxes. Sales taxes hit them proportionately hard, because more of their income goes into buying the necessities of life.

Want some facts? According to a 2009 report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Vermont's tax system is one of the least regressive in the nation. Meaning we give poor and working people a fairer deal than almost every other state. ITEP used figures from 2007, the newest available figures at the time, and found that -- yes indeed -- the bottom 20% of Vermonters paid no income tax. They actually received money back. And the next 20% paid only a fraction of a percent in income tax.

But even so, the poorest 20% paid a total of just over 8% of their income in total state and local taxes. The next 20% paid almost exactly 8% of income. For them, sales taxes took the biggest bite. The top 5% of all Vermonters paid about 7.5% of their incomes in local and state taxes. According to ITEP, everybody in Vermont pays roughly the same percentage of their income in state and local taxes. (The middle 20% are actually the hardest it, at about 9.4%). And the poor, proportionately, pay more than the rich.

So Randy Brock, Bruce Lisman, and all those other Republicans are lying about poor people and taxes.

Let's say that again, all caps: THEY ARE LYING.

Why are they doing this? It's one of the most reprehensible of Republican tactics: trying to spark middle-class resentment against the poor. Yep, class warfare.

And, looking at the big picture for a moment, this is one more sign that Randy Brock is running a hard-right, tea party-style campaign. He has claimed that Peter Shumlin is the most liberal governor in Vermont history, which is balderdash. But the way he's going, Randy Brock may be the most conservative gubernatorial candidate in state history.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29:

PRESS RELEASES:

Vermont Democratic Party proud to endorse marriage equality inclusion in the Democratic national platform

MONTPELIER, VT – This past Saturday, hundreds of delegates from across the state assembled in Barre for the Vermont Democratic Party State Convention. Euan Bear, Committeewoman from Franklin County, presented the delegates with a resolution calling for the Vermont Democratic Party to ask for the official platform of the National Democratic Party to endorse marriage equality. Additionally, Ms. Bear's resolution asks that all VDP delegates to the National Convention in Charlotte all support the inclusion of marriage equality in the Democratic Party's platform.

The resolution passed unanimously and without debate by acclamation and a resounding round of applause. In response to it's passage, Bear stated, "We are a marriage-equality state in a nation where our federal government still discriminates in a thousand different ways against my marriage and those of hundreds of thousands of other lesbians and gay men. We are Democrats and Vermonters: we know it's long past time for that discrimination to end. The Vermont Democratic Party, through its nominating convention, has unanimously agreed to commit its national convention delegates to support a national marriage equality plank, a move toward 'liberty and justice for all.'"

Chairman Jake Perkinson echoed the sentiment, saying, "Saturday's convention was yet another example of Vermont Democrats leading the fight for equality, committing itself to the promotion and protection of equal marriage rights for all Americans. This fall, as we travel to Charlotte, North Carolina, a state that so recently stood in the way of progress for equality, we will communicate to the rest of the nation that Vermont Democrats will continue to fight for equal marriage rights."

Leahy announces \$9.9 M. Army contract for work on Goodrich's helicopter diagnostics system

(TUESDAY, May 29) – Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) announced a new \$9,921,634 U.S. Army contract with the Goodrich Corporation for 80 additional units of its groundbreaking helicopter maintenance diagnostic system, produced at the company's facility in Vergennes, Vt.

The Army is purchasing Goodrich's Health and Usage Management Systems (HUMS), which give mechanics feedback on a helicopter's engine performance, structural performance and rotor wear, allowing it to be serviced before major systems fail. The contract, which is for Army Black Hawk helicopters, continues Goodrich-Vergennes' work on the successful project. HUMS units, much in demand, already are onboard a variety of military and commercial helicopters including Black Hawks, Chinooks, Hueys, Cobras and Lakotas. The Vermont Air National Guard's Black Hawk helicopters stationed in Burlington also feature HUMS units.

Before HUMS, helicopters had to be removed from service for routine maintenance, an inherently costly and inefficient practice. Worst of all, some pilots lost their lives in accidents caused by unforeseen but preventable mechanical problems. HUMS units give maintenance crews the opportunity to predict and take action to prevent such tragedies.

Leahy, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee, is a longtime supporter of Goodrich's work in Vergennes, including securing earmarks to fund the technology that is the foundation of

HUMS. Leahy said: "It started as an R&D project, but HUMS has become a life-saving and cost-saving tool that is quickly becoming indispensable. HUMS now is standard equipment on U.S. military helicopters. These contracts mean high-tech jobs for Vermont, and I am so proud to see this work being done in Vermont and by Vermonters."

Tony Wurmel, general manager of Goodrich Sensors and Integrated Systems in Vergennes, said: "This award highlights the value that the Goodrich HUMS brings in lowering operating and maintenance costs while enhancing safety for Army's Black Hawk fleet. We thank Senator Leahy for his strong support over the last decade in helping the Army equip its frontline helicopter fleet with this cost-effective system; it will help the troops remain effective and maintain the fleet at high readiness in an uncertain world."

Vermont Democratic Party elects twelve delegates to attend the 2012 DNC Convention

MONTPELIER, VT – Democrats from across the state came together Saturday to elect twelve at-large delegates and two alternate delegates to represent the Vermont Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. Each candidate for delegacy had a chance to address the VDP state convention attendees and were then selected by a signed ballot.

The VDP elected six men and six women, with a male alternate and a female alternate. The winners and their respective towns are:

WOMEN:

Kesha Ram, Burlington

Carolyn Dwyer, Montpelier

Mary Sullivan, Burlington

Judy Bevans, Craftsbury Commons

Sherry Merrick, Thetford

Martha Allen, Canaan

Alternate: Krista Huling, Jeffersonville

MEN:

Matthew Metz, Charlotte

Peter Galbraith, Townshend

Robert Hooper, Burlington

Charles Sweetman, Landgrove

Timothy Briglin, Burlington

Andrew Champagne, Burlington

Alternate: Seth Zimmerman, Charlotte

Vt. Troopers Association endorses Donovan for Attorney General

Troopers Union Cites Donovan's Energy, Engagement and Willingness to Partner with Law Enforcement to Solve Public Safety Issues

MONTPELIER, VT – Today TJ Donovan, candidate for Attorney General, received the endorsement of the Vermont Troopers Association (VTA), the largest statewide police union in Vermont. The union, made up of almost 300 members, is making its first-ever endorsement in an Attorney General's race, citing the need for stronger partnerships, cooperation, and engagement between rank and file troopers and the Attorney General's office.

"The Vermont Troopers Association is proud to endorse TJ for Attorney General," said VTA President Michael O'Neil. "Our members know that TJ will be an energetic and engaged Attorney General who understands that justice and fairness apply to all Vermonters. We look forward to working closely with TJ as Vermont's next Attorney General to protect Vermonters throughout our state."

Donovan reacted to the endorsement saying, "I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Vermont Troopers Association. I look forward to developing a close relationship with the hard-working men and women of this union and our state police more broadly. I am committed to being an engaged Attorney General working with the VTA and law enforcement statewide to develop a consistent, transparent and fair criminal justice system."

The VTA is part of a growing list of groups and elected officials from across the state, including Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Sears (D-Bennington), publicly supporting TJ's candidacy for Attorney General and his vision for the office.

TJ was born and raised in Burlington. He currently serves as State's Attorney for Chittenden County, an office he was elected to in 2006. The Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office is the busiest county prosecutor's office in the State of Vermont, handling over 5,000 criminal cases and 300 Family Court cases each year.

NEWPORT DAILY EXPRESS:

Derby Line Wind: Developer Pulls Plug on Project for Now

By LAURA CARPENTER

DERBY— The developer for the proposed Derby Line Wind Project filed to withdraw from the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) proceedings on May 24th. Encore Redevelopment of Burlington wanted to construct two turbines, each more than 420 feet tall at the tip of the blade, on two farms in Derby Line. However the developer, Chad Farrell who is withdrawing for now, plans to file again in early 2013, but for only one turbine.

The turbine for Smugglers Hill Farm is terminated from future plans by Encore, according to a press release from Farrell, but the plans for one turbine on Grand View Farm, owned by the Davis family, have paused until 2013.

"To remove international controversy that has distracted our public officials, including the clerk's office and to focus its own efforts on the Grand View Farm project, Encore is withdrawing the Smugglers Hill Farm project from the Standard Offer Program.... Of the two projects, the one proposed for Smugglers Hill Farm is the closest to the Canadian border and it is the project that has generated the most controversy. Encore will not pursue the Smugglers Hill Farm project any further," wrote Leslie Cadwell, the attorney for the developer, to the PSB Clerk on May 24th.

The growing costs of defending the projects put the entire project at risk, Farrell stated in a press release. "We hope that this change in the project will demonstrate our willingness to reach out and work with the local community in Derby and Stanstead to find common ground."

Encore plans to conduct outreach with the goal of generating community support.

Farrell says the Section 248 process will begin again in early 2013 for the Grand View Farm project.

Canadians were quiet for a long time, but the developer had failed to notify Stanstead when the other towns were notified. When residents became aware, they began to speak out.

Smugglers Hill Farm borders Stanstead, Que., while the Grand View Farm is across the street from the border and the proposed turbine site sits further back. The project created significant controversy, especially the Smugglers Hill location because of its proximity to resident's homes. The international controversy led to multiple protests, one of which attracted more than 150 people from both the U.S. and Canada. A second petition was started that now contains more than 300 signatures. The first was started in Derby soon after the project was announced. The Town of Stanstead is opposed and has intervenor status, and recently multiple Canadian residents are seeking intervenor status as well. On the U.S. side, The Village of Derby Line opposed the project and all of the Holland Select Board members have opposed the project and were planning an official vote.

The Derby Select Board was divided. Several Derby and Holland residents sought intervenor status as well.

The developer had also failed to notify several adjoining land owners to the Chase farm as required by PSB rules. This failure caused the PSB to grant more time to those who were not notified to seek to intervene, and several did.

When the project was first presented in the summer of 2011 a few residents had questions, while only some were opposed. Many residents said they were undecided at first, but after they conducted research they became adamantly opposed. Most cited concerns over potential side effects from the turbines such as possible health effects, property value declines, and shadow flicker.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:00 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29:

WPTZ:

Vermont, New York under tornado watch

COLCHESTER, Vt. - The National Weather Service in Vermont has issued a tornado watch for all of Vermont and northern New York. The watch is in effect until 9 p.m. Tuesday. The counties under the watch could see 2-inch hail, 70 mile-per-hour thunderstorm wind gusts, lightning and downpours. Downpours could bring flash flooding.

A tornado watch means the conditions are favorable for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. The storms are expected to develop over the next 2 hours.

We'll keep you posted as information becomes available.

VPR:

Jamaica Homeowners Wait For Resolution

Many homeowners displaced by Tropical Storm Irene are still waiting to put their losses behind them and start over. But the wheels of government recovery programs turn at their own pace.

In a Jamaica neighborhood where the flood carried off four homes, the disaster's long aftermath is taking its toll.

On a brisk early spring day Franny Sherwood walks the rebuilt gravel road that's the latest version of Water Street in Jamaica. The street runs parallel to a brook, once a leafy haven with a swimming hole.

"And we had a path down to the brook," Sherwood says. "And there was a locust tree and a maple tree and a crabapple tree. And the brook is actually..." She shakes her head. "you know what? It's so changed it's hard to even remember."

The trees are gone now, replaced by what Sherwood calls a moonscape of boulders.

Sherwood's home of 20 years was the last house left standing when Irene transformed the brook into a torrent that picked up and destroyed the four houses beyond hers, and washed away the land beneath them.

All that's left is a strip of former back yards, dotted with outbuildings, abandoned gardens, and disconnected pipes.

Sherwood spies one of her displaced neighbors, Dave Kaneshiro, clearing debris on what's left of his land.

"Hi Dave!" she calls. "Looks like you're making progress."

"It's better than sitting on my thumbs waiting for the federal government," Kaneshiro answers.

Kaneshiro is a retired engineer and a widower. He raised three children in the big white house that vanished in an instant on August 28.

Now he's waiting for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Buyout program to decide about the four Water Street properties.

The federal buyout program permanently removes flood-prone structures and offers payments for property owners, which could mean a chance to start over for some.

Kaneshiro has been assured he'll qualify for the buyout program. He learned in February that the four Jamaica properties were among those recommended to FEMA by the state.

But the federal deliberation process has been fraught with backups and delays.

"The hardest thing is just waiting," Kaneshiro says. "Waiting to see what the results are so I can go on with life. I'm still trying to get over it. It's gone. It's gone. It's gone. Now you gotta start a new life. And the finalization of the mitigation program would be the first step after the flood."

Kaneshiro actually has the prospect of a new life waiting. A long-lost sweetheart from his youth in California spotted him on a national news broadcast after the storm. They've been carrying on a long-distance courtship.

"So hopefully our future, Kathleen and I, will help in the adjustment to a new life," he says.

Kaneshiro says the waiting has been hard on the fledgling romance. But he won't leave Vermont until his property changes hands and things are settled.

Even then, he says he won't forget the old life that was snatched away. He picks up a toy plastic racket from the ground.

"That's our old badminton set..." He laughs, then laughs again, as if remembering something in the past.

If and when the FEMA buyout happens, the four unlivable properties will be turned into a public green space.

"It'll be nice," he says, "I think even though it started as a disaster, people will enjoy coming here."

One neighbor who isn't visiting his land much is Brett Morrison, a divorced father of three young children. We met in a hotel lobby near his workplace.

The contents of Morrison's house splintered into pieces when the building was washed downstream on the torrent and then hit the bridge at the end of Water Street.

Morrison spent weeks searching debris islands in the West River for any remnant of his old life. But he says he's stopped that mostly futile exercise.

"I realized it probably wasn't healthy," he says.

Morrison spent the winter in a donated condo at Stratton, where his kids could visit often.

"Actually it was not a good winter," he says. "But it was more the combination of being transient, and an overwhelming confluence of uncertainty, I think."

Morrison's biggest worry was the mortgage he still owed on his property. But in February his bank and his volunteer lawyer reached an agreement.

He says, "As I understand it, I don't owe the mortgage amount anymore. But they hold that amount as a lien on the property. So any transfer of the property then will be satisfied in one way or another."

That means that if the Hazard Mitigation buyout happens, the bank will claim its share. He doesn't know how it will turn out. But Morrison doesn't expect to buy a new house anytime soon.

"As much as I want a home," Morrison says, "I think I'm going to want to be a renter for a little while."

He says he'd be reluctant now to live on Water Street, despite the overwhelming kindnesses of his Jamaica neighbors. He says Tropical Storm Irene served as a reminder that floods almost like this one have happened in the past here. He says he wouldn't feel safe.

Andy Coyne also worries about the danger. His house at the end of Water Street is still there.

But as the town's health officer, he watched his neighbors' houses get swept downstream and explode when they hit the bridge.

Now, he says, those images won't stop repeating in his mind. He thinks he may be suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome.

"It's a process that we're going through," He explains. "How such a radical change could happen. And it's never going to be changed back to anything like it was."

But something else changed for Coyne, in the process of working with his neighbors to repair the damage and make sure everyone was taken care of.

He explains, "The thing that has happened for me, is I have a different sense of community. I didn't know how much I loved the town. And I have a different perspective on my neighbors and the people that live around here."

At the Jamaica Town Meeting in March, Coyne was nominated and elected to the town select board. There's a lot of work left to bring the town back and Coyne says he's like to have a hand in it.

Brattleboro Examines Pedestrian Deaths

Accidents involving pedestrians have spiked statewide over the past several months. Brattleboro has seen the worst of it, and now local officials are trying to identify the causes - and the solutions.

Something, or a combination of things, is endangering pedestrians. Since last fall, nine people have been hit and three have been killed.

"When he got hit he'd broken every major bone in his body. We found out later his fifth and sixth cervical was separated by an inch and a half," Michael Crosby said. His 82-year-old father Bernard was struck near his home on Western Avenue in late February. He died nine days later.

"He'd been crossing that street for over sixty years and it wasn't no issue. It's devastating for us," Crosby said.

Police haven't determined what caused the three fatalities, two of which occurred on Western Avenue, or Route 9.

Stuart McDermott of the West Brattleboro Association says a number of factors contribute to accidents.

"It might be with sidewalks, it might be with crosswalks."

He says there are issues with bike lanes, with visibility, and turning and definitely with speed.

Cell phone use is likely another issue. But these officials are focused on a few things they know they can fix.

"Okay, so this is one of the examples that we came up with," said Planning Director and Traffic Safety Committee member Rod Francis as he points out weaknesses on Western Avenue. "You'll notice just beyond this parcel, the sidewalk ends."

Just before the Melrose Bridge, the sidewalk dies into a curb. So does the bike lane. Francis says this sort of thing typifies the main arteries leading in and out of town.

"For reasons of safety and feeling comfortable, most people will end up using a motor vehicle to commute in and out of downtown Brattleboro," Francis said.

To tackle these issues, town officials have literally taken to the streets. They recently partnered with AARP-VT to look into how they might improve pedestrian safety, especially in West Brattleboro. Soon, Brattleboro wants to hire a consultant for the first round of improvements.

"We did turn a crisis into an opportunity," said Steve Fortier, Executive Director of Meeting Waters YMCA and founder and coordinator of the Healthy Communities Coalition. He says it's not uncommon for towns to come up against planning and design that favor the automobile.

"Now our challenge nationwide and here locally is to undo some of that, and try to get back to a design that at least puts pedestrians and people that would like to commute on bicycle on an equal playing field," Fortier said.

Academy is also on Western Avenue. Jerry Rounds has been the school's crossing guard for two years.

"We need something to slow the traffic down," Rounds said.

Just last month, officials scattered traffic cones and neon signs in the median to call attention to the 75-foot-long crosswalk.

"For a little while when they put up some of the barriers and so on around here things did get a little bit better," Rounds said.

But eventually, Rounds says, traffic sped up again.

Last year, the Legislature passed the "Complete Streets" law, which ensures that the needs of all roadway users, including pedestrians and cyclists, are considered in transportation projects.

Morristown Approves Plan To Host State Hospital Beds

Town officials in Morristown have formally approved an agreement with the state to host some beds from the state mental hospital.

The agreement comes nearly nine months after Tropical Storm Irene devastated the State Hospital in Waterbury.

The hospital will be replaced with one central and two regional facilities. Morristown will host 16 beds for a year beginning in July.

The town is slated to discuss the plan at a select board meeting Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reports town officials in Berlin will hold their own meeting Wednesday on the plan for the 25-bed central hospital in that central Vermont town.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29:

WCAX:

Lightning strikes hit 3 Barre homes

BARRE, Vt. - It's been a stormy morning across our region and lightning strikes are being blamed for three separate structure fires just in the City of Barre.

A 200-year-old farmhouse on Allen Street was destroyed by fire. Lightning struck the home when a powerful storm rolled through central Vermont around 9 a.m.

Officials say two homes off U.S. Route 302, on Liberty and Waterman streets were also damaged by fire. Damage to those homes was minimal.

With the fire calls coming in within minutes of each other, firefighters from throughout central Vermont were called into action. Barre Fire Chief Tim Bombardier tells the AP one firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion, but he is back on the job.

Big changes for Exit 16 in Colchester

COLCHESTER, Vt. - A major project is in the works to revamp Exit 16 in Colchester.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation says the Colchester exit off Interstate 89 has been under the microscope for a while.

VTrans says there will be changes to the way traffic is aligned and how drivers enter and exit the interstate from side streets and the intersection.

They say a "double-diamond" traffic pattern, which is drastically different than the current layout, and a new series of stoplights, will improve traffic flow in the busy area.

Vermont National Guard chief to talk of new job

COLCHESTER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont National Guard Adjutant Gen. Michael Dubie is getting ready to take a new job.

Last week the U.S. Senate confirmed Dubie's promotion to the rank of lieutenant general and his naming as deputy commander of the United States Northern Command. He's planning to discuss the change Tuesday afternoon.

The Northern Command was created following the 9/11 attacks to protect U.S. territory and provide military support for civil authorities in the event of a national emergency.

The new job means Dubie will leave the National Guard post he's held since 2006.

Illuzzi leaning toward auditor race

BURLINGTON, Vt. - State Senator Vince Illuzzi says he will not seek the Attorney General's job but is leaning toward running for auditor.

The long-time Republican Senator from Essex and Orleans Counties tells WCAX he has ruled out a run for Attorney General but now that Auditor Tom Salmon is not seeking re-election he is leaning toward a run for state auditor.

A recent poll by WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine had Illuzzi losing the AG's race against a Democratic opponent. Illuzzi is also the State's Attorney in Essex County and chairs the Economic Development Committee in the Vermont Senate.

Poll: Voters support banning cell phones behind the wheel

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. - They have become a regular part of people's daily lives. Whether talking with friends and family, conducting business, or capturing a moment -- cell phones are often in hand.

But what about using cell phones while driving on Vermont roads?

"I mean, I've done it before. I think pretty much everybody has," said Garrett Quillia of Hartford.

"I don't use my phone when I drive," said Hunter Wilson of Lake Placid, N.Y.

"It's a major distraction. It's like driving if you are drunk," said Bruce Lather of White River Junction.

For many who are on the road a lot, being able to chat on the fly is a huge convenience. But, according to a recent poll, the overwhelming majority of Vermonters think it is a bad idea.

The poll conducted by Castleton College found that 80 percent of Vermonters favor banning cell phones while driving. Seventeen percent oppose a ban and 3 percent were not sure.

Bruce Lather favors a ban. "You are thinking about the person you are talking to and they can't see the road, so they can't help you if there is anything in your way," he said.

Others, like Garrett Quillia, feel using a mobile phone is ok when behind the wheel, as long as it is used with a hands-free device. "As long as you are doing that, and it's hands-free, I don't really see it any different as someone being in the car. But I do think if you are holding it up with your hand, it does seem to distract," he said.

The poll did not distinguish between hand-held cell phones and hand-free devices. But other states like New York require a hands-free device. Hunter Wilson is from Lake Placid. "I think it is a pretty good law because when you are on your phone it distracts people. A lot of my friends, I see them on the phone and they will miss stop signs and stuff," he said.

It is illegal to text and drive in Vermont. New Hampshire and New York also forbid texting on the road. But, talking and driving in the Green Mountains--at least when it comes to the law--continues to get a green light.

Barre property owner to pay \$6,000 wetlands penalty

WAITSFIELD, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont property owner has agreed to pay the state a \$6,000 penalty to settle wetlands violations.

State investigators say Pamela Malone constructed a driveway through a wetland and approved clearing, grading, dredging and filling activities on the land, which is slightly less than an acre. A small pond was created on the property, which is in Barre.

The state said Malone did not apply for paperwork allowing for the work.

As part of the settlement, Malone will hire a wetland consultant to submit a restoration plan and monitor the wetland for invasive species.

Goddard College biomass plant meets resistance

PLAINFIELD, Vt. - Plans in the works to heat Goddard College with biomass are getting icy reviews from the school's neighbors.

Ken Smith and his Plainfield neighbors are pretty heated over Goddard College's plans to build a new wood chip plant within yards of their homes.

"It's going to be an eyesore. I don't want to look at a pipe blowing steam out all winter long," says Plainfield resident Ken Smith.

"It's moving what's basically an industrial-looking building and an industrial kind of use into a residential neighborhood," says Plainfield resident Yvonne Byrd,

Right now efforts are underway to replace the college's boilers with the more environmentally friendly heating option.

Folks along Route 214 say the idea may be a good one but say there has to be a less visible place to put it on the 100-plus acre campus.

"They're putting it there for their own convenience because they don't want it in their backyard," Smith says.

Goddard says the facility will be smaller in size and similar in structure to one of these residence halls, and changes have been made to the proposed roofline and orientation of the building to address neighborhood concerns, but that moving it altogether would simply be too expensive.

The project has been roughly two years in the making with an estimated price tag of about \$2.3 million.

The current administration says it can't speak for past leadership, but challenges claims that they're not good neighbors.

"The fact that we won't necessarily do what the neighbors want doesn't mean that we are icy, that we don't care and that we're not compassionate about their concerns," says Faith Brown with Goddard College.

Goddard is also quick to point out- the many positives it sees behind the plant.

"We're getting rid of 22 boilers, that who knows what kind of emissions they have. We're putting in a very safe wood chip plant. We're reducing truck traffic, and were employing local Vermonters to help us get the wood chips and to manage the plant," Brown says.

Still with all this open green space-angry neighbors say there has to be a better spot.

"We understand that you're looking to find the best way to heat the campus, but if there is a hit to be taken it's yours to take, not us, not ours," Byrd says.

Goddard will need Act 250 approval before it moves forward with the project. A hearing is scheduled here at the campus June 14.

Fox44:

Cuomo Administration Eases Smoke Ban

ALBANY, N.Y. - The Cuomo administration is suspending its restrictions on smoking in parks, pools, beaches and historic sites after a smokers' rights groups objected.

Instead, the administration says Tuesday the measures will be voluntary for at least two months while a full rule-making process including public comment is concluded.

The state parks department issued its order in April after the Legislature failed to approve laws that would restrict smoking to some areas of the public facilities this summer. Failure to obey could have resulted in a disorderly conduct arrest.

Smokers' rights advocate Audrey Silk had threatened to sue the state, saying the administrative action tried to overrule the Legislature and failed to consider opposing views.

Signs prohibiting smoking have already been posted.

Vt. Village Wants to Discuss Bridge With NH

Bellows Falls, Vt. - Officials in a Vermont village want to discuss long-awaited repairs to a bridge connecting the state to New Hampshire.

The well-traveled Vilas Bridge over the Connecticut River was closed in 2009 after an inspection found continued deterioration of the bridge deck.

The bridge, which connects Walpole, N.H., to Bellows Falls, Vt., was built in 1930. It's been on New Hampshire's Red List of troubled bridges for more than 20 years.

New Hampshire is responsible for the 635-foot bridge. So far, it has not scheduled reconstruction in its 10-year transportation plan. The delay is caused primarily by an anticipated 30 percent reduction in federal highway money to New Hampshire.

The Eagle Times reports Bellows Falls is proposing a June meeting with New Hampshire transportation agents to discuss repairs.

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Internship

Hi [REDACTED]

We have received your background check and affirmation of confidentiality. I will let you know when the background check comes back.

My best,

Leigh

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Internship

Hey,

Sorry, my family recently moved and internet has not been functioning correctly. Do you want me to fill the paper work out then try to scan it on my computer and email it to you that way? Then should I go have the background check done myself prior to coming or do I just fill out the paper to the best of my ability and then bring it in with me? I could start either this Friday, the 25, or Thursday, the 31. I have orientation things the 21, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 of May. After that, beginning in June, I could do Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-2:30. Does that work?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

From: Appleby, Leigh [Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 4:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Internship

[REDACTED]

My apologies that I did not send you the paperwork you needed to submit for a background check. Please fill out the attached paperwork and email it back at your earliest convenience.

When are you available to begin?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 4:23 PM

To: Appleby, Leigh

Subject: RE: Internship

Hey,

Just wondering if you could provide some advice for me. Back in March, Ms. Wengroff told me that I received the internship and would be working on education reform. She said that I would be receiving emails for background checks and the process on how I could get started to be ready to go when I came home from campus. I unfortunately haven't received any information and have emailed and called, but have received no new information. I'm not really sure what I should do so that I can start with the internship.

Any advice?

Thanks,

From: Appleby, Leigh [Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:28 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Internship

Hi [REDACTED]

I do apologize that we've been difficult to contact in the past few weeks. I really appreciate your persistence on this. Ariel Wengroff is the right person to speak with about this. Her email address is ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us.

Also, calling her in the office at (802)828-3333 is a good way of reaching her during the day.

Thanks for your patience,

Leigh

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:10 AM

To: Appleby, Leigh

Subject: RE: Internship

Heyy,

I sent in an internship application a few about a month ago. About 3 days after I sent the application, Ari Windorf (not sure I spelled that right) contacted me to ask me a few questions. However, I was at track practice. I returned her call that day and left a message. The next day I called back because I had not heard from her. She answered and said she was stepping out and we agreed on 5pm as a good time to call. My coach cut my practice early and I sat by my phone awaiting a phone call that I did not receive. I waited a week and called back. The first time someone answered me but they could not hear me. Therefore, I called back, but no one answered. I then left a message explaining how we've played phone tag and how I look forward to her call. However, I have not received a phone call back and I left this message about a week ago. I'm not too sure what else to do and I thought you might have some advice because she first called saying she had additional questions for me.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: Appleby, Leigh [Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 8:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Internship

Reference contact information should be fine. Letters of recommendation are a bonus but not a necessity.

I look forward to getting your application.

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@bethanywv.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 10:09 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Subject: RE: Internship

Hey,

I am in the process of finalizing my internship application, would you like me to have three references write letters of recommendation or are the reference lines just for me to put reference information for you guys?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

From: Appleby, Leigh [leigh.appleby@state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2011 3:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us
Subject: Internship

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for expressing interest in an internship with Governor Shumlin's office. The office does have a summer internship program, and we would be happy to discuss the possibility of having you join the team. In the meantime, please fill out the attached internship application and return it via email or regular mail.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leigh Appleby | Director of Constituent Services Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609
(802)828-3333

Error! Filename not specified.

This message may contain confidential information for the use of the addressee(s) above and may contain legally privileged information. If you are not the addressee, or the person responsible for delivering it to the addressee, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, distributing or copying this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message by mistake, immediately notify us by replying to the message and delete the original message immediately. Thank you.

London, Sarah

From: Pallas, Karen on behalf of Duffy, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:51 PM
To: DHR; Abbiati, Gloria; Appel, Robert; Appleby, Leigh; Baker, James; Bergquist, Emily; Berry, Patrick; Besio, Susan; Bothfeld, Diane; Candon, Tom; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Clasen, Michael; Cohen, Jeff; Condos, James; Cook, Steve; Deal, Howard; Dolan, Tracy; Drew, Thomas; Dubie, Michael; Duffy, Kate; Flood, Patrick; Flynn, Keith; Greemore, Bob; Hayward, Donald; Hofmann, Sarah; Hogan, Mike; Hollar, Jennifer; Hutt, Monica; Ide, Robert; Jackson, Melissa; Johnson, Justin; Juhasz, Joe; Kimbell, Steve; Knopf, Rae; Leven, Brian; Lofy, Bill; Love, Wendy; Mackay, Noelle; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb; McGuckin, Kenneth; Menard, Lisa; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minter, Sue; MoultonPowden, Pat; Mousley, Gregg; Murnane, Janet; Murphy, Reeve; Noonan, Annie; Noonan, Tim; Obuchowski, Mike; Oliver, Christine; Pallito, Andy; Pearce, Beth; Peterson, Mary; Provost, David; Racine, Doug; Reardon, Jim; Recchia, Chris; Reid, Martha; Rickert, Valerie; Ross, Chuck; Russell, William; Salmon, Tom; Sandretto, Tom; Searles, Brian; Slota, Bianca; Smith, Megan; Snyder, Michael; Sorrell, Willaim; Spaulding, Jeb; Sullivan, Ruthann; Talbott, Bill; Tucker, David; Valerio, Matthew; Vilaseca, Armando; Volz, James; Walcott, Cindy; Wisloski, Stephen; Yacovone, Dave; Yandow, Alan; Zeller, Susan; Boisvert, Sonya; Clark, Claudia; Connelley, Amy; Cyr, Joanne; Desrochers, Norm; Duncan, Shari; Flanagan, Kathy; Fuller, Stephanie; Graves, Mary; Grout, Laurie; Hudson, Brenda; Johnson, Harriet; Knaapen, Michael; Leibold, Phil; Macaskill, Lucie; Marquis, Doreen; Morse, Linda; O'Toole, Dawn; Patton, Tammie; Pepin, Ruth; Rowe, Gayle; Seymour, Susan; Simoes, Nancy; Tibbetts, Terri; Walker, Penny; Wojtyna, Donna; Barton, Sandra; Behrns, Ronald; Bernardini, Barbara; Buck, Rebecca; Bullard, Janet; Cameron, Cathy; Carrier, Janis; Chamberlin, Brenda; Davison, Vanessa; Deaett, Mary; Grant, Patricia A.; Grassmann, Felix; Hall, Linda; Hutchins, Judi; Isabelle, Jean-Paul; Lacasse, Carole; LaPerle, Al; Leinoff, Emily; Mattison, Lestyn; Metivier, Krista; Miller, Janet; Morrison, Mary; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Murray, Jan; OHara, Kathy; Osborne, Mike; Swanson, Mary-Kay; Thayer, Kathy; Wheeler, Denise
Subject: DHR Weather Advisory

Good Afternoon,

There are some weather advisories in effect for various parts of the State. However, these do not warrant reducing staff or closing State offices at this time. Subject to the operating needs of the Departments, some employees may wish to request to leave early due to local weather-related conditions by using their accrued leave time.

The latest weather, travel and safety recommendations for such situations should be checked if there are any questions.

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/btv/>

Please pass this information along to your respective departments/agencies as appropriate.

Kate Duffy | Commissioner | Vermont Department of Human Resources
110 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05620-3001 | Ph: 802-828-3491 | Fax: 802-828-3409

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: WEDNESDAY: Welch to hold telephone town hall meeting on student loan debt and college affordability



Congressman Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives

MEDIA ADVISORY:

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

CONTACT:

Scott Coriell
202.225.4115 (o)
202.689.5352 (c)

Welch to hold telephone town hall meeting on student loan debt and college affordability Wednesday evening

BURLINGTON, Vt. – With Congress at loggerheads over how to avoid a July 1st doubling of interest rates on some Stafford Student Loans, Rep. Peter Welch will hold a telephone town hall meeting Wednesday evening to hear from Vermonters about rising student loan debt and college costs. The town hall comes as Vermont families are trying to piece together the finances to send their children to college in the fall.

Welch will be joined on the call by Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) President and CEO Don Vickers. Following brief introductory remarks, Vermonters taking part in the call will have a chance to ask questions, share their stories and offer their ideas.

In recent weeks, Welch has been collecting stories of Vermonters' struggles with student loan debt on his website at www.welch.house.gov/studentdebt.

To join the call, dial (toll-free) [REDACTED] and enter PIN code [REDACTED].

WHAT: Student Loan Debt and College Affordability Telephone Town Hall

WHO: Rep. Peter Welch and VSAC President and CEO Don Vickers

WHEN: Wednesday, May 30th at 7:30 p.m.

HOW: To join the call, dial (toll-free) [REDACTED] and enter PIN code [REDACTED].

#

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:29 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 13:26:34 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Good. For the second sentence, I'd say: ".....Vermont will continue to be a leader in the effort to create a renewable energy future."

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Post:

Gov. Shumlin is a guest host this week on Vermontivate, a month-long online energy conservation challenge! As more people recognize the impact of climate change, together we will lead the planet towards a renewable energy future. Check out the Governor's guest host challenges here. (link to game)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Date: Mon, 28 May 2012 23:11:01 -0400
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Fw: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Press release for gps guest host gig w energy game this week. A little social media on this would be welcome...liz

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Kathryn Blume <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tue, May 29, 2012 03:02:38 GMT+00:00
Subject: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 29, 2012

Contact: Kathryn Blume - kathryn@kathrynblume.com 802-233-5856

Vermontivate! Ramps Up With Week 3
Governor Shumlin to Guest Host Energy Competition

Vermontivate!, a month-long intertown energy conservation challenge, **welcomes Governor Peter Shumlin as a guest host for Week 3 of the game.**

"It's an honor to have Governor Shumlin, who's a well-known Climate Champion, willing to participate in our game" says Vermontivate! Co-founder Nick Lange. "The Governor's come up with a slate of challenges which all have to do with spreading the word both locally and nationally about energy conservation, and supporting Vermonters still recovering from Tropical Storm Irene."

"We expect a big boost in players from Governor Shumlin's participation," says Vermontivate! co-founder Kathryn Blume. "Between that and players starting to wander around their towns in Energy Superhero costumes," muses Blume, "the next couple weeks could be one heck of a ride!"

The community energy game, which runs until June 15, has already gained over 100 players from 12 towns across the state. Two of those towns - Brattleboro and Charlotte - have completed the eligibility requirements for the Grand Prize and are in the running to win a town ice cream party from Ben&Jerry's.

Shelburne, which is awaiting final Eligibility Confirmation, got its own boost when State Representative Jason Lorber visited their Memorial Day launch party. "Vermontivate is onto something real," said Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington). "Through addictive environmental games, Vermontivate connects Vermonters to environmental action. The ultimate winner, though, is the world."

For more information, curious onlookers and interested potential players can visit www.vermontivate.com.

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Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout
www.kathrynblume.com
c. 802.233.5856
kablume@gmail.com
Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 6:15 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Crowd flocks to Vergennes Memorial Day parade

VERGENNES — The loudest ovation went to an American flag spanning the width of the road and held aloft by members of the local Elks lodge.

The guy driving the van with the “Nobama” placard received a mix of emphatic applause and low jeers. The Jeep towing a flag-draped coffin and the inscription “remember why they died” was met with silence.

“Tractor!” squealed 3-year old Emma Stearns whenever one chugged by. The girl and her parents had driven the 20-odd miles from Burlington to Vergennes on Monday to take in the procession.

“This is fabulous,” said the girl’s mother, Leslie Stearns. “This is the first time we brought her to a parade like this.”

The Moody children, also from Burlington, had been before and had learned to bring plastic bags to stash the candy they plucked from the side of the road. Six-year-old Norra took credit for the tactic that her brother Grant, 10, and sister Paige, 8 also employed.

The city’s annual Memorial Day Parade set forth from Vergennes Union High School at 11 a.m., turned up Monkton Road and proceeded onto Main Street. Hundreds of spectators lined the route, many of them pitching lawn chairs in front yards. Some sprawled out in the grass or in the backs of pickups.

As the cacophony of bass, brass, motors and sirens lurched forward, politicians broke from the phalanx to shake hands with prospective voters. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Gov. Peter Shumlin, wannabe-governor Randy Brock, Attorney General Bill Sorrell and wannabe-attorney general T.J. Donovan all made the rounds while supporters distributed paraphernalia.

Behind them float drivers pelted the crowd with sweets, and kids armed with squirt guns opened fire on the mob. A contingent of Civil War re-enactors shot their muskets skyward, startling a small boy who had been warned to cover his ears, but didn’t.

The parade came and went in about an hour, roughly the amount of time for traffic to clear out of the Shaw’s parking lot off Monkton Road, where many of the spectators had parked.

Vermont might just dodge the hot national summer forecast

USA TODAY

As the nation swelters through its warmest year on record, a new forecast for a broiling summer is raising concern about wildfires and water shortages, especially across parts of the Western and Southern states.

Federal forecasters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released their summer weather forecast this month. In Vermont, though, the news is more temperate.

The center said the northern United States, north of a line from Oregon to New Jersey and including Vermont, has equal chances of having a warm, cool or normal summer.

There's a good chance Vermont's spring weather, as recorded at the National Weather Service in South Burlington, will be the warmest on record. If the remainder of May is relatively warm, as predicted, this spring will be even hotter than the record spring of 1903, according to National Weather Service data.

Andrew Loconto, a National Weather Service meteorologist in South Burlington, said there's no way to tell whether the balmy spring this year will lead to a torrid summer.

About three-fourths of the nation — from the Southwest to the Mid-Atlantic — faces elevated odds of above-average temperatures this summer, NOAA forecaster Jon Gottschalck said.

"However, we can't predict how much above average that area will be," he said.

Loconto says he has no reason to doubt the Climate Prediction Center forecast, but there's a good risk it could be a little off.

Summer weather systems tend to be weak and sometimes erratic, making predictions tricky, Loconto said. By contrast, winter weather is often driven by large, powerful systems that sometimes lock more or less into place for weeks, making cold season forecasts a little better, he noted.

Of course, normal could mean extremes, Loconto said. If half the summer is cold and the other half is hot, the result would be a "normal" summer overall, but those who experienced the weather extremes might not call it normal.

Trending warm

Summers have trended warm in recent years: The National Climatic Data Center reports that all but two of the summers since 2000 have been warmer than average, including 2011, which was the second-warmest on record.

(Page 2 of 2)

"We may see a pretty significant wildfire season in the West," reported meteorologist Greg Carbin of the Storm Prediction Center on Thursday. "Conditions aren't looking good," he said, because of recent dry weather and lack of soil moisture.

In addition to wildfires, the unusually dry winter in parts of the country is also raising drought worries: "Areas of the Southwest are extremely dry," NOAA climate scientist Jake Crouch said. "There is a concern about water resources this summer, as reservoirs are below average in New Mexico and Arizona."

As for precipitation, the parts of the nation that are favored to see below-average rainfall this summer are the Northwest and northern Rockies, Gottschalck noted.

No areas are expected to be wetter-than-normal this summer.

Private weather forecasting firm AccuWeather issued a forecast earlier that the worst of the heat this summer will be in the Rockies and over the western and central Plains.

As for severe weather, Carbin reports that there have been 475 tornadoes in the U.S. through April, above average but still far below last year's devastating January-April total of 912.

Matt Sutkoski contributed to this report. Contact him at 660-1846 or msutkoski@burlingtonfreepress.com. Follow Matt on Twitter at www.twitter.com/vermontweather

Vermont State Police consider moving Williston barracks

BY MATT SUTKOSKI

WILLISTON — Vermont State Police officers responding to emergencies don't like dealing with traffic congestion any more than you do.

Which is why there's thought to abandoning the Vermont State Police barracks on busy Vermont 2A for more lightly traveled pastures.

The Williston barracks is just north of the Interstate 89 exit 12 off ramps, which sends traffic streaming by the building. Shoppers throng the nearby Maple Tree Place, Walmart, Home Depot and dozens of other retailers surrounding the barracks.

That can make leaving the barracks tricky during periods of heavy traffic, said Allen Palmer, a property management specialist with the state of Vermont.

"When they have to respond to a crime or a crash scene, it does make it tough for police to get in and out of there," Palmer said.

Luckily, there are no reports of serious crashes involving police leaving and heading into the barracks. "To my knowledge, there hasn't been, that I know of, any accident with any state police cruisers," Palmer said.

The Vermont Building and General Services department put out an advertisement asking property owners near Interstate 89 exit 11 in Richmond or exit 17 in Colchester to contact them if they had land as potential public safety building sites. The land needs to be fairly close to the interstate because it allows police to respond quickly to emergencies, and many calls are along or near the interstate, Palmer said.

The department initially declined to reveal which landowners responded to the advertisements or where the parcels were located, citing privacy in property sale negotiations.

However, Building and General Services subsequently released the information in response to a Burlington Free Press Freedom of Information request.

Most of the properties were within a mile or two of Interstate 89 exit 17 in Colchester, just south of the Milton town line.

Ronald Lamell offered 40 acres off West Milton Road, close to Interstate 89, according to the documents released by the state. Highpoint Reality said it could offer three parcels in Milton, just north of exit 17 and just west of U.S. 7. Pleasant Valley Real Estate has two potential sites in Milton near U.S. 7.

Also, DEW Properties reported it has 12 acres at the GBIC Industrial Park, near U.S. 7 on Gonyea Road in Milton, a couple miles north of exit 17. Eric Johns told state officials he has 11 acres on Jasper Mine Road in Colchester, just west of exit 17. J.L. Davis Realty said it has 10 to 15 acres immediately west of Interstate 89 and just south of U.S. 2 near exit 17.

J.L. Davis said it also listed 35 acres on Governor Peck Road in Richmond. Also in Richmond, Justin Willis said property his family owns on West Main Street might soon become available.

Other properties were near Rathe Road in Colchester and Vermont 104A in Georgia. Documents submitted by the landowners did not give details on list prices for the properties.

The documents released by the Building and General Services department also indicate the state is considering moving the Vermont State Police barracks in Middlesex. More than 20 landowners responded to an advertisement, similar to the one concerning the Williston barracks, seeking alternative sites to Middlesex.

There's no guarantee the Vermont State Police barracks will ever move to any of the properties, Palmer said. "This is basically a feasibility study to see if there is any alternatives out there that is cost effective," he said.

Even if the state finds suitable land for a public safety building, a new one won't be built immediately, Palmer said. No money is allocated for a new building, he said.

If the state Public Safety Department eventually wants to build a new building, the department would ask the Legislature for the funding, possibly in the next legislative session, Palmer said.

Williston Town Manager Rick McGuire said if Vermont State Police eventually leave the Vermont 2A barracks, it would have a negligible effect on the town.

State police dispatch for Williston police during some hours, and that would not change if there is a move, he said. McGuire said he is sure somebody else would lease or buy the building if Vermont State Police leave.

"The broader issue is we have concerns about the increasing amounts of traffic on state and town roads and their effect that's having on people's ability on where they want to go," McGuire said.

OP-ED: South Burlington City Council got it right

BY Joe Randazzo

Sometimes you find courage in small places. It was evident at City Hall in South Burlington on May 22, when the City Council took a position opposing deployment of the F-35 at the Burlington International Airport.

The Air Force has been duplicitous from the beginning. Nowhere in their Environmental Impact Statement study do they provide sound levels for two aircraft flying together, yet a wingman is always present during training flights. A second aircraft adds 6 decibels to the apparent sound levels, nearly doubling them. By the Air Force's own admission, 1,366 homes will be subjected to noise levels above federal standards if they base 24 aircraft at this site.

There are serious concerns regarding the Air Force's projected sound measurements of the F-35. The EIS study claims that an F-16, flying at 1,000 feet, generates 101 decibels of sound. It also claims that the F-35 flying at 1,000 feet generates 118 decibels of sound. Their own calculations confirm that this is more than twice the perceived sound levels. If their study is even slightly in error, such as adding the additional sound from a second aircraft, or wingman, the levels could be considerably higher. This would expand the 65 decibels zone that they drew on their map. More homes may have to be demolished.

The Air Force will not provide actual F-35 flyovers so we can hear and measure these aircraft. They are using computer simulations that are totally inaccurate, and that weigh the results in favor of deployment. This is unacceptable. Asking them to study themselves is like asking a Ford salesperson if a Ford truck is as good as a Chevy. There is a built-in conflict of interest. Either bring the F-35s up here and fly over so we can measure you, or fly away.

Unfortunately, we are not finding courage in high places. All our business leaders, our governor, and our congressional delegation are for basing the F-35 because of the money brought into the economy. First of all, they are failing to see the reduced taxes, plummeting property values and lost revenue of 1,366 displaced families.

(Page 2 of 2)

I've got news for all of you. The health of our children, whose hearing will be permanently damaged, and the tranquility of our community are more important than your financial bottom line. How can Sens. Leahy and Sanders, and Congressman Welch be against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and still support this F-35 boondoggle? Do they intend to keep their heads down and tell people what they want to hear in an election year? Would our leaders rejoice if a company moved into South Burlington adding hundreds of jobs building bombs and land mines?

This military pork-barreling is forever condemning the United States into perpetual war. We can not afford peace because our economy will come to a grinding halt. This is a pact with the devil. We need good jobs, high-paying non-defense technical and manufacturing jobs rebuilding our infrastructure. I thought Vermont would be a bastion against the military/industrial complex, but I see that we're really no different than Texas.

One word of protest from our congressional delegation could make all the difference as to whether or not we will have a peaceful community. We are a small New England city, not a military base. It makes no sense basing the loudest plane the Air Force has in a metropolitan area with the highest population density in Vermont.

Bravo to the South Burlington City Council. As for our governor and congressional delegation, you no longer have this family's vote.

Joe Randazzo lives in South Burlington.

Letter: South Burlington makes sad decision

It was really sad today to see that the South Burlington City Council does not support the Vermont Air Guard with it's 4 to 1 vote against basing the F-35s in Vermont. What makes it even worse is that one of the councilors is a military veteran.

Being a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired from the Vermont Air Guard I know just how much these men and women sacrifice and how dedicated they are. For one of your own to go against you is a real slap in the face.

The noise claim along with the quality of life excuse is just fear mongering. Let's face it, when the airport was built many years ago I'm sure there were few houses near by. So what do people do? They build houses close to the airport fully knowing that it is going to be noisy.

If Vermont does one thing good it is drive away good paying jobs. This is just one example.

EUGENE F. VAN TINE
Colchester

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Vermont election dates to remember

Posted on May 29, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

June 14 is the deadline for candidates for legislative seats, statewide and federal offices to file petitions to get on the ballot for a major-party primary or as an independent or minor-party candidate.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Randy Brock is so eager he will file his petitions at 10 a.m. Tuesday, the first day candidates are eligible to file.

Some candidates, though, are still busy making up their minds and they have just two weeks to get their acts together.

Among the questions you might be asking yourself are:

- Will Republicans have candidates U.S. Senate and House who pose a real challenge to independent Bernie Sanders and Democrat Peter Welch? Two candidates are seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate: John MacGovern of Windsor, president of the Hanover Institute and a former Massachusetts legislator, and H. Brooke Paige. One is running for U.S. House: Mark Donka, a Woodstock police officer and former Hartford Selectboard member. Vermont Republican Party Chairman Jack Lindley said he doesn't know any of the candidates. Lindley called both Sanders and Welch tough hurdles with deep campaign bank accounts. "How do you deal with Sanders with \$3.2 million in the bank?" he said. "That's not easy to overcome."

- Will there be a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor to challenge first-term Republican Phil Scott?

- What about a Republican candidate for secretary of state, auditor, attorney general?

- What kind of lineup do any of the parties _ including Progressives _ have for legislative seats? Because these positions are local, local, local it can be harder to get a sense of what's going on, but these candidates are key to a party's overall strength.

The next date on the campaign horizon is July 16. That's when all candidates for the Legislature and statewide offices, plus political parties and committees have to report to the state how much they collected and spent. For better or worse, that will tell us a little something about who's working how hard.

They'll have to report again on the 15th of each month through December.

All this leads to the Aug. 28 primary and the Nov. 6 general election.

Vermont senators press for deal to restore passenger rail service to Montreal

Posted on May 28, 2012 by Nancy Remsen

The U.S. senators from Vermont and New York top diplomatic and security officials in this country and Canada to agree this year how to enable pre-clearance of cross-border rail travelers — a critical step to enhancing and expanding passenger rail service between Montreal, New York City and Vermont.

U.S. Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Vt. and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., made their request in a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

"The economic links between Canada and the states of Vermont and New York are vital, and there is great potential to make them stronger still. A smoother customs experience in Montreal will spur job creation and economic opportunities on both sides of the border," the senators said in a joint statement.

Passenger train service between Vermont and Montreal ended in 1995. Amtrak passenger service continues in the New York side, but the border crossing often involves lengthy delays while agents clear passengers and baggage.

The Shumlin administration says restoration of passenger service to Montreal is a priority, with 2014 as the target.

One stumbling block has been the security.

President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a joint declaration in 2011 — Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness.

This document "articulates a shared approach to security in which both countries work together to address threats within, at, and away from their borders, while expediting lawful trade and travel," the senators' joint statement explains.

"One of the goals of the declaration is finding a way to bolster and encourage pre-clearance facilities at rail stations, and U.S. and Canadian border officials are working on a plan now," the senators said. The foursome want the Montreal station to have the first new pre-clearance facility.

Such a secure facility would be housed within Central Station in Montreal and would be staffed by U.S. and Canadian agents to clear both departing and arriving rail passengers.

"Concrete steps have already been taken to move this initiative forward in the Northeast, as the States of Vermont and New York and the Province of Québec are working closely with Amtrak, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Transportation, and their federal counterparts in Canada," the senators wrote.

Having an agreement about pre-clearance services won't remedy all the challenges that stand in the way of restoration of passenger rail service between Vermont and Montreal.

Track upgrades and permission to travel faster through built-up areas outside Montreal would also be critical to attract riders.

Still Christopher Parker, executive director of the Vermont Rail Action Network said he is increasingly optimistic.

Track and switch upgrades that would allow speedier travel are "relatively simple," he said. "They will take money, but not a lot."

The big breakthrough was the agreement referenced in the senators' letter, he said. It is a commitment that US and Canadian officials must figure out how to make pre-clearance work so cross-border rail travel grows.

Parker sees the senators' letter as a "prod" to make sure the bureaucracy remembers this is important.

Vermont legislative transactions

Posted on May 28, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

For you sports fans out there who read the pro sports transactions, here's the legislative version:

Tom Cheney, from Vermont House speaker's office to U.S. Rep. Peter Welch's Washington office.

Cheney, 25, a Milton native who has been House Speaker Shap Smith's aide for the last three years, is going to work for Welch as a legislative assistant. This week is his last in the speaker's office.

This is the second consecutive aide Smith has lost to D.C. Former aide Liz Saxe just finished up law school at George Washington University.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 6:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29:

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

June is LGBTQ Pride Month in Windham County

BRATTLEBORO -- June is LGBTQ Pride month, and here in Brattleboro the Pride Committee is putting on events throughout the month. These events celebrate the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer communities. Most events are free or sliding scale.

Beginning on Friday, June 1, Pride month kicks off with an LGBTQ art exhibit at the Hooker Dunham Gallery. The opening reception will be 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and a variety of local artists will exhibit.

Two films will be shown, "Riot Acts" on Tuesday, June 5, and "Kinky Boots" on Tuesday, June 19. "Riot Acts" is a film about gender variant musicians, featuring The Shondes, who will perform in Brattleboro later in the month on June 16 at the Stone Church. "Kinky Boots" is a British comedy. The films begin at 7 p.m., at the Marlboro College Graduate Center in Brattleboro.

On Wednesday, June 13, Selectboard member and radio show host Ken Schneck will give his lively presentation "Queers, Jeers & Beers," with film clips and discussion, examining LGBTQ sexuality in film. This event also takes place at the Marlboro College Graduate Center, and begins at 7 p.m.

The Shondes, a band playing "traditional Jewish political pop punk," will perform at the Stone Church on Main Street, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 16. Admission is sliding scale, \$10 to \$15.

The history of AIDS activism is examined on Friday, June 22, in "ACT UP: A History of Direct Action," a presentation at the Menspace at 15 Grove Street, beginning at 7 p.m. A short film will be shown, followed by a panel of speakers with direct experience of these early days of HIV/AIDS.

Following with another form of direct action, on Sunday, June 24, Ken Schneck will lead a community mural project called "The Concrete Quilt." The quilt will be on the cement wall in the High Grove parking lot, and community members can purchase a "quilt panel" for \$1 to \$20 each, and paint the 3-by-6-foot space in the manner of the AIDS quilt panels.

Performance artist Peterson Toscano will perform "Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible," a solo performance at the New England Youth Theater, beginning at 7 p.m., with a \$4 to 10 sliding scale admission. Toscano is a survivor of 17 years of ex-gay therapy, and has since created and performed numerous comedies about his experiences.

Brattleboro's own LGBTQ film festival -- CineSLAM -- opens Saturday, June 30, at the Hooker Dunham Theater with two showings of "The Oldest Lesbian in the World," first at 6:15 p.m. and then at 8:15 p.m. CineSLAM continues on Sunday, July 1, at Tree Frog Farm in Guilford at 3 p.m., with more films and a barbecue. Admission is \$10 for Saturday, \$12 for Sunday, or \$20 for a weekend pass.

More information available at www.cineslam.com.

Closing out the month is the annual Pride Gala Dance Party at the American Legion, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., admission is \$5. DJ Buck will provide dance music.

BENNINGTON BANNER OP-ED BY ARMANDO VILASECA

Moves in the right direction

This spring saw a number of positive developments in the area of school district governance. The changes illustrate how the system established in Act 153 by the Legislature to encourage districts to study the possible benefits of collaborative activities is intended to work.

The first Regional Education District (RED) was created when voters in the school districts of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston each voted to merge their districts with the Flood Brook Union District to form the Mountain Towns RED. The RED received approval of its request to the State Board of Education to move from the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union to the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union.

The departure of the Mountain Towns RED from Windsor Southwest increased the feasibility of the consolidation of the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union with the Rutland-Windsor Supervisory Union to form a single new supervisory union.

Some have expressed concern that an element of coercion underlies the incentives for voluntary merger provided by the Legislature. A point that cannot be emphasized too strongly is that these changes in all cases were initiated by local units. The RED vote received overwhelming support in each of the four districts. The transfer of the RED from Windsor Southwest to Bennington-Rutland was proposed by the RED Study Committee and had the support of the superintendents and supervisory union boards in both supervisory unions.

The initiative for the consolidation of Rutland-Windsor and Windsor Southwest originated with a study committee created by the supervisory unions themselves. The supervisory union boards, with the support of their superintendents, petitioned the State Board for permission to consolidate contingent on the successful creation of the RED and its move to Bennington-Rutland. Public support for the SU consolidation was demonstrated by advisory votes in two districts where the proposal received solid majorities.

Appropriately, the primary consideration in the proposals was the educational experience of students. Each of the districts that formed the RED educated students in grades K-8 at Flood Brook Elementary and offered student/parental choice for grades 9-12. A preponderance of students chose Burr and Burton Academy, an independent high school.

This combination of education provided by the districts in lower grades and high school choice is found in the districts of Bennington-Rutland, even to the extent that Burr and Burton is the most commonly chosen high school. Other districts in Windsor Southwest are members of Green Mountain Union District. The shift will allow improved curriculum development in both supervisory unions.

Improved efficiency is secondary to the educational experience of students but can be a result of such changes. Given the pioneering nature of the activities, particularly the supervisory union consolidation, the Department of Education contracted with a consultant with experience in accounting, school district financial reporting and best practices for supervisory unions. His analysis suggests that the total savings to the Mountain Towns RED, the consolidated supervisory union and the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union should exceed \$700,000 per year.

Finally, I would like to correct a widespread misconception. There is a belief that any time a group of districts establishes a RED Study Committee and a RED proposal is voted down, or the committee recommends against forming a RED, that the result should be labeled a failure. The Legislature extended an invitation to districts to engage in discussions with

one another. Success or failure should be measured by the quality of the discussions. In virtually every case, participating districts came away with useful information.

The House and Senate Education Committees spent weeks taking testimony on ideas that required enabling legislation. The result of their efforts, Act 156 of 2012, was signed into law by Governor Shumlin May 16. With the expanded set of opportunities, there is every reason to hope for continued improvements in students' educational experiences created through increasing collaboration of all sorts among Vermont's school districts and supervisory unions.

Armando Vilaseca is Vermont Commissioner of Education.

VTDIGGER:

Digger Tidbits: VELCO bond sale to pay for transmission upgrades; Poll shows Vermonters divided on Yankee, support \$21 million cash payback to CVPS ratepayers

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

A \$120 million bond sale by the state's electric transmission utility could save ratepayers millions, says Kerrick Johnson, vice president of external affairs for the Vermont Electric Power Company.

VELCO, the company that manages the state's electric transmission system, announced the bond sale last week, which will help pay for transmission grid reliability projects.

The money will finance a 950-mile fiber optic project and a number of substation upgrades, including one in Ascutney.

VELCO uses a 50/50 debt-to-equity ratio to fund projects. The \$120 million bond will allow for \$240 million in upgrades, Johnson said.

The bond sale represented the most attractive pricing on record in the U.S. private placement bond market, according to VELCO officials.

That pricing and a favorable rate of return on investments in the transmission system will lower rates for customers, according to Johnson.

"Owing to Vermont regulatory structure, that goes back to ratepayers," he said.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission allows utilities to make an 11.5 percent to 12.5 percent return on investment on transmission upgrades. Investor-owned utilities are allowed a lower rate than that for their investors and the rest has to go to their rate base, which can reduce costs for their customers.

A small group of lawmakers proposed legislation this session to study state ownership of up to 51 percent of VELCO, which is in flux given its two largest owners (Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service Corp.) plan to merge. Part of the reasoning behind that proposed legislation was to allow the state to take advantage of the favorable rate of return allowed on investments. That effort failed in the legislative session.

Poll shows Vermonters divided on Yankee, ambivalent about CVPS/Green Mountain Power merger
Whether Vermont Yankee should remain open is one of the key issues that divides Vermonters. A poll released last week shows the split between supporters and detractors is 44.4 percent and 44.8 percent, respectively.

The poll paid for by Vermont Business Magazine/WDEV/WCAH, shows that the majority of residents, however, back wind. Nearly 70 percent of the 607 people surveyed by the Castleton Polling Institute said they support the construction

of industrial wind turbines on the state's mountaintops, while 17.3 percent oppose wind power. Sixty-three percent of Vermonters backed state subsidies for renewable energy, while 24.1 percent didn't like the idea.

About 36.4 percent of those polled support the merger of the state's two largest electric utilities, Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power company; 33.4 percent weren't sure; 28.7 percent opposed it. If the deal goes through as expected, 8 in 10 Vermonters will get their power from Green Mountain Power, a subsidiary of Montreal-based Gaz Metro.

There was no such ambivalence when it came to the \$21 million reimbursement for ratepayers who bailed out CVPS in the early 2000s when the company nearly went bankrupt. About 66.4 percent of Vermonters surveyed for the poll want the money to be returned in a cash payback; 23.4 percent like Green Mountain Power's proposal to invest the money in weatherization programs.

~Anne Galloway

Vermont's defense industry grows "under the radar"

BY GREG GUMA

Editor's note: This story about the economic impact of the defense industry in Vermont is the first in a series.

Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II

In recent debates about the impacts of bedding F-35A fighter jets at the Burlington International Airport the arguments in support often come down to balancing noise and other impacts against economic necessities and benefits.

"One of my fears," Lt. Gov. Phil Scott said at the start of the recent Air Force public hearing on the F-35 Environmental Impact Statement, "is that, with all of the talk at the federal level about reducing costs, if the program is not located here, there is a real chance the base could be reduced in size or possibly closed altogether."

"This would have a profound impact on the City of South Burlington, the Chittenden County region, and the state as a whole," Scott warned. "And it's not just the 400 (National Guard) jobs; it's the ripple effect as well."

Opponents of the F-35s dismiss such speculations as a scare tactic that ignores the real costs.

Kelly Devine, speaking for the Burlington Business Association, made a more positive argument on the same evening: The Vermont Air Guard is a magnet that attracts more investments to the state's thriving aerospace industry.

Chamber of Commerce speaker Christopher Carrigan liked the reasoning, but added an instructive point. Despite playing a significant, in fact diversifying role in Vermont's economy, in part due to its military ties, he said the aerospace and aviation industry operates largely "under the radar screen" much of the time.

That makes it sound something like the much-maligned aircraft at the center of the current debate – expanding, multi-functional and yet engineered for stealth. Some people believe the F-35 will work when it counts. Others think it should basically be scrapped.

Originally, the F-35 was going to replace the F-16 as a jet fighter. But stealth missions and air support were added as the needs of various military branches, and potential foreign buyers, altered the plane's design and mission. Eight other countries have agreed to buy the plane — whenever it's ready. But various agencies and officials have decried repeated cost increases, design faults and missed deadlines.

Whatever the outcome of this most expensive product launch in aviation history, the debate in Vermont has already raised questions about the economic impact of military spending and whether the economy – or National Guard operations – will take a hit if, for some reason or other, the F-35s do not arrive.

Possible ripple effect on the aerospace industry?

A report commissioned by the Aerospace Industry Association recently concluded that aerospace and defense accounted for \$1 billion in direct Vermont revenues in 2010, along with \$5.7 million in business taxes, and 2,852 jobs with an average wage of \$71,082.

What about the ripple effect? That depends, of course, on which ripples you choose to track. In terms of Department of Defense jobs, for example, Vermont ranks at the very bottom, just above American Samoa and the Virgin Islands. Civilian defense employee salaries are a surprisingly small \$18 million. In procurement and military sales it ranks 47th.

According to the Environmental Impact Statement, which is under review until June 20, basing 18 of the new fighter jets at the airport in South Burlington would have no measurable impact on regional employment, income or the regional housing market. But 24 would translate into 266 more military jobs and another \$3.4 million in salaries.

What type of jobs and whether Vermont residents will get them are separate issues to be addressed later in this series.

Under either scenario, about \$2.3 million would be spent by the feds on modifications needed to accommodate the new aircraft. That would mean some construction jobs, albeit temporarily.

Aerospace, \$2 billion-a-year industry in Vermont

The engine of Vermont's military sector is aerospace, aviation and related manufacturing operations. According to the Vermont Aerospace and Aviation Association, a division of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce that represents about 250 members, the industry currently provides or supports more than 9,000 jobs, and generates around \$2 billion in economic activity a year.

Chittenden County has received \$6.3 billion in military contracts over the last 12 years, or 84 percent of the total. Whatever the precise size of this ripple the fuel powering it is thousands of federal contracts signed and executed between the U.S. Department of Defense and private enterprises large and small. In 2011, Vermont-based businesses handled more than 1,600 contracts worth \$621.3 million, down from \$827 million the year before.

Between 2000 and 2011, Vermont businesses brought in a total of more than \$7.5 billion in federal defense funding, according to government data compiled at governmentcontractswon.com. There were more than 12,000 separate contracts valued from a few thousand bucks to tens of millions. They went to more than 650 businesses across the state, although two corporations received, depending on the year, between 70 percent and 95 percent of the money.

The only Vermont county without a defense contract is Essex. The overwhelming leader now and for decades is Chittenden County, which has received \$6.3 billion in military contracts over the last 12 years, or 84 percent of the total.

Leahy's mission and Bennington's comeback

In 2009, despite the global recession, Vermont firms actually saw a modest increase in defense revenue, almost \$800 million in 1,467 separate contracts. As usual, the big winners by far were General Dynamics with \$599 million and Simmonds Precision with \$93.8 million, about 87 percent of the total that year. The rest of the contracts were modest by comparison and often won by companies not solely engaged in defense-related work.

Bennington became a special focus during the year. In August Sen. Patrick Leahy visited to celebrate a projected \$1 billion Army deal with Plasan North America and its partner, the Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Corp., for thousands of all-terrain armored vehicles. Leahy had pushed hard for it during the budget negotiations and wanted to share the news personally.

"This is not a make-work program in Bennington, as much as I'm delighted to see the jobs that are going here," he told managers and employees gathered at work for the occasion. An imposing all-terrain vehicle was positioned behind him. "This is a patriotic mission," Leahy said. "This is going to save our sons and daughters, our friends, our family overseas."

The program was the M-ATV, a smaller version of the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP) being used in Iraq and Afghanistan. The goal was more speed plus safe negotiating of difficult terrains, without compromising Plasan's armor. Once the first 2,244 armored M-ATVs were successfully delivered the Army ordered 1,700 more. It looked like a local manufacturing comeback.

Prior to this time Bennington companies had won \$4.9 million in military contracts in the previous nine years. In 2008 the Bennington Microtechnology Center's receipt of \$1.3 million for research and development work was a highlight. Since 2008, however, Plasan has won at least \$17.2 million and launched a workforce education project in cooperation with Community College of Vermont, training and offering certification for new employees.

Leahy returned to Bennington in 2010, this time to celebrate a \$2 million research contract for Energizer. He also visited a composite plant, pledging help for a "cluster" of companies involved in development and manufacturing of lightweight composite materials that are used for aerospace and medical industry parts.

At Energizer Leahy explained how he secured a Pentagon research and development contract for the company: He had exploited his seniority, he explained, as the second-most senior member of the Senate, a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, and also on its Defense Subcommittee.

Early in his career, Leahy recalled, he was against the Senate's seniority system and the influence it conferred. "I went home and said to Marcelle, 'Terrible system, the seniority. It should be changed,'" he recalled.

Then the punchline: "But having studied it, I understand it a lot better." The point? Maybe that having the advantage isn't so bad if you know how to handle it and have the right cause.

One thing is clear. Leahy is extremely proud to be known as a player in Washington who "goes to bat" for jobs and developing businesses across the state, he explained. It boils down to working the committee and seniority system, extracting contract commitments from the Department of Defense and other federal agencies for the Vermont firms whose projects make sense to him.

In this case the goal was to help Energizer develop a high-power, ultra-lightweight zinc-air battery, initially for the military. Leahy called it the "next-generation power source" for soldiers. There was no guarantee that the research would be done locally. The main goal was to secure money for multiple years to manufacture it. Although being funded through military R & D money he also stressed that the battery had potential for civilian uses and could lead to more private sector jobs later on.

Although Leahy has not spoken about the F-35 or appeared at an aviation industry event lately, back in January 2011 he was proud to take credit for saving an F-35 program that would benefit the General Electric plant in Rutland. The Pentagon wanted to kill funding for an alternate engine. Leahy had the money restored in the budget bill and convinced the Pentagon to go along.

Critics called the alternate engine pork barrel spending. Leahy responded with a General Accounting Office study that said making development and production of the engine competitive would ultimately save \$20 billion.

Contractors run the gamut

Vermont's gross domestic product was \$26.4 billion in 2011, placing it globally between Jordan and Latvia – with far fewer inhabitants than either. It has the smallest economy of any other state and is 45th in land area. In 2010 it ranked last among the states in gross domestic product and 30th in GDP per capita.

But there are advantages to being small. For example, Vermont consumes less energy than any state except Alaska and Connecticut, has less violent crime than most places, and has not become as dependent as other states on federal defense spending.

In "boom" times, defense work sometimes represents 5 percent of total state GDP, but usually contributes between 2 percent and 4 percent. By comparison, military contracts in South Carolina normally represent at least 6 percent of GDP, while Oklahoma's five military bases contribute 7 percent, a \$9.6 billion total that includes \$5.6 billion in annual wages. Less dependence on defense revenues can translate into less job disruption during periods of downsizing for a volatile industry.

In the last dozen years, growth in defense contract dollars coming to Vermont has been steady, starting off modestly at \$211.4 million in 2000, peaking at just over \$1 billion in 2006, and leveling off at between \$621 million and \$827 million annually since 2008. In addition to financing small arms manufacturing at General Dynamics and aircraft parts production at Simmonds the contracts pay for development and manufacturing of missile and explosive components, guns, ammunition and "quick-reaction" capability equipment.

In some cases products have more than a military use. In Burlington, Problem-Knowledge Coupler has received \$82 million in Defense department funding to produce "clinical decisions support technology" that helps doctors and patients make more informed decisions. In Winooski Preci-Manufacturing used almost \$27 million for precision components used in planes, helicopters, ships, submarines and armored vehicles. Williston-based Triosyn, which received \$33 million for work on eyewear and antimicrobial masks, has also been featured in an ad for Leahy.

Northeast Kingdom companies, mainly in Newport, St. Johnsbury and Lyndonville, have received about \$200 million in the last 12 years. However, half of that total went to one company, Mine Safety Appliances, in 2004. Leahy visited Newport in 2010 to announce a \$21 million contract for Mine Safety to produce advanced combat helmets for the U.S. Army. But last year only \$134,000 in funding for that project was posted.

In central Vermont, several enterprises in Barre, Northfield, Montpelier, Randolph and White River Junction attracted around \$100 million. The regional leader was Concepts ETI with \$44.4 million in contracts for "measuring and controlling" devices. The company got \$3.3 million last year. Norwich University and its Applied Research Institute have received more than \$27 million. Hawkeye International in Hyde Park recently won \$1.9 million for electrical equipment and components.

The center of Vermont's defense industry is the Champlain Valley. Five of the 10 top defense contractors are located there, and Simmonds Precision is in Vergennes. Dozens of other businesses have contracts to provide support services, including moving companies, music and home furnishing stores, and an architectural firm. In addition, UVM has won 37 Department of Defense contracts worth at least \$6.3 million.

The region currently gets more than 90 percent of all defense money coming to Vermont, up from 83 percent a few years. In other words, the work has diversified but more is being sent to the dominant part of the state.

Burlington leads with more than \$5.3 billion in contracts since 2000. General Dynamics is followed distantly by Problem-Knowledge Coupler and Barer Engineering. South Burlington businesses brought in \$55 million, almost half of that going to Pizzagalli Construction.

Williston companies received more than \$100 million. The big year was 2005, which brought \$44.5 million. Dew Construction received \$40 million. Others leading contractors included Total Temperature Instrumentation with \$6.6 million, Velan Valve with \$4.1 million, and H & M Industrial Sales with \$6.6 million. Microstrain, which produces sensors, received \$11.5 million, and Triosyn has been awarded \$5 million since 2009. Both companies added employees after winning contracts.

Businesses in Colchester received \$5.8 million, but revenues dropped dramatically after a modest peak from 2003-2006. Up to 30 small contracts were signed a year. The largest were \$2.3 million to Green Mountain Radio Research and \$1.8 million for Montek Technologies.

Rounding out the regional picture is Essex Junction, not often a destination for defense contracts but gaining ground since 2000 with \$25 million. Revision Eyewear has received \$7.3 million in the last few years. The top recipient was Stewart Construction with \$16.7 million, mostly received in the last two years.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:54 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 29:

WCAX:

Rochester Fire Dept. to get new home

ROCHESTER, Vt. - The Rochester Fire Department has reason to celebrate.

The town's taxpayers recently approved 400-thousand dollars to build a new fire station. The existing station is roughly 50-years old. It only has bays for two of the department's three trucks and it does not have the necessary training space for its current crew. The chief says the new building will be good for the town and firefighter morale.

"I'm hoping it's going to help it a lot because right now our training is down but we have picked up some new members since we got this, so we are hoping to pick up a lot more," said Terry Severy with the Rochester Fire Department.

The new fire station will be built a few lots down from the current station on a donated lot that was washed out during Tropical Storm Irene. Construction is slated to begin this summer and be complete by the new year.

Some Vt. police phones out, but 911 OK

MIDDLESEX, Vt. (AP) - The non-emergency telephone system used by police, a sheriff's department and two fire departments in northwestern Vermont remains out of service after the failure of a component at the Williston State Police headquarters.

The outage affects callers trying to reach the administrative numbers for the state police in Williston, St. Albans, Lamoille County and Middlesex. It also affects police in Richmond, Waterbury, Berlin, Swanton and Northfield, the Underhill/Jericho and Warren fire departments and the Grand Isle Sheriff.

Officials say the 911 emergency phone service is working properly.

Alternative numbers have been set up.

Communications Center Supervisor Rich Kelley says the system should be repaired after technicians receive a replacement part, expected Monday afternoon.

Meeting on state hospital plans set in Berlin

BERLIN, Vt. - The public will have a chance to weigh in on plans to build a new state hospital in Berlin.

The Berlin Select Board and School Board will meet this week to discuss plans to build a new psychiatric hospital.

The proposed 25-bed hospital is part of the plan to replace the former state hospital in Waterbury, which was flooded out during Tropical Storm Irene last August.

Sites near the Central Vermont Medical Center and the state regional library are under review.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. at the Berlin elementary school.

FOX44:

Vt. Governor's Race Heats Up During Memorial Day Festivities

Vergennes, Vt. - Thousands of people showed off their patriotic spirit on Monday in Vergennes, Vermont.

The annual Memorial Day Parade featured plenty of bands, emergency responders and of course veterans.

Although November is still months away the 2012 parade was also about the upcoming election.

Governor Peter Shumlin and the man who wants that title, republican Randy Brock, marched for their own reasons.

"Both my father, my grandfather on my mother's side all were veterans. I'm a veteran. So this is a very special day for us," said State Senator Brock.

"From my dad on down there's so many generations of Americans we have sacrificed so much, our veterans for our freedom," said Governor Shumlin.

It was also a day for State Senator Brock to campaign.

The republican waited until after the session ended to focus on the election and now his goal is to get people to learn who he is and why he's running.

"The race is going to warm up I think a lot and we're going to be very active throughout this campaign season," said State Senator Brock.

That's not the same for Governor Shumlin.

Unlike Brock, the democrat handed out no stickers, and made no pledge that he was ready to run for re-election.

"I'm really not thinking about the campaign. I'm being dead honest with you. I've really got to focus on my job," said Governor Shumlin.

Even though Brock is campaigning, he and Shumlin both agree Memorial Day is much more about honoring the past than the future.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Dem primary for Vt. attorney general heats up

MONTPELIER — The Democratic primary race for attorney general is heating up as Chittenden County State's Attorney T. J. Donovan tries to wrestle the party mantle from 15-year incumbent William Sorrell by using a series of endorsements and a call for change.

But Sorrell, who's facing his first serious electoral challenge since he was appointed in 1997, is countering with his own list of endorsements and he's more than willing to stand on his record and his vision for the future.

Both candidates say they're eager to debate their positions as they travel the state looking for support.

"There are new challenges facing this state. And I think there's a clear choice in the race. Bill talks about an accomplishment with tobacco, which was great. That was 1997. That was the No. 1 public health issue," Donovan said, referring to a settlement with the tobacco industry that brings millions of dollars into state coffers every year. "I believe the No. 1 public health issue is prescription drugs and we need leadership. We need the chief law enforcement officer to be involved."

Donovan said he's also worked to reduce the rate at which inmates are returned to custody after they are released from prison and he's known for other alternative justice projects.

Sorrell said he's running on his established record of environmental and consumer protection while defending the laws that were passed by the Legislature. During his tenure, Sorrell said, he ushered hundreds of millions of dollars into the state through enforcement actions, including the tobacco settlement, which will bring \$25 million a year to the state for as long as the tobacco industry is in business.

His office has also prosecuted, or helped prosecute, and won convictions in some of the highest-profile crimes in the state in the last 15 years. And the office is working to protect Vermonters from online threats, be it making sure people know how to use Facebook safely or child pornographers.

"Voters know what they have with me as attorney general. It's not like I'm sitting on my hands," Sorrell said.

Vermont's primary election is scheduled for Aug. 28. So far no Republican candidate has entered the race, though Burlington businessman Jack McMullen said Monday that he would probably enter if he can put a campaign team together.

The deadline for major party candidates to get on the primary ballot is June 14.

Sorrell, 65, was appointed attorney general in 1997 by then-Gov. Howard Dean after Sorrell's predecessor was appointed to the state Supreme Court. Sorrell first ran for re-election in 1998 and has been re-elected every two years since. He had previously served as Chittenden County state's attorney, the same position Donovan now holds.

Donovan, 38, is a Burlington native who was first elected Chittenden County state's attorney in 2006.

State Sen. Richard Sears, D-Bennington, said he would most likely support whichever Democratic candidate wins the primary. But he said that he would endorse Donovan in the primary because of his work on efforts to reduce the state's prison population and the number of reoffenders and because of his work to fight the opiate drug problem.

"T.J. is more attuned, I think, to those issues. I do not have a necessary issue with Bill, it's more of what T.J. has brought to the table and more in line with my views on how the (criminal) justice system should work," Sears said.

Addison County Sen. Claire Ayer, a Democrat, said she would do what she could to support Sorrell's re-election.

"He takes care of the little things. He pays attentions to Vermonters," Ayer said. "He is the logical choice from my point of view."

Facing a primary campaign is different, but it will pay dividends for Vermonters, Sorrell said.

"I have had the luxury of being able to focus on the job rather than the politics of campaigning," Sorrell said. "This year I have a campaign. I accept that. One of the benefits is more Vermonters will become familiar with what the attorney general does."

(NO AUTHOR LISTED FOR THE AG STORY)

Douglas to offer insights in new book

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

In an autobiography due out later this fall, former Gov. James Douglas will deliver the inside information on his eight years in the state's top elected office.

Douglas, first elected to governor's post in 2002, said he'll dish the goods on some familiar local and national names.

"I expect to be candid about some people I've met along the way — but not libelous," Douglas said. "There are a few candid observations about some well-known personages. I think people will be surprised by some of them."

Douglas won't name names, but he said readers won't have to spend too much time wading through misty-eyed stories of his boyhood in Massachusetts.

"I've read a lot of political autobiographies, and am not sure people care too much about my visits to my grandparents or my elementary school experience," Douglas said. "So I don't spend as much time on my earlier life, except as it relates to my political career."

Douglas said the book, to be published by Common Ground Communications, includes some pointed reflections on the severity of the discourse in national politics.

"I think it's a real problem, the polarization we see today," Douglas said.

Douglas said he'll avoid preaching, but will suggest "that there has to be a return to collegiality, to compromise, to centrism."

Does he think politics are any less divisive in Vermont?

"It's different. There's no need to compromise when there's one-party rule, so it's a different dynamic," Douglas said. "But I do suggest that Vermont has become more partisan than it used to be, and I regret that."

Douglas previously served as treasurer and secretary of state. He now works at his alma mater, Middlebury College, where he teaches a course called "Vermont Government and Politics."

With the book, Douglas, 61, said he isn't laying the groundwork for yet another run for office.

"That would be vetoed at home," Douglas said. "I was pleased to have chance to be involved in politics for many years, but we had a four-day visit from one of my grandsons this past week and, by golly, that was just great."

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 11:11 PM
To: Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Fw: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Press release for gps guest host gig w energy game this week. A little social media on this would be welcome...liz

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue, May 29, 2012 03:02:38 GMT+00:00
Subject: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 29, 2012

Contact: Kathryn Blume - kathryn@kathrynblume.com 802-233-5856

Vermontivate! Ramps Up With Week 3
Governor Shumlin to Guest Host Energy Competition

Vermontivate!, a month-long intertown energy conservation challenge, **welcomes Governor Peter Shumlin as a guest host for Week 3 of the game.**

"It's an honor to have Governor Shumlin, who's a well-known Climate Champion, willing to participate in our game" says Vermontivate! Co-founder Nick Lange. "The Governor's come up with a slate of challenges which all have to do with spreading the word both locally and nationally about energy conservation, and supporting Vermonters still recovering from Tropical Storm Irene."

"We expect a big boost in players from Governor Shumlin's participation," says Vermontivate! co-founder Kathryn Blume. "Between that and players starting to wander around their towns in Energy Superhero costumes," muses Blume, "the next couple weeks could be one heck of a ride!"

The community energy game, which runs until June 15, has already gained over 100 players from 12 towns across the state. Two of those towns - Brattleboro and Charlotte - have completed the eligibility requirements for the Grand Prize and are in the running to win a town ice cream party from Ben&Jerry's.

Shelburne, which is awaiting final Eligibility Confirmation, got its own boost when State Representative Jason Lorber visited their Memorial Day launch party. "Vermontivate is onto something real," said Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington). "Through addictive environmental games, Vermontivate connects Vermonters to environmental action. The ultimate winner, though, is the world."

For more information, curious onlookers and interested potential players can visit www.vermontivate.com.

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Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout
www.kathrynblume.com
c. 802.233.5856
kablume@gmail.com
Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 7:04 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Post

Thanks Bill!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/28/12 7:03 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Sorry for delay yes looks good

>

>On May 28, 2012, at 7:02 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel"

><Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>> Sorry! I know it's our day off! Not to bug, but is this post okay?

>>

>>

>> Ariel Wengroff

>> Special Assistant to the Governor

>> 109 State Street

>> Montpelier, VT 05609

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>> Office: 802-828-3333

>> Cell: 802-279-6825

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>> On 5/28/12 3:30 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>

>>wrote:

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>> In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, National Guardsmen and

>>women came from around the nation to help Vermonters rebuild better

>>than the way Irene found us. In September, a Vermont photographer

>>captured our Vermont National Guard walking down Route 107 in

>>Gayssville after she stopped them, to thank them for their service. On

>>this Memorial Day, I ask that you continue to think of these men and
>>women and seek out ways to help them for their service to our nation.

>>

>>

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>>> Office: 802-828-3333

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>>

>> <memorialday.nationalguard.jpg>

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From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 7:03 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Post

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Attachments: memorialday.nationalguard.jpg

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London, Sarah

From: Joe Solomon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 5:30 PM
To: 350 Vermont
Subject: A little note of VT hope spreading to West Virginia

Hey everybody,

I thought folks might be interested in this action that took place today at the capitol of West Virginia. **A group of Appalachian women leaders shaved their heads on the statehouse steps, to protest the stripping of their mountains for coal.** One of the lead organizers quotes Vermont as a place of hope (highlighted in yellow below).

Women to Shave Their Hair Due to Governmental Inaction (Photo)

COOL RIDGE, W.VA. – Fed up with government inaction, a group of outraged West Virginians will gather this Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2012 from noon to 3 p.m. at the South Plaza of the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston to make a powerful public statement against mountaintop removal coal mining.

"We've gone through all the official channels of every level of our state government, we've been to DC, nothing is being done," says Marilyn Mullens, who felt compelled to make a strong public statement – Mullens will shave her hair off in front of supporters and family, in a silent tribute to the 500 mountains, one million acres of forest, thousands of miles of headwater streams and thousands of communities wiped off the map by mountaintop removal coal mining. She hopes many others will do the same.

The idea came to Mullens in a dream, fueled by her frustration about the lack of action to protect Appalachians. Her late-night Facebook posting has inspired hundreds of people to pledge their support and she's received calls from a French documentary filmmaker.

"The shaving of the hair represents standing with our mountains that have been stripped of everything living on them. And in solidarity with our people, who are sick and dying and dead because of this practice. I want it to be silent, because silence can be deafening. Silence is louder than words. We've talked. We've talked and talked and talked, but it hasn't gotten us where we need to be with this issue," explains Mullens.

"You have air pollution, water pollution, the destruction of so many living things – it's a bigger deal than people think, I mean they are actually destroying a culture of people. It's not what my grandparents would have wanted. And I know, the old coal miners, they don't like it - they think it is horrible... We are the majority but our voices are drowned out by big coal money. It's like they shove their money down our throats. The politicians completely ignore us," says Mullens.

"It is a time for us West Virginians, who live here and care – like the Gov. in Vermont who banned fracking – we need to do that here. Mountaintop removal needs to be stopped."

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Step Due Date Alert (Contact 801263) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100816)

Workflow ID: 801263

Name: [REDACTED], People ID #7006566,

Comments:

<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801263&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Step Due Date Alert (Contact 801262) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100815)

Workflow ID: 801262

Name: [REDACTED] People ID #7006555,

Comments:

<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801262&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:29 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

Okay, I'll do this one first and the game one in a couple of hours.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 13:28:08 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

yes, definitely good idea

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

Might also be worth it to do this post (since the warning is for the whole state):

The National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Watch and Flash Flood Watch for all of Vermont this afternoon. Vermonters, please take the necessary precautions to remain safe today. Learn more here (w/link to release on our site).

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 13:19:32 -0400
To: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>.

"Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>

Subject: FW: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

From: Bosma, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:00 PM

To: Bosma, Mark

Subject: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

Date:	5/29/12	Contact:	Mark Bosma, Public Information Officer Vermont Emergency Management (800) 347-0488
Time:	1:00 p.m.		

Strong Storms, Flash Flood/Tornado Watch for Vermont today

WATERBURY – The National Weather Service is warning of strong thunderstorms and has issued a Tornado Watch and Flash Flood Watch for all of Vermont this afternoon and evening (Tornado Watch Expires at 9 p.m.) Areas of the state will see strong winds, heavy downpours, hail, and a slight possibility of tornadoes.

Downpours will likely cause rivers to rise and lead to flash flooding. If you are near a river or stream and water rises toward your location, leave immediately. A weather Watch means conditions are possible, but not imminent.

Those who experience strong winds or tornadoes should take steps to protect themselves. Please visit <http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes> for detailed information. As an overview:

- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
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 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
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Weather updates can be found on the National Weather Service web site: <http://www.weather.gov/btv/>.

Vermont Emergency Management will also post updates on its Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/vermontemergencymanagement>.

Contacts:

National Weather Service, Burlington, 802-862-8711

Mark Bosma, Vermont Emergency Management, 800-347-0488

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:28 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

yes, definitely good idea

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
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Subject: FW: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

From: Bosma, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Bosma, Mark
Subject: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

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Date:	5/29/12	Contact:	Mark Bosma, Public Information Officer Vermont Emergency Management (800) 347-0488
Time:	1:00 p.m.		

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Contacts:

National Weather Service, Burlington, 802-862-8711

Mark Bosma, Vermont Emergency Management, 800-347-0488

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 13:19:32 -0400
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Time:	1:00 p.m.			

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Contacts:

National Weather Service, Burlington, 802-862-8711

Mark Bosma, Vermont Emergency Management, 800-347-0488

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:27 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Good. For the second sentence, I'd say: ".....Vermont will continue to be a leader in the effort to create a renewable energy future."

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Post:

Gov. Shumlin is a guest host this week on Vermontivate, a month-long online energy conservation challenge! As more people recognize the impact of climate change, together we will lead the planet towards a renewable energy future. Check out the Governor's guest host challenges here. (link to game)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Date: Mon, 28 May 2012 23:11:01 -0400
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Fw: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Press release for gps guest host gig w energy game this week. A little social media on this would be welcome...liz

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Kathryn Blume <[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:kathryn@kathrynblume.com)>
Sent: Tue, May 29, 2012 03:02:38 GMT+00:00
Subject: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 29, 2012
Contact: Kathryn Blume - kathryn@kathrynblume.com 802-233-5856

Vermontivate! Ramps Up With Week 3
Governor Shumlin to Guest Host Energy Competition

Vermontivate!, a month-long intertown energy conservation challenge, **welcomes Governor Peter Shumlin as a guest host for Week 3 of the game.**

"It's an honor to have Governor Shumlin, who's a well-known Climate Champion, willing to participate in our game" says Vermontivate! Co-founder Nick Lange. "The Governor's come up with a slate of challenges which all have to do with spreading the word both locally and nationally about energy conservation, and supporting Vermonters still recovering from Tropical Storm Irene."

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The community energy game, which runs until June 15, has already gained over 100 players from 12 towns across the state. Two of those towns - Brattleboro and Charlotte - have completed the eligibility requirements for the Grand Prize and are in the running to win a town ice cream party from Ben&Jerry's.

Shelburne, which is awaiting final Eligibility Confirmation, got its own boost when State Representative Jason Lorber visited their Memorial Day launch party. "Vermontivate is onto something real," said Rep. Jason Lorber (D-Burlington). "Through addictive environmental games, Vermontivate connects Vermonters to environmental action. The ultimate winner, though, is the world."

For more information, curious onlookers and interested potential players can visit www.vermontivate.com.

###

--

Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

www.kathrynblume.com

c. 802.233.5856

kablume@gmail.com

Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail355.us3.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:21 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Severe Weather Due Today; Defense Industry Grows in Vermont

Severe thunderstorms and flash floods are expected in Vermont today.

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TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012



Morning Storms Cause Damage in Vermont, More Expected

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/29/12

Lightning strikes are suspected to have caused a pair of fires this morning in Barre. Another round of severe thunderstorms are expected to blow through Vermont this afternoon. [Click to read.](#)



Goddard College Biomass Plant Meets Resistance

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/29/12

Goddard College says its proposal to heat its campus with wood chips would cut down on emissions. But neighbors oppose the college's effort to build an industrial biomass plant so close to their backyards. [Click to read.](#)



Jamaica Homeowners Wait for Resolution

SOURCE: VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO, 05/29/12

Jamaica residents who watched their homes get destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene are ready to move on — but they're still waiting to find out if they'll receive payment from the federal government. [Click to read.](#)



Vermont's Defense Industry Grows "Under the Radar"

SOURCE: VTDIGGER.ORG, 05/28/12

As debate over the F-35 rages on, VTDigger takes a closer look at the defense industry's role in Vermont. Aerospace contributes \$2 billion a year to the local economy. [Click to read.](#)



Burlington weather
forecast

A flash flood watch and a tornado watch are in effect for Vermont through tonight.

Today: Mostly cloudy; showers, t-storms, some strong to severe. High 83°, low 61°.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny; chance for an isolated shower. High 78°, low 53°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

sponsored links



Vietnam Veteran Brings Moving Wall to Upper Valley

SOURCE: WPTZ, 05/28/12

A Vietnam War veteran is helping to bring a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Springfield in July. The memorial displays the names of more than 58,000 Americans who were killed in Vietnam. [Click to read.](#)



Brattleboro Examines Pedestrian Deaths

SOURCE: VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO, 05/29/12

After a worrying uptick in the number of motor vehicle accidents injuring or killing pedestrians, Brattleboro is trying to figure out how to make its streets safer for everyone. [Click to read.](#)



Lake Dunmore Group Taps Weevils in Fight Against Milfoil


SOURCE: ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT, 05/28/12

Unleash the weevils! The little insects could help combat the Eurasian milfoil, an invasive species found in many Vermont waterways. [Click to read.](#)

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best pet
photos for...*

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Thursday, June 7!


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255 S. Champlain Street

Burlington, VT 05401

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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: FW: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

From: Bosma, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Bosma, Mark
Subject: Vermont Emergency Management News Release - Strong Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

Date:	5/29/12	Contact:	Mark Bosma, Public Information Officer Vermont Emergency Management (800) 347-0488
Time:	1:00 p.m.		

Strong Storms, Flash Flood/Tornado Watch for Vermont today

WATERBURY – The National Weather Service is warning of strong thunderstorms and has issued a Tornado Watch and Flash Flood Watch for all of Vermont this afternoon and evening (Tornado Watch Expires at 9 p.m.) Areas of the state will see strong winds, heavy downpours, hail, and a slight possibility of tornadoes.

Downpours will likely cause rivers to rise and lead to flash flooding. If you are near a river or stream and water rises toward your location, leave immediately. A weather Watch means conditions are possible, but not imminent.

Those who experience strong winds or tornadoes should take steps to protect themselves. Please visit <http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes> for detailed information. As an overview:

- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.
 - Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Weather updates can be found on the National Weather Service web site: <http://www.weather.gov/btv/>.

Vermont Emergency Management will also post updates on its Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/vermontemergencymanagement>.

Contacts:

National Weather Service, Burlington, 802-862-8711

Mark Bosma, Vermont Emergency Management, 800-347-0488

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:03 PM
To: kesha.ram [REDACTED]
Subject: headshot
Attachments: Shumlin 8x10 no signature.jpg

Here ya go.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Press Release - Gov. Shumlin Guest Host of Vermontivate!

Post:

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Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

www.kathrynblume.com

c. 802.233.5856

kablume@gmail.com

Skype: kablume

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Miller, Lawrence
Subject: Re: weekly

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>
Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 11:07:33 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: weekly

attached

--
Lawrence Miller, Secretary
Agency of Commerce and Community Development
State of Vermont
National Life Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-5204 office
(802) 371-9075 cell
lawrence.miller@state.vt.us

The mission of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development is to help Vermonters improve their quality of life and build strong communities.

London, Sarah


From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 12:36 PM
To: Kunin, Lisa
Subject: Re: Tyler Place Staff photos

I would love to but I'm having some difficulty actually getting the camera. It's in his car...so next time I can upload I'll send it right over.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/29/12 12:35 PM, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Ari,
>I took a couple of photos at the Tyler Place last Thursday night. They
>are on the office camera. Do you think you could download them for me?
>Pixley Hill wants to include them in their newsletter.
>
>Thank you,
>Lisa
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Pixley Hill [mailto:
>Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 12:28 PM
>To: Kunin, Lisa
>Subject: Re: photos
>
>Thanks very much, Lisa. Anything you have that we can use would be great.
> We'll just say something about the Governor being at the TP the night
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>Appreciative as always, Pixley
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>>
>>
>>I hope you had a great first weekend.

>>

>>I do have a photo of the Governor with your staff, but it is on the
>>office camera. I will send it to you tomorrow morning. I'm sorry I
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>>have.

>>

>>Best,

>>Lisa

>>

>>Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>On May 28, 2012, at 3:50 PM, "Pixley Hill" <pixleyhill@gmail.com>

>>wrote:

>>

>>> Hi Lisa - My hunch we're too late on this, but I am wondering if you
>>>have any photos taken at the Tyler Place on May 24th so we could add
>>>one to our newsletter with a press comment about the Governor at the
>>>Tyler Place? I don't know the protocol on thisŠ

>>>

>>> Thanks so much and hope you're getting a full R&R. Pixley

>

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Lisa

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>>
>> Thanks so much and hope you're getting a full R&R. Pixley

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: RELEASE: Welch expands successful Vermont partnership helping veterans start small businesses



**Congressman Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

CONTACT:

Scott Coriell
202.225.4115 (o)
202.689.5352 (c)

Welch expands successful Vermont partnership helping veterans start small businesses

RUTLAND, Vt. – Joined by a twice-deployed Vermont Guard member and small business owner, Rep. Peter Welch touted the success of a Vermont-pioneered partnership that helps returning veterans start small businesses. Welch recently amended a House-passed bill to expand the partnership nationwide.

"Our troops do whatever is asked of them at war but too often struggle to find a job when they come home," Welch said. "This innovative partnership matches their unique qualifications with the challenges of starting a new small business. This is a good Vermont idea that works."

The Vermont partnership is a marriage between the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) – which helps Guard members returning from deployments – and the Vermont Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which provides management assistance to current and prospective small businesses. The partnership began in 2008 with a \$300,000 grant secured by Welch and has since helped Vermont Guard members turn their small business ideas into reality with business and marketing advice as well as start-up money.

Bolstered by the success of the program in Vermont, Welch amended the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to expand the program's reach nationwide, requiring similar partnerships in every state. The NDAA passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

Welch was joined in Rutland Tuesday by Eagle Eye Property Management owners Tim and Michelle McCollum, who shared their success story. Tim, twice deployed with the Army National Guard, and Michelle found out about the Vermont partnership at a YRRP presentation and sought out a SBDC counselor with their business idea.

The SBDC counselor worked with the McCollums during Tim's deployment, holding two conference calls with him in Afghanistan, to confirm details of the business and a marketing plan. After returning, the business was ready to hit the ground running: State requirements were completed, resources were lined up, financing was in place, equipment was ready to purchase and marketing was ready to go. The business is running and successful.

For more information on Eagle Eye Property Management, [CLICK HERE](#).

###

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 4:35 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Step Due Date Alert (Contact 801261) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100814)

Workflow ID: 801261

Name: **Angelique Smith** People ID #7006763,

Comments:

<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801261&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your weekly HootSuite account activity

Account Activity

Looks like you haven't added any team members yet

HootSuite allows you to collaborate with other team members and share social networks. With team members, you can assign messages and monitor shared streams.

[Add a Team Member »](#)



@GovPeterShumlin

100+ new mentions / 29 followers gained

3 clicks on most popular tweet

Photo Gallery: Gov. Shumlin at the 209th #UVM Commencement Ceremony <http://ow.ly/b3xeA>
@uvmvermont #vtgov



@TeamKale

0 new mentions / 0 followers gained



@VTGov_Leg

0 new mentions / 0 followers gained

[Create a Report to Track Twitter Activity »](#)



Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin

25 new likes / 3 unlikes

Top Countries: United States (2671)Canada (25)United Kingdom (12)

[View More Facebook Analytics »](#)

Looks like you haven't added a LinkedIn profile yet

Add your LinkedIn profiles to monitor mentions, keywords and schedule messages to be sent to your friends and followers.

[Add a LinkedIn Profile now »](#)

To stop receiving your weekly activity report visit the [preferences panel](#).

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 1:01 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Post

Okay, will do. I'll send you the other ones soon as well.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 28, 2012, at 12:57 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

> I would drop the first sentence and have the second sentence read: "Today, we honor those who have served our state and nation. To those men and women who continue to serve in our armed forces, I am proud to thank you on this Memorial Day.

>

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>> Will have the full schedule for you soon.

>>

>> Our nation was founded by the strength of brave men and women who used courage and perseverance to get through tough times. Today, we honor those who continue to serve Vermonters and others around the world; to those men and women in the armed forces, I am proud to thank you on this Memorial Day.

>>

>> (pic that Shana sent)

>>

>> I am planning in the next post to remember that we it should not just be about remembering those who served today, but everyday and specifically mentioning the national guard during Irene.

>>

>> Ariel Wengroff
>> Special Assistant to the Governor
>> 109 State Street
>> Montpelier, VT 05609
>>
>> Office: 802-828-3333
>> Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail33.us2.mcsv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Vermont Drops Request for No Child Left Behind Waiver; Derby Line Wind Project Canceled

Vermont is dropping its request for extra flexibility in complying with the No Child Left Behind act.

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MONDAY, MAY 28, 2012



State Drops Waiver Request for No Child Left Behind

SOURCE: BRATTLEBORO REFORMER, 05/26/12

Vermont was one of 37 states that asked the Department of Education for extra flexibility in meeting No Child Left Behind education standards. Now the state is dropping that request — one official says that even with the waiver, the feds weren't flexible enough. [Click to read.](#)



Developer of Derby Line Wind

Project Cancels Turbines

SOURCE: VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO, 05/26/12

The developer of a two-turbine wind project in Derby Line is canceling the project after it prompted protests on both sides of the Vermont/Quebec border. He says his company plans to try again on a new site next year, though. [Click to read.](#)



State Tax Man Gets Tougher on Collections

SOURCE: BENNINGTON BANNER, 05/28/12

Vermont is one of many cash-strapped states that's stepping up enforcement of obscure taxes — like a sales tax on the toothbrushes that dentists give to patients. The effort has netted \$7 million for the state this year. [Click to read.](#)



Former Burlington Principal Breaks

Silence on Race Issues

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/25/12



Burlington: weather
forecast

Today: Partly sunny; chance for a few showers, t-storms. High 80°, low 60°.

Tomorrow: Showers, t-storms, some strong to severe. High 83°, low 61°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

sponsored links

Former Integrated Arts Academy principal Trevor Christopher, who is black, says the Burlington School District didn't adequately support him, even while student test scores went up under his watch. [Click to read.](#)

Will Montpelier's Savoy Theater

Close?

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS BLURT, 05/25/12

The Savoy Theater in Montpelier is in danger of closing. Owner Terrence Youk says the arthouse cinema needs more member support to keep the bills paid. [Click to read.](#)

Vermont Woman Makes Marathon History

SOURCE: WPTZ, 05/28/12

Thousands hit the ground running for yesterday's Vermont City Marathon in Burlington. Kasie Enman of Huntington was the first woman across the finish line, and the first Vermonter to win the women's division. [Click to read.](#)

Riding to Remember: Vermont Thunder

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/28/12

Each Memorial Day for the past two decades, more than 1000 motorcyclists ride from Sharon to Enosburgh as part of the Vermont Thunder ride. Each mile of the trip commemorates one of the Vermonters who died while serving in the Vietnam War. [Click to read.](#)

**Be a tourist
in your own
backyard!**



SEVEN DAYS

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GUIDE**

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best pet
photos for...*

SEVEN DAYS

**BEST of the
BEASTS**


PRESENTED BY: 

**Deadline:
Thursday, June 7!**

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Seven Days
255 S. Champlain Street
Burlington, VT 05401

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> (pic that Shana sent)

>

> I am planning in the next post to remember that we it should not just be about remembering those who served today, but everyday and specifically mentioning the national guard during Irene.

>

> Ariel Wengroff

> Special Assistant to the Governor

> 109 State Street

> Montpelier, VT 05609

>

> Office: 802-828-3333

> Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Drusilla.roessle <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 12:39 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Drusilla.roessle <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 12:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]@myriadpoint.net
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 12:40 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 12:27 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Post

Will have the full schedule for you soon.

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Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 10:46 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Please send me lots of pics today! Thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Step Due Date Alert (Contact 801256) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100813)

Workflow ID: 801256

Name: [REDACTED], People ID #7006740,

Comments:

<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801256&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 10:09 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28:

Yep, I agree! I was going to do a tweet for it today at one.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 28, 2012, at 7:24 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Ari, we should promote the state parks iphone app

On May 28, 2012, at 5:47 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

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But in Vermont, there's been some resistance as aggrieved taxpayers have gone to lawmakers complaining that tax collectors are coming down too hard on them.

This year, lawmakers responded by canceling or placing a moratorium on the state's efforts to tax the toothbrushes given out by dentists, meals served at senior housing facilities, and software provided over the Internet in so-called cloud computing applications.

VPR:

Increase In FEMA Relief To 90 Percent Is A Relief To State, Towns

This month, the federal government announced that towns would be reimbursed for 90 percent of the damage to municipal property caused by Tropical Storm Irene instead of 75 percent.

Town officials welcomed the news, but they're still working through the long process of applying for FEMA help.

When the announcement came late on a Wednesday afternoon that FEMA would increase its reimbursement for infrastructure damage from Tropical Storm Irene to 90percent, Sue Minter was among those in state government who breathed a big sigh of relief.

Until then officials had been on pins and needles about whether the increase would be approved.

"It was absolutely uncertain," says Minter, the state's Irene Recovery Officer.

The state has all along said it would pay half of the town costs of Irene damage. So, the announcement means towns are now responsible for 5percent of whatever FEMA calculates to be their storm damage. That calculation is still being done because it's not clear yet how many of the roughly 3,000 Irene projects FEMA will cover.

"In some cases there are serious disagreements between the town and FEMA around what should be eligible," Minter notes.

She hopes the disagreements can be resolved in favor of the towns, with getting into a formal appeals process.

Some of the disagreements are over debris removal, which FEMA generally doesn't cover.

Others reflect a difference in philosophy about how to rebuild. In some cases towns are replacing culverts, bridges and roads with bigger, better structures and FEMA's approach stresses replacing, not upgrading these structures.

The increase to 90percent reimbursement is going to help, says Minter, adding, "This decision is going to have a very significant impact to many taxpayers and town budgets."

The FEMA application process is an arduous one. Cynthia Gibbs is treasurer in Grafton where Irene damage topped \$3,500,000.

Gibbs says one town employee has worked full-time on FEMA paperwork since September. She says a high turnover of FEMA representatives also slows the process.

"You get some and they say, 'ok, that's covered. Then they're gone, so another bunch comes in and they say, 'oh no, that isn't covered'," Gibbs explains.

In Ludlow municipal manager Frank Heald says he's also seen too much turnover in FEMA staff. But Heald says the increase should save Ludlow \$200,000 or more.

"In the town the size of Ludlow our local officials are very intrigued by the extra couple hundred thousand dollars in help," he says.

Heald estimates local tax payers will have to pay for about \$150,000 of Irene damages. The impact on the tax rate will depend on how officials choose to pay it off.

Among the towns that will save the most money under the 90 percent formula are many of those that experienced the greatest damage.

In addition to Ludlow, Bennington and Killington will save more than \$100,000 according to FEMA.

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Parks director Craig Whipple says the new app is essentially a field guide - on your smartphone.

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Whipple says the iPhone app is designed to provide everything from general information about each park, with directions, campground maps, photos, and contact numbers.

As director of State Parks, Whipple says it can be a challenge to balance his desire to encourage people to get outdoors and unplug with the modern need to stay connected.

"State parks experiences - things like camping, and picnicking are very traditional kinds of activities," says Whipple. "It's fun and interesting and challenging to marry that kind of tradition with contemporary communication tools like this. There are certain things we won't give in to - that we won't compromise the experience or the traditional value

in a state parks adventure. This is simply the contemporary way to communicate to people, and we don't find that as compromising our traditional values at all, it's just the way people communicate."

Whipple says plans are in the works to make an android version of the Vermont State Parks app sometime soon.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Senior housing project inches forward

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- The Development Review Board has given its blessing to a proposed 41-unit senior housing project for North Brattleboro.

The board, at its meeting last week, approved the concept review for Black Mountain Estates, the clustered rental housing complex that Dummerston residents John and Lori Brunelle want to build on land they own on Buttonwood Road.

The board's approval is only the first step toward a final local permit, and the developers will also need an Act 250 permit from the state.

But DRB Chairman Tim Cuthbertson said the board was enthusiastic after its initial review of the plan.

"It's a good project," Cuthbertson said. "It meets the requirements of the town plan. We want to encourage developments of this nature."

The Brunelles want to build 41 independent apartments, with each one measuring about 950 square feet.

The apartments will be arranged in a cluster, with green space in between and a community center.

The units will be available for rent.

The Brunelles hope to get all of their permits by the fall and do construction throughout the winter. They hope to have the first units available in the spring of 2013.

Cuthbertson said it is a long way from the initial approval, which was granted last week, toward final approval.

At the meeting last week, the Brunelles basically introduced the plan to the DRB without any specific details. Now the Brunelles will have engineers come up with more detailed plans which will go before the DRB again.

"We have no issues with the way they are doing this," Cuthbertson said. "But it's very early in the process. We are on step one."

The board has 45 days to issue its official ruling, though Cuthbertson said it will likely come out within the next few weeks.

The board did make a number of suggestions, which Project Director Jeff Brunelle said he would be trying to work into the project.

The board had some questions about the amount of green space included in the initial plan.

"I think the hearing went really well," Jeff Brunelle said. "With a project of this magnitude we expected there to be some hoops to jump through. There was a lot of enthusiasm from the board members."

Brunelle said the Act 250 process has a lot more questions associated with it.

He said the developers are going to do their best to meet all of the state requirements, though he said there is a chance the project could be delayed during the permitting.

"Anytime you do something like this you have to balance the reality of undertaking the project with the financial viability. Sometimes those two sides clash, but I am pretty sure that in the end we will be able to make this work."

London, Sarah

From: Lawrence Miller <lwm2vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Lawrence Miller; Helen Labun Jørdan
Subject: Thursday Dinner - Summer RULES!

Here we are at Memorial Day, so from now until Labor Day if attending the casual Thursday dinners please note:

Gentlemen are not required to wear ties;

White bucks are considered completely appropriate, but please note that the croquet pitch is not closely cropped and one shouldn't complain to the hosts about grass stains (really one shouldn't complain to one's hosts about anything, but that is a different lesson);

Recognizing it is a relatively small house ladies with extravagant hats wider than their shoulders should remain on the porch;

Regardless of how hot it is we move inside or away by 10:00 so our lovely neighbors can have some peace.

More notably:

We are back to pot-luck for the summer. Try to bring something for the grill, or a salad, or a beverage, but nothing at all if you are running late. There will always be enough food or we can make more.

Timing: The grill will be hot by around 7:00, but the porch is open any time (and Helen definitely likes company by 6:00). If you don't live in Montpelier and get some exercise between work and dinner the shower is available, as is the North Branch.

Cheers,
Lawrence

This is an invitation to a weekly casual dinner Thursday evenings at 5 Vine St. in Montpelier at 7:00. Please bring anyone you enjoy.
If you want to come off the list let me know. If I should add anyone also let me know.

--

Lawrence Miller
lwm2vt@gmail.com
(802) 989-0569

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 7:24 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28:

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London, Sarah

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 6:37 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your report "Ow.ly Click Summary" is ready to view
Attachments: Ow.ly Click Summary May 20, 2012 - May 27, 2012.pdf



Hello Governor Peter Shumlin,

The Social Analytics Report entitled **Ow.ly Click Summary** is ready to view. This report is scheduled to be delivered weekly (sent each monday).

A PDF is attached for your reference, or click the link below to view the dynamic report within HootSuite:

<http://hootsuite.com/dashboard?goto=analytics%2Freport%3Fid%3D264101>

Please do not reply to this message if it was sent from an unmonitored email address. This message is a service email related to your use of HootSuite. For general inquiries or to request support with your HootSuite account, please visit our [HootSuite Help Desk](#).



London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Telephone failure affects calls to several northern Vermont police agencies

BY MIKE DONOGHUE

The Vermont Department of Public Safety said they were hopeful to have non-emergency phone service restored late Sunday for the state police barracks answering for five northwestern counties.

Requests for state police service in Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille and Washington counties are normally handled at the barracks on Vermont 2A in Williston, but trouble developed at about 7 a.m. Sunday.

By 9 p.m. phone service was still disrupted.

James Cronan, administrator for the public safety dispatch center, said repair personnel had expected a quick fix, but a special replacement part was needed and was en route from southern Massachusetts. Cronan said he hoped the part would arrive by evening and could be quickly installed.

He said the agency switched to a cellphone system that allows emergency dispatchers to answer only one call at a time.

Cronan said emergency 911 operators were alerted that any calls for service in the five northwestern counties needed to be directed to the cellphones.

He said the five cellphones were obtained specifically for these types of emergencies.

Dispatcher Alex Tower emailed the media Sunday morning asking for help in spreading the word about the alternative phone numbers for people needing police in the five counties.

The interruption of service also impacted calls to the regular phone lines for Richmond, Swanton, Waterbury, Berlin and Northfield police and the Grand Isle Sheriffs Department. Also disrupted were the phone lines for the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and the Warren Fire Department.

Here is a list of the affected agencies and the alternative phone numbers that may be called until the problem is resolved:

- Williston State Police and Lamoille Outpost, Richmond police and the Underhill/Jericho Fire Department can be reached at 585-6103 or 585-6165.
- St. Albans state police, Grand Isle Sheriff's Department and Swanton police can be reached at 585-6114.
- Middlesex state police, Waterbury police, Berlin police, Northfield police and the Warren Fire Department can be reached at 585-6098.

- An alternative number available for any of the above agencies, should the primary lines be busy, is 585-6134.
- These numbers should be used for non-emergency calls. If you have an emergency, dial 911.

Rolex ad slips into Vermont Amber Alert

BY MIKE DONOGHUE

State officials hope to determine why a Rolex watch advertisement was distributed during the weekend by email through the Vermont Amber Alert system, which is designed to notify the public about abducted or missing children.

Vermont State Police Lt. Mark Lauer said Sunday that the Vermont Public Safety Department no longer manages its email system. Instead, the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation has taken over managing that system.

It is possible that after the recent switchover, the spam email filter is not as tight as before, Lauer said.

He said he expects officials from both departments to put their heads together Tuesday to determine why the pictures of the Rolex watches were distributed through the emergency notification system.

"Somewhere along the line, something happened," Lauer said Sunday. He said this is not the first time a virus or problem has been detected in the Vermont system.

Lauer said he was alerted at about 3 a.m. Saturday about the bogus email. He then sent out his own email to subscribers to disregard the bogus message. He said the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received the Vermont email through the Amber Alert system and called to inquire whether a true message was misdirected. The bogus email indicated the message was delivered to 4,474 recipients.

Vermont in 2003 adopted the Amber Alert program, which uses law enforcement, newspapers, radio, TV and public message boards to get information out quickly to the public about possible missing children.

The Vermont system has been used once. In at least two other cases, alert efforts had begun when police found the missing child, Lauer said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 6:00 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Company to deliver natural gas in Vt.

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

Two prominent members of the administration of former Gov. James Douglas have joined forces in the private sector to form a first-of-its-kind energy business.

Tom Evslin and Neale Lunderville say they plan to generate profits by slashing energy costs for industrial-scale fuel customers. They'll do it by transporting natural gas to high-volume users around Vermont, effectively expanding the scope of a pipeline that provides access to a comparatively cheap source of energy.

Their company, NG Advantage, is headquartered in Milton.

"We know that we are one of the first companies in the country to deliver compressed natural gas in this way," Lunderville says.

While rock-bottom natural gas prices have been a boon for industry across the nation, companies without access to the gas pipeline have suffered a severe competitive disadvantage.

"If you're running a factory and you're not on that pipeline, and you're competing with a cheese maker or asphalt maker who is, that's a real problem for you," Evslin says. "And it's a problem that didn't exist before there was such a disparity in price."

Jamie Stewart, executive director of the Rutland Economic Development Corporation, said access to natural gas, as much as 70 percent cheaper than diesel and propane, can define a region's economic fate.

"A baseline criteria for some of the core industries, and particularly some industries we as a state have decided we want to promote, are dependent upon having natural gas to be competitive," Stewart says.

Access to natural gas in Vermont, however, is limited. The pipeline, owned by Vermont Gas, a subsidiary of Gaz Metro, crosses over the Canada border in Highgate and extends only into Chittenden County.

That means that industrial customers in Barre, Rutland and most of the rest of the state not only continue to pay high prices for No. 2 oil, No. 6 oil and propane, they also in many cases are vying against competitors that don't have to.

"I've spent a lot of time over the years talking with business leaders, and know for many of them energy costs are a big line item in the budget," Lunderville says. "When I saw what they could be saving with compressed natural gas, I say that not only was it an opportunity to start a business, but also way to help Vermont businesses."

Evslin, an inventor and entrepreneur who served as Vermont's "chief technology officer" under Douglas, said transporting natural gas from the pipeline to customers isn't cheap.

Special compressors, trailers, decanters, not to mention trucking and hauling fees, add up quickly.

"It just didn't make sense financially before to do something like this," Evslin said.

Now that natural gas is so dramatically cheaper – "something I'm convinced is not a short-term aberration," Evslin says – Lunderville says the company can pull healthy profits and save customers on energy costs.

"We're talking about delivering natural gas to customers in a way that can save them 30, 40, or as much as 50 percent on energy bills," Lunderville says. "For big energy customers, those savings can be in the millions."

Lunderville, who served as secretary of the administration under Douglas and as Irene-recovery czar under Gov. Peter Shumlin, most recently worked for Green Mountain Power, also a subsidiary of Gaz Metro.

Lunderville helped broker the utility's controversial merger with Central Vermont Public Service before leaving the company in mid-April to become CEO at NG Advantage.

"I loved working at Green Mountain Power, so it was hard to leave," says Lunderville, who departed the utility in the midst of a well-publicized flap over the repayment of \$21 million to CVPS customers. "But at the same time the opportunity this presented was something I just couldn't pass up."

Evslin and Lunderville won't disclose the names of prospective customers, and they don't anticipate making their first gas deliveries until next January.

They'll be able to serve industrial-size customers – places that use at least 150,000 gallons of fuel annually – within a two-and-a-half-hour driving radius of Milton.

Though Vermont Gas is eyeing a pipeline expansion to Middlebury, Evslin says the business model will survive growth in natural gas infrastructure.

"Everywhere the pipeline expands, we can go further," Evslin says.

Lunderville says that for now, NG Advantage is focused on building a customer base in Vermont, and parts of New York and New Hampshire.

"We want to start out in Vermont because we're from Vermont and we love this state," Lunderville says. "But we certainly see opportunities beyond here."

Though he believes NG Advantage is on the vanguard of the compressed-gas delivery business, Lunderville says the earnings potential will spawn competition. Already, an outfit is wooing some of the same prospective customers with whom Lunderville has spoken.

Early out of the gate, Lunderville says he and Evslin have their eyes on bigger things in the future.

"There are lots of great Vermont companies that started very humbly here and expanded into a national enterprise," Lunderville says. "And we'd love to do that too."

Notes from the campaign trail

MONTPELIER – Come reelection time, incumbent officeholders straddle a thin line between the business of government and the operation of their campaigns.

And from time to time, it can become difficult to distinguish where one world ends and the other begins.

Last Monday, we noticed that Bill Sorrell had taken press releases authored by government employees at his Attorney General's office and pasted them verbatim onto his campaign website.

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"They're news items that we put out initially as a matter of course, and have for years, about the work of the office, and they're not done for political reasons," Sorrell said of the releases. "I'm not asking my state employee staff, on state time, to do the work of the campaign. I've never done that and wouldn't do that."

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We called Secretary of State Jim Condos to find out whether it's kosher to post state press releases to campaign websites. Condos, after Sorrell, is the state's top elections referee.

No worries, Condos said. Totally fine. In fact, he does it too.

That's right. Head over to his campaign website at www.jimcondos.com, check out the "News Room," and you'll find a trove of press releases, copied and pasted, word for word, from ones issued by his government office.

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Wally Roberts, executive director of the Vermont chapter of Common Cause, said there's probably nothing illegal going on. But he said it underscores the incredible power of incumbency, and helps explain why it's so tough to oust officeholders.

"They've got at their disposal an office full of taxpayer funded staff and equipment, and they can choose to use those resources in ways that give them an incredible advantage over someone who does not have access to those resources," Roberts says.

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For a guy looking to steal a victory in a Democratic primary for attorney general, TJ Donovan sure is locking up a lot of Republican endorsements.

Well, maybe not "a lot." But two so far, now that Barre City Mayor Tom Lauzon has decided to throw his GOP weight behind Donovan's bid to unseat incumbent Bill Sorrell.

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Interesting to see Republican mayors backing a Democrat before waiting to see whether a fellow GOPER steps up — Sen. Vince Illuzzi is weighing a run.

Also interesting: though he's embroiled in a hotly contested Democratic primary that could be decided by the more progressive wing of the party, Donovan sure isn't running to the left.

Donovan's campaign issued an addendum to its release celebrating the Lauzon endorsement. In it, Donovan said "crime is not a partisan issue, nor should it be. It's about partnership with our local leaders to address the number one public safety issue in the state, prescription drugs."

Crime may or may not be a partisan issue. Figuring out how to stop it often can be. Recall back in 2007, when Lauzon told this paper that "people who are dealing crack and dealing heroin have zero social value and should be put to death."

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One might have to search long and hard for a Democrat to join in the call for a death penalty for drug dealers (to be fair, Lauzon also called for the legalization of cannabis).

Anyway, even though he doesn't think crime-fighting is a partisan issue, Donovan assured voters that he is "deeply committed to the values of the Democratic Party and have demonstrated in my public career how the application of those values to the real world causes of crime lead to positive results."

Vermont Business Expo

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Some states asking the tax man to get tougher

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"It certainly is your responsibility when you have a business to be keeping up on the rules," she said.

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Provide constructive observations regarding current or proposed policies.

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Jerry Bowin, McSoley, McCoy & Co, chairman of the Vermont Society of CPA's Tax Committee; Laird Cameron Bradley, Realtor, former chairman of the board of the Vermont Association of Realtors, Williamson Group Sotheby's of Woodstock; Andrew Brewer, owner, Onion River Sports; Jody Fried, executive director, Catamount Arts; Kathleen Hoyt, former secretary of administration and former chief of staff for Gov. Howard Dean and Gov. Madeleine Kunin; Sharon Lockwood, site spending manager, IBM; Kim Loewer, enrolled agent, managing partner of Loewer and Associates, president and founder of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals; Kathryn Michaelis, attorney, Rath, Young, and Pignatelli, Concord, N.H.; Janet Spitler, chief financial officer, Merchants Bank; and Patrick Walsh, assistant professor of economics, St. Michael's College.

Mack meets growing demand

ARLINGTON — Mack Molding has added critical services that will continue to support its orthopedic business, including clean room molding, additional laser welding capacity and a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices.

"These steps represent the latest in a long list of investments Mack has made over the last 12 years in the medical market, which is now approaching 40 percent of overall sales for the northern division," said Jeff Somple, president of Mack's Northern Operations.

The new 2,000-square-foot modular clean room features removable panels that will facilitate future expansions. Dual air-lock, rapid roll-up doors allow for easy product flow and quick tool changes. Just completed, the clean room is ISO certified.

The addition houses six electric injection molding machines.

The electric presses were chosen for energy-efficiency and precise process control.

Mack expects about 60 percent less energy consumption from these machines over their equivalent hydraulic counterparts.

In another move, Mack has doubled its high precision laser welding capacity to meet the growing needs of the orthopedic surgical case and tray market.

Mack has also formed a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices. "We have seen significant growth in orthopedics, so felt it necessary to establish a dedicated group that will focus solely on the needs of this market and its customers," says Dwain DeBoer, who is heading up the new Mack unit.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 6:00 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Company to deliver natural gas in Vt.

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

Two prominent members of the administration of former Gov. James Douglas have joined forces in the private sector to form a first-of-its-kind energy business.

Tom Evslin and Neale Lunderville say they plan to generate profits by slashing energy costs for industrial-scale fuel customers. They'll do it by transporting natural gas to high-volume users around Vermont, effectively expanding the scope of a pipeline that provides access to a comparatively cheap source of energy.

Their company, NG Advantage, is headquartered in Milton.

"We know that we are one of the first companies in the country to deliver compressed natural gas in this way," Lunderville says.

While rock-bottom natural gas prices have been a boon for industry across the nation, companies without access to the gas pipeline have suffered a severe competitive disadvantage.

"If you're running a factory and you're not on that pipeline, and you're competing with a cheese maker or asphalt maker who is, that's a real problem for you," Evslin says. "And it's a problem that didn't exist before there was such a disparity in price."

Jamie Stewart, executive director of the Rutland Economic Development Corporation, said access to natural gas, as much as 70 percent cheaper than diesel and propane, can define a region's economic fate.

"A baseline criteria for some of the core industries, and particularly some industries we as a state have decided we want to promote, are dependent upon having natural gas to be competitive," Stewart says.

Access to natural gas in Vermont, however, is limited. The pipeline, owned by Vermont Gas, a subsidiary of Gaz Metro, crosses over the Canada border in Highgate and extends only into Chittenden County.

That means that industrial customers in Barre, Rutland and most of the rest of the state not only continue to pay high prices for No. 2 oil, No. 6 oil and propane, they also in many cases are vying against competitors that don't have to.

"I've spent a lot of time over the years talking with business leaders, and know for many of them energy costs are a big line item in the budget," Lunderville says. "When I saw what they could be saving with compressed natural gas, I say that not only was it an opportunity to start a business, but also way to help Vermont businesses."

Evslin, an inventor and entrepreneur who served as Vermont's "chief technology officer" under Douglas, said transporting natural gas from the pipeline to customers isn't cheap.

Special compressors, trailers, decanters, not to mention trucking and hauling fees, add up quickly.

"It just didn't make sense financially before to do something like this," Evslin said.

Now that natural gas is so dramatically cheaper – "something I'm convinced is not a short-term aberration," Evslin says – Lunderville says the company can pull healthy profits and save customers on energy costs.

"We're talking about delivering natural gas to customers in a way that can save them 30, 40, or as much as 50 percent on energy bills," Lunderville says. "For big energy customers, those savings can be in the millions."

Lunderville, who served as secretary of the administration under Douglas and as Irene-recovery czar under Gov. Peter Shumlin, most recently worked for Green Mountain Power, also a subsidiary of Gaz Metro.

Lunderville helped broker the utility's controversial merger with Central Vermont Public Service before leaving the company in mid-April to become CEO at NG Advantage.

"I loved working at Green Mountain Power, so it was hard to leave," says Lunderville, who departed the utility in the midst of a well-publicized flap over the repayment of \$21 million to CVPS customers. "But at the same time the opportunity this presented was something I just couldn't pass up."

Evslin and Lunderville won't disclose the names of prospective customers, and they don't anticipate making their first gas deliveries until next January.

They'll be able to serve industrial-size customers – places that use at least 150,000 gallons of fuel annually – within a two-and-a-half-hour driving radius of Milton.

Though Vermont Gas is eyeing a pipeline expansion to Middlebury, Evslin says the business model will survive growth in natural gas infrastructure.

"Everywhere the pipeline expands, we can go further," Evslin says.

Lunderville says that for now, NG Advantage is focused on building a customer base in Vermont, and parts of New York and New Hampshire.

"We want to start out in Vermont because we're from Vermont and we love this state," Lunderville says. "But we certainly see opportunities beyond here."

Though he believes NG Advantage is on the vanguard of the compressed-gas delivery business, Lunderville says the earnings potential will spawn competition. Already, an outfit is wooing some of the same prospective customers with whom Lunderville has spoken.

Early out of the gate, Lunderville says he and Evslin have their eyes on bigger things in the future.

"There are lots of great Vermont companies that started very humbly here and expanded into a national enterprise," Lunderville says. "And we'd love to do that too."

Notes from the campaign trail

MONTPELIER – Come reelection time, incumbent officeholders straddle a thin line between the business of government and the operation of their campaigns.

And from time to time, it can become difficult to distinguish where one world ends and the other begins.

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Provide constructive observations regarding current or proposed policies.

The following are members of the advisory board:

Jerry Bowin, McSoley, McCoy & Co, chairman of the Vermont Society of CPA's Tax Committee; Laird Cameron Bradley, Realtor, former chairman of the board of the Vermont Association of Realtors, Williamson Group Sotheby's of Woodstock; Andrew Brewer, owner, Onion River Sports; Jody Fried, executive director, Catamount Arts; Kathleen Hoyt, former secretary of administration and former chief of staff for Gov. Howard Dean and Gov. Madeleine Kunin; Sharon Lockwood, site spending manager, IBM; Kim Loewer, enrolled agent, managing partner of Loewer and Associates, president and founder of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals; Kathryn Michaelis, attorney, Rath, Young, and Pignatelli, Concord, N.H.; Janet Spitler, chief financial officer, Merchants Bank; and Patrick Walsh, assistant professor of economics, St. Michael's College.

Mack meets growing demand

ARLINGTON — Mack Molding has added critical services that will continue to support its orthopedic business, including clean room molding, additional laser welding capacity and a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices.

"These steps represent the latest in a long list of investments Mack has made over the last 12 years in the medical market, which is now approaching 40 percent of overall sales for the northern division," said Jeff Somple, president of Mack's Northern Operations.

The new 2,000-square-foot modular clean room features removable panels that will facilitate future expansions. Dual air-lock, rapid roll-up doors allow for easy product flow and quick tool changes. Just completed, the clean room is ISO certified.

The addition houses six electric injection molding machines.

The electric presses were chosen for energy-efficiency and precise process control.

Mack expects about 60 percent less energy consumption from these machines over their equivalent hydraulic counterparts.

In another move, Mack has doubled its high precision laser welding capacity to meet the growing needs of the orthopedic surgical case and tray market.

Mack has also formed a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices. "We have seen significant growth in orthopedics, so felt it necessary to establish a dedicated group that will focus solely on the needs of this market and its customers," says Dwain DeBoer, who is heading up the new Mack unit.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2012 5:47 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, MAY 28:

WCAX:

Sweet Victory at 50th Memorial Day Classic

BARRE, Vt. - In a race that had eluded his prestigious racing career, Barre, VT's Nick Sweet methodically worked his way to the victory in the 50th Mekkelsen RV Memorial Day Classic at Thunder Road in Barre, VT on Sunday, May 27, 2012. The Memorial Day Classic was the first of four events in the Vermont State Late Model Championship series. Sweet held off Lt. Governor Phil Scott and Brent Dragon, who flew through the field from the 12th and 16th starting positions to finish second and third.

The race began with pole sitter and former Oxford Plains Speedway Champion Ricky Rolfe showing the way early, only to engage with a heated back and forth struggle with Milton's Scott Payea. Rolfe and Payea traded the lead back and forth, side by side for more than half of the race. Scott and Sweet trailed the pair for the majority of the exchange as the top four ran in a tight battle for the point. Scott took over on the outside lane for 12 laps only to see Nick Sweet steal it away for good on a lap 68 restart.

FOX44:

Some States Asking the Tax Man to Get Tougher

MONTPELIER, Vt. - (AP) - Vermont is among a handful of states looking to shore up revenues without raising taxes by making sure that current tax laws are enforced fully.

Vermont, Idaho and Oklahoma all hired additional tax auditors during the recent recession when revenues were lagging and have reaped millions of dollars as a result.

But in Vermont, there's been some resistance as aggrieved taxpayers have gone to lawmakers complaining that tax collectors are coming down too hard on them.

This year, lawmakers responded by canceling or placing a moratorium on the state's efforts to tax the toothbrushes given out by dentists, meals served at senior housing facilities, and software provided over the Internet in so-called cloud computing applications.

VPR:

Increase In FEMA Relief To 90 Percent Is A Relief To State, Towns

This month, the federal government announced that towns would be reimbursed for 90 percent of the damage to municipal property caused by Tropical Storm Irene instead of 75 percent.

Town officials welcomed the news, but they're still working through the long process of applying for FEMA help.

When the announcement came late on a Wednesday afternoon that FEMA would increase its reimbursement for infrastructure damage from Tropical Storm Irene to 90percent, Sue Minter was among those in state government who breathed a big sigh of relief.

Until then officials had been on pins and needles about whether the increase would be approved.

"It was absolutely uncertain," says Minter, the state's Irene Recovery Officer.

The state has all along said it would pay half of the town costs of Irene damage. So, the announcement means towns are now responsible for 5percent of whatever FEMA calculates to be their storm damage. That calculation is still being done because it's not clear yet how many of the roughly 3,000 Irene projects FEMA will cover.

"In some cases there are serious disagreements between the town and FEMA around what should be eligible," Minter notes.

She hopes the disagreements can be resolved in favor of the towns, with getting into a formal appeals process.

Some of the disagreements are over debris removal, which FEMA generally doesn't cover.

Others reflect a difference in philosophy about how to rebuild. In some cases towns are replacing culverts, bridges and roads with bigger, better structures and FEMA's approach stresses replacing, not upgrading these structures.

The increase to 90percent reimbursement is going to help, says Minter, adding, "This decision is going to have a very significant impact to many taxpayers and town budgets."

The FEMA application process is an arduous one. Cynthia Gibbs is treasurer in Grafton where Irene damage topped \$3,500,000.

Gibbs says one town employee has worked full-time on FEMA paperwork since September. She says a high turnover of FEMA representatives also slows the process.

"You get some and they say, 'ok, that's covered. Then they're gone, so another bunch comes in and they say, 'oh no, that isn't covered'," Gibbs explains.

In Ludlow municipal manager Frank Heald says he's also seen too much turnover in FEMA staff. But Heald says the increase should save Ludlow \$200,000 or more.

"In the town the size of Ludlow our local officials are very intrigued by the extra couple hundred thousand dollars in help," he says.

Heald estimates local tax payers will have to pay for about \$150,000 of Irene damages. The impact on the tax rate will depend on how officials choose to pay it off.

Among the towns that will save the most money under the 90 percent formula are many of those that experienced the greatest damage.

In addition to Ludlow, Bennington and Killington will save more than \$100,000 according to FEMA.

Vermont State Parks Now Has An App For That

Just in time for the start of the summer season, the Vermont State Parks has rolled out a free iPhone app that gives visitors the ability to access and organize all sorts of information.

Parks director Craig Whipple says the new app is essentially a field guide - on your smartphone.

"It's really pretty cool," Whipple says. "You download the app, and what it allows you to do is find a state park near you that offers the kinds of activities and experiences you're looking for."

Whipple says the iPhone app is designed to provide everything from general information about each park, with directions, campground maps, photos, and contact numbers.

As director of State Parks, Whipple says it can be a challenge to balance his desire to encourage people to get outdoors and unplug with the modern need to stay connected.

"State parks experiences - things like camping, and picnicking are very traditional kinds of activities," says Whipple. "It's fun and interesting and challenging to marry that kind of tradition with contemporary communication tools like this. There are certain things we won't give in to - that we won't compromise the experience or the traditional value in a state parks adventure. This is simply the contemporary way to communicate to people, and we don't find that as compromising our traditional values at all, it's just the way people communicate."

Whipple says plans are in the works to make an android version of the Vermont State Parks app sometime soon.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Senior housing project inches forward

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- The Development Review Board has given its blessing to a proposed 41-unit senior housing project for North Brattleboro.

The board, at its meeting last week, approved the concept review for Black Mountain Estates, the clustered rental housing complex that Dummerston residents John and Lori Brunelle want to build on land they own on Buttonwood Road.

The board's approval is only the first step toward a final local permit, and the developers will also need an Act 250 permit from the state.

But DRB Chairman Tim Cuthbertson said the board was enthusiastic after its initial review of the plan.

"It's a good project," Cuthbertson said. "It meets the requirements of the town plan. We want to encourage developments of this nature."

The Brunelles want to build 41 independent apartments, with each one measuring about 950 square feet.

The apartments will be arranged in a cluster, with green space in between and a community center.

The units will be available for rent.

The Brunelles hope to get all of their permits by the fall and do construction throughout the winter. They hope to have the first units available in the spring of 2013.

Cuthbertson said it is a long way from the initial approval, which was granted last week, toward final approval.

At the meeting last week, the Brunelles basically introduced the plan to the DRB without any specific details. Now the Brunelles will have engineers come up with more detailed plans which will go before the DRB again.

"We have no issues with the way they are doing this," Cuthbertson said. "But it's very early in the process. We are on step one."

The board has 45 days to issue its official ruling, though Cuthbertson said it will likely come out within in the next few weeks.

The board did make a number of suggestions, which Project Director Jeff Brunelle said he would be trying to work into the project.

The board had some questions about the amount of green space included in the initial plan.

"I think the hearing went really well," Jeff Brunelle said. "With a project of this magnitude we expected there to be some hoops to jump through. There was a lot of enthusiasm from the board members."

Brunelle said the Act 250 process has a lot more questions associated with it.

He said the developers are going to do their best to meet all of the state requirements, though he said there is a chance the project could be delayed during the permitting.

"Anytime you do something like this you have to balance the reality of undertaking the project with the financial viability. Sometimes those two sides clash, but I am pretty sure that in the end we will be able to make this work."

London, Sarah

From: Morgan W. Brown <morganbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2012 8:05 AM
To: Morgan W. Brown
Subject: Special Broadcast: State of the Re:Union's Vermont Episode airing Memorial Day (5/28) at 7pm on VPR

(with apologies if you have already come across the following items)

In case it is of interest, fyi:

Special Broadcast: State of the Re:Union's Vermont Episode airing Memorial Day (5/28) at 7pm on VPR

Below is a forward of the Vermont Public Radio (VPR) episode page for the special early release broadcast of State of the Re:Union's (SOTRU) Vermont episode, which will be airing tomorrow evening, Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th. If you miss the airing of the episode, more than likely archived audio will be available via the same page either some time the next day or shortly thereafter. Following the forwarded text of the VPR page is a program description from the PRX preview page for the show (where there is also a player to listen to the SOTRU preview of the Vermont episode; link provided) and, following that, a copy of the e-mail received from the producer of the SOTRU Vermont episode.

-----Forwarded fyi-----

via Vermont Public Radio (VPR):

<http://www.vpr.net/episode/53653/state-reunion-vermont-small-town/>

State of the Re:Union: Vermont, The Small Town State

Monday, 05/28/12 7pm



Quaint storefronts along Main streets, covered bridges over clear streams, cows from dairy farms dotting green valleys: Across the state, these are the iconic images of Vermont. But beyond its pastoral beauty, this is a place that prides itself on its independent spirit.

Plus, Vermont's inhabitants are fiercely proud of how their state is rebuilding itself after Tropical Storm Irene left it ravaged. This is truly a place where individual communities are self determining, where geographic isolation has forced people to get creative, and take their town's destiny into their own hands.

In this special broadcast of State of the Re:Union - Vermont, we'll hear a range of stories of the way Vermont's 'small town state' identity manifests.

via PRX:

<http://www.prx.org/pieces/77094-vermont-the-small-town-state>

SOTRU - Vermont: The Small Town State

Series: **State of the Re:Union Spring 2012**

From: Al Letson

Length: **00:53:53**

Quaint storefronts along Main streets, covered bridges over clear streams, cows from dairy farms dotting green valleys: across the state, these are the iconic images of Vermont. But beyond its pastoral beauty, this is a place that prides itself on its independent spirit. Not only in the ways you might have heard of—first state in the nation to legalize same sex civil unions, say—but in the way Vermonters take on everyday life, and the challenges of it. This is truly a “small town state”—a place where individual communities are self determining, where geographic isolation has forced people to get creative, and take their town's destiny into their own hands. In this hour, we'll hear a range of stories of the way Vermont's “small town state” identity manifests: from finding new ways to treat mental health problems, to a gallery with a surprising monthly ritual to dealing with the most devastating natural disaster the state has ever seen.

[...]

Piece Description

State of the Re:Union

Vermont: The Small Town State

Host: Al Letson

Description: Quaint storefronts along Main streets, covered bridges over clear streams, cows from dairy farms dotting green valleys: across the state, these are the iconic images of Vermont. But beyond its pastoral beauty, this is a place that prides itself on its independent spirit. Not only in the ways you might have heard of—first state in the nation to legalize same sex civil unions, say—but in the way Vermonters take on everyday life, and the challenges of it. This is truly a “small town state”—a place where individual communities are self determining, where geographic isolation has forced people to get creative, and take their town's destiny into their own hands. In this hour, we'll hear a range of stories of the way Vermont's “small town state” identity manifests: from finding new ways to treat mental health problems, to a gallery with a surprising monthly ritual to dealing with the most devastating natural disaster the state has ever seen.

Billboard (00:59)

Incue: I'm Al Letson, and ...

Outcue: But first, this news ...

Segment A (12:29)

Incue: I'm Al Letson, and this ...

Outcue: on State of the Re:Union ...

A. The Small Town State 3:00

We open the episode at a Town Meeting with sociologist Frank Bryan as our guide. Bryan has been to thousands of Town Meetings—he's been studying them for decades—and he'll lay out the tension between the old and the new that plays out in small towns across the state every March. Bryan stresses that the lessons of local democracy, especially learning to lose a vote and still respect the neighbor who won it, are essential to building community.

B. Irene Shows Vermonters Who They Are (and continued in Segment B)

As streams became rivers and rivers overtook roads, fields and homes, people across Vermont were shocked. No one had expected the Irene flooding to amount to much, but the floodwaters ended up causing arguably the worst natural disaster in the state's history. In this segment we'll hear a collection of first-person accounts from people who ended up at the center of their isolated town's emergency efforts, organized as a series of vignettes that epitomize different aspects of Vermont's can-do, small town community spirit.

IRENE PART ONE: PITTSFIELD: A New Normal

We begin with one woman's story of the storm itself: Traci Templeton, a single mom in Pittsfield, VT, saw the home she'd rented for 10 years was ruined—there was 5 feet of silty mud inside. And when she saw what was happening in the rest of tiny Pittsfield, population 524, Traci realized the situation was far worse than she'd ever have been able to imagine. The road on one end of town was washed out, and the bridge on the other end of town was gone. That meant no one could come into town, and no one could go out, and the water was still rising. But the days and weeks after the flood were... well, magical. The first town meeting was called for the night of the flood, where quick decisions were made about what to do next, since the town was cut off entirely from the outside world. The emergency feeling gave way to peaceful "new normal" as the town remained cut off from the outside world.

Segment B (18:59)

Incue: You're listening to ...

Outcue: P-R-X.O-R-G

A. IRENE PART TWO: SOUTH ROYALTON: Neighborliness... To The Extreme

One of the things that defined the way Vermonters handled the aftermath of Irene was the incredible influx of volunteers—both fellow residents helping their neighbors, and complete outsiders, showing up and devoting themselves to the relief effort. Just north of Pittsfield in South Royalton, farmer Geo Honigford exemplified that. Honigford lost all of his crops as the water overtook his fields, but turned his attention immediately to helping his neighbors, assessing their homes to see what could be salvaged, trying to save as many homes as possible. He spent days literally running up and down country roads, organizing volunteers, assessing damaged houses. In this segment, we hear Geo's tips for addressing a natural disaster in your neighborhood.

B. IRENE PART THREE: BETHEL: The Other Town

In almost every town, tales of heroism, sacrifice and unity emerged; but in the town of Bethel, which was especially hard hit, politics took over, pitting outside volunteers against locals. This story explores the fault lines in Bethel: the tension between locals and outsiders, and the clash of different factions in town in Bethel's recovery. Residents in Bethel seem to agree that the town cannot be rebuilt the same way again, but the coming year will require tough decisions about which parts of the town can be rebuilt, and how to keep the community growing.

C. Dear Vermont Letter: A letter from musician and author Robin MacArthur, to her state.

Segment C (18:59)

Incue: I'm Al Letson and You're ...

Outcue: ... This is N-P-R

A. Dim Sum and Hidden Diversity : Vermont has a rep as the "whitest" state in the nation—and it's actually deserved. In the 2000 census, just 3.2% of the population was non-white. But that doesn't mean this place is

homogeneous—you just have to look a bit under the surface. Or get invited to Cai Silver's on just the right Sunday of the month... In Cai's home in Brattleboro, there's a monthly transformation of the art gallery in her living room into the state's only dim sum house. Cai was born in the Chinese city of ChongQing, in China's newest province, formerly part of Sichuan. She moved to Brattleboro with her husband, Adam, to make art. From its start as an art experiment, dim sum Sundays have become proof for Cai that however hard it may be to be different in a sea of whiteness, in some small towns, that difference can be embraced, even celebrated.

B. Approaching Mental Illness Another Way

For at least a decade, lawmakers and state government in Vermont have struggled with the question of whether or not to close down the decrepit Vermont State Hospital (VSH) in Waterbury, where people struggling with acute mental illnesses are treated. Tropical storm Irene made the decision swiftly and decisively, sending floodwaters that precipitated an emergency evacuation of all 51 inpatients. But this short-term post-flood solution is just the beginning: without the state hospital, Vermont has to redesign its infrastructure for treating people with mental illness, while in emergency problem-solving mode. This story tracks one corner of the new mental health care planning to a unique community center in Montpelier that offers (as its title and its strategy) Another Way. Another Way is a drop-in center where people in any stage of their struggle with mental illness can socialize, cook, play music, and hang out together. But, Director Steve Morgan says, "It's not just a group of 30 people who have been diagnosed with major mental illness who sit around and talk about that. Yes, we have people who are really struggling, hearing voices, sleeping in the woods. But we also have people who are in a different place, who are working and going on with their lives."

C-3. MONTAGE: VT Independence (2:00) In this final montage, we ask people why Vermonters go their own way, what creates their independent spirit.

PROGRAM OUT @ 59:00

[...]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Starecheski**

Date: Fri, May 25, 2012 at 7:43 PM

Subject: State of the Re:Union's Vermont Episode airing Memorial Day (5/28) at 7pm on VPR

Dear Vermonters,

I've just gotten word that our VT episode, "The Small Town State", will be airing on Vermont Public Radio on Memorial Day (5/28) at 7pm. This is a special early release courtesy of VPR. Following the broadcast, our episode will be available on the [our website](#), along with other special Vermont coverage, when our full season is released June 2.

Many thanks to all of you who lent us your voices, insights, research help and everything else. We can't wait to hear what you think. Please spread the word, and we hope this note finds you well.

Best wishes,
Laura

Laura Starecheski
Producer

-----End of forward-----

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 27 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

My Turn: Exchange levels the playing field

**Written by
Bob Zeliff**

Jeff Wennberg complains that Vermont's implementation of H.559 limits insurance to those who meet the criteria and are listed on the Vermont exchange (Free Press, May 8).

He conveniently ignores the fact that health coverage within the exchange must meet minimum standards for each of the coverage levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold, etc. This means that the insurance companies must provide standard, well-defined coverage and compete on cost. This is good for the Vermont consumer. All the insurance companies competing on a level field. No games in the fine print.

Mr. Wennberg does not like this. He wants insurance outside the exchange — i.e. outside the rules — so companies can sell whatever policies they want. Buyer beware! More profit and less risk for the insurance company! He seems to favor insurance companies over Vermonters.

Remember the exchanges have been designed to provide health insurance to all Americans. Many, many Americans and the small businesses they work for can no longer afford the prices that private insurance companies demand. He claims these federal funds are to replace the employer's contributions. Wrong. Again, these are subsidies to buy insurance for Americans, many who have had no insurance and do not have the means to pay for it on their own.

He goes on to claim the money will be "clawed" into state treasuries. Wrong. He seems to ignore that the federal credits and subsidies as part of the exchange are direct payments to private insurance companies for coverage provided to low and middle-income families. It pays insurance companies, not the state treasury.

While the rest of the country continues with the costs and complexities of private insurance companies within the exchange, in 2017 Vermont plans to take advantage of further efficiencies of self-insurance/single pipeline design of Green Mountain Care. This much more cost-effective plan will give Vermonters better coverage and correct the extreme disconnect of cost shifting that has hurt the hospitals and other health care providers. Vermont will be asking for waivers to redirect the federal funds from the exchanges to the administrator of Green Mountain Care. It will not go in Vermont's General Fund!

We cannot follow Mr. Wennberg's money. He refuses to tell us who is paying him, funding his front organization "Vermonters for Health Care Freedom." His positions, at their root, behind the spin always seem to favor the insurance industry establishment. Is that where following his money will lead?

Bob Zeliff lives in Bridport

My Turn: Time to reset tensions over renewable energy

BY LUCAS SNELLING

Whether we want to admit it or not, renewable energy in Vermont has a predicament. The current administration, renewable energy cheerleaders, and profit-focused developers would love to ignore it, but the fact is large-scale renewable energy development is creating a tension in our communities that can't be swept under the rug. Take a look at the events of the last couple of weeks.

We've seen our Canadian neighbors threaten to cut off water over a proposed wind project in Derby. Dozens of citizens turned out in Newark for heated questioning of the developers looking to build a wind project twice as big as the one proposed for Lowell.

In Lowell, the proposed turbines are so large they may soon spin across the nearest property line. In Charlotte neighbors of a solar project have a list of unresolved concerns.

In North Springfield, there's strong outspoken opposition to a proposed biomass plant over health concerns, especially to children.

All told, hardly a county in Vermont has been spared controversy and conflict over large-scale renewable energy development in the past year.

The desire to build industrial-scale renewable energy developments in Vermont, "as fast as we know how," as the governor says, is at odds with how our communities evaluate development, respect their natural resources and protect their citizens. If we are going to be successful in this transition we must seek to ease the tension.

One way to ease the tension would be to develop projects in a more collaborative way. Currently, developers arrive before selectboards with project plans in hand, starting their sales job before hearing much community input on the size, scale or location of a potential project. With no official mechanism for community input citizens often feel slighted at the outset. Bringing the two parties together before anything is set in stone, in a moderated format, may enable better results for both sides.

Developers must also do more to demonstrate respect for the communities where they seek to build projects. If they feel projects won't produce noise, lower property values or otherwise impact project neighbors, they need to offer those guarantees in writing to the satisfaction of their new neighbors. This is a fair and reasonable approach because if the developer is right, they will never have to deal with the repercussions, and if they are wrong, the neighbors are provided with some protection.

Lastly, we should look to decrease tension-filled situations by enabling and incentivizing the right projects in the right places. Our current subsidies and incentives create a "gold rush" approach toward large-scale renewable development, funding projects regardless of their impacts on natural resources or communities. Instead, we need to incentivize the least disruptive projects and judge the worthiness of larger projects based on environmental impact. This makes good sense when you consider that technologies like residential solar can be installed with minimal impact, but might need a little extra help for the average homeowner to buy into.

If we continue our current course we will be left with divided communities and inappropriate development marring our state. With climate change an ever-growing concern we only have one shot to do this right. Let's shift from a debate to a discussion, and give our people, natural resources, and communities the seat at the table they deserve.

,Lukas B. Snelling is the executive director of Energize Vermont, a statewide responsible renewable energy organization based in Rutland County.

My Turn: Vermont's ban on fracking is incomplete

**Written by
Kai Mikkell Forlie**

I live in Vermont, and I couldn't be more proud of our recent groundbreaking ban on fracking. However, I think the law that ushers in the ban is far from the panacea that its supporters contend. I say this for two reasons.

First, although this law sends a signal to the natural gas industry, this signal is far from ominous. While the law does prohibit fracking for natural gas, effective later this year, it also leaves the door wide open for a review of the ban by 2015 at the latest. In fact, the law sets the stage for the creation of a regulatory framework to address the act of fracking in the future. It charges the secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) with drafting a report, "... recommending how hydraulic fracturing should be regulated in the state," to include information on, "... the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing and the potential impact of the practice on the public health and environment of Vermont." And depending upon the findings contained in the report, the ANR will be free to make, "[a] recommendation as to whether the prohibition on hydraulic fracturing ... should be repealed."

Moreover, the bill also mandates that the natural gas industry be consulted during the creation of the report. One can just envision the army of lobbyists that will be only too happy to "take part" in the process.

Second, the law does nothing to ban the importation into the state of natural gas derived from fracking elsewhere. If estimates attributed to American Petroleum Institute representative Joe Choquette by Seven Days reporter Kathryn Flagg are accurate, "... between 30 and 45 percent of the gas delivered to Vermont's border comes from hydraulic fracturing in Canada." Given this, doesn't Vermont's citizenry have an overriding obligation to impose a ban on gas produced via fracking elsewhere? After all, why should Vermont benefit while Alberta suffers? The absence of such a ban smacks of NIMBY'ism and does nothing to force the issue of our continued reliance on a finite fossil fuel.

It looks to me like this law is yet another example of a well-intentioned legislative body 'kicking-the-can-down-the-road' rather than working now to enact meaningful regulation to combat the twin dangers of climate change and peak energy. As far as these two threats are concerned, we're no better off now than we were before the ban became law.

Kai Mikkell Forlie lives in Burlington.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2012 6:01 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 27:

NEW YORK TIMES:

Vermont Tourist Draw Expands After Storm

By DIANE DANIEL

Nine months after Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont, causing extensive property damage, the state's third-largest tourist attraction has been rebuilt. The glassblowing workshop at the popular Simon Pearce Mill in Quechee, Vt., which draws 300,000 people a year, has reopened in a restored and enlarged space.

"We're very excited to have it back again," said Mr. Pearce, the mill's namesake. "There was never any question of rebuilding. It's the heart of the company."

The mill (at rear in photo) includes the design company's flagship retail shop and restaurant overlooking a scenic waterfall on the Ottauquechee River. The storm surge, on Aug. 28, ripped open a corner of the historic woolen mill that houses the complex.

In its aftermath Mr. Pearce decided to increase the size of the viewing area, where blowers create 25 percent of the brand's glass.

Mr. Pearce will be on hand to celebrate the reopening on June 2, signing glass pieces (with a diamond-tipped pen).

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Look out, Vermont -- here comes RandyCare!

by: jvwalt

Sun May 27, 2012 at 00:18:41 AM EDT

I tell ya, I'm on the edge of my seat. Can't hardly breathe. So, you may ask, why all the anticipation? Randy Brock is about to unveil his health care plan.

Yes, folks, RandyCare is on the way! And as you might expect, it'll be a free-market system -- a conservative alternative to Governor Shumlin's plan.

Brock won't reveal the full plan until next month, but he made his pre-announcement at the Republican convention on May 19. It's only now been reported by Peter Hirschfeld at the Vermont Press Bureau. (Published in the May 25 Times Argus, and hidden behind a paywall as far as I know. But I subscribe.) Why nobody reported it until now, and why nobody else has reported it at all -- well, that tells you all you need to know about the state of the Vermont news media.

At the GOP's convention Saturday, Brock revealed the rough outlines of his conservative take on health care reform. Less government intervention, not more, Brock said, will allow market forces to work their cost-containment magic. Yes, "magic" is about the right word. As if the free market will solve all our health-care problems. As if the free market hasn't been responsible for the costly, inefficient, and sadly inadequate system we've got today.

"There is no question that we need to reform our health care system to corral runaway costs ... But only a Democrat would think solving those problems requires a government takeover of the whole system," Brock said. "What government really needs to do is to aggressively recruit lots of new insurance companies to come to Vermont so consumers have more plans to choose from."

Only a Republican would think solving those problems requires more of the free-market juju that's put us in the mess we're in today. And as for recruiting new insurance companies, I have two thoughts:

-- This ain't a football coach schmoozing high-schoolers. "Recruiting," in this context, surely means "gutting regulatory oversight and letting insurance companies do whatever they want."

-- More isn't necessarily better. Which would you rather choose from: 500 unvetted, poorly-regulated insurance plans, each outlined in mountains of legalese? Or a couple dozen plans reviewed and approved by experts?

Elsewhere in his speech, Brock hit on all the conservative talking points about health care: tort reform, slashing regulation, and allowing high-deductible CrapCare policies that only cover catastrophic conditions.

Oh, but I haven't gotten to the good part yet. Brock is developing RandyCare with a team of advisors, many of them so-called "conservative luminaries" from out of state.

One of them is identified in the article, and he's a real piece of work. Details after the jump.

jvwalt :: Look out, Vermont -- here comes RandyCare!

Meet Tarren Bragdon, young conservative on the move. He ran a policy shop in Maine that advised Paul LePage, the Tea Party-backed Republican Governor*, on how to institute a "free-market" health system. The result, a bill called LD 1333, was passed buy the Republican Legislature and signed into law by LePage.

*The one who sneaked into office in 2010 with only 38% of the vote, in an election that included a very strong independent candidate.

Here's what the Maine Politics blog said about the effects of LD 1333 when it was pending before the Legislature. This is presumably what Tarren Bragdon and Randy Brock want for Vermont:

L.D. 1333 would repeal many of Maine's basic health care consumer protections, allow out-of-state insurers to market policies in Maine without a way to enforce those policies and make sure claims are paid, undermine access to quality affordable health care for older Mainers, rural residents, people with pre-existing conditions and small businesses through significant rate hikes based on where you live or your age.

Sounds peachy, doesn't it? Sounds like Randy Brock is fully committed to the Tea Party/Koch Brothers style Republican politics of 2012.

But wait, there's more! Last spring, Tarren Bragdon packed up and moved to Florida, where he founded a new policy shop that's worked closely with Gov. Rick Scott (R-Asshat). His group was responsible for the bill that would require welfare recipients to be drug-tested. (It would have already required testing, except that it's been blocked by a judge.)

Yeah, nice guy. And he's helping Randy Brock shape his policy agenda. There are also a few locals on Brock's team, and they're exactly who you might expect: El Jefe General John McClaughry of the Ethan Allen Institute; Wendy Wilton, GOP

candidate for Treasurer and staunch critic of Shumlin's health care plan; and Dr. Mel Boynton, surgeon at Rutland Hospital who's on the advisory council of the Ethan Allen Institute. A real rogues' gallery of hard-right Vermont politics.

I don't think we have to worry about Randy Brock taking my advice and trying to appeal to the center.

Oops, almost forgot one other little tidbit about Tarren Bragdon. When he moved to Florida, he bought a house in Ave Maria -- the archconservative Catholic enclave conceived, built, and controlled by Tom Monaghan, the nutball from my home state of Michigan who founded Domino's Pizza and, since he sold the company, has devoted himself to an extremely devout lifestyle and devoted his fortune to bankrolling conservative Catholic causes. And that's where Tarren Bragdon feels at home.

Equality by Acclamation

by: NanuqFC

Sat May 26, 2012 at 16:30:00 PM EDT

Vermont's Democrats apparently know where they're going and why, if today's no-drama, no-shenanigans nominating convention is an indicator.

After a predictable speech by the venerable Senator Leahy, and the assumption of duties as convention chair by Jake Perkinson, the first order of business was a motion, submitted by yours truly:

National Marriage Equality Resolution

WHEREAS: Gender equality is one of the most significant moral and legal issues of the 21st Century; and,

WHEREAS: The Vermont Democratic Party has unequivocally endorsed and supported equality in all aspects of American life;

NOW THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Vermont Democratic Party, in convention this 26th day of May 2012

FIRST: That the platform of the Vermont Democratic Party and the platform of the National Democratic Party should endorse unqualified support for marriage equality under civil law for same-gender couples; and,

SECOND: That all delegates selected to represent the Vermont Democratic Party within Vermont's borders or beyond, in state or national conventions or meetings, are directed to fully support as a matter of policy the inclusion in the National Democratic Party's Platform a plank committing the Party to the complete and immediate implementation of gender equality and equal treatment for same-gender couples under state and federal law.

It passed by acclamation. Which is as it should be for Democrats and Vermonters.

It commits the slate of two dozen national convention delegates from Vermont elected today, and another handful of 15 so-called "At-Large and PLEO delegates," or what used to be called "super-delegates" (and 2 alternates), to support a national marriage equality plank in the platform. PLEO stands for "Political Leaders and Elected Officials."

Passage without comment or amendment was not necessarily a no-brainer, given Jake's abrupt about-face on this issue on May 4, followed by an announcement of his personal gratification a week later when the President decided he'd "evolved" enough.

It went well. Even if it's a symbolic gesture because likely no Vermont delegates will be on the Platform Committee, it's good that the VDP is now on record supporting a national marriage equality plank.

I naively go where perhaps I should not.

by: Sue Prent

Sat May 26, 2012 at 13:43:55 PM EDT

There's been some discussion of what our top statewide office-holders get paid and whether or not they should continue to tighten their belts while the economy struggles. It's a legitimate conversation because these are folks who make a fairly decent, if not necessarily extravagant, wage.

I'm going to go way out on a limb and say that I think state legislators should be paid more rather than less, especially in these challenging times. I'm not talking big-bucks here, just the equivalent of what minimum wage would yield for fifty-two weeks of uninterrupted employment. At \$8.46 per hour X 40 hours X 52 weeks, that comes to \$17,596.80. Raise mileage reimbursements somewhat, and eliminate meal and room allowances; but pay them that minimum amount...and link the expectation of pay to compulsory attendance and compliance with rules, as would be the case for any private sector job.

Current compensation is such that few people can really afford to consider running for a seat unless they either have personal wealth to fall back on, a spouse with a nice income, or high hopes of turning their political influence into opportunity or cash at some time in the not-so-distant future. That is the unvarnished reality.

How many job situations will tolerate a four month mid-winter absence every year? And how many families can make ends meet without two incomes?

Sue Prent :: I naively go where perhaps I should not.

I'm not saying there is any realistic expectation that Vermont will ever find a way to make service in the legislature a job with a real income. I'm just saying that we must be cognizant of the limitations this situation places on competent people's ability to serve.

The reason this resonates particularly with me right now is because, in Franklin County, both of our sitting senators are stepping down this year. With two open seats, the pickings are rather slim.

Like many others, I have been wracking my brain to come up with possible candidates. The Republican contenders are predictably abysmal, but that won't preclude them from winning if Democrats and/or Progressives can't provide a viable slate of senatorial contestants of their own. So far the only two who have come forward for the Dems are a very senior former senator, who perhaps should be allowed to remain in retirement; and a twenty-one-year-old who has never even run for local office.

It is not my intention to denigrate the only two willing Democratic candidates; but it would seem that we are not really optimizing our possibilities.

There are probably many intelligent, capable citizens in Franklin County who could bring fresh perspectives and new skill-sets to our citizen legislature. Some are disqualified by virtue of government employment; but for many, the rigors of campaigning, coupled with loss of income from a year-round job, are simply more than their families can absorb. So, we find ourselves having to choose not from amongst the best and brightest, but rather from those with the unusual set of circumstances or ambitions that make a run for office a viable option.

With the economy in trouble those constraints on service only become more pronounced.

And that is a real shame.

DEERFIELD VALLEY NEWS:

Program may help village
by Mike Eldred

WILMINGTON- Should Wilmington seek designation under the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation's Designated Downtown program?

According to Susan McMahon, of the Windham Regional Commission, and Leanne Tingay, the state's downtown program coordinator, downtown designation could provide some important benefits to the town as it struggles to recover from last summer's floods and move forward with economic development.

Wilmington is already in the state's designated village center program. But downtown designation was one of the goals identified by the historic village group during the FEMA Long Term Recovery process. On Monday evening, McMahon and Tingay met with local business owners, residents, and economic development leaders to present an overview of the program's requirements and benefits.

McMahon noted that there were two other designated downtowns in the Windham Regional Commission's area, Brattleboro and Bellows Falls. Although village designation is a similar program, McMahon said that "organization" doesn't seem to occur within designated villages. "The downtown program tends to look more holistically at the downtown. Wilmington is more than a village center, but it's not quite a large downtown. But it's kind of equivalent to Bellows Falls in a lot of ways."

McMahon said village centers are described as the "traditional center of the community" with a "cohesive core of residential, civic, and commercial" properties on a main street with intersecting side streets.

A downtown is slightly different. "A downtown is the traditional business and social center of a community, served by a public infrastructure." Downtowns typically include residential use, cultural and tourist sites, municipal buildings, multi-use buildings, storefronts, and streets with sidewalks in a compact area with a unique character evolved over time. "You might not have everything on the list, and some of the things you'll be working on."

McMahon asked the crowd if they thought Wilmington was a village center or an "emerging" downtown.

"A submerged downtown," quipped Mary Wright. Wright and others in the room agreed that Wilmington was more than a village. "(The Windham Regional Commission) thinks of Wilmington as a center for this region," agreed McMahon.

Wilmington Selectboard Chair Tom Consolino said downtown designation could be a key to helping the town get funding for downtown projects. "And boy, do we need funding," he said. "That's one of the key reasons for this."

Wright also noted that there was a group of people already at work to revitalize the village and looking at economic development of the village.

"We'd like Wilmington to be the town it used to be," said Cliff Duncan. "The region has lost its identity in a lot of ways, and I think the town is revisiting its roots a bit."

Tingay said Vermont's downtown program was modeled on the federal Mainstreet Program, started about 30 years ago by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She explained the program's "four point approach," which includes organization – establishing a nonprofit organization that implements a downtown revitalization strategy; economic restructuring – improving the downtown's economic assets; design – improving the appearance of the downtown; and promotion – marketing a positive image of the downtown. "What is your brand? What distinguishes Wilmington from other places?"

There would also be help with the economic restructuring. "There's already an economy here, but it needs to be restructured a bit. Eighty percent of economic development is expanding the businesses that are already there. Eighty percent of the new jobs are going to come from people who are already here."

But Tingay also noted that most of the work would be done locally and local funding would be required for projects. "Don't do this to get at our benefits," she said. "Our benefits are so small compared to the amount of work you're going to do. You'll be doing these things for yourself, but you won't be by yourself."

She said the state would train local people, and bring other resources to the table.

Duncan asked what the town should focus on in its application to the state for downtown designation. "It's hard for me to say at this time," Tingay said. "I've only been here for a couple of meetings, and a couple of 'Oh my dear lord' moments after the flood, but I'm not going to find the authentic thing for Wilmington."

But Tingay noted that, in its revitalization, Springfield focused on its little known but impressive past as the town with the most per-capita patents registered in the United States.

"One of the things Springfield needed was a chance to believe in themselves again, and they decided they're going to be Springfield reinvented. Look at the positive aspects of your community: activities, architecture, agriculture, food, farm-to-table ... I think all those things can be looked at."

For economic restructuring Tingay suggested "dusting off some of the old marketing plans" and looking at "retail leakage" to determine the kind of businesses that would be successful in Wilmington.

"Build it for the locals, and the tourists will come. Tourists want to go where the locals go."

Kathryn Longbotham asked if there was a downside to downtown designation.

"It's a lot of work," said Tingay. "It's totally worth it, but everyone has to have a role in it. You've got to have projects, a work plan, the ability to recruit volunteers, put together a task force – there can be burnout."

Consolino said downtown designation would be the subject of an upcoming selectboard meeting. "Come to the meeting," he told local residents, "and we'll discuss it again."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2012 5:44 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 27:

WCAX:

WCAX Poll: Vermonters support saving post offices

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Vermonters support giving federal subsidies to the United States Post Office to keep local post offices open. But but they are not ok with giving federal tax dollars to continue Saturday delivery.

That's according to a poll by WCAX, Vermont Business Magazine and WDEV Radio.

The United States Postal Service is facing a mountain of debt and plans to close some post offices around the country because of its financial woes.

According to the poll done by Castleton College, 58 percent oppose giving federal subsidies to the post office to continue Saturday delivery. 35 percent would support the idea of federal help and 7 percent were not sure.

But it's a different story when asked if they would support tax dollars going to keep local post offices open. According to the poll, 62 percent support the concept and 30 percent oppose using federal dollars. 8 percent were not sure.

More than 600 registered voters were polled earlier this month by Castleton College.

VPR:

Vt. Cities Seek Pension Solutions

Most Vermont municipalities participate in a statewide retirement program that's nearly fully funded. That's much better than retirement funds are doing for many cities and towns around the country, which have found that they're living beyond their means.

But a few Vermont cities, including Burlington and Rutland, run their own independent employee retirement systems. And some of them aren't in such good shape.

So they're looking for new, creative solutions to modify their plans - and close the gap before it becomes insurmountable.

Inside Burlington's City Hall all this month and next, City Council members will face reality. They'll listen to accountants presenting slideshows that explain the city's financial situation. They'll crunch the numbers, trying to make them work.

On a recent evening, as one of these budget work session droned on, Mayor Miro Weinberger stepped outside to get some fresh air. Standing on Church Street, he said he knew what it would take to accomplish what many voters elected him to do.

"Fixing the city's long-term finances requires addressing the pension issue," Weinberger said.

In the short-term, Weinberger says the city is just working to pass a 2013 budget that doesn't require any tax increases. Still, he is worried about and overwhelmed by Burlington's pension debt.

"We'll make good on the campaign promises to address this early," Weinberger said. "I am encouraged in my preliminary work on the topic that there are some incremental, strategic changes that may be possible."

Weinberger admits that's campaign rhetoric. Cities and towns are expected to set aside a certain amount of money to cover future retirement expenses. Burlington has accumulated more than \$55 million in outstanding pension debt, meaning it's promised that much more in future retirement benefits than it's got in the bank.

In more conservative states, governors have launched aggressive but unpopular initiatives to help towns pay off their pension debt by limiting collective bargaining rights. But in union-friendly Vermont, the issue is left to city officials. So Mayor Weinberger is not alone in wishing he had a solution to address his city's pension scheme as municipal tax revenue falls flat.

"It would be nice if [state officials] were in a position to be able to help out cities and towns that made promises years before. But they've got their hands full with their own pension obligations."

Steve Jeffrey is the executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. He says even though Vermont enjoys one of the better funded pension programs in the country, it's still struggling to fund its teacher retirement system. Jeffrey says towns with unfunded plans need to live up to their obligations.

Jeffrey says there are some examples of cities that have restored their finances by restructuring their pension debt. South Burlington has borrowed using bonds to secure money to pay for its retirement system at a lower rate each year.

"The infusion of cash into the pension plan took us from a severely unfunded pension plan to a plan that was funded at over 100 percent," said City Manager Sandy Miller.

Two years ago, when the city first talked about repairing its pension debt, Miller says unfunded obligations totaled nearly \$9 million. "A lot of this information had not been public before. So in 2010 when we disclosed all of this, it was very difficult for people to understand how it had gotten this way."

In the end, South Burlington increased transparency surrounding how its pension plan is monitored; how the plan is administered and how it's reported. Miller says the city now requires that its auditor and pension fund managers come before the board each year to talk about the plan.

"The pain was tremendous but the outcome was also tremendous," Miller said.

In next-door Burlington, pension debt will remain a tremendous concern as the city tries to pass a budget that doesn't require a tax increase by the end of next month.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Democrats seek to maintain majorities

BY PETER HIRSCHFELD

BARRE – With majorities in the House and Senate, a strong incumbent governor and a lock on the delegation to Congress, Vermont Democrats needn't lack for political confidence.

Lest they suffer from moments of insecurity, however, Gov. Peter Shumlin was there to buck them up at the party's quadrennial convention Saturday at the Barre Auditorium.

"This I know," Shumlin told a crowd of delegates. "There is nothing wrong in America that couldn't be made right by the Vermont Democratic Party."

Partisan bluster was in heavy supply Saturday at this rally-the-faithful ritual. A call to arms from party luminaries served to kick off a summer campaign season that will see Democrats look to retain their stranglehold on the Vermont Legislature and perhaps pick up yet another statewide office.

They already control four of the six statewide offices. And though Republican Lt. Gov. Phil Scott is generally regarded as unbeatable, incumbent auditor Tom Salmon's decision not to see re-election improves Democrats' odds of winning that post.

Vermont Democrats are still buoyant from their impressive showing two years ago, when they bucked a Tea Party-fueled national trend that saw Republicans overtake the U.S. House of Representatives and increase their numbers in state legislatures across the country.

"Two years ago the House changed in Washington, and it seemed the mood of the country changed," House Speaker Shap Smith told the crowd. "But it didn't change here. And thanks to you, we did not have happen what happened in New Hampshire and Maine."

Though Democrats now enjoy a virtual monopoly on political office here, Smith said they have yet to fulfill completely the party agenda. Ensuring universal health care, growing renewable energy and bolstering labor rights, Smith said, depend on a similarly successful showing at the ballots in 2012.

"Let me be clear – every election cycle is a difficult one and there are always people who are trying to undermine the work we are doing," Smith said. "We need your help this year. It is because of you we are where we are right now, and it is with your help we will stay there."

Vermont Democratic Party Chairman Jake Perkinson said his organization's hasn't let its dominance go to its head. Concern over Democrats' fortunes on the national stage especially, Perkinson said, will spur action at home.

"I haven't seen any complacency," Perkinson said.

The state party, too, he said, isn't resting on its laurels. Perkinson said Democrats will fine-tune their outreach apparatus, and build on a get-out-the-vote effort that worked so well for them in 2010.

"We can always improve on our systems and our methodology," he said. "Getting elected is in large part driven by your ability to communicate a message, and there's still a strong sense here in Vermont that there's more to be done."

Saturday saw recurring nods to Vermont's same-sex marriage law. Though lawmakers enacted the statute over a Republican governor's veto in 2009, President Barack Obama's recent endorsement of gay marriage has, for Vermont Democrats, made the issue a particular point of pride.

"From Howard Dean signing the first civil unions bill into law ... to being the first state in America to pass marriage equality not because judges told us to do it but because it's the right thing to do ... Vermont has led the way on civil rights," Shumlin said.

Democrats began the day by adopting a resolution that formalizes party-wide support for same-sex marriage.

The resolution, introduced by Euan Bear, of Bakersfield, requires Vermont delegates to support making marriage equality a plank in the National Democratic Party's official platform.

Bear said the message is directed less at Vermont than it is toward the national stage.

"We need to be pushing the national party in the direction of equal treatment for all couples," she said.

Bear said Vermont's marriage-equality law hasn't eliminated the gender-based inequalities faced by her and her wife.

"Just ask my accountant," Bear said. "We pay \$3,000 more in taxes every year than we would if our marriage was recognized by the federal government."

The resolution passed Saturday doesn't enshrine support for marriage equality in Vermont Democrats' official platform — that won't happen until the "Platform Committee" meets later this summer.

It marked one notable contrast between Saturday's convention in Barre and the one held last week by Republicans in Montpelier, where Rev. Craig Benson was invited by the state party to deliver the invocation.

Benson has been an enduring critic of same-sex couples, fighting first against civil unions before leading the charge against same-sex marriage. He's the founder of an active organization, called Let Vermont Vote, that aims to overturn the gay marriage law by putting the issue to a statewide referendum.

"I think even Randy Brock, who hails from my part of the state, believes it's a settled issue," Bear said. "But there will always be some extremists on the right who think they can overturn it."

Franco's errors undermine case

BY JEFFREY WENNBORG

John Franco's commentary in the May 20 Rutland Herald and Times Argus ("How much will single payer cost?") contains multiple errors, and as a result fails to discredit Treasurer Wendy Wilton's financial analysis of Green Mountain Care, the state's government monopoly single-payer health care reform.

A point-by-point rebuttal requires more space than the editor would allow and most readers would tolerate, but for those interested one is available at www.vthealthcarefreedom.org under the "Resources" tab.

Like all prior critiques, Franco's commentary validates the central criticisms of the Shumlin health care reform effort: Where is the administration's financial analysis? Why are the administration and the Legislature furiously implementing Green Mountain Care without a financial projection or financing plan? And why are the people with the greatest knowledge of these issues — administration officials like Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Steve Kimbell — unwilling to answer questions posed by Wilton's analysis or debate her work in a public forum?

It is Kimbell's department that requires new private insurers to demonstrate that they have sufficient capital reserves, a solid business plan and are actuarially sound before they are allowed to operate. Yet the state is now embarked on a wholesale takeover of the \$5.3 billion health care system — and has even begun the process of outlawing private health insurance — without a business plan, a financing plan, or a budget. If the state held itself to the same standards it applies to private insurers Green Mountain Care would be no more than a concept.

Franco states that the cost of doing nothing is unacceptable. He may be right, but before the governor and the Legislature acted to dismantle the private insurance market and expend millions on staff, consultants and technology, shouldn't they tell us what GMC is going to cost and who is going to pay for it?

JEFF WENNBURG

(Executive Director, Vermonters for Health Care Freedom)

Rutland

School district mergers are paying off

BY ARMANDO VILASECA

This spring saw a number of positive developments in the area of school district governance. The changes illustrate how the system established in Act 153 by the Legislature to encourage districts to study the possible benefits of collaborative activities is intended to work.

The first Regional Education District (RED) was created when voters in the school districts of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston each voted to merge their districts with the Flood Brook Union District to form the Mountain Towns RED. The RED received approval of its request to the state Board of Education to move from the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union to the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union. The departure of the Mountain Towns RED from Windsor Southwest increased the feasibility of the consolidation of the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union with the Rutland-Windsor Supervisory Union to form a single new supervisory union.

Some have expressed concern that an element of coercion underlies the incentives for voluntary merger provided by the Legislature. A point that cannot be emphasized too strongly is that these changes in all cases were initiated by local units. The RED vote received overwhelming support in each of the four districts. The transfer of the RED from Windsor Southwest to Bennington-Rutland was proposed by the RED Study Committee and had the support of the superintendents and supervisory union boards in both supervisory unions. The initiative for the consolidation of Rutland-Windsor and Windsor Southwest originated with a study committee created by the supervisory unions themselves. The supervisory union boards, with the support of their superintendents, petitioned the state board for permission to consolidate contingent on the successful creation of the RED and its move to Bennington-Rutland. Public support for the supervisory union consolidation was demonstrated by advisory votes in two districts where the proposal received solid majorities.

Appropriately, the primary consideration in the proposals was the educational experience of students. Each of the districts that formed the RED educated students in grades K-8 at Flood Brook Elementary and offered student/parental choice for grades nine to 12. A preponderance of students chose Burr and Burton Academy, an independent high school. This combination of education provided by the districts in lower grades and high school choice is found in the districts of Bennington-Rutland, even to the extent that Burr and Burton is the most commonly chosen high school. Other districts in Windsor Southwest are members of Green Mountain Union District. The shift will allow improved curriculum development in both supervisory unions.

Improved efficiency is secondary to the educational experience of students but can be a result of such changes. Given the pioneering nature of the activities, particularly the supervisory union consolidation, the Department of Education contracted with a consultant with experience in accounting, school district financial reporting and best practices for supervisory unions. His analysis suggests that the total savings to the Mountain Towns RED, the consolidated supervisory union and the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union should exceed \$700,000 per year.

Finally, I would like to correct a widespread misconception. There is a belief that any time a group of districts establishes a RED Study Committee and a RED proposal is voted down, or the committee recommends against forming a RED, that the result should be labeled a failure. The Legislature extended an invitation to districts to engage in discussions with

one another. Success or failure should be measured by the quality of the discussions. In virtually every case, participating districts came away with useful information.

The House and Senate Education Committees spent weeks taking testimony on ideas that required enabling legislation. The result of their efforts, Act 156 of 2012, was signed into law by Gov. Shumlin May 16. With the expanded set of opportunities, there is every reason to hope for continued improvements in students' educational experiences created through increasing collaboration of all sorts among Vermont's school districts and supervisory unions.

Armando Vilaseca is Vermont commissioner of education.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 6:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

VTBUZZ BLOG –

Former Gov. Douglas' book due out this year

Posted on May 25, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

Former Gov. Jim Douglas is working on his autobiography, due out by the end of the year. The Addison Independent, in an interview this week, revealed a couple of tidbits Douglas will share.

Notably:

- "I offer some candid, but not libelous, thoughts on some people," Douglas said. "My thoughts on some nationally known people may be surprising to people."
- The book's theme will be along the lines of how a Republican gets elected in modern-day Vermont. "Even President Obama asked the first time I met him, 'How did you win in Vermont?'" Douglas said with a smile. "People who look at the state often characterize it as 'the most liberal,' or 'the most Democratic,' based on criteria and wonder how a Republican governor prevailed."
- The book is being published by former Rep. Chris Bray, a liberal Democrat from New Haven who is running for state Senate in Addison County. "I've always like Chris," Douglas said. "He hasn't always voted the way I preferred when we served together in Montpelier, but I've always respected his integrity, his intellect and his commitment to Vermont. I've always felt he was an honorable public servant and someone with whom I could work."
- On his future, Douglas told the Independent, "I really don't anticipate running for office again."

Chittenden Senate candidate update

Posted on May 25, 2012 by Nancy Remsen

We won't really know who is running for the six Chittenden Senate district seats until 5 p.m on June 14, but here is the latest information we have:

Five of the six incumbents — Tim Ashe, D/P; Philip Baruth, D; Sally Fox, D; Virginia Lyons, D; and Diane Snelling, R.

Former Burlington mayor Bob Kiss says he's running as an independent. He was a Progressive for the six years he served in the House.

Ed Adrian, Burlington City Councilor, running as a D.

Debbie Ingram of Williston, executive director of Vermont Interfaith Action, running as a D.

Loyal Ploof of Burlington, owner of dog walking business, running as a D.

Vermont AG's race moves into second gear

Posted on May 25, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

Attorney General Bill Sorrell plans an official campaign re-election kickoff Wednesday for what promises to be his most challenging campaign after 15 years in office.

Sorrell is in a Democratic Party primary battle with Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan.

In seven elections, Sorrell has never received less than 56 percent of the vote and usually nabs much more than that, on the order of 80 percent. This year, he'll have to fight just to get his name on the November ballot.

Sorrell has already held various campaign fundraisers and now plans a two-event kickoff. He'll hold a news conference at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Cedar Creek Room of the Statehouse. From 5:30-7:30 p.m., he plans a celebration at the Wakefield Room of the Burlington Boathouse. Both events are open to the public.

Meanwhile, the endorsement battle between the two candidates continues to escalate.

Former Gov. Madeleine Kunin endorsed Sorrell on Friday. She will host the boathouse reception. Rep. Rebecca Ellis, D-Waterbury, who used to work for Sorrell in the Attorney General's Office, will join Sorrell at his afternoon announcement.

Kunin, who appointed Sorrell to the job Donovan now holds, said in a statement: "I have known Bill Sorrell and his family for many years, and watched him continue to serve the state of Vermont. I think his experience and dedication to the job qualifies him to serve another term as attorney general."

Donovan has announced the backing of Republican Mayors Thom Lauzon of Barre and Chris Louras of Rutland and Democrat Bill O'Brien of Winooski. Donovan also won the backing of Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard Sears, D-Bennington. Sorrell has the backing of several other state senators.

If you find it odd that Donovan would win the endorsement of a Republican mayor for the Democratic primary, Lauzon said. Donovan won his backing by the help he's given Barre in handling issues with criminal offenders cycling in and out of the system.

Lauzon said he called Donovan nearly two years ago seeking help after hearing about efforts Donovan had tried in Chittenden County, including a rapid arraignment pilot project.

"He earned my endorsement. It's as simple as that. He's got a lot of energy and ideas," Lauzon said.

Barre hired an intervention specialist to help with offenders returning to the community, Lauzon said, but has not adopted the rapid arraignment process in hopes the idea will go statewide.

Lauzon said his endorsement of Donovan isn't a condemnation of Sorrell or of any potential Republican candidates. Of Republican Vince Illuzzi, R-Essex/Orleans, who is pondering running for auditor or attorney general, he said, "I think Vince is extremely effective right where he is."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 6:06 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26:

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

**Health care dominates talk at Chamber meeting
By MIKE FAHER**

BRATTLEBORO - With six state legislators under one roof, talk over breakfast Thursday morning included subjects as diverse as storm recovery, solid waste, wireless coverage and even a mention of Vermont's recent regulation of mixed martial arts.

But one topic -- health care -- surfaced repeatedly during Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce's legislative breakfast at the Brattleboro Retreat.

And as lawmakers grapple with implementing a single-payer system in Vermont, they're also keeping a close eye on the legal battle over the national health-care reform law.

"I think there's an excellent chance it will be struck down," said Sen. Peter Galbraith, D-Townshend. "And that will affect what we do."

Galbraith made clear that he believes the Affordable Care Act -- a signature achievement of the Obama presidency, but reviled by many conservatives -- is rooted in firm legal ground. But he nonetheless predicts that the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard arguments on the law earlier this year, will strike down the act for partisan reasons.

"I believe it will be decided politically and not legally," Galbraith said, later accusing the court of functioning "like an unelected legislature."

Vermont officials have been laying groundwork for a universal, government-coordinated, single-payer health-care system that could take effect later this decade. The legislature last month took another step toward that goal by setting up health-care "exchanges" that one senator said will serve as a "pivot point" on the way to a single-payer system. Rep. Mike Mrowicki, a Putney Democrat, noted that officials also have been attempting to improve residents' access to health-care facilities.

"A lot of what we're doing and have been doing is not necessarily tied to federal action," Mrowicki said.

But officials nonetheless remain concerned about the outcome of the Supreme Court case. If all or parts of the federal law disappear, that could endanger federal cash that is critical to Vermont's health-care-reform efforts.

"It's going to be very difficult to do without capturing federal money," Galbraith said. "If there is no Affordable Care Act, there are no subsidies."

Those subsidies play a role, for instance, in making the recently approved exchanges beneficial to businesses, said Mrowicki, a member of the state legislature's year-round Health Access Oversight Committee.

For business owners and employees, "it's actually going to help them manage their health-care benefits more easily," Mrowicki said.

Some lawmakers at Thursday's breakfast also sought to assure business owners that state reforms will not increase their health care costs.

"The reality is, we're going to bring costs down for businesses," said Mrowicki, who also told the crowd that "we have to move away from a system that rewards bloated bureaucracies."

Galbraith agreed, telling one questioner that "the insurance companies are going to be cut out of the process" so that the price of health care more accurately reflects the actual costs of delivering that care.

He acknowledged, though, that state lawmakers still have a lot of work to do on the health-care issue in the next session and beyond.

"It involves a lot of complications that, frankly, we haven't addressed," Galbraith said.

Galbraith, Mrowicki and four other legislators who attended Thursday's event each took a few minutes to discuss the most-recent legislative session. They covered a wide variety of topics, including:

- * Rep. Sarah Edwards, P/D-Brattleboro, and Rep. Carolyn Partridge, D-Windham, addressed a proposal to label genetically modified foods.

Edwards said she hopes the measure eventually moves forward. Such food "should be labeled as to how it was grown, because it matters to a lot of people," she said.

Partridge, who chairs the House Agriculture Committee, said lawmakers have been advised that such a law will be tested in the courts immediately.

"We did work on the bill. We did hear from a lot of people," Partridge said. "We felt it was really important to put together a bill that is legally defensible."

- * Sen. Jeanette White, D-Putney, said chairing a redistricting committee didn't win her any friends. But she said the resulting legislative-district lines caused as little disruption as was possible.

"I think, in the end, we came up with a really good map for the House and the Senate," White said.

- * Rep. John Moran, D-Wardsboro, said the legislature "made a number of small though valuable adjustments to state liquor laws." He is vice chair of the General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee, which oversees liquor issues.

The changes include ensuring that restaurants that are catering an event do not have to get a separate catering license to serve alcohol; allowing caterers who don't have a restaurant to apply for a license to sell beer and wine; and permitting vintners to "deliver more of their own product to retailers and restaurants," Moran said.

- * Galbraith applauded the fact that Vermont this month became the first state to ban hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," a controversial technique used in natural-gas drilling.

"It is a technology that is unproven" and potentially damaging to water quality, he said.

- * Several lawmakers said state officials have acted quickly and effectively to address recovery from Tropical Storm Irene.

"What we saw is that the legislature and the administration really worked together on this one," White said.

* Edwards bade farewell to the Chamber crowd, having previously announced that she would not be seeking a sixth term in the Statehouse. She received a round of applause.

"It's been a great 10 years, and I've enjoyed working with you all," Edwards said.

Vt. can't leave NCLB behind

BY HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- Vermont has decided to drop its request to the U.S. Department of Education for flexibility in enacting key provisions of the No Child Left Behind law.

With Congress unwilling to tackle the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or ESEA, President Obama last year said that his administration would allow states to apply for a waiver which would give states flexibility in how they meet the strict requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Vermont was one of 37 states to seek the waiver, but last month the U.S. Department of Education said Vermont needed to provide more information to the federal agency before it would be allowed to ease up on the NCLB requirements.

At the State Board of Education meeting this month the board voted unanimously to drop its request.

Vermont originally assumed that it would be able to create its own measurements for progress and teacher qualifications, but State Board of Education Chairman Stephan Morse said it became apparent that even with the waiver, many of the same restrictions would be in place.

Morse said after the federal Department of Education said it wanted more information, the State Board decided that it was not worth all of the work to proceed.

"There was no room to do much of anything under the waiver. All of the requirements of No Child Left Behind remained in place," Morse said Thursday. "In my opinion it is not accurate to call it a waiver."

In an April 17 letter to Commissioner Armando Vilaseca, the U.S. Education Department said Vermont's waiver application lacked "Detail regarding Vermont's proposed accountability system," and did not "Ensure significant progress in improving student achievement."

Since applying for the waiver, Vermont has held a series of time-consuming negotiations as it attempted to create its own system of measurement and accountability that relied less on standardized tests and punitive actions against teachers, administrators and schools.

Throughout those negotiations it became more and more apparent that the U.S. Department of Education would not be willing to budge on many of Vermont's requests, and so when the latest letter arrived in Montpelier asking for more details the State Board of Education decided to cut its losses and move on.

"As the Vermont Department of Education has continued to negotiate for the flexibility that was promised since we started in August, it has become clear that the U.S. Education Department is interested in simply replacing one punitive, prescriptive model of accountability with another," Vermont Department of Education Spokeswoman Jill Remick said. "We cannot continue to expend energy requesting a detailed accountability system that looks less and less like what we want for Vermont."

The U.S. Department of Education has approved waiver requests from 11 states.

Remick said that while President Obama encouraged states to ask for the waivers, the U.S. Department of Education was still requiring schools to test students and forcing schools to pin those test results to teacher evaluations.

With the waiver request now withdrawn, Vermont will have to continue testing its students and measuring adequate yearly progress largely based on the outcomes of the assessments.

Recovering and helping others recover

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- As case manager for the RISE program at the Phoenix House on Western Avenue, John Colleran has recognized that look in his clients' eyes when they make the decision to begin turning their lives around.

The men usually show up at Phoenix House angry, having been ordered there after some kind of run in with the law or after hitting the bottom with friends and family.

So the initial few days can be difficult, but eventually, under the best circumstances, the men get a look that Colleran recognizes and he knows that every day, from then on, is going to be a little bit better.

Colleran can see that turning point because he has worked with dozens of Phoenix House residents over the years.

And he understands where the clients are coming from because he is a recovering alcoholic himself who is now helping others rebuild their lives.

"When you are an addict, everyday is a challenge," Colleran said during an interview in his office. "It can be very challenging when you first show up here. Some get it quicker than others."

Phoenix House is a nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment organization that operates outpatient and residential programs across the country.

There are 28 beds at the Western Avenue Phoenix House location, which is one of five that are operating in Vermont.

Colleran first showed up at a Phoenix House after spending time in prison due to a number of drunk driving convictions.

He says he grew up in a family where alcohol abuse was tolerated, but not confronted, and his drinking got worse and worse until he was forced to make some changes.

In 1991 he was living in Atlanta and he ran over a woman's foot in New York City while he was drunk.

He spent 30 days in jail at Rikers Island.

It was an experience he said, that scared him into realizing that his drinking was out of control and he tried to make some changes.

But while visiting his mother in Brattleboro, he was arrested again for drunk driving and he ended up at a Phoenix House treatment facility in Bellows Falls.

While he was nearing the end of his own treatment, Colleran interviewed for an open position as a case manager.

He spent about two years there, but then moved back to Atlanta and got a job outside of the recovery business.

He stayed sober, he said, but he felt like he was going through the motions and he wanted to help others find their way through the debilitating chains of addiction.

When a job opened in the Brattleboro Phoenix House he applied, and was hired.

"I put my cat in the car and drove up here," he says. "I wanted to do something that mattered to me."

Colleran's story represents a growing trend in the United States, according to a study released recently by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

The report, which is the first research to quantify recovery in America, found that 10 percent of all American adults, age 18 and older, consider themselves to be in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse problems.

"This research marks a vitally important step for those who are struggling with addiction by offering clear evidence to support what many know experientially, that millions of Americans have found a path to recovery," said New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez. "It is my hope that this new evidence will strengthen and inspire individuals and those that provide treatment and recovery services."

Deni Carise, Chief Clinical Officer for Phoenix House Foundation, said the report takes the focus away from celebrity recovery and highlights the large number of average Americans who are living with addiction issues everyday.

"It's rare for the public to see people overcome their addictions, achieve their goals, and go on to become great parents, employees and citizens," Carise said. "The public won't know these success stories unless we tell them."

Colleran said his experience helps him everyday when he is working to help others confront their addictions.

"I can look every one of them in the eye and say, 'I did this. I've walked in your shoes,'" Colleran said. "People are anxious when they first show up but I tell them that I will trust them until I can not. And we go from there."

After working in the Brattleboro Phoenix House for a few years now, though, Colleran has come to realize that not every single man who comes through is ready to make changes.

Many do, he says, but just as he understands when a client is ready to move ahead, he also gets it that for some the addiction is too strong.

People fail. They make bad choices, and sometimes, even when the will is there, the power of the drugs or of the alcohol do not let go.

"It's is so hard sometimes because you know nothing is going to happen," said Colleran. "I cry and sometimes I have to let go, but I will never give up on a client. As long as someone is honest, and is willing to try, I'm going to help you."

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

How can I miss you when you won't go away?

by: jvwalt

Fri May 25, 2012 at 14:51:22 PM EDT

(With apologies &/or gratitude to Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks.)

Did anybody ask for this?

Former Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss hopes to move to a new political arena - the state senate.

Mere months after the ignominious end of his mayoralty, Bob Kiss apparently believes it's time to get back on the horse. He either has a big set of cojones or a bad case of cluelessness. Or possibly both.

He said he sees his political experience - six years in the Vermont House and then six as Burlington's mayor - as an asset to his candidacy.

He's one of a select few who would see the last six years as a political asset. To be fair, I don't know Bob Kiss, and as a Montpelier resident, I follow Burlington politics at a distance. But my sense is that he's a nice guy who made a lot of mistakes as mayor, had little to no support at the end, and left office because the writing was on the wall. His misadventures were -- and are -- a significant handicap for the Progressive Party, and helped sink the city's IRV system. Doesn't sound like an asset to me.

On top of all that political baggage, Kiss would also face stiff competition for Chittenden County's six Senate seats. Five incumbents are in the race; Burlington City Councilor Ed Adrian is in the running, and former State Rep. David Zuckerman is mulling a bid.

But for Bob Kiss, it's full speed ahead.

"People have had a chance to review and consider the work I have already done," he said. Yes, I'd say that's true. But I don't think it helps.

Jim Douglas writes himself

by: BP

Fri May 25, 2012 at 06:40:52 AM EDT

I seem to remember that Governor Jim Douglas, while still in office jokingly, threatened to write an autobiography. Well it seems he has followed through on it. A teaser article for the autobiography which will be published before the end of this year can be found in the Addison County Independent. The theme of the book is reported to be "How can a Republican succeed in Vermont?" He might consider rushing an advance copy to fellow Republican, gubernatorial candidate Randy Brock to use as an instruction manual.

The book will focus on the 61 year old Douglas' 40 years in Vermont politics and provide his thoughts on familiar Vermont political luminaries Jim Jeffords, Howard Dean and Bernie Sanders and a smattering of national figures including George W. Bush and President Obama.

Those who might have pigeonholed Douglas during his political tenure as a demure, perfunctory chief executive might be in for a jolt when his book is released later this year.

"I offer some candid, but not libelous, thoughts on some people," Douglas said.

"My thoughts on some nationally known people may be surprising to people."

And while he declined to share specifics at this point, he did say his impressions and criticisms will involve politicians on both sides of the aisle.

Few Vermonters familiar with the former Governor would think he might author a modern Washington style tell all, but does the tagline "candid, but not libelous" really promise a jolt let alone much of a buzz ?

Douglas' worn-out themes, disappointment.

BP :: Jim Douglas writes himself

Disappointments and some well worn themes that Douglas found reliable over the years are also mentioned. These would be his failure to stem the supposed exodus of Vermont's young, partisan bickering and his 2009 veto of marriage equality legislation which was overridden by the legislature. About that disappointment Douglas says he does not have second thoughts.

"There was no right that gay couples had under the civil union law that was enhanced under the marriage law," Douglas said. "It was really a matter of nomenclature and a distinction I felt was worth preserving."

I wondered, as others may, if this book might hint at the future for the relatively young 61 year old Douglas. Perhaps he is considering a run for a US Senate seat or something, but he reportedly has no interest in rekindling his political career.

"I really don't anticipate running for office again."

Just as well because the Jim Douglas in this article, and probably the one in the book seem to have no intention of evolving. How did this Republican succeed in Vermont?

ADDISON INDEPENDENT:

Gov. Douglas pens autobiography

BY JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Former Vermont Gov. James Douglas has penned an autobiography in which he touches upon the highlights of almost 40 years in Vermont politics. In the book, due to be released before year's end, Douglas offers some candid thoughts on some of the state and federal lawmakers with whom he worked during a political career that he says he has no interest in rekindling.

The underlying theme of the Middlebury Republican's book will be "How can a Republican succeed in Vermont?"

"I have always said that politics in Vermont is retail," Douglas said during an interview with the Addison Independent on Monday. "Most Vermonters, if they seek it, have an opportunity to meet the governor and other public officials. I always felt that if they had that opportunity, they would see I didn't have horns, I wasn't always the ogre portrayed by my adversaries and quite frankly, by some members of the Fourth Estate."

Douglas, who will turn 61 next month, hopes Vermonters and folks in many other states will take an opportunity to meet him through his book.

Indeed, 2012 will see the release of two books covering the careers of former Vermont governors. "Philip Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State" was released earlier this year. Hoff served as governor from 1963 to 1969.

It is mere coincidence that the two tomes will find their respective ways to the bookstores during the same year.

"I decided to do this book last year," Douglas said, an endeavor that saw him spend large chunks of time behind his computer typing up thoughts while they remained fresh in his mind.

He asked for a lot of advice from various authors and publishers as he set to work on the project. Along with the Hoff book, he read biographies on former Vermont Gov. Deane Davis and on Connie Bailey, the state's (and America's) first female to be elected lieutenant governor during the 1950s.

"Both (the Davis and Bailey books) were published posthumously, and I told (my publisher) my goal was not to follow their lead on that," Douglas said with a chuckle.

He remains close to the subject matter as an executive in residence at his alma mater, Middlebury College. It's a role that sees him deliver guest lectures at various classes — primarily those dealing with the field of political science. He has also been assisting college archivists in organizing a lot of the memorabilia accumulated during his eight years as governor that ended in January 2011, after he chose not to run for re-election.

FOCUS ON GOVERNORSHIP

Around two-thirds of Douglas's book will focus on his time as governor; the rest will touch upon his political influences; his arrival at Middlebury College, where he led the student GOP association during a tumultuous period of the Vietnam War; and his entry into politics, beginning with his election to the Vermont House in 1972, followed by service as a top aide to Gov. Richard Snelling and stints as Vermont's secretary of state and then treasurer.

The book will not cover the governor's childhood to a great degree.

"Unless it is something that relates to my political career, I'm not sure it's really that interesting," Douglas said. "I just had a normal childhood."

He does recount volunteering for GOP causes as a junior high schooler and being inspired by Arizona Republican Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign.

But Douglas said he and his publisher, Chris Bray of New Haven-based Common Ground Communications, believe that readers inside and outside of the state will be most interested in his thoughts and actions as governor. He does not want the book to resonate exclusively with political junkies in the Green Mountain State.

"It was suggested to me that people beyond Vermont who buy the book would want to hear about my impressions of people they recognize, like (former U.S. Sen. James) Jeffords (I-Vt.), and (former Vermont Gov. and presidential candidate Howard) Dean and (U.S. Sen. Bernie) Sanders (I-Vt.) — people they've heard of," said Douglas. He also rubbed shoulders with a lot of other governors as a member and officer of the National Governors Association.

With that in mind, Douglas has included some of his impressions of — and interactions with — the above-mentioned politicians, along with thoughts on other members of Vermont's Congressional delegation and the two U.S. presidents who served during his gubernatorial run: George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Those who might have pigeonholed Douglas during his political tenure as a demure, perfunctory chief executive might be in for a jolt when his book is released later this year.

"I offer some candid, but not libelous, thoughts on some people," Douglas said. "My thoughts on some nationally known people may be surprising to people."

And while he declined to share specifics at this point, he did say his impressions and criticisms will involve politicians on both sides of the aisle.

NO-DRAMA DOUGLAS

As governor, Douglas frequently mingled with constituents and wasn't a magnet for controversy. He believes it was a style that served him well during some rocky times in the Green Mountain State (and the nation in general) confronting the deepest recession since the Great Depression, and the toll of two wars in the Middle East.

With the economy in peril, Douglas and the Legislature confronted and had to mop up tens of millions of dollars in budgetary red ink, with a substantial assist through the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

And if that task weren't daunting and gloomy enough, Douglas found himself all-too-frequently attending the funerals of Vermont soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. His book will include an experience at one of those funerals.

"We are still feeling its effects," Douglas said of the recession and conflicts abroad.

Douglas will also talk about state advances in health care reform, public safety and economic development that occurred during his time as governor. He will also address some of his disappointments — the continuing exodus of young Vermonters to other states for job opportunities; the partisan bickering that he believes has enveloped politics; and the Legislature's decision in 2009 to override his vetoes on the state budget and same-sex marriage.

The overrides were made possible thanks to a substantial Democratic majority in both the House and Senate during Douglas's tenure. Douglas was pleased that overrides were infrequent occurrences during his time in office.

"With super-majorities, the Democrats could have their way on any day," Douglas said.

Vermont became the first state to adopt same-sex marriage by legislative action as opposed to through a court process. Obama has since come out in favor of gay marriage. Douglas said he does not have second thoughts about his 2009 veto.

"There was no right that gay couples had under the civil union law that was enhanced under the marriage law," Douglas said. "It was really a matter of nomenclature and a distinction I felt was worth preserving."

Though his views on some social and economic issues diverged with those held by blue state voters, Douglas continued to be re-elected, often by wide margins.

"Even President Obama asked the first time I met him, 'How did you win in Vermont?'" Douglas said with a smile.

"People who look at the state often characterize it as 'the most liberal,' or 'the most Democratic,' based on criteria and wonder how a Republican governor prevailed."

He will offer his own answers to that question in his book — which incidentally is being published by a prominent Addison County Democrat. Bray represented the Addison-5 district for four years before launching an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor in 2010. He recently announced plans to run for one of Addison County's two state Senate seats.

"I've always like Chris," Douglas said. "He hasn't always voted the way I preferred when we served together in Montpelier, but I've always respected his integrity, his intellect and his commitment to Vermont. I've always felt he was an honorable public servant and someone with whom I could work."

PRESSING THE FLESH

Once the book is published, Douglas will return to a familiar routine — mingling with people at bookstores and other public venues. Some among them will undoubtedly try to convince him to come out of political retirement.

Those people should not hold their collective breath.

"I talk (in the book) some about the direction of political discourse, particularly at the federal level," Douglas said. "They continue to fail to make tough decisions."

That partisan climate, among other things, has soured him on the prospect of another electoral run.

"I really don't anticipate running for office again."

Jim Douglas says he's content for now to work for his alma mater and, above all, spend time with wife, Dorothy, and their grandchildren.

He of course also hopes to sell a few books.

"It would make a great stocking-stuffer," he said with a chuckle.

Nuovo, 80, keeps marching along

BY JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury state Rep. Betty Nuovo has never been one to be intimidated by numbers — whether they be state statistics, budget numbers or long odds.

So it should come as no surprise that the county's longest-serving legislator is not in the least bit fazed by the number 80, which was the birthday she marked late last year.

"I feel great," said Nuovo, a Democrat who has spent more than a quarter-century in the Vermont House and will be asking voters this fall to give her another two years.

"Yes, I am 80 years old, but I feel like I'm 60," Nuovo said during an interview on Monday.

"I still have a lot of energy."

Nuovo's involvement in state and local politics dates back to 1962, during the Kennedy administration. She and her husband of 59 years, Victor, had just moved to Middlebury from New Brunswick, N.J., so that Victor could join the faculty of Middlebury College's Philosophy Department.

Once in Middlebury, Betty Nuovo joined the Addison County League of Women Voters. She was particularly interested in advancing legislation and initiatives aimed at boosting women's rights and ensuring equal pay in the workplace.

She found two local mentors — fellow League of Women Voters member Mildred Davis and former state Rep. Stan Lazarus of Middlebury — who taught her a lot about the reapportionment process in Vermont.

"I got more and more involved," she said of her eventual affiliations that would include the Middlebury Democratic Committee, town selectboard, Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Middlebury charter committee, Middlebury Planning Commission, Addison County Chamber of Commerce board and Addison County Economic Development Corp. board.

Nuovo's involvement in local Democratic activities earned her and 49 other Vermonters an invite to the White House on Nov. 17, 1979, to meet President Jimmy Carter.

"I couldn't believe it," she said of her trip to Washington, D.C. "I could barely speak as I tried to explain to my husband and children what had just happened."

By this time, Nuovo had set up her own law firm on Middlebury's Court Street. She worked mostly on real estate, corporate and nonprofit matters. Attorney Pam Marsh joined her at the practice during the mid-1980s.

RUN FOR THE HOUSE

In 1980, Nuovo decided to launch her first run for the Vermont Statehouse, winning one of Middlebury's two House seats.

House leadership appointed Nuovo to the Judiciary Committee, a panel she chaired from 1985 to 1988.

She said the most important piece of legislation passed out of her committee was a constitutional amendment on equal rights for women. While the measure passed the House and Senate, it failed to receive the requisite support through public referendum.

"It was very disappointing," she said.

While on Judiciary, Nuovo said she wrote — and saw passed — a child support law, the state's first landlord-tenant bill, a condo bill, a time-share bill, a driving under the influence bill and a "complete re-write of many of the criminal laws."

Nuovo joined the House Ways and Means Committee during the 1989-1990 biennium.

"I had a chance to learn about all the bills that dealt with taxes and fees," Nuovo said.

While she enjoyed her work, Nuovo took a pass on re-election in 1990 in order to focus on her law practice.

"I had to come back and work," Nuovo said. "Pam (Marsh) had been very good about keeping me in the running."

Nuovo would sell her half of the law firm to Marsh in 1994, whereupon she returned to politics. It was a year during which she joined the Middlebury selectboard and made an unsuccessful bid for one of the Addison County and Brandon's two state Senate seats.

But, in hindsight, Nuovo said that was OK; she preferred the House anyway. And that's where she returned in 1997 and has remained ever since.

The past 15 years have seen Nuovo serve on several different House committees, including Agriculture, Ways and Means, Judiciary, and currently on Natural Resources and Energy. She has, during her latest stint, worked with three governors (Howard Dean, James Douglas and Peter Shumlin) and weighed in with her colleagues on some interesting initiatives, including civil unions and same-sex marriage (voting in favor) and the re-licensing of Vermont Yankee (she remains opposed). She has also seen the state begin to dig out from one of the deepest recessions in history.

"The important thing is that the Legislature write good laws that are clear and consistent and accomplish their purpose, which should always be the public good," Nuovo said. "This is the part of the work I like the most and am most suited for because of my legal and legislative background."

She confessed to being a stickler for details when it comes to the phrasing in specific bills.

Her colleagues can vouch for her thoroughness in that regard.

"She is on top of the details," said Rep. Mike Fisher, D-Lincoln, who has sat next to Nuovo in the House chamber for the past 12 years.

"It's been a great pleasure and learning experience for me to serve with her," Fisher said.

"She works really hard."

Sen. Harold Giard, D-Bridport, echoed those sentiments.

"Betty is an institution up there," Giard said. "She is a delightful person and knowledgeable. She has seen it all and done it all. And she has always stayed positive."

Nuovo will soon begin campaigning and plans on knocking on at least 900 doors this summer and fall, whether she has competition or not. She enjoys the interaction with voters and still has plenty of stamina to continue her rounds.

"I will keep doing it as long as I have the energy," Nuovo said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:54 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26:

VTDIGGER:

Washington Electric Co-op says smart meters will be a boon for ratepayers

BY ANDREW NEMETHY

Washington Electric Cooperative, which serves 10,500 members in 41 towns in north-central Vermont, will soon become the fifth Vermont electric utility to install "smart meters" on its system.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the co-op at the Elks Club in Montpelier, officials said the installation of the meters will be a boon for its customers and the cooperative, allowing it to improve efficiency, track outages and give its members more information on its very extended rural system.

"These meters can talk to the co-op, and we can talk to them," said co-op general manager Avram Patt, explaining how the devices will be able to send data and receive information.

Patt said the co-op "dodged a bullet" by going with a technology that uses the electrical wires to send data instead of radio frequency transmissions, which have drawn resistance in Vermont over privacy and health concerns over the wireless transmissions. That technology is half as expensive and also works better on the co-op's rural terrain, he said.

The state's two largest utilities, Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power, have both opted for wireless smart meters. Controversy over their use became an issue in the Legislature this past session with opponents winning passage of a bill that prohibits the utilities from charging an opt-out fee until at least July 2013.

Vermont Electric Cooperative in Johnson has virtually finished its installation of a wired system of smart meter technology similar to what WEC plans, according to Patt. VEC is larger, with 34,000 members in 74 towns in northern Vermont. Burlington Electric began its installation of smart meters in April, using the wireless technology.

The co-op plans to begin installing its meters this June, said WEC President Barry Bernstein, and is aiming to finish its installation of the meters by the end of the year, a tight timeline. A work schedule is still in flux but the process of swapping out existing meters for the advanced devices will be organized by electrical substations across the co-op's extensive territory, Patt said. Its service area covers 2,728 square miles in the counties of Washington, Orange, Caledonia and Orleans and it has approximately 1,200 miles of distribution line, with eight substations.

One of the key advantages for the co-op is that it will be able to signal the smart meters and almost instantly discover where outages have occurred across its rural territory, making repairs much easier to direct, said Dan Weston, director of engineering and operations.

"Right now you are human remote devices that call in and let us know your power is out. We are going to replace you," he told the annual meeting gathering, drawing laughter.

But Weston and others said the benefits of the \$2 million project, of which the co-op is paying 50 percent as part of its regular capital expenditures, are serious.

Bill Powell, who handles services and energy conservation for the co-op, said members will be able to get an hour by hour breakdown of their usage, 365 days a year. They will also be able to participate in optional innovative options down the road to reduce electrical rates.

That “much better granularity” of information will help the co-op better plan its power needs and usage and customers discover how they are using their power, he said.

All of Vermont’s utilities are moving to install smart meters as part of a larger project to create a “smart grid” using digital data that will improve reliability and energy conservation, the electrical infrastructure, and the information needed to run it. The installation of smart meters in Vermont is being driven by some \$3.5 billion nationwide allocated by the Obama administration as part of its \$787 billion economic stimulus package after the 1998 recession. Vermont received \$69 million for the roll-out of the smart meter technology statewide.

Patt cautioned that the devices are a useful tool and not some electrical angel or devil.

“In some cases they were oversold as changing the world, and on the other hand, there’s been a lot said that’s negative that’s been a bit overhyped,” he said.

According to Patt, one benefit is that those who send power back into the grid with solar devices – so called net-metering – will be able to get a readout of exactly how much power they are generating, which is not possible with the current meters. The new meters, which were displayed at the meeting, look just like the existing ones, except they contain a microchip and have a digital readout.

In response to questions about privacy of the data and trends of increased government snooping, Patt said the co-op’s elected board is writing its own privacy rules as well as working with state and utility officials statewide to draft rules. He said the co-op would not sell any of the data but planned to make it available only for internal management and planning and to its members – which should offer solace to those using high-intensity grow lights for an illegal crop.

“That is one concern that some people have,” he said to laughter.

ACLU Vermont Executive Director Allen Gilbert, a co-op member, called on the utility to ensure that its rules preclude usage data being turned over to law enforcement without a warrant. He also said he thought statewide rules should provide that any customer should be notified if a subpoena is issued for electrical usage information and allowed to fight it in court.

“What we’re really dealing with is an issue much larger than smart meters,” Gilbert said, citing growing and widespread data collection of everything from private prescription drug usage records to cell phone data.

Correction: The article and headline in this story originally stated that Washington Electric Co-op would be the third Vermont utility to install smart meters. It’s the third to do so.

SCOV Law Blog: Surf’s up in Montpelier

Editor’s note: This analysis of a recent Vermont Supreme Court ruling is by Daniel Richardson, the founder of SCOV Law Blog.

For 125 years, no one has been permitted to swim, boat, or even approach Berlin Pond. As Montpelier’s water source, it has been verboten and off-limits to one and all. In 2009, Defendants against all conventional wisdom began looking into promoting recreation on the pond. They were arrested and cited by the Montpelier police for kayaking on the pond. In

response, one of the defendants drew up and began promoting an ice fishing derby on the Pond. He even went and obtained permits from the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Agency of Natural Resources.

This was simply too much for the City of Montpelier. No one swims in their water, and they were not going to stand for this persistent, quixotic protest against public health and decency.

Then something went wrong. The City, like that proverbial emperor, had no clothes, and now the swim club sign-up sheets have reappeared.

Well, it is more complicated than that. Let's go through the background and then to the SCOV's opinion.

Berlin Pond sits entirely within the Town of Berlin. The City of Montpelier does not own Berlin Pond. It owns most of the frontage around the pond (all but 85 prime feet of beach access controlled by the Town of Berlin), and it owns the right to draw water from the pond to slake the thirst of all those hard-working Montpelierites and state employees (not to mention a few legislators and jurists).

Before it reaches those throats, the water from Berlin Pond is treated twice. Once it is filtered to remove the creepy-crawlies, and then it is treated again with chlorine to kill anything that remains.

Since 1970, the City has had no-trespassing ordinances on the books to prevent anyone from going into or dumping things into Berlin Pond and its tributaries. The City has even ticketed, prosecuted, and convicted would-be Mark Spitzes and Thor Heyerdahls

None of this matters to the SCOV because the real question here is does the City have the power to do what it has been doing. The answer requires a few steps back from the situation and a remedial overview of municipal law.

When the colonists threw off the yoke of the British monarchy, they simultaneously made a grab for sovereignty.

I realize this is bit like answering what time it is with a discursion into the mathematical origins of the concept. Bear with me, it will pay off.

When the British left, the newly-minted Americans became the sovereigns, and the basic unit of organizing—the state (or commonwealth)—became the repository of this power. Now some states have effectively given that power over in large chunks to the municipalities. This is what is known as home rule.

Vermont is not one of those states. Power still resides in the state (which ironically enough meets in Montpelier). We operate under what is known as Dillon's Rule. It means that unless the state gives a municipality a power, the municipality does not have it. This is the great frustration of all municipal attorneys. Responsibility outstrips authority.

Whenever the SCOV or any other court is looking at a municipal ordinance or action, the first question is where does the city/town/village get the authority to do that? Unless there is charter, statute, specific delegation from a state agency, or court ruling, then the likely answer is nowhere. In such cases, towns should pack up the bags because they will not be doing that again.

The SCOV begins its analysis here by looking for Montpelier's source of authority. But before it starts, it also invokes a second concept known as the Public Trust Doctrine. This states that all navigable waters are held in trust by the State for the general public for citizens of Vermont. This is because such assets are held by the sovereign, and the state since 1783 has been the sovereign. Now, the State may delegate this authority to municipalities, but the delegation must exist.

The important concept to keep in mind about the Public Trust Doctrine, apart from the fact that it is embedded within the Vermont Constitution, is that it comes with an obligation to keep the lands and waters open and to regulate in a narrow manner that honors this obligation.

The City accepts much of this framework, and it is ready with two sources of authority. First, it cites to a 1926 public health order from the State's Department of Health. Second, it relies on the City's charter, which has been reviewed and approved by the legislature. The SCOV makes mincemeat out of both.

The 1926 Health Order starts out promising. Beginning at the turn of the last century, the State Health Board with the blessing of the SCOV did prohibit individuals from swimming, boating, and otherwise mucking up Berlin Pond with their feet and diseases. The 1926 health order is exactly what the City purports it to be: the definitive keep out.

The problem is age. Some laws age like wine. This one, however, turned to vinegar because as the SCOV notes while the order has never been repealed, all of the statutory structure that gave the State Health Department the power has.

In fact, the 1926 health order was likely valid until 1989. At that time, the Health Department's water source protection laws were repealed, and in 1991 they were moved over to the Agency of Natural Resources, where they are today. Because the repeal took away the Department's Authority to make such orders and punish violations of such orders, the SCOV rules that the entire authority was wiped out, and the 1926 order was effectively nullified. The SCOV notes that when a law is repealed it is in Carthaginian fashion deemed to never have existed. No law, no order.

The City argues that the 1926 order was essentially preserved, but the SCOV finds these arguments unconvincing. There was no clear legislative intent to preserve the 1926 health order or any other water source protection orders from the Health Department. ANR was essentially starting from scratch, and the City's attempt to cull evidence to the contrary does not get much traction with the SCOV.

The City lobs one more argument down this line of reasoning by noting that both the ANR and the Natural Resources Board have included information about the City's regulation of Berlin Pond in their various plans and summaries. This is not enough for the SCOV. Such summaries and statements only reflect the City's understanding, and the State's repetition of this information is just that and nothing more.

Most damning to the City's case, though, is the fact that the City applied to the NRB in 2007 seeking to incorporate its regulations into the NRB's plan for the pond. This effort was abandoned when the NRB ruled that the City's initial application was incomplete and inconsistent with the NRB's role and charge. To the SCOV this is proof that the ANR regime was not working in support or in conjunction with the City and that ANR likely did not have the 1926 health order in mind.

The City's second major line of evidence starts out in a similarly promising manner, but it too falls prey to the same issues that thwarted the 1926 health order.

This time the City introduces its charter as evidence of its authority. The problem is that there is not a specific grant or reference to the City's power to regulate use of the Pond. Instead, the City looks backwards to a series of charters beginning in 1870 that gave the City (then a village) the authority to take, maintain, and protect the water from Berlin Pond. Again, several versions of the charter appear to preserve these powers over time, until the City amended the charter in 1975 and voted to replace it with a revised version, which wiped clean many of the specific enumerated powers.

But the SCOV is not hasty. It first looks to the current charter to see if the general language is sufficient. The current charter empowers the City to "acquire, construct, and maintain such . . . reservoirs . . . as it may deem necessary for the benefit of the city." The SCOV is not impressed. This power does not meet the specific grant required under Dillon's Rule to grant the City the power.

It is too generic. It mirrors the general statutory language that every town enjoys. It also does not exactly fit. Berlin Pond is not Montpelier's reservoir. Montpelier does not own the pond or even control the exclusive right to tap the pond for water. It is simply a right to take and little more. The SCOV also notes that "maintain" hardly denotes regulation and does not imply the ability to control access. If there be any doubt, the SCOV pulls out the Oxford English Dictionary to define the term "maintain," which is the word geek's equivalent of three snaps in a Z.

The SCOV finds that there is not even an implied power to regulate the Pond in any of this language because that power lies with the NRB and the State. Since it is not essential to fulfilling the City's charter obligations, the SCOV is unable to read an implied version into the City's ambit.

The SCOV also notes, and the City appears to concede that none of the charter language covers fishing, which the State has clearly and specifically reserved to itself. It is a minor point, but given that one of the Defendants is charged with conducting a fishing derby, the result is another blow to the City's position of control and authority.

As a final Hail Mary on this argument, the City urges the SCOV to read the historical charter provisions into the current version because the City never intended to appeal those provisions. Nothing doing, responds the SCOV. Once a law is changed, it is changed. The SCOV will assume that it was intended to be repealed. Otherwise clear laws and straightforward provisions would be subject to constant scrutiny ("I know what it says now, but what did it say before?"). It is a path the SCOV will not go down.

That leaves us with the last line of argument available to the City. In the current charter there is language indicating that the previous powers of the Village have been transferred and saved to the City. The City argues that this includes the City's prior powers under the old bylaws. But this is simply not enough. The old language did not prohibit boating, appears to have empowered the City to conduct its own water board, does not prohibit trespassing on the pond, and acknowledges the City lack of control and ownership.

This leaves the City without a source of authority and renders it powerless to continue blocking individuals from swimming or boating in Berlin Pond.

The SCOV ends the decision with two final notes. First, it rules that the trespass order was not challenged by the Defendants. Therefore, the trespass order on land owned by the City of Montpelier around the lake remains in place. You can go swimming, but there are only a few locations where you can get in without stepping on the City's property (don't bother going to City Hall for a map).

Second, the SCOV notes that it has made a mess of things. The beauty of the trial court's injunction was that it kept the peace. The SCOV's decision has tipped the cart over. This is what the law requires, but the law in this case ain't pretty. Don't worry, though, suggests the SCOV, this is only a transition. The instructions are clear. City pick up the mess and do it right.

In addition to these notes, there are two underlying themes that run like subterranean river beneath the SCOV's opinion. These are worth noting as they will likely play a large role in the process and any return trips to the court.

It seems evident to the SCOV that many of the no-swimming provisions are no longer needed and that the City's current filtration and chlorination program would allow people to swim in the water without contamination. The SCOV never comes right out and says as much, but there is a strong sense that the SCOV thinks, at least in part, that the City has not made its health threat case or shown why these strong steps are necessary for protecting public health.

The second theme is the sense that the NRB has taken over this work and the City's concern is an antiquated power grab. Certainly, the shift from public health to natural resources indicates confidence from the legislature that water supplies are better managed as conservation projects rather than medical protectorates. The NRB's generous allowance for recreational use in water supplies supports this as well.

The State's continuing neutrality in this case and its stubborn unwillingness to participate also informs this position. Again, the SCOV does not explicitly say it, but the implication is clear: If this is so important, why isn't the State worried or involved? It is a question that haunts the analysis and likely sunk the City's position more than anything else.

All this is to say that the City may not be facing merely a crisis of authority. This case may be the City's Dr. Strangelove moment where they are forced to stop fearing and start to embrace the idea of swimmers in the water supply. The SCOV certainly looked askew at the City's claims, and it is unlikely to give the City more slack next time.

At the very least, it is certainly something the City needs to look at as they try and push off from this decision at the risk being borne back ceaselessly into the past.

PRESS RELEASE:

Kunin endorses Sorrell re-election bid

CONTACT

Taylor Bates
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FMR. GOV. KUNIN FORMALLY ENDORSES SORRELL RE-ELECTION BID

BURLINGTON, VT—On Friday, former Governor Madeleine Kunin formally endorsed sitting Attorney General Bill Sorrell's re-election bid for an eighth term.

Kunin, Vermont's first female governor, served in the Clinton Administration from 1993 until 1997 as deputy secretary of education before being appointed ambassador to Switzerland.

Kunin previously appointed Sorrell to serve as Chittenden County State's Attorney and cited Sorrell's long service to Vermont and experience as Attorney General in her endorsement.

"I have known Bill Sorrell and his family for many years, and watched him continue to serve the state of Vermont. I think his experience and dedication to the job qualifies him to serve another term as Attorney General," Kunin said.

Next Wednesday, May 30th, Kunin will be introducing Sorrell at his campaign kickoff celebration to be held at the Wakefield Room at the Burlington Boat House from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Democratic statewide convention Saturday

Contact

Julia Barnes
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VERMONT DEMOCRATIC PARTY HOSTS STATEWIDE CONVENTION THIS SATURDAY

MONTPELIER, VT – On Saturday, May 26th at the Barre Municipal Auditorium in Barre, the Vermont Democratic Party will host its statewide Democratic Convention. Delegates from across the state will come together to elect district

delegates to the National Democratic Convention, elect National Committeeman and Committeewoman, and take care of party business. The Convention's featured speakers include Senator Patrick Leahy, Congressman Peter Welch, and Governor Peter Shumlin, as well as Speaker Shap Smith, Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, Secretary of State Jim Condos, Treasurer Beth Pearce, Attorney General Bill Sorrell, and Obama for America-Vermont State Director Dan Mulligan.

VDP Chairman Jake Perkinson stated, "We are excited to come together in Barre to elect Vermont's delegates to the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. We have already seen a surge in grassroots enthusiasm this year and our state convention will be an excellent chance to show our determination to elect Democrats here in Vermont and re-elect President Barack Obama."

Attendees and delegates will also have the opportunity to meet candidates from across the state and visit a variety of informational tables. Delegate check-in begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. at 20 Auditorium Hill, Barre. The convention is open to the general public.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:49 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD (CON'T):

Methadone clinic supporters in race against time
By Brent Curtis

Getting a methadone clinic up and running in Rutland County by the start of October constitutes a challenge, but one well worth undertaking, state and local health officials say.

During a public meeting attended by about 25 people on Thursday night, state Health Commissioner Harry Chen, Rutland Mental Health CEO Dan Quinn and Rutland Regional Medical Center President Thomas Huebner said that despite the loss of a preferred clinic site on Park Street, they hope to have a methadone center up and running during the current funding cycle deadline of Oct. 1 to take advantage of federal funding incentives.

Chen told those who gathered inside the Fox Room at Rutland Free Library that federal health officials were so impressed by Vermont's plan to create treatment hubs that would provide medication, therapy and wraparound case management at locations to be built around the state, that they amended Medicaid funding to match 90 percent of Vermont's expenses on the treatment centers.

"Everyone involved in substance abuse programming thinks that a comprehensive coordinated effort is what's needed," Chen said.

And 12 years after the use of drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine began to escalate in Rutland, the city's political and civic leaders have been supportive of the idea as well.

The problem is where to put it.

For months, planners were eyeing an industrial site on Park Street. But when the owners of that site informed officials last month that they were leasing the facility to someone else, planners were left to scramble for a new location.

During the last week alone, Quinn said officials had inspected four potential sites and he said at least three of the sites he's been to would be capable of housing the center.

The problem, he said, is that all of them would require significant renovations first.

"None are move-in ready," he said. "We're in a position where we need a couple types of miracles to occur. First we need a construction miracle, then a recruitment miracle."

The recruitment component, Quinn said, involved the need to hire nurses, therapists and medical staff who could start within the next five months.

After the meeting, Quinn said he believed that the clinic could be open and serving people by Oct. 1, but he said the challenges wouldn't be easy to overcome.

"I think it can happen," he said. "We're very much committed to moving heaven and earth."

While a site has yet to be selected, Quinn did mention one of the three locations that could be suitable — a former gymnasium and spa owned by developer Joe Giancola at the corner of Granger and South streets.

Giancola said Friday that the 6,000-square-foot building, empty for about eight months, could be renovated and ready for use by Oct. 1.

"It's a perfect site for it," he said. "Rutland needs it. We can't stick our head in the sand on this."

Emails show origins of Irene plate sales error

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Government emails related to a press event that grossly overstated the success of an Irene recovery initiative seem to corroborate official explanations from the Shumlin administration: It was an honest mistake.

Those same emails, however, reveal that Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Rob Ide allowed the myth to proliferate, even after participating in a well-attended news conference that he knew had misstated sales figures of "I am Vermont Strong" license plates.

"It's all on me," Ide said in a telephone interview this week. "I failed the governor, and I accept full responsibility."

Correspondence obtained in a records request shows a trail of emails related to an April 5 news conference at which Gov. Peter Shumlin mistakenly celebrated the sale of 25,000 Vermont Strong license plates.

In fact the plate held up by Shumlin that day was merely the 25,000th to come off the assembly line. As of May 15, only 7,832 plates had been sold.

But emails indicate that Shumlin aides genuinely believed that 25,000 plates had been sold.

"I had an idea about the 25,000th plate (recall the Gov wants a big press event around the half-way sales mark," Shumlin spokeswoman Susan Allen wrote in a March 23 email to Ide. "Anyway, just keep me posted on sales so we don't actually miss the half-way mark."

Ide later tells Allen to expect his department to crest the 25,000 mark on April 4.

"I further predict the 25,000th plate will be about 11:18 a.m. that day," Ide wrote to Allen.

The 25,000 figure was an important symbolic marker. The state needs to sell 50,000 plates — available for \$25 apiece at DMV offices and retail outlets across Vermont — to meet Shumlin's \$1 million fundraising goal.

Ide and Allen say the "miscommunication" centered on differing interpretations of the "half-way mark." Allen meant sales. Ide said he thought it meant number produced.

Even after it became clear that the lines had gotten crossed, Ide apparently did nothing to correct the record.

Chris Graff, vice president of corporate communications at National Life and one of nine people overseeing the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund — to which plate proceeds are being directed — sent an email to Ide and Allen after the April 5 event.

"Nice job everyone!" Graff wrote. "Thank you for your efforts to pull together this event to trumpet the milestone and motivate the next 25,000 sales!"

Graff said he wasn't made aware of the true sales figures until he was contacted by the Vermont Press Bureau last week.

Major outlets attending the news conference, meanwhile, also touted 25,000 in sales.

The Burlington Free Press headlined its story on the event "Sales of Vermont Strong plates hit 25,000." Vermont Public Radio, meanwhile, said, "Vermont Strong license plate sales hit 25,000."

Allen said she thought media accounts were on the money and that she didn't learn otherwise until the Vermont Press Bureau requested official sales figures from Ide last week.

In a May 16 email to Allen the morning before the Press Bureau story broke, Ide said:

"The Vermont Press Bureau is sniffing around about the number of plates sold and our celebration of 25,000 plates. This is just a heads up, and it may not feel pretty but I thought our message needed to be 25,000 plates manufactured and ready for sale."

The email seemed to suggest that Ide had registered concerns about the administration's "message" at an earlier date.

Allen, however, said Ide never expressed reservations before May 16. And, asked this week whether he at any point clarified to Allen or anyone else in Shumlin's office that 25,000 had been manufactured, not sold, he responded, "I did not."

Shumlin unveiled the "Vermont Strong" plates at his State of the State address in January. The bright green tags represent his administration's signature effort to make whole the thousands of Vermonters who lost their homes or other property in the late-August storm.

The license plates, however, haven't come close to generating the \$1 million Shumlin sought to raise.

According to figures provided by Ide, the plates sold so far have generated about \$195,000 in revenue.

Compare that to the \$136,000 the state has spent to produce about 28,000 plates so far, and net proceeds amount to less than \$60,000.

About 10,000 plates have been ordered in bulk by retail outlets for display and sale on store shelves across Vermont. Nearly 4,000 plates are being stored in the correction facility at which they were produced, and an additional 2,400 or so are being held at various DMV locations.

Five dollars from the sale of each license plate goes to pay for costs of production.

The DMV has sent two checks to the disaster relief fund, one for \$39,114, the other for \$52,488. Another check for \$49,374 — reflecting proceeds through April — will bring the grand total to date to \$140,976.

The plates have generated an additional \$15,664 for the Vermont Foodbank — \$2 from each plate sold. About \$40,000 has gone back to the state to cover costs, meaning the DMV is down almost \$100,000.

Residents want a vote on wind project

By Lucia Suarez

PITTSFORD — Residents in Pittsford urged the town and local leaders to use all the power they have to stop the proposed wind farm project from moving forward. They want the town to be proactive in getting their position heard through a townwide vote and a change in the language of the town plan to disallow wind turbines on the ridgeline.

For more than three hours, residents voiced their adamant opposition to the proposed Reunion Power wind project on Grandpa's Knob at a public informational meeting with the developers and the Select Board on Thursday night. They raised concerns about the health and economic impacts of the project, pleading with town officials to listen to them.

"This is a nightmare. I can't believe this is happening in Vermont," said Beverly Peterson. "I thought Vermont valued its landscapes. I can't believe this is happening and we have to stop it."

Pittsford Select Board Chairman Hank Pelkey said the board is gathering as much information, from both sides of the project, so they can make the best informed decision.

"Remember after this we will stay neighbors and hopefully still friends," he said as he opened the meeting.

When asked about the possibility of having the town vote, Pelkey said, according to a legal opinion, a vote's outcome would be meaningless.

"The Public Service Board has the final approval, not the town," Pelkey said. "The authority (on this project) doesn't reside on the Select Board."

Steve Eisenberg, the company's managing director, and Rob Howland, a consultant for the project, spoke to a packed gymnasium Thursday. They presented information on the company's proposed 50 megawatt, 20-turbine wind farm project on the Grandpa's Knob ridgeline in Pittsford, Castleton, Hubbardton and West Rutland.

The estimated cost of the project is in excess of \$100 million, with up to \$1 million annually to be paid to the towns assuming 50 megawatts generation. Of the \$1 million, payments of approximately \$420,000 will be made to the state Education Fund, while the remainder, in the form of tax payments and host town agreements, will be shared by the four towns.

Eisenberg said they are working on completing a facilities study so they can complete the project's site plan they hope to present to the towns soon.

"You don't do something this lightly or on a whim," he said. "We don't take this lightly. You take your time and do it right."

During his presentation, Eisenberg said they are expecting to have anywhere between nine to 11 turbines in the town of Pittsford — the most of any of the other towns. The turbines could potentially be up to 490 feet tall — including the blades — depending on the type of turbine selected.

"Turbines have gotten bigger and they have gotten more efficient," he said, addressing a comment that these turbines are the highest proposed in the state.

Steve Rademacher said the state banned billboards because they are disruptive to the landscape and the wind towers are the same.

"(Grandpa's Knob) is a view and experience that we will never soon forget," he said. "The decision to be a host town is huge."

The opposition on display at in Pittsford on Thursday is nothing new. The developers have been faced with protestors since they began meeting with town officials earlier this month. At the time, Eisenberg said he respects people's different views and their ability to express themselves, and that continues to be the case.

"We have been trying to listen all the way," he said recently. "It requires listening. That is what we are trying to do."

In terms of the public meetings, with the fourth coming up next week, Eisenberg said Friday, the fundamentals of their presentation are the same. They continue to take into considerations people's comments and concerns for future meetings. When asked if they have discussed if they would ever walk away from the project, he said no.

Reunion Power will meet with Hubbardton town officials at 6:30 p.m. May 30 at the town's fire house.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:43 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26:

CALEDONIAN RECORD EDITORIAL:

5/25/2012 8:30:00 AM

Sorrell, Wrong Again

Attorney General William Sorrell flatly refused to release the facts of an on-duty Vermont State Police trooper's assault of two men he thought had stolen his canoe. After reviewing the facts, the VSP rejected Sorrell's opinion and released the details of the criminal case.

He announced Senior Trooper Eric Howley's criminal charges and an arraignment date. He followed that by refusing the Burlington Free Press's request for the details on Thursday, saying that he believed the release of any additional information about the case would violate the Rules of Professional Responsibility that have been adopted by the American Bar Association and in Vermont. He noted the rules also urge him to ask police to refrain from commenting. That, the VSP did not do. Last Friday, Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn said he made a decision not to follow Sorrell's approach, saying, "This is the right thing to do. People have to have confidence in the Vermont State Police and that we get the information out that they need to know. I have to weigh their advice against the state police interests and that of the public."

Cheers for Flynn; boos for Sorrell. Sorrell, the self-anointed high protector of state secrets, doesn't seem to believe that the public has a right to know very much. He can be counted on to invoke confidentiality whenever he thinks that the information the public wants will reflect poorly on any part of his bureaucracy. He is a public servant with little respect for the people and we pray this election season will deliver his ouster.

WPTZ:

**Despite early polling, Sen. Brock sees path to victory
Republican for Vt. governor reintroduces himself to voters**

State Sen. Randy Brock, the Republican candidate for governor, says he's neither surprised by new polling this week showing he's a real underdog against Gov. Peter Shumlin this fall, nor is he much worried about it.

"Polling this early is really a function of name recognition," Brock says, "My name recognition isn't that high."

The survey, by the Castleton State Polling Institute on behalf of three media outlets, was taken the week of May 9. It found Brock trailing Shumlin 60 percent - 27 percent among a sampling of registered Vermont voters.

"What's important to know is that this is about the same place I was back in 2004, when I started the race for state auditor, and I won that race by 10 percentage points," he said.

Brock said he's now working full-time on his campaign effort. He crossed paths with Shumlin again this week, as both spent a lot of time at the business and industry trade show in South Burlington.

Shumlin was often on stage and in the media spotlight while Brock spent time trying to network with attendees.

It's the difference incumbency makes, even as Shumlin eschews a formal campaign effort, insisting he won't shift into that gear until Labor Day.

"I've gotta tell you, I'm not playing games with you," Shumlin explains, "I am not thinking about elections. I am thinking about the job I was hired to do."

That's fine with Brock, who launched his television advertising campaign this week designed to build name recognition and reintroduce himself to voters -- voters who don't know his personal story -- or even his term as state auditor between 2005-07.

"It's a great time to advertise," Brock says. "I don't have all the other political ads competing with me."

The GOP candidate says also developing the handful of central issues on which he will base his campaign -- health care, energy, education, and what he regards as unsustainable growth in the state budget.

Brock, 68, was one of only three senators to vote against the budget just before the Legislature adjourned earlier this month.

He bristles slightly as the suggestion Shumlin will be hard to beat as the economy continues to improve - the governor reminded audiences throughout the week Vermont's unemployment rate in April fell again - to 4.6 percent - the fourth best jobless rate in the nation.

"Lots of people have stopped looking for work," Brock says. "And we all know about the number of kids who graduate from both high school and college who immediately leave Vermont. They don't appear in our numbers, we don't see them at all."

Brock will file his campaign petitions Tuesday morning to get on the ballot, and he plans a formal campaign kick-off in June. He also plans to focus attention on the state's fiscal woes by throwing a "Fiscal New Year's Eve Party" on June 30.

State parks go digital with new app Vermont state parks open this weekend

Vermont's 52 state parks open Memorial Day weekend and this year, there's an app for that.

The app, called Oh, Ranger!, rolled out just in time for the parks' opening. The app is free and allows users to search for a nearby park or search by activity.

"It's all about communicating what wonderful resources we have to people and encouraging them to get out there," State Parks Director Craig Whipple said.

The app is available on the iPhone and will roll out for Androids in the next few weeks.

State parks open across the state Saturday for the season.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Storm a year ago prepared city for Irene

BY DAVID DELCORE

BARRE — In Barre it was the storm before The Storm. The one without a name. The one that hit, kept hitting, and hurt.

To say it was "just a rainstorm" wouldn't be wrong, because that is precisely what swept through central Vermont a year ago today — a relentless rainstorm. It lacked the pedigree of the summer-ending hurricane-turned-tropical storm that wreaked havoc all across Vermont, but for Barre, and the section of Berlin along the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River, that year-old rainstorm was Irene before Irene.

It hit harder than Irene. It hurt worse than Irene. It made Irene seem small — at least in Barre, a community that was hammered by the stubborn storm that seemingly came and went, and came and went, and came and finally went.

It wasn't a statewide storm. It was focused, and it was intense.

It came in waves, and in a few short hours it dropped a month's worth of rain on an already saturated central Vermont watershed for which Barre has fittingly been described as "the drain."

The Granite City paid a price for its prime location at the rock bottom of a river valley that night as the already swollen Stevens Branch spilled onto city streets and into buildings and basements. The flash flooding was further fueled by two of the river's major tributaries.

Plainfield was pummeled by more than 5.2 inches of rain — a statewide high during the no-name storm. A good bit of that water came roaring into Barre courtesy of Gunner Brook, which — once it hit the city limits — could no longer contain itself.

On the opposite end of the city the Jail Branch — a 16-mile-long river that rises in Washington and flows through Orange and East Barre before merging with the Stevens Branch behind the E.F. Wall complex on South Main Street — made its own sizable contribution to the river that runs through Barre.

In a real sense it was the "perfect storm" — a culvert-clogging, bank-breaching, head-for-high-ground event that left its marks on Barre and the portion of Berlin that is just downstream.

Though swifter than many initially feared, the return to near-normalcy was a back-breaking, muck-scraping and in some cases life-changing affair. Some were temporarily forced to flee their homes, while others lost everything and have since settled elsewhere.

It was a storm that began the Barre Municipal Auditorium's summerlong stint as a cot-filled Red Cross emergency shelter thanks to the disaster before The Disaster.

It was also a learning experience, according to City Manager Steve Mackenzie, who credits lessons learned from the pre-Irene storm for helping the city escape the wrath of the tropical storm that slammed many other Vermont communities.

"We really dodged a bullet," said Mackenzie, who notes the storm a year ago caused more than \$1.5 million in damage to public infrastructure alone, while the comparable bill for Irene-related damage was roughly \$20,000, and some of that — including ripping off the top of a block granite culvert that runs beneath East Street — was self-inflicted.

According to Mackenzie, opening the East Street culvert was a calculated move to keep the water from causing damage like it did during the year-ago storm.

It worked, according to Mackenzie, who said pre-stationing backhoes at choke points long the river — including the bridge on Harrington Avenue — also paid off, as did a decision to place cement blocks in a gap along the top of a channelized section of the river on Metro Way.

According to Mackenzie, water flowed freely out of the Stevens Branch across Metro Way and downtown in May, and would have done the same at the height of Irene if the depression hadn't been filled.

"We learned our lesson the hard way during that May storm," said Mackenzie, noting that while the community has rebounded nicely in his estimation, some reminders of the devastation remain.

Large concrete blocks still barricade one end of Harrington Avenue — a short bridge that runs between Brook Street and Maple Avenue that was battered by the debris-filled floodwaters of Gunner Brook last year. There are no plans to reopen the structurally deficient bridge to through traffic, though Mackenzie said it will receive some cosmetic attention, which will include the creation of a defined pedestrian path on the short street that serves a handful of once flood-damaged homes.

Residents have since returned to most of those homes and others like them that are scattered throughout Barre's north end. City officials say that area of the community continues to be a priority of its inspection program, though electrical work and furnace repairs and replacements completed in the wake of the storm haven't raised any red flags.

There are fading but still detectable high-water marks on some of the buildings that line the flood-prone section of North Main Street between Route 62 and Sixth Street. However, The Times Argus (see related story), the Salvation Army Thrift Shop, the People's Health & Wellness Clinic and Dente's Market — all forced to either temporarily close or operate out of alternate locations in the wake of the storm — have all returned to business pretty much as usual.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm that saw floodwaters blow open the double doors of his family-owned market, Rick Dente admits he flirted with closing.

"I had my doubts," he said. "I saw all the work ahead of me and I wasn't sure I had the energy."

An outpouring of community support helped change that. Over the course of the holiday weekend Dente was able to clean up enough to reopen, and by the end of June his store was completely restocked.

According to Mackenzie, the city is making slow but steady progress on two other fronts that can be traced back to the storm. One involves a permanent fix to the flood-damaged spillway at the Thurman W. Dix Reservoir in Orange that threatened the city's drinking water supply. The other involves a pending request to use federal money to acquire two of three homes that were evacuated and initially deemed uninhabitable due to a small landslide attributed to the storm.

According to Mackenzie, the design for the \$1.25 million spillway project is now complete, while the application for the federal flood hazard mitigation grant needed to acquire and demolish two of the three homes on Hilltop Avenue has been endorsed by the state and final approval could come as early as next month.

One of the three homeowners, Carol Garland, has since returned to her home with the plan of removing a partially undermined rear addition. Garland's home is between the other two.

Those abandoned homes are owned by Brett Acebo and Bill and Cynthia Duprey.

The city isn't the only one applying for a flood hazard mitigation grant. Representatives of the Old Labor Hall on Granite Street have applied for a grant they hope will fund the installation of a system to keep the basement of the national historic labor landmark from flooding.

Nearby Dessureau Machines obtained a permit to jack a portion of its building up roughly 6 feet to bring it above the base flood elevation in an area of Granite Street that is prone to flooding.

Responding to concerns raised by some residents, city officials obtained permission to excavate a growing sediment island in the river behind Allen Lumber Co. Mackenzie said that dredging project was a significant improvement but conceded some in the community would have preferred more extensive work in the river.

Dente is one of them. He said the city missed an opportunity to pursue a more aggressive dredging plan to reduce the likelihood of future floods like the one that turned the section of North Main Street that has been home to his market since 1973 into something akin to a war zone a year ago.

"It was just a mess everywhere you looked," he recalled.

The story was similar just downstream where floodwaters surged through Berlin.

Residents of two mobile home parks and a residential motel along the Barre-Montpelier Road were forced to seek temporary shelter, and some soon learned that returning home would not be an option.

During a prickly process that had Berlin officials feeling their way along, more than half of the 30 mobile homes in the River Run Mobile Home Park were condemned due to flood-related damage.

Some of those condemned homes — including one that is half demolished and another that has been partly restored — still sit on lots in the federally recognized floodway. Those lots — more than a dozen — cannot be reoccupied, according to federal, state and local regulations.

Jennie Thompson, who lives on one of the upper tiers of the River Run Mobile Home Park, said residents who were able to return to the park remain uncertain about its future given the fact that it is in receivership.

"We're all in limbo," said Thompson, who, like many of her neighbors, was troubled when cleanup efforts stalled after Irene hit in August, wiping out a larger mobile home park in another section of Berlin.

Since then, Thompson said, the view from her deck has been the same half-demolished trailer.

"They just left it that way," she said.

Until the park's tenants recently pleaded for a Dumpster, Thompson said, a wall of garbage bags left by those whose homes had been condemned had lined the bank of the nearby Stevens Branch. That trash and debris was finally removed earlier this month.

Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Schulz acknowledged River Run has issues. Nearly half of the lots can never be occupied again, and those that remain will have to be significantly upgraded as the current tenants move out.

"That's going to be an expensive proposition," he said.

Schulz said the storm did an estimated \$650,000 in damage to public infrastructure — wiping out all or parts of some 40 roads. That damage, he said, easily exceeded what the town suffered during Irene.

The flooding affected several businesses along the Barre-Montpelier Road including Sears and the stores in the shopping plaza anchored by Big Lots, but all bounced back — some faster than others — in the wake of the flood.

Schulz said the lower level of the Vermonter Motel has not reopened and the motel is being eyed, along with the abandoned restaurant that last housed Friendly's, by CVS Pharmacy.

Schulz met earlier this month with CVS representatives and said they plan to apply to acquire and demolish both buildings and construct a free-standing pharmacy.

One of the first questions Schulz will have to answer is whether the proposed structure is in the flood plain. It's a close but crucial call that may depend on where the building is situated on the newly configured lot. According to town regulations, new construction is prohibited in the flood plain.

Businesses in Montpelier try to be ready for next flood

MONTPELIER — Restaurant and store owners with businesses along the North Branch of the Winooski River learned an important lesson when 6 inches of rain fell on the city in six hours on May 26 and 27 last year.

Three Penny Taproom co-owner Scott Kerner said he lost about \$10,000 in bottled beer stored in the bar's basement.

"It was a total loss," Kerner said.

He said they also had to throw out glassware, paper products and other items. Now, Kerner said, the business keeps only kegs down there.

The May flood also influenced decisions Kerner and his fellow owners are making during the current expansion of the bar to include a dining room.

They spent a little bit more money, he said, to move the furnace and water heater out of the basement.

"We knew that when we started a business here, flooding was a problem," he said.

But for some businesses, the knowledge isn't enough.

For nearly six years, Pam Root has owned and operated That's Life Soup on Elm Street. The compressor for her walk-in refrigerator is in the basement of the building, and it was ruined by the May floodwaters.

While compressors aren't cheap, the real cost was all the food that spoiled, Root said, and the loss of business when her restaurant was closed for cleanup and repairs.

She estimates that the May flood and Tropical Storm Irene, which also took out her compressor, cost her about \$18,000.

The only other place she can put her compressor, she said, is on the roof, and she's looking into whether that's possible.

"I know I'll never be able to go through another flood," Root said.

She estimates that she puts in about 80 hours a week and that after the financial hit from last year's floods, she made about \$400 for the whole year.

As a sole proprietor, all expenses come right out of her pocket, Root said.

While she said she received \$1,000 from the Vermont Irene Flood Relief Fund and \$1,500 from the Montpelier Alive flood fund, the twin disasters still left a hole of more than \$15,000 in her 2011 budget.

Andrew Brewer, the owner of Onion River Sports, said he gets water maybe three or four times a year in his basement, but last May that caught him by surprise.

Brewer said he has a triple-redundant pumping system in the basement: As the water rises it triggers the next pump in line to fire up. Last May, he said, one of his pumps failed.

And when it was all over, Brewer said, he had some damaged inventory, including 40 bicycles still in boxes, and his store was closed for four days.

He said the insurance company covered some of the financial hit, and he assembled and sold those 40 bikes at cost.

But it wasn't just dollars that mattered. When the floodwaters rose, the community stepped up to help.

"If you're going to have a disaster, there's no better place than Montpelier," Brewer said.

That's what Julio's owner John Mayfield said too.

"In Montpelier, people came out and helped one another," Mayfield said after his restaurant's basement flooded.

Unlike communities that rely on tourism, Mayfield said, Montpelier's small business community relies on locals.

While nobody's getting rich, he said, folks are hopefully making a living. Montpelier, he said, is like the little engine that could.

Mayfield estimates that the May flood cost his restaurant about \$50,000, some of which was offset with insurance money.

Luckily, he said, the water didn't reach the first floor. In that case, Julio's wouldn't have been back in business within two days.

It was important for Mayfield that the restaurant be open as soon as possible.

While initially it couldn't accept credit cards, he said people paid by check or cash, and if they didn't have one or the other, they came back and paid their bill later.

Mayfield still uses the restaurant's basement, but not as much as he did before the flood.

As for Montpelier city government, the May flood brought change there, too.

City Manager William Fraser said the most visible change is a new alert system.

It's called Blackboard Connect. It's the same system the Montpelier School District uses to notify parents about school closures or bomb threats.

The city plans to use that system to notify residents about a potential emergency.

So far, about 5,000 Montpelier residents have been added to the alert contact list. During the initial setup, the entire phone book is added, but that does not include cellphone numbers.

Residents and business owners can add a cellphone to the system and choose whether the city should contact them with a phone call, text message or email. To register, visit the city's website at montpelier-vt.org.

Less noticeable changes made by the city, Fraser said, are operational tweaks and adjustments. One area that needed work, he said, was communication between city and state personnel.

By August, when Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont, the city was more prepared, Fraser said.

But one big difference between Irene and the Memorial Day weekend flood is that there was no warning in May, Fraser said.

He recalled that in May, it was around midnight when meteorologists told him to expect Montpelier to flood in a matter of a few hours.

And with no automated notification system, Montpelier Alive Director Phayvanh Luekhamhan said, "I stayed up all night and I called people" to warn them.

The town of Plainfield had a different set of problems to deal with when the May storm hit.

Rather than basement flooding, Plainfield saw babbling brooks turn into raging rivers in a matter of hours that cut through hillsides and roads like a warm knife through butter.

Select Board member Bram Towbin said no homes were lost, but it was close — too close. A couple of logs here or there, he said, and "we could have lost homes."

In response to the May flood, Plainfield formed a Flood Advisory Committee to study the rivers and the town's infrastructure. Towbin is the chairman.

"We're really trying to be prepared," Towbin said. He said the committee is trying to educate people about the threat the town faces regarding its streams and rivers, and how to respond.

While not everybody agrees, he said, everybody's talking to each other and they're on the same page.

One of the big concerns in Plainfield is fluvial erosion. That can happen when a raging stream, as the Great Brook became in May, rips apart a bluff. And if there's a road or a home on top of that bluff, that's a problem.

Seeing what happened in May, Towbin said, "It really reinforces how dangerous it is."

Another issue for Plainfield is the town's two concrete bridges. While they're structurally sound, Towbin said, they're under-engineered and therefore woody debris can pile up against them, causing the river to back up and go over and around them.

The town can't afford to replace them, Towbin said. However, he said, it could make some adjustments to them to alleviate debris buildup, which the committee is considering.

Bold steps: the year after the flood

BY STEVE PAPPAS

A wise journalist once said, "It is easier to believe than to doubt."

It was easy, after floodwaters took out our newsroom, press and mailroom a year ago today, for others to doubt our continued success. Fortunately, we did not doubt it. And neither did most of our readers.

That was all we needed to believe in our future. And while the flood certainly made some hard decisions for us, this last trip around the sun has been exciting, challenging and successful.

It is a story worth telling.

After that dark and stormy night, we were the local news for a while. The Times Argus and its future were all the talk. We heard it over and over: "They're done." "Finished."

Hardly.

We simply changed game plans. We redeployed our staff and used recently installed Internet-based "cloud" technology to keep the paper publishing every day.

The building at 540 N. Main St. was cleaned and renovated. Shawn Stabell, our assistant general manager and former head of technical services, had been given the monumental charge as project manager to get the space workable again. It was important to get our employees out of the cramped, temporary work spaces and together again in one area.

Stabell had everyone back in one place by August; soon after, we invited the public in to see our new working space. As soon as the doors were open again, the stream of customers voiced their relief that we were back, even though we had never been gone.

Meanwhile, Publisher R. John Mitchell and General Manager Catherine Nelson were keeping the operations moving between filling out post-flood paperwork and wrangling with insurance companies.

Then there were logistics.

For those first few months after the flood, the Times Argus was being printed at the Burlington Free Press. That meant to accommodate their production schedule, we had to impose early deadlines. Content-wise, it made us feel like an afternoon paper again. Readers were disappointed.

We adjusted in the newsroom, writing more second-day stories to explain decisions being made 36 hours before. Then, Nelson was able to broker a deal with Upper Valley Press in North Haverhill, N.H., to begin printing the Times Argus and the Rutland Herald. The new printer meant later deadlines that allow us to get late-breaking content, including sports scores, back into the news pages.

It was a welcome change, one that gave us back a competitive edge for our print product.

But that was only half of the equation.

With new walls, paint and floors came a state-of-the-art phone system and pushes toward even more technological shifts.

Go mobile

As we studied our motor routes (especially after the flood and later Tropical Storm Irene), we found it was not cost-effective to deliver to far-flung subscribers.

Subscriber Services offered them a portal to the local news these readers had come to depend on through our electronic edition (an interactive digital reproduction of the print newspaper). The offer was welcomed and well-received.

The e-edition went out to snowbirds in Florida, local graduates relocated around the globe, alumni, former central Vermonters, and readers all around Vermont — many who were disappointed with their own local paper. It is being used in schools for Newspapers in Education, public libraries and other institutions.

Everywhere we take the e-edition, we find a following.

Noting the massive amount of copy (mostly from wire services) we don't use, Nelson asked that e-edition readers be given four additional pages (or more) every day. Suddenly, we were no longer limited by the constraints of a news hole; we could publish galleries of photos of local events; additional analysis; holiday recipes; movie reviews; and national sports coverage, including the latest West Coast games.

To compensate for the earlier deadlines, we had gotten into the habit of posting our news to the Web. We do the same thing today, publishing pieces and parts of stories online before we cobble the whole thing together for the print edition. It is and will be the future of journalism, even at this local level.

We all came to embrace the e-world even more this year, further defining our role as a news organization — no longer just limiting ourselves to print. We successfully offer news across various platforms. One of the greatest strides we took was in social media.

Our staff, many of whom grew up on computers, began spreading local news via Facebook and Twitter. In short order, for example, Sports Editor Anna Grearson's tweets from high school games drew in hundreds of followers. Now, we are using social media to keep our audience up to date at Thunder Road and soon at the Mountaineers' games. (We are season sponsors for both, as well as Lost Nation Theater.)

During Town Meeting Day, readers across the state depended on our live blog coverage; during Irene in August, the service was indispensable as a resource for public safety information. In fact, when we took it down, readers wanted it back and permanent.

This spring, we launched a cleaner, more accessible website, answering many of the complaints of our most ardent online critics. We've had great success with our online blogs, including Grearson's On Deck, Vermont Today (live news), the Vermont Press Bureau and Keith Vance's unique and quirky "In Montpeculiar."

Our paywall also has been wildly successful. Critics said it would drive readers away. But the audience here seemed to recognize the value of our local news, Statehouse coverage, local arts scene, and high school sports coverage. Instead of leaving, they rallied. Readers lined up to pay for subscriptions on the other side of our front page at www.timesargus.com, but many others are buying day, week or month passes to stay up on what's happening locally.

And just recently, the Times Argus provided tablet and iPad users an app to see the news on their devices.

Hold on, too, there is more to come.

Reaching out

Meanwhile, every day, as the paper continued with its award-winning reporting and photography, and its bold new technological initiatives, new partnerships were being forged across the state.

Locally, we are meeting with city and town officials across central Vermont to invite them to work with us to discuss issues or problems or expand community awareness.

We are scheduling more public meetings and editorial board meetings. Our managers are serving on more committees and doing more volunteer work.

We are publishing more special sections, including the popular high school sports and arts guides, and we've introduced several contests and games — the latest being Times Argus Fantasy Racing.

Our audience is growing. Our reach is expanding. And the demand for our news and our products is felt widely.

Today, a year around the sun after that disruptive day last May 26, we are flooding our market with news, innovations, choices and interactivity. The flood a year ago didn't finish us.

Hardly.

We're just getting started.

Like I said, it's a story worth telling.

Steven Pappas is the editor

Learning lessons from Irene

The director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami says forecasters are trying to apply lessons from Tropical Storm Irene's destruction to their storm preparedness message this year.

Flooding from Irene was the most destructive event to hit Vermont in almost a century, killing six people, leaving hundreds homeless and damaging or destroying hundreds of miles of roads.

Hurricane center director Bill Read said Thursday that forecasters believe they accurately conveyed the potential inland impacts of the storm. He said the forecasts for Irene were among the best he's seen on rainfall from a hurricane making landfall.

Many in New England contend that Irene's flooding caught them by surprise. Read says overcoming that communications gap is a challenge for forecasters.

The six-month Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 5:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26:

WCAX:

Poll finds measured support for single-payer health care

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Health care reform sparked its share of tense moments between Vermont lawmakers this legislative session. But controversy gave way to compromise and Vermont is now on track to have a single-payer system by 2017.

A new poll conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine asked 600 registered Vermonters if they favor or oppose a single-payer system for the Green Mountains where health care is publicly financed. The answer:

48 percent favor a single-payer system, 36 percent oppose it and 16 percent are not sure.

"The issue of Governor Shumlin's health care plan has always come down to the details and we don't yet know the details," said Chris Graff, a political analyst.

Graff says that uncertainty is reflected in the relatively high percentage of voters who are still undecided where they stand, despite widespread debate on the issue.

"When you drill down farther and you start getting into the details of what's covered, what's not covered, what are the costs and how's it financed, you'll probably see a shifting opinion," Graff said.

The financing of Green Mountain Care remains a mystery at this point in the process. One option is to use a payroll tax to pay for the care. The poll asked voters if they would favor or oppose such a tax. Vermonters are divided: 38 percent say they would favor payroll taxes to pay for health care, but 38 percent oppose it and 23 percent are not sure.

"It's one thing to say do you like a payroll tax, it makes sense at a general level, but when you get down to it and eventually we learn well how big is that payroll tax, that will be a real telling factor," Graff said.

Political analysts say there are a number of large businesses in Vermont that are exempt from Green Mountain Care. If they decide to opt out and the financing of the single-payer system is put more squarely on the shoulders of smaller businesses, that payroll tax could skyrocket, scaring more businesses away.

Poll: Vermonters views on immunizations, right-to-die

BURLINGTON, Vt. - "If there's anything that can actually trump pocketbook issues, it's our children's health and education rights," Castleton College Pollster Rich Clark said.

Clark deals with numbers and what they mean. But he says when it comes to emotional issues like immunizing your child or dealing with your death, polls don't always capture the passion.

"When I'm supervising in the phone room I know when the interviewers are at this question," Clark said.

He's talking about asking Vermonters where they stand on end-of-life choices. A new poll conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine asked 600 registered Vermont voters if they would support legislation allowing terminally ill people to take prescribed medicine to end their lives-- 72 percent say they support such legislation, 20 percent oppose it and 7 percent are not sure.

"There was often a pause. There was often a longer conversation around it," Clark said.

Clark said the majority of respondents wanted to qualify their answers. Political analyst Chris Graff says policymakers are saddled with the same struggle when it comes to Vermonters' right to die.

"These are ones the legislators divide along personal lines, not party lines. It's not really a simple policy issue, these are really personal gut-wrenching issues," Graff said.

He says the polling results are no surprise. Historically, Vermonters have supported allowing for end-of-life choices. But that support has never translated into law. This year, after rigorous debate and public testimony, the death-with-dignity or physician-assisted suicide bill failed to pass once again, this time on the Senate floor.

"The issue of immunizations, I think, was the big surprise of the legislative sessions," Graff said.

Graff says politicians underestimated the passionate debate that shot up when childhood immunizations hit the floor. Our poll put it to the voters: should parents be required to vaccinate their kids or should they have the right to opt out? The answer: 56 percent say immunizations should be required, 35 percent say it's up to the parents and 8 percent are not sure.

It's an issue that divided Gov. Peter Shumlin, D-Vermont, and his administration. The governor said making personal choices for parents is not government's job, but Vt. Health Commissioner Harry Chen said making childhood vaccines mandatory ensures public welfare.

"This is a real important philosophical division and you can see why people are passionate about it," Graff said.

House and Senate negotiators initially struck a deal that would have maintained the controversial philosophical exemption unless the immunization rate dropped below 90 percent. But the House would not go along with that. So the latest version of the bill keeps the exemption in place.

Derby Line wind project on hold

DERBY LINE, Vt. - A controversial wind project in Derby Line is now on hold.

Developers hoped to build two turbines at two separate farms in Derby. But the communities of Derby and Stanstead, Quebec, were divided on the issue. The mayor of Stanstead even threatened to shut off the water supply to Derby if the plan went through.

Now, the developer tells WCAX News the more controversial of the two turbines, planned for Smugglers Hill Farm, will not be built. They hope to continue with the other turbine on the Grandview Farm, but will make that decision later this year.

More leadership changes at Green Mountain Coffee

WATERBURY, Vt. - More changes in the leadership at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters.

Douglas Daft has resigned from the board of directors. Daft, the former CEO of Coca-Cola, said he was leaving for personal reasons. In a statement, the company says Daft did not leave because of any disagreement over company operations.

Two weeks ago, Green Mountain Coffee removed two directors from leadership positions for violating company policies when they liquidated millions in stock to cover a margin call.

Sen. Sanders praises Obama pick for NRC chairwoman

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders says he's encouraged by President Barack Obama's choice to head the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sanders says Allison Macfarlane appears to have the qualifications and credentials to head the commission, which he has frequently criticized as being insufficiently tough on the industry it regulates.

Macfarlane has a doctorate in geology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is widely regarded as an expert on nuclear waste disposal. She was a member of a special commission appointed by Obama to study what to do with nation's nuclear waste following the decision that a planned waste site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain would not be built.

Macfarlane replaces outgoing NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko, who Sanders says was a strong safety advocate, but who was criticized by fellow commissioners.

FOX44:

Vt Leaders Work to Improve Amusement Park Safety

JOHNSON, Vt. - As workers were getting ready for last summer's Lamoille County Field Days tragedy struck.

A Castle Rock Amusements worker died after police say he got sucked into a large diesel generator.

Nearly a year later, Vermont Department of Labor Commissioner Annie Noonan says the family hasn't received any compensation.

"What happened in Lamoille [County] was that the company that came didn't have a valid workers comp policy for the State of Vermont," said Noonan.

Noonan says the Massachusetts company had a policy from New York and she says since the accident the two sides can't figure out who's at fault.

To help the family, Noonan says her agency is trying to get it resolved.

"You guys figure it out but somebody is going to pay," said Noonan.

Noonan says while amusement park companies are required to carry Vermont workmen's comp, no one is required to verify it.

Lawmakers tried to change that this session, but failed to do so.

That's what's prompted Noonan's department to put a new procedure in place, allowing the labor department to double check the registrations.

If they don't have the right paperwork.

"We have the authority to do a shut down," said Noonan.

As for the Lamoille County fair Fox 44 called and asked if Castle Rock Amusements would return.

They said no, but only because the company was unavailable for that weekend.

London, Sarah

From: Microsoft Exchange
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2012 1:00 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your mailbox is almost full.

Importance: High

Your mailbox is almost full.

250MB  275MB

Your mailbox is larger than 250MB and is approaching configured size limits. To maintain all capabilities, please reduce the size of your mailbox. You may reduce the size of your mailbox by deleting any items you don't need from your mailbox and emptying your Deleted Items folder. If your mailbox grows larger than 275MB you will not be able to send new emails. If your mailbox grows beyond 300MB you will not be able to send or receive new emails until the size is reduced. For more information about cleaning your mailbox you may download more detailed instructions from the DII web site at this URL, <http://dii.vermont.gov/sites/dii/files/pdfs/Mailbox-Cleanup.pdf>.

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server 2007

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 5:36 PM
To: Miller, Lawrence
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

No worries! You've been insanely busy this week

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 25, 2012, at 4:35 PM, "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

Sorry I haven't stopped for a couple of days it will have to be late

Lawrence Miller
Secretary of Commerce and Community Development
(802) 371-9075

Sent from my mobile, please excuse typo's and brevity.

-----Original message-----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Sent: Fri, May 25, 2012 19:23:55 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hi Everyone,

Just a finally (and I'm sure annoying) reminder about your weekly reports today.
You're the folks I still don't have them from.

Thanks!
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:01:53 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>, "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>, "Kimbell, Steve" <Steve.Kimbell@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hey,

I just wanted to remind everyone to please send me their weekly reports today!

Thanks again,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 11:55:03 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Lawrence
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Sorry I haven't stopped for a couple of days it will have to be late

Lawrence Miller
Secretary of Commerce and Community Development
(802) 371-9075

Sent from my mobile, please excuse typo's and brevity.

-----Original message-----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Sent: Fri, May 25, 2012 19:23:55 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hi Everyone,

Just a finally (and I'm sure annoying) reminder about your weekly reports today. You're the folks I still don't have them from.

Thanks!
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:01:53 -0400
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<Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann"

<JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie"

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<Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <

London, Sarah

From: Noonan, Annie
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Wolffing, Erika; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Cc: Reardon, Jim
Subject: Weekly Report, week ending May 25, 2012



Weekly Report,
week ending Ma...

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 4:25 PM
To: Ross, Chuck
Cc: Bothfeld, Diane; LaClair, Jolinda
Subject: Re: Ag weekly

Thanks! Have a great weekend!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Ross, Chuck" <Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 16:24:12 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "LaClair, Jolinda" <Jolinda.LaClair@state.vt.us>
Subject: Ag weekly

here it is
have a good weekend
chuck

London, Sarah

From: Ross, Chuck
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Bothfeld, Diane; LaClair, Jolinda
Subject: Ag weekly
Attachments: weekly_May_25_2012[cr edits].docx

here it is
have a good weekend
chuck

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:57 PM
To: Hofmann, Sarah; London, Sarah
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: DPS weekly reports

Thank you sooo much. Have a great weekend Sarah!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:54:20 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Subject: DPS weekly reports

And here they are Ari. Have a peaceful three day weekend.

Sarah Hofmann
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802-828-3088

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Hofmann, Sarah
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Awesome! You're the best.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:32:40 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Ari, I am working on it and it should be over in about 15 mintues.

Sarah Hofmann
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802-828-3088

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Cc: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
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Cc: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Dear all,

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I will be out of town with very limited access to email and will not be able to forward reports that come directly to me, so please send them only to Ari.

Thanks to all of you!

Best,
Aly

Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Ross, Angela
Cc: Gaidys, Maureen
Subject: Re: weekly reports

Thank you so much.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Ross, Angela" <Angela.Ross@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:44:27 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: weekly reports

Hi Ari,

Sorry this is so late – have a great holiday weekend!

Angie

Angela J. Ross | Assistant to the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Education | p) 802.828.3135 | f) 802.828.3140
education.vermont.gov | facebook.com/VTEducation | twitter.com/VTEducation

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Ross, Angela
Subject: Re: weekly reports

Great, thanks. No need for the next two weeks, she's in Spain with not a lot of chances to check e-mail!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Ross, Angela" <Angela.Ross@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:16:38 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: RE: weekly reports

Will do, Armando is proofing the CWR now. Should I still copy Aly?

Angela J. Ross | Assistant to the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Education | p) 802.828.3135 | f) 802.828.3140
education.vermont.gov | facebook.com/VTEducation | twitter.com/VTEducation

From: Wengroff, Ariel

Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM

To: Ross, Angela; Lamberton, Helen

Subject: weekly reports

Hi,

I just wanted to ask that you both send me the weekly reports.

Thanks!

Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

No worries lady

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:42:00 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Yikes! On the way (Was having computer problems...0
S

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

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Special Assistant to the Governor
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From: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:01:53 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika"

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Cc: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>

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Best,
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m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Hofmann, Sarah
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:54 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; London, Sarah
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: DPS weekly reports
Attachments: 5-25-12 Priorities Version.docx; 5-25-12 Long Version.docx

And here they are Ari. Have a peaceful three day weekend.

Sarah Hofmann
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802-828-3088

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Hofmann, Sarah
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

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Special Assistant to the Governor
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Montpelier, VT 05609

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To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
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London, Sarah

From: Ross, Angela
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Gaidys, Maureen
Subject: RE: weekly reports
Attachments: CWR_to GOV_5_25_12.pdf

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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

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Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:42 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Yikes! On the way (Was having computer problems...0

S

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hi Everyone,

Just a finally (and I'm sure annoying) reminder about your weekly reports today. You're the folks I still don't have them from.

Thanks!

Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:01:53 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>, "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>, "Kimbell, Steve" <Steve.Kimbell@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

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Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 11:55:03 -0400

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Thanks to all of you!

Best,
Aly

Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Noonan, Annie
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Okay thanks Annie

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:33:26 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

I am working on it as of this minute. Probably won't get it to you for another 30 minutes.

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m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Hofmann, Sarah
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Awesome! You're the best.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 15:32:40 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Ari, I am working on it and it should be over in about 15 mintues.

Sarah Hofmann
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802-828-3088

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: An idea...

Perfect, thanks Liz.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/25/12 3:31 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

>OK I conveyed to Kathryn Gov's willingness to participate on the below
>basis. Understand that they likely will "schedule" him for next week,
>using the topic/questions we've seen and are OK with. They have been
>sending out press releases on "guest hosts" and probably will do one
>next week with Gov included. I asked that Kathryn send us a preview
>copy and tell us when he is scheduled to be host, as it were, so that
>we can do social media etc. Liz
>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: MacLean, Alex
>Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 1:23 PM
>To: Wengroff, Ariel
>Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
>Subject: RE: An idea...

>
>I am ok with Guest Host.

>
>Alexandra MacLean
>Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
>1-802-272-0443

>
>-----
>From: Wengroff, Ariel
>Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 12:22 PM
>To: MacLean, Alex
>Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
>Subject: Re: An idea...

>
>Maybe it could just be Guest Host Governor Shumlin? I think we just
>have to approve the topic list for the questions...
>
>Ariel Wengroff
>Special Assistant to the Governor
>109 State Street
>Montpelier, VT 05609
>
>Office: 802-828-3333
>Cell: 802-279-6825
>
>On May 22, 2012, at 12:04 PM, "MacLean, Alex"
><Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
>wrote:
>
>> Wait sorry maybe I was confused. He doesn't have to actually attend
>>anything right? Either way, I am not crazy about the title: Guest
>>Game Master...I would want that changed if he is going to participate.
>>
>> Alexandra MacLean
>> Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
>> 1-802-272-0443
>>
>> _____
>> From: Wengroff, Ariel
>> Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 6:18 AM
>> To: Miller, Elizabeth
>> Cc: MacLean, Alex
>> Subject: Re: An idea...
>>
>> I think Alex is good with it. I liked the proposed topics.
>>
>> Ariel Wengroff
>> Special Assistant to the Governor
>> 109 State Street
>> Montpelier, VT 05609
>>
>> Office: 802-828-3333
>> Cell: 802-279-6825
>>
>> On May 21, 2012, at 11:31 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth"
>><Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>
>>wrote:
>>
>> Can I say definite yes? Think it only required seal if approval and
>>tacit participation....
>>
>> Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless
>>
>>
>> -----Original message-----
>> From: Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>

>> To: "Miller, Elizabeth"
>> <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>
>> Sent: Tue, May 22, 2012 03:29:27 GMT+00:00
>> Subject: Re: An idea...
>>
>> Checking back... Any sense of whether he's up for this? There's a
>>chance we might get Van Jones, too! So Peter would be in good company!
>>
>> On Thu, May 17, 2012 at 4:04 PM, Kathryn Blume
>><kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>> wrote:
>> Hey Liz,
>>
>> We were thinking of having him as Guest Game Master either next week
>>or the week after.
>>
>> His challenges would be posted on the
>>Play<<http://vermontivate.com/play>> page, and we were thinking he could
>>suggest challenges along the lines of:
>>
>> Making Vermont a National Leader: Reach out to friends in other
>>states and get them to play Vermontivate on behalf of your town
>>Community
>> Connections: Write about your vermontivate participation for you for
>>your town paper Irene Recovery (Vt response Exchange): Visit the
>>website and respond to a need.
>> Green Jobs: What would be your ideal green business? What would it
>>take to make it happen?
>>
>> He'd be welcome to come up with his own, but we certainly don't want
>>to overload him.
>>
>> Also, would it be ok to put a monocle and a top hat on a photo of him
>>for his Profile Shot on the website?
>>
>> Thanks!
>>
>> Kathy
>>
>>
>> On Thu, May 17, 2012 at 12:15 PM, Miller, Elizabeth
>><Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>
>>wrote:
>> I believe he'll be willing. Is there something specific I can give
>>his staff that he'd put his name/ inmprint on? Timing? Hope all is well!!
>>
>> Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless
>>
>>
>> -----Original message-----
>> From: Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>
>> To: "Miller, Elizabeth"
>> <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>

>> Sent: Thu, May 17, 2012 03:43:02 GMT+00:00

>> Subject: An idea...

>>

>> Hey Liz,

>>

>> So Bill McKibben is going to be a special guest game master on

>>Vermontivate - offering his own special challenge for saving energy.

>>

>> I'm wondering if the Governor might be willing to be a special guest,

>>too. He wouldn't really have to do anything. We could offer a list

>>of challenges, and he could pick the ones he likes. Or, he'd be

>>welcome to come up with his own if he was in the mood.

>>

>> Would you be willing to ask him about this?

>>

>> Thanks!

>>

>> Kathy

>>

>> --

>> Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

>> www.kathrynblume.com<<http://www.kathrynblume.com>>

>> c. 802.233.5856<tel:802.233.5856>

>> kablume@gmail.com<<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>

>> Skype: kablume

>>

>> "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to

>>collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach

>>them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

>> - Antoine de Saint-Exupery

>>

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>> --

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London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:33 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: post

Great

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: post

Infographic

Dignity Over Fear: "We were the first state to pass marriage equality, not because a judge told us to do it, but because it was the right thing to do. I'm extraordinarily proud of that moment." - Governor Shumlin

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Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:01:53 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>, "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>, "Kimbell, Steve" <Steve.Kimbell@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hey,

I just wanted to remind everyone to please send me their weekly reports today!

Thanks again,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>

Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 11:55:03 -0400

To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>, "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>, "Kimbell, Steve" <Steve.Kimbell@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

Cc: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Dear all,

This Friday, May 25 AND next Friday, June 1st please send your weekly reports directly to Ari Wengroff at Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us. She is cc-ed here as well.

I will be out of town with very limited access to email and will not be able to forward reports that come directly to me, so please send them only to Ari.

Thanks to all of you!

Best,
Aly

Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:32 PM
To: MacLean, Alex; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: An idea...

OK I conveyed to Kathryn Gov's willingness to participate on the below basis. Understand that they likely will "schedule" him for next week, using the topic/questions we've seen and are OK with. They have been sending out press releases on "guest hosts" and probably will do one next week with Gov included. I asked that Kathryn send us a preview copy and tell us when he is scheduled to be host, as it were, so that we can do social media etc. Liz

-----Original Message-----

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 1:23 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: An idea...

I am ok with Guest Host.

Alexandra MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
1-802-272-0443

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 12:22 PM
To: MacLean, Alex
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: An idea...

Maybe it could just be Guest Host Governor Shumlin? I think we just have to approve the topic list for the questions...

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 22, 2012, at 12:04 PM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Wait sorry maybe I was confused. He doesn't have to actually attend anything right? Either way, I am not crazy about the title: Guest Game Master...I would want that changed if he is going to participate.

>

> Alexandra MacLean
> Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
> 1-802-272-0443

> _____

> From: Wengroff, Ariel
> Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 6:18 AM
> To: Miller, Elizabeth
> Cc: MacLean, Alex
> Subject: Re: An idea...
>
> I think Alex is good with it. I liked the proposed topics.
>
> Ariel Wengroff
> Special Assistant to the Governor
> 109 State Street
> Montpelier, VT 05609
>
> Office: 802-828-3333
> Cell: 802-279-6825
>
> On May 21, 2012, at 11:31 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>
wrote:
>
> Can I say definite yes? Think it only required seal if approval and tacit participation....
>
> Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless
>
>
> -----Original message-----
> From: Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>
> To: "Miller, Elizabeth"
> <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>
> Sent: Tue, May 22, 2012 03:29:27 GMT+00:00
> Subject: Re: An idea...
>
> Checking back... Any sense of whether he's up for this? There's a chance we might get Van Jones, too! So Peter would
be in good company!
>
> On Thu, May 17, 2012 at 4:04 PM, Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>> wrote:
> Hey Liz,
>
> We were thinking of having him as Guest Game Master either next week or the week after.
>
> His challenges would be posted on the Play<<http://vermontivate.com/play>> page, and we were thinking he could
suggest challenges along the lines of:
>
> Making Vermont a National Leader: Reach out to friends in other states
> and get them to play Vermontivate on behalf of your town Community
> Connections: Write about your vermontivate participation for you for your town paper Irene Recovery (Vt response
Exchange): Visit the website and respond to a need.
> Green Jobs: What would be your ideal green business? What would it take to make it happen?
>
> He'd be welcome to come up with his own, but we certainly don't want to overload him.
>
> Also, would it be ok to put a monocle and a top hat on a photo of him for his Profile Shot on the website?
>

> Thanks!

>

> Kathy

>

>

> On Thu, May 17, 2012 at 12:15 PM, Miller, Elizabeth

<Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>> wrote:

> I believe he'll be willing. Is there something specific I can give his staff that he'd put his name/ imprint on? Timing?
> Hope all is well!!

>

> Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

>

>

> -----Original message-----

> From: Kathryn Blume <kablume@gmail.com<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>

> To: "Miller, Elizabeth"

> <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us<mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>>

> Sent: Thu, May 17, 2012 03:43:02 GMT+00:00

> Subject: An idea...

>

> Hey Liz,

>

> So Bill McKibben is going to be a special guest game master on Vermontivate - offering his own special challenge for saving energy.

>

> I'm wondering if the Governor might be willing to be a special guest, too. He wouldn't really have to do anything. We could offer a list of challenges, and he could pick the ones he likes. Or, he'd be welcome to come up with his own if he was in the mood.

>

> Would you be willing to ask him about this?

>

> Thanks!

>

> Kathy

>

> --

> Kathryn Blume - Creative Roustabout

> www.kathrynblume.com<<http://www.kathrynblume.com>>

> c. 802.233.5856<tel:802.233.5856>

> kablume@gmail.com<<mailto:kablume@gmail.com>>

> Skype: kablume

>

> "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

> - Antoine de Saint-Exupery

>

>

>

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>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hi Everyone,

Just a finally (and I'm sure annoying) reminder about your weekly reports today. You're the folks I still don't have them from.

Thanks!
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

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Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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Cc: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

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alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:20 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: Tuesday 3:00

I am out of the office and will be returning Monday, June 4th. If you are in need of assistance please contact the Governor's Office at 802 828 3333.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:20 PM
To: Murray-Clasen, Madeline; Appleby, Leigh; Wesley, Carolyn; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re: Tuesday 3:00

Sounds good! Thanks Maddy

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/25/12 3:15 PM, "Murray-Clasen, Madeline"
<Madeline.Murray-Clasen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Hi everyone-
>
>Would it be alright if I come at 3:00 on Tuesday? There is an assembly
>that I would like to attend. Does that work?
>
>Thanks! Have a great weekend!
>
>-Maddy

London, Sarah

From: Murray-Clasen, Madeline
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Wesley, Carolyn; Wengroff, Ariel; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Tuesday 3:00

Hi everyone-

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Thanks! Have a great weekend!

-Maddy

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: post

Infographic

Dignity Over Fear: "We were the first state to pass marriage equality, not because a judge told us to do it, but because it was the right thing to do. I'm extraordinarily proud of that moment." - Governor Shumlin

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 2:48 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: TUESDAY: In Rutland, Welch to push to expand Vt. partnership helping veterans start small businesses



Congressman Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives

MEDIA ADVISORY:
Friday, May 25, 2012

CONTACT:
Scott Coriell
202.225.4115 (o)
202.689.5352 (c)

In Rutland, Welch to push to expand Vt. partnership helping veterans start small businesses

BURLINGTON, Vt. – A Vermont partnership that helps returning veterans start small businesses could be expanded nationwide thanks to a House-passed bill successfully amended by Rep. Peter Welch. In Rutland Tuesday, Welch will highlight Vermont's leadership role in pioneering this innovative partnership and discuss his efforts to make it a model for the nation as the war in Afghanistan draws to a close and America's newest veterans return home.

The partnership is a marriage between the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) – which helps returning Guard members reintegrate after deployments – and the Vermont Small Business Development Center (SBDC). In Vermont, this partnership has helped veterans to turn their small business ideas into reality. Welch will be joined Tuesday by such a veteran, Eagle Eye Property Management owner Tim McCollum, who will share his success story.

Chris Herriman of the Vermont SBDC will also join the press conference, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Awesome Graphics on Woodstock Avenue in Rutland.

Welch's full schedule for Sunday and Tuesday is copied below.

Sunday, May 27:

11:45 a.m. Norwich Memorial Day Parade
Begins at American Legion Post, 228, Beaver Meadow Road

Tuesday, May 29:

10:30 a.m. Yellow Ribbon/SBDC partnership press conference
Awesome Graphics, 77 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland

12:15 p.m. Speak at Ludlow Rotary
DJ's Restaurant, 146 Main Street, Ludlow

#

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 2:35 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: News: Safe and Healthy Recreational Water Use Encouraged

Safe and Healthy Recreational Water Use Encouraged This Summer

For Immediate Release: May 25, 2012

Media Contact: Communication Office
Vermont Department of Health
802-863-7281

BURLINGTON – Memorial Day weekend in Vermont may include overheated marathon runners plunging into Lake Champlain, families dipping their toes into the slowly warming ponds, streams and lakes, and hoses filling above-ground pools near the barbeque.

The Health Department encourages all Vermonters to take full advantage of recreational water opportunities this weekend and throughout the summer, but to also use common sense, take precautions and be aware of health risks.

The Health Department, along with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation has developed an overall approach to water safety that includes guidance on how to avoid biological, chemical and physical hazards.

All state parks with swimming areas will be tested weekly this year and signage will be posted that marks the current water safety status.

Swimming, boating, wading and other healthy outdoor activities are recommended at managed, safe and healthy locations. Water contaminated with fecal matter from humans or other mammals can be a health risk.

"The most common measure of bacterial contamination in Vermont waterways is the amount of E.coli bacteria," said Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD. "A level above the EPA standard of 235 colony forming units for 100 milliliters of water means that the water is not suitable for swimming."

Recreational water test kits can be ordered through the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory by calling 1-800-660-9997.

Anyone who suspects or notices a chemical spill or other source of contamination to a waterway can call the DEC at 802-241-3888 or (after hours) the Hazmat Hotline at 800-641-5005.

Physical hazards can wash up on shore or under the water, particularly after flooding. Debris, trash, broken glass and other sharp objects can all pose injury hazards to beach goers.

"The vast majority of swimming and boating and wading opportunities in the state are safe and we don't want to throw a 'wet blanket,' over having fun in the water this year" Dr. Chen said. "We just to remind everyone of the potential risks. Wear a life vest when boating, supervise kids who are swimming, and be aware of currents before you swim."

For more information visit:

Healthy Recreational Waters

<http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/water/recwater.aspx>

Swim Water Testing

<http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/water/swimwater.aspx>

Follow us on Twitter and join us on Facebook for health information, news and alerts.

###

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 26 - June 2

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 26 – June 2

Saturday, May 26

9:00 a.m. Memorial Day Service, 5 Corners, Essex Junction

10:00 a.m. Essex Junction Memorial Day Parade

1:00 p.m. Speak at 2012 Vermont Democratic Convention
Barre Auditorium, 18 Seminary Street, Barre

Sunday, May 27

7:40 a.m. Welcome runners to Burlington City Marathon
(Governor will run first leg on a relay team)

Monday, May 28

11:00 a.m. Memorial Day Parade, Vergennes

12:30 p.m. Speak at Memorial Day Observance
Vergennes City Park

Tuesday, May 29

No public appearances scheduled

Wednesday, May 30

7:45 a.m. WVNR/WNYV Radio

10:45 a.m. Speak and fish at 2012 Lake Champlain International Governor's Cup
Windemere Way access area in Colchester

12:15 p.m. Press Conference
Checkered House Bridge, Route 2 at Richmond/Williston line

3:00 p.m. Speak at Memorial Day Observance at Vermont Veterans Cemetery
Randolph

Thursday, May 31

12:00 p.m. Speak to the Vermont Press Association luncheon

Capital Plaza, State Street, Montpelier

Friday, June 1

3:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker at Slow Living Summit
Latchis Theater, Brattleboro

6:45 p.m.

Announcer at Strolling with the Heifers Friday night event
Main Street, Brattleboro

Saturday, June 2

9:15 a.m.

Speak at Enosburg Dairy Festival
Reviewing Stand, Main Street, Enosburg

10:30 a.m.

Enosburg Dairy Festival Parade

1:30 p.m.

Greet attendees at College of Vermont Graduation
Shapiro Field House, Norwich University, Northfield

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:59 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: More news

My Turn: Listen to parents who forgo vaccination - BFP (opinion)

Aricha Drury

If the Department of Health, doctors, legislators and vaccine supporters want the vaccination rates in Vermont to increase, the tone of the conversation is going to have to change.

Over the last few months, as Vermont's Legislature has considered changes to the laws related to mandatory vaccination, it has become clear that parents will not be scared, ridiculed or shamed into vaccinating. They will not be swayed by horror stories of disease epidemics from the past, nor by declarations of vaccine's absolute safety. They will not be guilted into vaccinating by lectures on "herd immunity" or "the greater good" nor be convinced by statistics designed to demonstrate a crisis that they know doesn't exist. If policy makers want to change parents' behavior, they must partner with these parents and start working together to find a solution.

It is foolish to simply dismiss these parents as people who won't be convinced, and assume that coercion is the only way to get compliance. It is short-sighted to call these parents uninformed, uneducated, selfish and irresponsible. These are the people who hold the key to higher vaccination rates, who hold the power to decide whether or not immunization rates in Vermont will increase. While it may be possible to pressure or scare a few parents into vaccinating their children, the impact on many of them has been to increase their determination to stand up for their beliefs.

If there is any hope in significantly changing the immunization rates, it lies in truthful and respectful conversations about vaccine choice. It lies in conversations aimed not at convincing parents to vaccinate but at understanding parents' decisions and the reasons behind them. Policymakers and health care providers must be willing to engage in honest discussions about vaccination and disease, and take an objective look at the statistics for both. By acknowledging that these parents have reasonable concerns and have made thoughtful decisions for their children's health, policy makers can begin to find a balance between the two sides of the issue.

It is time for doctors, public health officials, and policy makers to put aside their own agendas and take the time to listen to the parents who are choosing to forgo one or more vaccines. It is time to stop debating who is right and who is wrong and to start acknowledging that the issue is far more complex.

Aricha Drury lives in Essex Junction.

Majority of Vermonters Favor Childhood Immunizations - WCAX (survey)

<http://www.wcax.com/story/18624587/poll-vermonters-favor-mandatory-immunizations>

BURLINGTON, Vt. -

A majority of Vermonters favor mandatory childhood immunizations according to a new poll conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine.

In the survey by Castleton College pollsters, 56 percent agreed that immunizations should be required, 35 percent believe parents should have the right to opt out and 8 percent are unsure.

The poll results run contrary to a bill passed by the Legislature. Lawmakers considered removing the philosophical exemptions for parents, but after a strong lobbying effort the opt-out language was left in the legislation.

Pollster Rich Clark says it's the kind of poll question where the numbers do not reflect the passion behind the issue.

"I think the majority in the poll position-- that's not necessarily a soft issue, because I think there is a lot of passion behind it-- but they

don't have the same degree of passion as those who are going to oppose it, as we see as it takes shape in activism," Clark said.

We'll have more poll results tonight on the Channel 3 News at 5 and 6 p.m., including Vermonters' views on doctor-assisted suicide and single-payer health care.

POLL:

Our pollster, Castleton Polling Institute, asked 607 registered Vermont voters how they would vote.

Here are the results:

QUESTION: Some people say that immunizations against infectious diseases are effective only if everyone, or almost everyone, is immunized, while others say that parents should have the right to opt out of immunizing their children for philosophical reasons. Do you think immunization should be required or should parents have the right to opt out of immunizing their children for philosophical reasons?

PERCENT

IMMUNIZATION SHOULD BE REQUIRED

56.2%

PARENTS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO OPT OUT

35.1%

NOT SURE/IT DEPENDS

8.2%

REFUSED .2%

This survey was conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine by the Castleton Polling Institute at Castleton College. A total of 607 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone between May 7th to May 16th.

Those interviewed were selected from a random sample of registered voters in Vermont

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 4 percentage points.

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:57 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Saturday, May 26 - Monday, May 28

Saturday, May 26th, 2012 Schedule

Sunday, May 27th, 2012 Schedule

Monday, May 28th, 2012 Schedule

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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London, Sarah

From: Flood, Patrick
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:24 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Pallito, Andy
Cc: Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

As far as I can tell right now she is not an active client of the Howard Center but had some involvement several years ago. I am still checking to see if the Howard Center should be notified.

-----Original Message-----

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:22 PM
To: Pallito, Andy
Cc: Flood, Patrick; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Thank you both; we'll be in touch.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: Flood, Patrick; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Thank you Dru. We did check and she has no prior involvement with us. We will send the message to Chittenden that if they see her over the weekend, she likely has some complications.

On May 25, 2012, at 11:14 AM, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Dear Patrick and Andy,

>

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> Andy, I wanted to keep you in the loop in case she should be arrested. You'll see in the attached letter that she has been accused of stalking on various occasions and is not unfamiliar to the Burlington police, and may be eligible for mental health support.

>

> Thank you,

> Dru

>

>

> Drusilla Roessle

> Constituent Correspondent

> Office of Governor Peter Shumlin

> 109 State Street

> Montpelier, VT 05609

> 802-828-3605

>

> Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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>

> <SEXE-Copier12052508480.pdf>

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:22 PM
To: Pallito, Andy
Cc: Flood, Patrick; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

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Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: Flood, Patrick; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
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>
>
> <SEXE-Copier12052508480.pdf>

London, Sarah

From: Stirewalt, Robert
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Bullying stats from VDH

Ariel,
We don't track suicides associated with bullying, but here are the suicide numbers for 21 and under from the OCMEs office.

Suicide at age 21 and under:
2004 - 5 2007 - 9 2010 - 8
2005 - 7 2008 - 7 2011 - 12
2006 - 5 2009 - 6

London, Sarah

From: Nealy, Diane
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:10 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc

I will be out of the office this afternoon and Monday is a holiday. If you need something immediately please contact Laurie Hurlburt at 802-871-3008 or Kristy Pirie at 802-871-3009. Otherwise I will respond to you when I get back to the office Tuesday. Regards, Diane

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:10 PM
To: Nealy, Diane
Cc: Racine, Doug; Oliver, Christine; Hutt, Monica
Subject: Re: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc

Thanks again

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 12:52:31 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Racine, Doug" <doug.racine@state.vt.us>, "Oliver, Christine" <Christine.Oliver@state.vt.us>, "Hutt, Monica" <Monica.Hutt@state.vt.us>
Subject: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc

Ariel;

Here is the correct copy of the Weekly report for AHS.

Thanks,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail320.us2.mcsv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Bob Kiss to Run for State Senate; Thieves Steal Purse from 92-Year-Old

Bob Kiss is getting back into politics.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2012



Bob Kiss Running for State Senate as an Independent

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS BLURT, 05/24/12

Former Burlington mayor Bob Kiss is getting back into politics. Kiss was a Progressive state rep and mayor, but says he'll run for state Senate as an independent candidate. [Click to read.](#)



Police: Thieves Snatched 92-Year-Old's Purse

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/24/12

Talk about heartless. Police are searching for a pair of thieves who stole a purse from a 92-year-old woman at the Williston Hannaford on Wednesday. [Click to read.](#)



Charest Cancels Trip to Vermont; UVM Students Protest in Solidarity with Montrealers

SOURCE: VTDIGGER.ORG, 05/24/12

Quebec Premier Jean Charest canceled a planned trip to Vermont as thousands of students protested tuition increases in his home province. UVM students and local activists planned a solidarity protest to mark Charest's visit. [Click to read.](#)



Former Governor Douglas Pens Autobiography

SOURCE: ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT, 05/24/12

In a true-blue state like Vermont, what's a Republican to do? Former governor Jim Douglas plans to answer that question in his new autobiography, due out before the end of the year. [Click to read.](#)



Burlington weather forecast

Today: Partly sunny; breezy;
chance for showers, t-storms,
especially late. High 82°, low 58°.


Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High
78°, low 54°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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SEVEN DAYS
**BEST of the
BEASTS**

PRESENTED BY: 

**Deadline:
Thursday, June 7!**



Douglas Mason, Out of Prison 20 Years After Vermont Murder, Plans Freedom Dinner

SOURCE: BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, 05/24/12

A man who was convicted of a 1991 murder in Barre was released from prison yesterday. He calls himself "a changed man" and planned to eat a steak upon his release. [Click to read.](#)



ReBuild Waterbury Helping With Recovery

SOURCE: WATERBURY RECORD, 05/24/12

Rebuilding after Tropical Storm Irene continues to be a daunting task for Waterbury residents. One local charity is helping out by providing labor and materials to homeowners. [Click to read.](#)



Meet the New Seven Days Marathon Relay Team — and Prepare to Lose

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS BLURT, 05/24/12

Here at *Seven Days*, we've once again assembled a crackerjack relay team for Sunday's Vermont City Marathon. We expect land-speed records to be broken. [Click to read.](#)

MORE FROM SEVEN DAYS: [News](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Personals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Restaurant Guide](#)

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London, Sarah

From: Nealy, Diane
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Racine, Doug; Oliver, Christine; Hutt, Monica
Subject: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc
Attachments: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc

Ariel;

Here is the correct copy of the Weekly report for AHS.

Thanks,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Flood, Patrick
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla; Pallito, Andy
Cc: Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [REDACTED]

I'll see what I can find out.

-----Original Message-----

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Flood, Patrick; Pallito, Andy
Cc: Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [REDACTED] n

Dear Patrick and Andy,

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Andy, I wanted to keep you in the loop in case she should be arrested. You'll see in the attached letter that she has been accused of stalking on various occasions and is not unfamiliar to the Burlington police, and may be eligible for mental health support.

Thank you,
Dru

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

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London, Sarah

From: Flood, Patrick
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:44 PM
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Cc: Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
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London, Sarah

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: Flood, Patrick; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Menard, Lisa
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Thank you Dru. We did check and she has no prior involvement with us. We will send the message to Chittenden that if they see her over the weekend, she likely has some complications.

On May 25, 2012, at 11:14 AM, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us> wrote:

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>

> <SEXE-Copier12052508480.pdf>

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; EXE
Subject: RE: Friends!

HA

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:42 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Friends!

Gov made a new pal!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:42 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Friends!
Attachments: gov and chicken.jpg

Gov made a new pal!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Gov made a new pall

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Flynn, Keith
Subject: Re: Weekly report

Thanks Keith!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 12:25:38 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Weekly report

Attached you will find the Governor's Report for the week ending 5-25-2012.

Keith W. Flynn, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2191
Tel:802.244.8718
Fax:802-241-5610

London, Sarah

From: Flynn, Keith
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Weekly report
Attachments: Governor's Report 5-25-2012.doc

Attached you will find the Governor's Report for the week ending 5-25-2012.

Keith W. Flynn, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2191
Tel:802.244.8718
Fax:802-241-5610

London, Sarah

From: Mace, David <David.Mace@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:23 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Barnett, Tim; Rose, Ben; Bradley, RichardE; Brown, Eugene; Cook, Angela; Costello, Frederick; Curran, Jennifer; Rapaport, Dave; Edmonds, Darrell; Erickson, Nancy; Ferri, Albert; Filkorn, Erik; Halliday, Kathryn; Haskell, Emery; McLane, Lauren; Minter, Sue; Nygaard, Corey; Coffey, Peter; Pinkham, Dennis; Piper, Michael; Rennert, Peter; Riley, Bill; Robinson, Myrna; Nagy, Ross; Russo, James N; Ryerson, Chad; Stewart, Charlotte; Stewart, John; Stirewalt, Robert; Truman, Bennett; Wengroff, Ariel; Whedbee, Grace; Whitton, Kelli; Alvarado, Diego; Blagg, Mary; Davis Jr, Wendell; Davis, Wendell; Foglino, Annette; Mace, David; Bosma, Mark; Mccarthy Barnett, Kate; Valeja, Samir; Zuzy Zvarova
Subject: DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report May 25, 2012
Attachments: DR-4022 - 4043-VT 05-25-12 Media Monitoring.docx

DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report Friday, May 25, 2012

HOT ISSUE: *No hot issues.*

SUMMARY: *FEMA's Dr. Richard Downer was in the Northeast Kingdom to discuss flood-proofing with merchants on Broad Street in Lyndonville (Orleans County Record); forecasters plan to use data from Tropical Storm Irene to help with predicting this year's hurricanes (Associated Press); officials in Brattleboro are planning a Public Community Meeting to discuss housing options for two low-income projects damaged by Irene, Melrose Terrace & Hayes Court Housing (IBrattleboro.com); Rebuild Waterbury is still helping residents, FEMA's press release announcing the May 30 public hearing is picked up, a study is being conducted to help Waterbury brand and promote its businesses, a Waterbury potter is re-opening after being flooded last fall by Irene, a community dinner for flood victims was held in Waterbury, and a Waterbury company's "thank you" video after Irene has won an industry award (Waterbury Record); post-Legislative wrap ups continue (Manchester Journal, Waterbury Record); a Mad River group is seeking volunteers via its Facebook page for restoration work this weekend (Mad-River-Valley-Hurricane-Irene Facebook Page).*

NEGATIVES: *None.*

TRENDS: *Post-legislative analysis and local recovery efforts continue to garner significant news coverage.*

Link to National FEMA Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/fema/>

Link to DHS Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/dhs/>

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FEMA, Conservation District Offer Ideas For Flood-Proofing (Orleans County Record)

Forecasters applying lessons learned from TS Irene (Associated Press)

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Goal: back to normal ReBuild helping with recovery (Waterbury Record)

Hearing to be held May 30 on plans for state offices (Waterbury Record)

Study proposed to help business (Waterbury Record)

Waterbury potter reopening studio (Waterbury Record)

Flood families enjoy a feast (Waterbury Record)

Thank-you video wins industry awards (Waterbury Record)

State Senators reflect on recent session (Manchester Journal)

Local House reps look back on legislative session (Manchester Journal)

Legislators Discuss Session Highlights (Orleans County Record)

Mad River Group Seeks Volunteers (Mad River Valley Irene Facebook page)

News Clips:

DR-4043-VT:

None

DR-4022-VT:

FEMA, Conservation District Offer Ideas For Flood-Proofing

Orleans County Record

May 25, 2012

LYNDONVILLE -- A handful of Broad Street business owners who are all too familiar with the nightmare of flooding along Route 5 attended a program on Wednesday with an expert in technologies to help flood-proof structures, who offered many ideas on what steps can be taken, and on funding help available.

Dr. Richard Downer, a retired University of Vermont professor of civil engineering, has also worked for the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for many years, and has been criss-crossing Vermont in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene to reach out to communities such as Lyndonville, to offer assistance.

The program featuring Downer was sponsored by the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District and FEMA, and offered many ideas on dry flood-proofing, wet flood-proofing and emergency measures. Downer is FEMA's Region 1 Hazard Mitigation Engineer, and at UVM taught hydraulics, hydrology, open channel flow, small dam design and designing with geosynthetics for 34 years.

"What this is really all about today is trying to give you ideas of things you can do," said Downer.

Owners of Mountain View Auto, Bob's Welding, Lyndonville Bagel Depot, the Valley View Restaurant and a few more turned out to hear Downer's ideas; he sent everyone home with literature and with a CD of his presentation, which contained many specific steps to protect non-residential structures.

"I don't have any magic bullets," he began. Following Tropical Storm Irene last year, he said he's been visiting communities affected by the flooding and said here, as in many places, the buildings hit are older and it's "not

cost-effective to elevate them and it's not cost-effective to relocate them, so what we can do at best is patch them."

Some talk of dredging the rivers came up.

"Dredge is a four letter word," said Downer.

He offered a historical backdrop for his talk, telling the group that Lyndonville was "a nice place to be, even in Indian times," putting a 1934 topographic map up as an illustration. It is a big, broad plain, he said, and, "from a geographical point of view, we have a choke down here at Red Village," he showed the group.

The waterways converging here "all bring sediment into a basin where there is no escape," said Downer. "So the answer is we're probably not going to be able to change anything unless we did major, major blasting in the Red Village area...you're stuck...you're in a nice basin. I can see why our ancestors came here." From an agricultural standpoint, the land is flat, without many trees. "If I were an early settler I would have said, 'This place is just great and I'll put my house up on a high spot,' " said Downer.

You can't fill a property today to help with flooding, as was done in the old days, said Downer. "A lot of properties were filled before the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program, so in other words, they got grandfathered, they got in before the rules... The neighbors did it, but you can't."

"You're sitting in a bathtub where the drain is not large enough down at the area around Red Village to get that water through there," said Downer.

Downer went through many slides showing detailed drawings of the steps that can be taken to flood-proof buildings, from vents to pumps, special doors, sealing windows and doors and trying to plug every possible entry point for water. Raising things up in a basement is wise, too, he noted.

In dry flood-proofing, installing membrane seals, door shields and more are ideas he covered. "You want to try to keep the structure dry by going around and finding every little possible opening and plugging it in some way," he said, referring to one type of special door as being "like a submarine door."

"You can build permanent or temporary walls around your structure usually," continued Downer, showing pictures of new inventions that are on the market, such as inflatable flood barriers that he likened to a "jumpy castle," you see for children's birthday parties. He showed pictures of long "hot dog" like piping that can be up to eight feet in diameter, rolled out and filled with water to be weighed down, preventing water from advancing through it. He said he suggested that solution for the mobile home park at the north end of the village. "The water comes into the trailer park through a section where the berm is low," he said.

Downer concluded his talk by sharing information on funding options -- a federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, funded through FEMA, he said, which comes to the states then towns and which businesses can seek help through. "When there is flooding that results in a presidential declaration, Congress wanted to encourage mitigation, so what they do is they add an additional 15 percent to the cost of all repairs and they give that extra money to the state. Here, in the case of Irene, the State of Vermont is getting somewhere between \$20 and \$23 million extra." Businesses can find out about how to seek those funds through the State of Vermont Emergency Management website, he said.

There are two other potential funding sources, one called the Flooding Mitigation Assistance program available only to people who have flood insurance and have had repetitive flood problems; and through the Small Business Administration, too, to help businesses with the cost of flood mitigation measures, said Downer.

Dave Ainsworth, who, with his wife, runs Mountain View Auto on Route 5, badly flooded last year, asked about tearing his building down and raising it up. Downer told him he could not "fill the parking lot," but may be able to have a ramp to the building, which would be raised above the level of the parking lot. "You'd have a nice new floor several feet above your parking lot. Yes, you can raise your building, but no, you can't do much to your parking lot," said Downer.

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Forecasters applying lessons learned from TS Irene

[Associated Press](#)

May 24, 2012

MIAMI—The director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami says forecasters are trying to apply lessons from Tropical Storm Irene's destruction to their storm preparedness message this year.

Flooding from Irene was the most destructive event to hit Vermont in almost a century, killing six people, leaving hundreds homeless and damaging or destroying hundreds of miles of roads.

Hurricane center director Bill Read said Thursday that forecasters believe they accurately conveyed the potential inland impacts of the storm. He says the forecasts for Irene were among the best he's seen on rainfall from a hurricane making landfall.

Many in New England contend that Irene's flooding caught them by surprise. Read says overcoming that communications gap is a challenge for forecasters.

The six-month Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1.

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Public Community Meeting: Melrose Terrace & Hayes Court Housing Alternatives

[IBrattleboro.com](#)

May 24, 2012

BHA – Melrose Terrace & Hayes Court Housing Alternatives Study

PUBLIC VISIONS AND CONCERNS MEETING June 7, 2012 7:00pm Melrose Terrace Community Room

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 - a. Meeting Outline & Ground Rules
 - b. Mission
 - c. Brief History & Background
 - d. Stakeholders

2. Process & Outline Strategy

WHAT

- a. Purpose and Needs Statement
- b. Review Criteria
- c. Alternatives
- d. End Product

HOW

- e. Public Meetings
- f. Schedule

g. Stakeholder Review

3. Goals for Tonight

- a. Questions
- b. Concerns
- c. Input & Ideas

4. Next Steps

- a. Alternatives Review
- b. Next meeting

For more info go to website: <http://brattleborohousing.wordpress.com/>

Or contact:

Adam Hubbard, L.A.
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Brattleboro, VT 05302
802-257-9329 x105
802-258-3892 (F)
www.stevens-assoc.com

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Goal: back to normal ReBuild helping with recovery

Waterbury Record

May 24, 2012

Kristen Fountain Waterbury Record

Eight months ago, Dzehva and Fikret Kadric's first floor was an empty shell. Like 200 other structures in Waterbury village, their home on South Main Street had been stripped of the furniture, rugs and walls damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene.

Their home — along with several dozen others — is still not back to normal. But that has been changing rapidly in the last few weeks, thanks to the ReBuild Waterbury construction program.

Since last fall, the program has been marshaling construction expertise, volunteer labor and discounted materials from area vendors to help struggling homeowners.

"I say, 'Thank you, God,' for this rebuilding program," said Dzehva Kadric, a former refugee from Bosnia who has made her life in Waterbury since 1996. "They are helping us a lot."

ReBuild Waterbury, a disaster-recovery organization under the umbrella of Revitalizing Waterbury, pays for the material and for some of the volunteer transportation through donations.

So far, the group has raised more than \$500,000, but still needs much more to meet its goal of \$918,000. The money is expected to fund the organization's work — which includes individual and family case management — for 18 months.

In the past six months, 10 houses have been restored; 24 are still in varying stages of reconstruction.

Homeowners' needs are constantly changing as they move into different stages of their projects, said Dave Kerr, ReBuild's construction manager. "One second somebody is fine, the next second they're not," he said.

Some homeowners just need someone to show them how to move forward; others are looking for help with specific, more complex renovations and for access to discounts, Kerr said.

For 11 houses across town, the program is performing significant demolition and renovation work.

The primary sources of labor are volunteers, managed by Kerr and his "right-hand man," Lee McKinstry. Since Oct. 31, 13 organizations, from businesses to nonprofits to school groups, have donated more than 5,000 hours of work, said ReBuild volunteer coordinator Mame McKee.

More than half of those hours were put in by young people enrolled in ReTrain YouthBuild. The program, operated by the nonprofit ReSource in both Burlington and Barre, trains 16- to 24-year-olds from Chittenden and Washington counties who have dropped out of high school and are looking for personal development and job skills.

Working on homes in Waterbury has provided real-life, hands-on experience for trainees, said Jason Monaco, a construction instructor.

"Every day, they are learning something new," said Monaco, while repainting the Kadrics' front room with students this week.

The lessons are not just about painting or putting in insulation or sheetrock; they are about showing up on time and behaving professionally on the job.

"We use construction as a tool to teach those life skills," he said.

Michael Isabelle, 20, of Barre, a trainee with the program for the last three months, said working on the Kadrics' home in Waterbury has been particularly rewarding.

"It's kind of nice giving back," he said. "This place got pretty messed up."

Another core group of volunteers has come from the Burlington chapter of Habitat for Humanity. "They are steady as could be," McKee said.

Chapter volunteers are between house projects and have been bringing their considerable skills and expertise to Waterbury twice a week. Kerr said he relies on them for rebuilding kitchens and doing other fine carpentry.

More steady volunteers have come from Waterbury Rotary and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Several schools have sent student groups: Lyndon State College, Johnson State College, University of Vermont, Champlain Valley Union High School, Winooski High School and Crossett Brook Middle School. And other nonprofit and government groups have pitched in, including the Granville-based Rozalia Project, Vermont Works for Women, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and employees at the Vermont Housing and Finance Agency.

Dzehva Kadric and her husband have been eagerly watching the progress on their house from next door, where they are living with their daughter and granddaughter, Safa and Samira.

Both elder Kadrics have suffered injuries that make physical labor impossible. But Dzehva prides herself on providing a homemade lunch to volunteers every day. She sells traditional Yugoslavian and Greek dishes and baked goods through area farmers' markets as Kadric Fresh Foods.

She still can't believe how many people have been helping rebuild their house.

"Everybody does a nice job," Dzehva said. "I don't know how David found them."

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Hearing to be held May 30 on plans for state offices

[Waterbury Record](#)

May 24, 2012

Gov. Peter Shumlin and Vermont lawmakers have weighed in, and now state and federal officials want to hear the public's thoughts on plans to rebuild the flood-damaged State Office Complex in Waterbury.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Vermont state government will hold a public hearing Wednesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School cafeteria in Waterbury, seeking public comment on the state's proposal to re-occupy the State Office Complex and add new buildings there.

"We're asking for feedback on the potential effects of the proposed work on historic and environmental resources, including the planned demolition of some buildings and some new construction," said James N. "Nick" Russo, the head of FEMA's operations in Vermont.

The hearing will be preceded by an open house at 6:30 p.m., here people can view general information about the project and talk directly to federal and state representatives.

"We are proposing to remove some buildings and take other steps to reduce future flooding and restore the floodplain," said Rob Evans, river corridor and floodplain manager with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. "We're hoping to hear the public's thoughts on the impact to the historic campus, as well as on the floodplain."

Public comments are being sought as part of FEMA's development of an environmental assessment, part of a review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

A preliminary copy of the draft environmental assessment is available at Waterbury Municipal Offices, 43 S. Main St., and the Waterbury Public Library, 28 N. Main St.

After the meeting, public comments will be accepted until 4 p.m. June 15, and can be mailed to Peter Thomas, FEMA Essex Junction Joint Field Office, 30 Allen Martin Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452.

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Study proposed to help business

Strong branding, market data should result

[Waterbury Record](#)

May 24, 2012

Kristen Fountain Waterbury Record

What kinds of businesses will thrive in Waterbury? What sort of self-image should the community present to the world?

Revitalizing Waterbury hopes the answers to those questions will help area businesses drum up more customers in the coming years.

The nonprofit organization is pursuing a two-pronged plan developed in conjunction with Federal Emergency Management Agency's long-term planning process — part of Waterbury's recovery from the flood last August.

The goal is to put a compelling new brand and useful market information into the hands of area business owners.

"We are going to create a toolkit for our community and our businesses," said Laura Parette, a former Revitalizing Waterbury board member and local graphic designer. "It's more than a logo and a tagline. It goes with a whole marketing program."

The booster group wants to hire a South Carolina-based marketing firm with experience working in Vermont, and in communities recovering from a disaster. Arnett Muldrow & Associates aided the cities of Springfield and Rutland and provided consulting help to Gulf Coast communities after Hurricane Katrina, Parette said.

Revitalizing Waterbury is applying for a grant of about \$20,000, said Executive Director Jeanne Kirby. Of that, \$16,000 would pay the consulting group to perform an in-depth marketing study and to develop a community brand and produce a logo, tagline, banners and advertisement templates. The rest of the money would help pay for materials that would use those products, she said.

On Monday, the Waterbury Select Board backed Revitalizing Waterbury's grant application to the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters community outreach program. The board approved a letter that calls the marketing tools and information "an invaluable resource."

The idea of developing a consistent community brand is not new, select board member Rebecca Ellis said at the meeting.

"It is part of the low-hanging fruit that we have been thinking for several years would be good to do," she said.

The phrase "Vermont's Recreation Crossroads" is now featured on the Waterbury town government's letterhead and on the North Main Street sign that welcomes visitors to town. The phrase was coined by Jim Chalmers, who died in March, while he was president of the Waterbury Jaycees, according to his obituary.

But that tagline is not universally popular. Several people at FEMA planning meetings said the slogan makes it sound as if Waterbury is a place people travel through when going somewhere else.

"Some people like it, some people don't," Parette said of the slogan.

The consultants propose beginning with the marketing study, which involves detailed interviews with business owners, property owners and community groups, as well as tracking customers by zip code for a period of several weeks.

That information would be combined with area demographic, employment and income data, paying "particular attention to the changing patterns emerging as a result of the flood and changing circumstances around the State Office Complex" in Waterbury, where 1,500 state employees worked before the floods. The results would be compared with results from other communities, with an eye toward understanding whether there is demand for goods and services that is not already being met.

The final report should help both existing businesses looking at making adjustments or at expansion, and entrepreneurs thinking about starting a business, Kirby said.

"It provides confidence so people can say, 'This will work,'" she said.

The second step is a formal "marketing and branding workshop." The workshop would begin with roundtable meetings with invited business owners, town officials and community members. The next day, the consultants would use what they learned from those discussions and from the marketing study to develop a logo, tagline

and images. The ideas would then be presented to the community for comment on what should be part of the designs.

The marketing study and branding process should be completed within three months.

The goal is to come up with a variety of marketing tools that all reinforce one another, Kirby said: "It's all about consistency, one voice (saying) 'Here's who we are and we're proud of who we are.'"

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Waterbury potter reopening studio

Waterbury Record

May 24, 2012

By Anne Majusiak

Things are looking up for Waterbury potter Jeremy Ayers.

In early February, nearly six months after Tropical Storm Irene inundated his studio with floodwaters from the Winooski River, Ayers threw his first pots again in a space that has been mucked out, torn apart, and put back together.

Ayers is planning a grand reopening to the public during the Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend May 26-27 at 18 Elm St., Waterbury.

Ayers' pottery studio is in the basement of a large house on Elm Street where his great-grandfather grew up. The house has been in his family for 120 years and his son, Fletcher, makes six generations of Ayers who have lived on this street.

Ayers makes colorful, hand-carved stoneware that is high-fired and durable. He used to be a public-school art teacher in a remote area of northern Vermont; he now teaches pottery at Burlington City Arts and is an adjunct professor at St. Michael's College. He and his wife moved to Waterbury so he could help his (now-deceased) grandfather in his old age, but also to focus on his pottery and how he might bring it to the public.

Ayers lost virtually everything in his basement studio when water poured through the windows and the rock wall foundation during the August flood. The water rose so quickly that in less than an hour Ayers and his family had to wade through chest-deep water to escape the house. His wife carried their then-8-month old baby on her shoulders and a neighbor helped Ayers carry his 94-year-old grandfather to safety.

In the aftermath of the flood, everything on the first floor of the house was ruined. In the basement, the studio floor was covered with a foot of mud and silt, his kiln was destroyed, his clay was ruined, and his tools were lost. The only things salvageable were his wheel, an old Vigilant wood stove that heats the space in the winter, and a few unfired pots that were on a high shelf.

Ayers is grateful for all the help he received with the flood recovery. In the first few days after the storm, the Harwood Union High School soccer team came by with buckets and shoveled out the muck. Ayers says his insurance didn't cover damage from floodwater, but he received grants and other financial assistance from the Vermont Community Foundation and ReBuild Waterbury. He received donations from Burlington City Arts and the Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Center, which held Irene fundraisers to help Vermont artists. He also received considerable assistance from CERF (Craft Emergency Relief Fund), a national organization that gives emergency relief to craftspeople.

"It was with the help of those organizations that I was able to put my studio back together," Ayers said.

Months later, Jeremy is back throwing pots in his studio again and the first floor of the house has refinished floors, painted walls, new wainscoting and appliances. Jeremy's grandfather, Gleason W. Ayers, died shortly after Thanksgiving, but Jeremy says the house is like his legacy and so he is carrying on with finishing the repairs.

Above all, he is ready to welcome visitors back to his studio. "I'm pleased to be doing Open Studio Weekend. It's a great moment for me to have my studio back up and running." Information: jeremyayerspottery.com.

Anne Majusiak has curated many craft exhibitions, is on the board of the Vermont Crafts Council, and is a member of the standards committee for the system of Vermont State Craft Centers.

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Flood families enjoy a feast

[Waterbury Record](#)

May 24, 2012

About 100 flood-affected Waterbury residents attended the Feast for Floodies held last weekend in the Crossett Brook Middle School cafeteria.

The event was organized by local volunteers as an opportunity for flood-affected residents to continue to reconnect. All of the food for the dinner was donated by area businesses and organizations.

The staff included Jim Birmingham of Waterbury and Andrea McManus of Waterbury Center.

The event featured dinner prepared by the New England Culinary Institute, a free portrait session with Stowe photographer Paul Rogers, a kids' craft table with Bob and Sally Dain of Tiny Acorn, and a resource table provided by Start Over Strong Vermont and ReBuild Waterbury.

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Thank-you video wins industry awards

[Waterbury Record](#)

May 24, 2012

RetroMotion, a production company formerly based in Waterbury, has won three industry awards for a video commissioned by the Vermont Community Foundation called "After Irene: Vermont Thanks You."

The six-minute video, posted on the foundation's website, thanks volunteers and organizations inside and outside of the state for help during the disaster.

RetroMotion, now in Williston, received three bronze "Telly Awards" from a New York City-based company, recognizing achievement in local, regional and cable and online commercials and programs. The awards were for Internet documentary, sound design and art direction.

Companies pay \$85 per entry to be a part of the competition and about one-third of entrants earn either bronze or silver awards. The awards, which themselves cost \$170 to receive, were designed by the same firm that makes the Oscar and Emmy statuettes.

State Senators reflect on recent session

Manchester Journal

May 23, 2012

Brandon Canevari - Staff Writer

MANCHESTER - Two local State Senators have slightly different perspectives on the second half of the biennium as the legislative session reached its conclusion earlier this month.

"I thought it was extremely productive," said State Senator Peter Galbraith (D - Windham). "We took some very important steps. The foremost, we enacted a comprehensive form of our health care system [and] put Vermont on a path to a single payer system."

While Galbraith considered the session to be very productive, State Senator Robert Hartwell (D - Bennington) had a slightly different opinion.

"I thought on balance it went pretty well. It didn't do everything I wanted, but then when will it ever do that," he said. "We did some good things and we glossed over other things. The biggest thing that we glossed over, which we're not going to get away with much longer, is we have hundreds of millions of dollars of tax expenditures, a deduction for this schemes on energy, schemes on everything, which combine with the extensive property tax exemptions there are out there. There's \$800 or \$900 million dollars worth of real estate at a minimum that isn't taxed at all. I can not believe that we go on without assessing those things."

Hartwell continued to say that not only was the per capita cost of education too high, but that the number of students was steadily decreasing - a situation, he said, that was not conducive to improving Vermont's economic future. As a result, Hartwell said that property tax exemptions and tax expenditures were going to be a significant issue as time progressed.

The havoc Tropical Storm Irene wreaked on several towns throughout the state is a significant issue that both the Senate and the House has had to address this session. In spite of the problems that precipitated from Irene, Galbraith said the Senate was able to balance the budget over a two year span while at the same time placing a cap on the amount of money that towns throughout the state would have to spend to make repairs associated with Irene.

Throughout the session, Hartwell said there were a couple of issue in particular that proved to be time consuming. One of those issues was the unionization of early care and education and the other was the Death with Dignity issue - both of which Hartwell indicated sapped the Senate of precious time.

"They didn't get vetted, reviewed, investigated in committee the way you normally expect bills to be. So, they never really got out of committee," said Hartwell. "So the advocates expended an enormous amount of time trying to append those two [bills] to other legislation."

Hartwell cited one case in particular in which there was an attempt to tie the Death with Dignity issue to legislation centered around tanning beds - something he said "blew up" on the floor of the Senate as many deemed the avenue that was taken in an attempt to get the bill passed to be inappropriate.

The unionization of early care and education also became a time consuming issue, Hartwell said, as Senator Dick McCormack continually attempted to attached the bill to numerous other pieces of legislation including the budget and the fee bill.

While Hartwell was pleased with some of the initiatives he was able to enact into law - such as a bill related to river management and fluvial erosion hazard planning, which he said was combined with another piece of legislation, and the smart meter legislation - he felt there was still some unfinished business.

"I've made very little progress on the property tax issue, but I want to try again on trying to change how we do that because that's become so cumbersome, so expensive and so confusing very few people understand it anymore," Hartwell said. "I think there's some danger in that." In his freshman term as a State Senator, Galbraith also said that he experienced his own share of victories and disappointments.

He introduced the first bill in the Legislature to ban the practice of hydraulic cracking for oil and gas, which was passed at the end of the session, Galbraith said.

One issue Galbraith said was disappointing that the Senate was unable to pass through the House - which Hartwell said consumed a significant amount of the Senate's time - was a provision that would have returned the \$21 million dollars that Galbraith said was provided to Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) for a bailout in 2001. If refunded, Galbraith said each rate payer would have received a refund of \$153.

Although he was a freshman State Senator, Galbraith - by his own admission - said that it was no secret that he has not acted like one thus far. He said he was vocal on a range of issues - something he said likely went against the leadership's expectation of a freshman senator, which was to be seen and not heard.

Galbraith has had an extensive career in International politics, which has included working for 14 years for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and serving as the first U.S. Ambassador to Croatia - something he believes has provided him with a wealth of experience and knowledge. "Since that was full time (working for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations) I may have more total legislative experience than perhaps any other member of the Senate in terms of working in a legislative body. Well, perhaps except for maybe Senator (Bill) Doyle who has been there since 1968," said Galbraith. "So, I understand the legislative process very well."

Galbraith continued to say that he understood a part of the process was tackling significant issues that, while initially may be rebuffed, would be raised as a subject for debate and get the public engaged.

With his first term as State Senator now coming to close, Galbraith noted that there was, at the very least, one significant difference between local politics and the International politics that he has participated in over the past several years.

"It's certainly different from the International politics in which I was engaged, which was dealing with war zones for most of my diplomatic career," said Galbraith. "And obviously Vermont's a much more peaceful place. When people disagree they don't try to kill you."

A Townshend resident, Galbraith said he has always wanted to represent his home state of Vermont for a number of reasons. While he has been away from the state for large periods of time due to his obligations as a diplomat, Galbraith said he decided to run for the State Senate because he believed he could be of assistance in developing something he believed in deeply, which is the single payer health care system.

That was not the only reason Galbraith decided to run for office though. Protecting the environment and addressing energy concerns were also among his concerns, he said.

If reelected in the coming year, Galbraith said his focus would be on attempting to create a pragmatic approach to paying for the single payer health care system and a change in campaign finance reform that would conform Vermont law to Federal law.

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Local House reps look back on legislative session

May 23, 2012

Brandon Canevari

BENNINGTON COUNTY - The legislative session has come to a close and local legislators have varying opinions on how the session went.

"Like all sessions it was a mixed bag," said state representative Oliver Olsen (R - Bennington-Windsor-Windham-1). "There were certainly a number of accomplishments we could all be proud of."

State representatives Cynthia Browning (D - Bennington-5) and Patti Komline (R - Dorset) felt that while there were some significant accomplishments there was still some things that were either not addressed or remained incomplete at the close of the session.

State representative Jeffrey Wilson (D - Manchester) was of a different opinion.

"I think it was a very good session," Wilson said. "The House was extraordinarily productive and in the end we accomplished all the business that needed to be accomplished and did it in 17 instead of 18 weeks."

Wilson continued to say that the Legislature addressed a number of the issues resulting from Tropical Storm Irene and developed a balanced budget that did not raise broadbased taxes.

Komline said that while broadbased taxes were not raised education spending had increased.

"State spending went up," Komline said. "The economy took a little bit of an upturn, but we continue to spend more."

One issue that continued to be a point of contention for representatives Browning, Komline and Olsen was education finance reform.

"We continue to see no progress on education finance reform," said Olsen. "That was frustrating, but not surprising. I really would have liked to see some effort there, but realistically that's not going to happen with our current governor in office. For any hope of real property tax reform we're going to have to replace Governor Shumlin."

For Browning, it was not only education finance reform a that was a sticking point, but tax reform as well.

"I feel that we have not finished, or we haven't really begun in some ways, reforming the tax system," Browning said. "The whole system for taxation and expenditure needs to be reformed so that it is transparent and accountable and the taxpayers are getting their money's worth."

An issue addressed by both Browning and Komline that ultimately was unsuccessful was an attempt to force Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) to refund the \$21 million to rate payers that was given to them for a bailout in 2001.

"They were keeping that money. They were investing it. They were raising the rates to recoup that investment, which was at least 10 million. Then they were charging 7 percent interest based on a rate of return," said Komline of CVPS. "We learned a lot. As we learned we were able to educate the legislative body on how raw this deal was that the Governor agreed to. Due to his influence (Gov. Shumlin) we were unable to legislate a change. But I do think that the public service board will give it greater attention given the actions of the Legislature."

Olsen and Browning also took issue with the healthcare exchange that was created this year.

"It creates and exchange that requires small businesses to purchase their health insurance through," said Olsen. "The law we passed this year will limit options and lead to a significant increase in the cost of healthcare insurance for small businesses."

As for Wilson, he said he was pleased with the work that he did during the session, which included being able to get two of his initiatives - one pertaining to a reduction of the local option tax fees assessed by the state and the other that enables Vermont cities and towns to be better equipped to collect fines for ordinance violations - passed.

"Based on that fee reduction the Town of Manchester will be saving about \$25,000 a year and it looks like municipalities throughout the state will be saving \$250,000 annually," Wilson said of the reduction in local option tax fees from \$9.52 to \$5.96 collected per return by the state.

One of the things Olsen said he was pleased that passed this year was legislation that will provide property tax relief for homes and businesses that were more than 50 percent damaged as a result of Tropical Storm Irene.

Olsen said he was also pleased that legislation that will require future budget surpluses to provide property tax relief was passed.

As for Komline, she was pleased that a bill that provides more services to children with learning disabilities - such as autism - was passed.

The Working Landscapes Bill - which Browning said will establish a focused program within the Department of Agriculture that will support both farming and forestry in innovative ways - is a bill that Browning was pleased became law.

Legislators Discuss Session Highlights

Orleans County Record

May 24, 2012

Local legislators gathered at the St. Johnsbury House Monday morning for the last legislative breakfast of the season. The breakfast, scheduled once a month during the legislative session, is an opportunity for legislators to update their constituents on the progress of issues considered in the legislation. The breakfasts are sponsored by the St. Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce.

Attendance at Monday's breakfast was down a bit, with veteran legislators Rep. Howard Crawford, R-Lyndon, and Rep. Janice Peaslee, R-Guildhall, retiring from the Legislature and absent from the breakfast and Sen. Joe Benning, R-Lyndon, traveling out of state.

Two candidates for legislative seats were in attendance. David Dill, Lyndon, and Marty Feltus, Lyndon, who have thrown their hats in the ring, were catching up on the legislative news. Dill is running for one of two seats in the Caledonia-Orange Senate District while Marty Feltus hopes to fill the House seat left vacant by Howard Crawford's retirement.

Sen. Jane Kitchel, representing the Caledonia-Orange Senate District, chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. The state has been able to budget enough funds for the judiciary to allow the court system to end its "furlough days" under which state courts closed on certain days to save money. A full court schedule will resume at the start of the next fiscal year. Sen. Kitchel also discussed funding in the new budget for transitional housing through the Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, located in St. Johnsbury.

One third of the state budget is spent on public education and this year \$6 million dollars in revenue from the state sales tax will go into the education fund. Sen. Kitchel added that if there is a budget surplus at the end of fiscal year 2013, then more money will be transferred from the general fund to the education fund. She

reminded her audience that although Vermonters like to talk about local control, all Vermont taxpayers pay for all of the public schools in the state. She cited the Burlington School District, the state's largest, which raised its school budget by 10 percent and told her listeners all taxpayers from every community contribute taxes to pay for Burlington schools.

Following Sen. Kitchel to the microphone was Rep. Kitty Toll, Danville, who serves on the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives. She reported the Legislature passed the health insurance exchange, adding that creating the exchange "is required by the federal government." She told the breakfast group that, after a great deal of debate, the Legislature elected to leave the philosophical exemption in the state's mandatory childhood immunization bill. She said she voted to prohibit teenagers from using tanning beds.

Rep. Richard Lawrence, Lyndon, said his Agriculture Committee worked all session on passing a working landscape bill that would assist those engaged in forestry and farming by helping small businesses in those fields. He thanked Rep. Toll for her help in budgeting \$1.3 million to fund the bill. He described legislation dealing with genetically modified ingredients in food and said that the legislation did not pass this year but will be back next year. Lawrence also made a point by saying that the state simply cannot seek to finance every program previously financed by the federal government.

Rep. Leigh Larocque, Barnet, representing the Institutions Committee, explained his committee spent most of the session working on a solution to a new state hospital to replace the Waterbury State Hospital seriously damaged by flooding from Hurricane Irene. He said his committee also dealt with the issue of rehabilitating the South Burlington Corrections Center, which needed significant repairs.

Rep. Gary Reis, St. Johnsbury, said he is proud of a bill passed out of his House Judiciary Committee that provides for the voluntary installation of an ignition interlock device on cars owned by someone convicted of drunk driving. The offender must blow into the ignition interlock device and, if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath, the car will not start. Reis said, "I think it's going to save some lives." Reis said he opposed legislation that would have required employees who elect not to belong to a labor union to pay "agency fees" to cover the labor union's cost of representing the nonunion member. The legislation did not pass this session.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Mad River Group Seeks Volunteers

[Mad-River-Valley-Hurricane-Irene Facebook Page](#)

May 24, 2012

16 hours ago.

This Saturday if you've got skill come on by the Green Cup building on Bridge Street! Siding, hanging drywall and floor install.. Killer lunch!

[BACK TO TOP](#)

David A. Mace
External Affairs Writer
DR-1995/4001/4022/4043-VT
FEMA Joint Field Office
30 Allen Martin Drive
Essex Jct., VT 05452
Main Phone: (802) 662-8500
Office Phone: (802) 662 8706 (Business Hours Only)

FEMA CcII: 571-488-8411



FEMA

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:11 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Aug. 6-12

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Aug. 6-12

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
Aug. 6 – 12

Saturday, Aug. 6

12:30 p.m. Preside over opening of Governor's Cup State Championship
Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum, White River Junction

1:45 p.m. Attend Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl Game
MacLeay-Royce Field, State Street, Windsor

Sunday, Aug. 7

No public appearances scheduled

Monday, Aug. 8

9:30 a.m. Participate in Opening Plenary, Council of State Governments
Governor's Office, Pavilion Building

Tuesday, Aug. 9

7:45 a.m. Radio Interview with WVNR/WNYV

10:00 a.m. Speak at State Board of Education Meeting
Executive Board Room, Capitol Plaza, State Street, Montpelier

3:00 p.m. Attend Farm to Workplace Event with Rep. Welch
Rutland Regional Medical Center, Allen Street

4:00 p.m. Visit Rutland Farmers' Market with Rep. Welch, Sign Proclamation

5:00 p.m. Visit Roots Restaurant with Rep. Welch
51 Wales Street, Rutland

6:00 p.m. Speak at Winter in August

Washington Street (across from City Hall), Rutland

Wednesday, Aug. 10

- 9:30 a.m. Tour and speak (10:15 a.m.) at Vermont Captive Insurance Association Annual Meeting
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington
- 11:30 a.m. Event at the Red Cross Temporary Disaster Headquarters in Colchester
67 Champlain Drive
- 3:00 p.m. Sign FQHC health care proclamation
Governor's office, Pavilion Building

Thursday, Aug. 11

- 10:00 a.m. Speak at Google Business Event
Main Street Landing, Burlington
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Press Conference in Burlington
Details TBA

Friday, Aug. 12

Day in Brattleboro/Putney area, no public appearances scheduled

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Updating Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Tuesday, Dec. 13:

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 4:20 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Updating Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Tuesday, Dec. 13:

Tuesday, Dec. 13

7:45 a.m. Live interview with radio station WVNR/WNYV

10:00 a.m. Presentation of 'First Tracks' socks (manufactured by EESA)
(The Governor will be presented with a pair of First Tracks socks by a young man who suffered a traumatic brain injury)
Governor's Office, 5th Floor, Pavilion Building

10:30 a.m. Conference call with media/Governors on LIHEAP
Dial-in Information: 1-832-431-3335
Code: 5602320#

11:00 a.m. Press Conference, 5th Floor conference room, Pavilion Building

2:30 p.m. Good Night Irene - Celebration! Agency of Transportation Employee Recognition Event
National Life Cafeteria, Montpelier

3:30 p.m. Art Reception, Governor's Office Lobby, Pavilion Building

5:30 p.m. Speak at Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Annual Meeting
3rd Floor, TD Bank on the corner of State and Main Streets, Montpelier

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:07 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: news

Hannaford Adopts Sustainable Seafood Policy - AP

http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2012/05/24/hannaford_adopts_sustainable_seafood_policy/

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: A couple:

Awesome! I can't believe between the both of us that we have that many. Haha, I'll run back and check on those dates. I might have them!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 12:05:16 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: A couple:

Ari, you absolutely rock! I can't believe you kept those 2011 schedules! You're crazy ... thank god!

I don't think you do, but we're missing: Dec. 16, Aug. 7, June 26, March 6, March 15 and March 22, Feb. 20 and Feb. 1 – all from 2011

In some cases the dates will be AROUND those listed above, not the exact date I've shown.

I'll double check my queues, get you to double check yours, and then I'll send out a request to exe to see if anyone else hung on to old schedules.

We've done pretty well between the two of us!

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:05 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: A couple:

Ari, you absolutely rock! I can't believe you kept those 2011 schedules! You're crazy ... thank god!

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:44 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Allen, Susan; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Okay great

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/25/12 11:43 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Sure, since he'll be there anyway

>

>On May 25, 2012, at 11:42 AM, "MacLean, Alex"

><Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>

>wrote:

>

>> I am good with it. Lofy?

>>

>> Alexandra MacLean

>> Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

>> 1-802-272-0443

>>

>> From: Wengroff, Ariel

>> Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:34 PM

>> To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan

>> Cc: Trombley, Shana

>> Subject: FW: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

>>

>> I think this would be a great opportunityŠ

>>

>>

>> Ariel Wengroff

>> Special Assistant to the Governor

>> 109 State Street

>> Montpelier, VT 05609

>>

>> Office: 802-828-3333

>> Cell: 802-279-6825

>>

>> From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com<mailto:alyons@politico.com>>

>> Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400

>> To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

>> Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com<mailto:blester@politico.com>>

>> Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

>>

>>

>> Dear Ariel,

>>

>>

>>

>> My name is Anne Lyons and I am the Events Manager at POLITICO. In
>> honor of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte,
>> POLITICO is hosting a week of policy lunches. These discussions will
>> explore how energy, health care, technology and economic policies will
>> affect the November election and the future of the industries.

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>> On behalf of our editorial team, we would like to invite Gov. Shumlin
>> to headline the policy lunch focused on health care<this event will be
>> the key forum for discussing health care's impact on the presidential
>> race and the options policymakers will have in 2013. We think Gov.
>> Shumlin's perspective is vital to the conversation and we would be
>> honored to have him join us in Charlotte.

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>> The official invite from our Vice President is attached, and here are
>> the details:

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>> The hour-long conversation will be with a POLITICO editor or senior
>> reporter about health care policy's role in the 2012 election and in
>> the coming years < no speeches, slides or presentations are necessary.
>> The event will be on the record, open to the press and streamed live
>> on POLITICO.com<we expect about 75 guests will attend and many more
>> will join via the livestream. We plan to host the energy program at a
>> downtown Charlotte location from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday,
>> September 6.

>>

>>

>> Thank you for your consideration and for your help. Please let me
>> know if you have any questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

>>

>> Best,

>> Anne

>>

>>

>>

>> Anne Lyons | Events Manager | POLITICO<<http://www.politico.com/>>
>>|
>>(m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com<<mailto:alyons@POLITICO.com>>
>>

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:43 AM
To: MacLean, Alex
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel; Allen, Susan; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Sure, since he'll be there anyway

On May 25, 2012, at 11:42 AM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

> I am good with it. Lofy?
>
> Alexandra MacLean
> Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
> 1-802-272-0443
>
> _____
> From: Wengroff, Ariel
> Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:34 PM
> To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
> Cc: Trombley, Shana
> Subject: FW: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin
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>
>
> Ariel Wengroff
> Special Assistant to the Governor
> 109 State Street
> Montpelier, VT 05609
>
> Office: 802-828-3333
> Cell: 802-279-6825
>
> From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com<mailto:alyons@politico.com>>
> Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
> To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
> Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com<mailto:blester@politico.com>>
> Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin
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> Anne

>

>

>

> Anne Lyons | Events Manager | POLITICO<<http://www.politico.com/>> | (m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com<<mailto:alyons@POLITICO.com>>

>

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Cc: Trombley, Shana
Subject: RE: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

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Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
1-802-272-0443

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:34 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Cc: Trombley, Shana
Subject: FW: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

I think this would be a great opportunity...

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com<mailto:alyons@politico.com>>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com<mailto:blester@politico.com>>
Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

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Best,
Anne

Anne Lyons | Events Manager | POLITICO<<http://www.politico.com/>> | (m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com<<mailto:alyons@POLITICO.com>>

London, Sarah

From: Searles, Brian
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:35 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Maguire, Jo Ann
Subject: Weekly
Attachments: VTrans Weekly 052512.doc

Hi Ariel – Here's the weekly; have a great weekend. - Brian

Brian R. Searles
Secretary of Transportation
Vermont Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
Phone: (802) 828-2657

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Searles, Brian
Cc: Maguire, Jo Ann
Subject: RE: Weekly

Thanks Brian, you too!

From: Searles, Brian
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:35 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Maguire, Jo Ann
Subject: Weekly

Hi Ariel – Here's the weekly; have a great weekend. - Brian

Brian R. Searles
Secretary of Transportation
Vermont Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
Phone: (802) 828-2657

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:35 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: Missing schedules

I can't find Sept. 22nd and Dec. 17th but still checking. You should have all others now

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Missing schedules

Found May 4, Jan. 7th.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:25 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Missing schedules

Let me check, I don't think I deleted those.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:23:44 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Missing schedules

Doubt you do, but do you have any public appearance schedules from 2011: Jan 1-June 18; around June 25th; any in July; around Sept. 22nd, around Dec. 17th?
2012: Around Jan. 7th; around May 4th?

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule June 25-July 2

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 3:59 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule June 25-July 2

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
June 25 – July 2**

Saturday, June 25

10:00 a.m. Speak at Ribbon Cutting for the beach house at Elmore State Park
856 VT Route 12, Lake Elmore

12:00 p.m. Speak at kick-off for Burke Mountain & Kingdom Trails (new mountain bike
trails)
Burke Mountain Resort

Sunday, June 26

5:15 p.m. Speak at Barre Flood Fundraiser
Barre Auditorium

6:00 p.m. Governor's Cup at Thunder Road, Barre

Monday, June 27

No public appearances

Tuesday, June 28

7:45 a.m. Radio Interview with WVNR/WNYV

2:00 p.m. Press Conference to announce \$2.1 million in CDBG grants
Vermont Smoke and Cure, 10516 Route 116, Hinesburg

5:30 p.m. Attend 2011 Governor's Summit on "*Vermont: the Green Innovation State*"
The Basin Harbor Club, Vergennes

Wednesday, June 29

No public appearances scheduled

Thursday, June 30

Michelle Obama events; details TBA

Friday, July 1

No public appearances scheduled

Saturday, July 2

1:00 p.m.

Brandon Independence Day Parade

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 10-17

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 12:24 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 10-17

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
July 10 – July 17**

Sunday, July 10 – Tuesday, July 12

Gov. Shumlin will be attending the 35th Annual Meeting of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. Agenda items include, among other topics, the economy, environmental issues and trade. Gov. Shumlin will also urge support for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and discuss high-speed rail issues with his counterparts.

Media availability TBA; contact Susan Allen for specific requests.

Wednesday, July 13

No public appearances scheduled; travel day

Thursday, July 14:

11:00 a.m. Press Conference
Basement Teen Center, City Hall Building on Main Street, Montpelier

3:00 p.m. Launching "Do Nothing" Campaign with The Vermont Foodbank in partnership
with Hannaford Bros. and Citizens Bank
Hannaford Supermarket, Burlington

4:00 p.m. Kick off Regional Upward Bound Jamboree
Davis Center, University of Vermont

Friday, July 15 – Sunday, July 17

Gov. Shumlin will attend the 103rd Annual Meeting of the National Governors Association
Salt Lake City, Utah

For agenda, visit <http://www.nga.org/cms/home.html>

Media availability TBA; contact Susan Allen for specific requests

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 15-23:

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 4:06 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 15-23:

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
July 15 – July 23**

Friday, July 15 – Sunday, July 17

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the National Governor's Association, Salt Lake City. For agenda, visit
<http://www.nga.org/cms/home.html>

Monday, July 18 – Tuesday, July 19

No public appearances scheduled;
Monday the Governor is off; Tuesday he is traveling back to Vermont

Wednesday, July 20

12:00 p.m. Keynote speaker at Smartgrid workshop sponsored by DoE and VELCO
Inn at Essex, Essex Junction

Thursday, July 21

8:15 a.m. Speak at Colchester Community and Economic Development Advisory Council
(CEDAC) and the Town of Colchester
Colchester Town Offices

11:00 a.m. Weekly Press Conference, Details TBA

1:00 p.m. Emergency Board Meeting
5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building, Montpelier

6:00 p.m. Speak at reception of Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children
The Inn at Shelburne Farms

Friday, July 22

10:30 a.m. Press Conference for Brownfields Clean-up Announcement
Location in Guilford TBA

5:30 p.m.

Speak at Bridge Re-Opening Ceremony in Chester
Green Mountain Banquet & Conference Center at the American Legion Complex on
Route 103

Saturday, July 23

9:00 a.m.

Speak at Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
Hildene Meadows, Manchester

12:00 p.m.

March in Vermont Pride Parade
Church Street, Burlington

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 23-30

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 23-30

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
July 23 – July 30**

Saturday, July 23

9:00 a.m. Speak at Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
Hildene Meadows, Manchester

12:00 p.m. Speak and March in Vermont Pride Parade
Church Street, Burlington

Sunday, July 24

No public appearances scheduled

Monday, July 25

4:30 p.m. Visit Hawley's Florist.
29 Center Street, (across from Paramount Center Theater), Rutland

5:30 p.m. Speak at Public Forum on Health Care
Rutland Middle School, 67 Library Avenue

Tuesday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Speak at Commercial Energy Efficiency Project Launch
Energizer Battery Company, 75 Swanton Road, Saint Albans

12:00 p.m. Speak at St. Albans Rotary
St. Albans Masonic Home, 140 North Main Street

1:30 p.m. Speak at ribbon cutting, Swan Valley Cheese
11 Jonergin Drive, Swanton

Wednesday, July 27

- 10:00 a.m. Kick off Moose Hunt Lottery
Ceremonial Office, State House, Montpelier
- 11:00 a.m. Weekly Press conference
5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building
- 2:00 p.m. Speak at launch of 2.2 MW solar power project
350 Dubois Drive, South Burlington

Thursday, July 28

- 1:00 p.m. Speak at Grand Opening Celebration of Green Mountain Energy VT
3590 Route 100, Londonderry
- 3:00 p.m. Tour Vermont Wood Pellet
1105 Route 7B Central, North Clarendon
- 8:00 p.m. "Call the Governor"
Vermont Public Television

Friday, July 29

- 2:00 p.m. Burlington Array, Switch On!
Governor throws switch on Burlington Cohousing East Village solar array
180 East Avenue, Burlington
- 3:30 p.m. Speak at Governor's Institute, Engineering Institute
University of Vermont, 235 Benedict Aud-Marsh Life Science Building

Saturday, July 30

- 10:00 a.m. Attend Franklin County Field Days
Airport Road, Highgate

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 23-30

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 23-30

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
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5:30 p.m. Speak at Public Forum on Health Care
Rutland Middle School, 67 Library Avenue

Tuesday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Speak at Commercial Energy Efficiency Project Launch
Energizer Battery Company, 75 Swanton Road, Saint Albans

12:00 p.m. Speak at St. Albans Rotary
St. Albans Masonic Home, 140 North Main Street

1:30 p.m. Speak at ribbon cutting, Swan Valley Cheese
11 Jonergin Drive, Swanton

Wednesday, July 27

- 10:00 a.m. Kick off Moose Hunt Lottery
Ceremonial Office, State House, Montpelier
- 11:00 a.m. Weekly Press conference
5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building
- 2:00 p.m. Speak at launch of 2.2 MW solar power project
350 Dubois Drive, South Burlington

Thursday, July 28

- 1:00 p.m. Speak at Grand Opening Celebration of Green Mountain Energy VT
3590 Route 100, Londonderry
- 3:00 p.m. Tour Vermont Wood Pellet
1105 Route 7B Central, North Clarendon
- 8:00 p.m. "Call the Governor"
Vermont Public Television

Friday, July 29

- 2:00 p.m. Burlington Array, Switch On!
Governor throws switch on Burlington Cohousing East Village solar array
180 East Avenue, Burlington
- 3:30 p.m. Speak at Governor's Institute, Engineering Institute
University of Vermont, 235 Benedict Aud-Marsh Life Science Building

Saturday, July 30

- 10:00 a.m. Attend Franklin County Field Days
Airport Road, Highgate

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 30 - Aug. 6

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 30 - Aug. 6

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule July 30 – Aug. 6

Saturday, July 30

11:00 a.m. Attend Franklin County Field Days
Airport Road, Highgate

Sunday, July 31

No public appearances scheduled

Monday, Aug. 1

10:00 a.m. Tape TV Q&A Live television program with Bob Stannard
Sunderland

2:00 p.m. Tour Mack Molding
608 Warm Brook Rd, Arlington

Tuesday, Aug. 2

10:15 a.m. Speak at The Turning Point, part of the Vermont Recovery Network
182 Lake Street, St. Albans

12:00 p.m. Speak at VSEA Retiree Annual Meeting
Steak House Restaurant, Barre-Montpelier Road, Berlin

Wednesday, Aug. 3

12:00 p.m. Weekly Press Conference
Details TBA

6:00 p.m. Speak at Vermont Principals' Association Leadership Academy
Ballroom at the Killington Grand, Killington

Thursday, Aug. 4

Policy briefings, Governor's Office
Pavilion Building, Montpelier

Friday, Aug. 5

11:00 a.m.

AnCBIO site groundbreaking (biotech company)
Exact location TBA, Newport

2:00 p.m.

Speak at Community High School of Vermont New 'Street' Campus
Open House, St. Johnsbury

3:00 p.m.

Tour Northeast Regional Correctional Facility
St. Johnsbury

Saturday, Aug. 6

1:00 p.m.

Preside over opening of Governor's Cup State Championship
Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum, White River Junction

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 30 - Aug. 6

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for July 30 - Aug. 6

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
July 30 – Aug. 6**

Saturday, July 30

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Airport Road, Highgate

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St. Johnsbury

Saturday, Aug. 6

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Preside over opening of Governor's Cup State Championship
Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum, White River Junction

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's Public Appearance Schedule for the week of May 14 - 21

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 3:09 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's Public Appearance Schedule for the week of May 14 - 21

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
May 14 -- 21**

Saturday, May 14:

9 a.m. – Noon Speaker at Green Mountain College Graduation Ceremonies
Poultney

Monday, May 16

No public appearances planned

Tuesday, May 17

7:45 a.m. – 8 a.m. Radio interview with WVNR/WNYV

9:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Speak at opening plenary of The Vermont-Sandia Smart Grid Partnership
Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Attend Mercy Connections Luncheon
Sunset Ballroom, Comfort Suites, Shelburne Rd.
South Burlington

3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Speak at the Bi-State Primary Care Association meeting
Governor is receiving "President's Award"
Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee

Wednesday, May 18

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony of Complete Streets Bill
Location TBA; Montpelier area

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Kick off the Vermont State Employee's Wellness Program
State House, Montpelier

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Midwives Bill
State House, Montpelier

Thursday, May 19

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Public signing ceremony for Mercury Bill
Nelson's Ace Hardware, 190 North Main Street, Barre

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Ribbon cutting at Outdoor Gear Exchange Grand Reopening
Church Street Marketplace, Burlington

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Speak at Colchester Milton Rotary Club luncheon
Hampton Inn, Colchester

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Public Signing Ceremony of Pre-Kindergarten Bill
Blooming Minds, 1A Lemnah Dr, St. Albans City

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Speak and launch the Corporate Cup Race
State House lawn, Montpelier

Friday, May 20

Possible bill signings this day; TBA early next week

Saturday, May 21

No public appearances scheduled

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Public appearance schedule for Gov. Peter Shumlin for the week of May 23 - May 28

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 4:21 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Public appearance schedule for Gov. Peter Shumlin for the week of May 23 - May 28

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule May 23 -- 28

Monday, May 23

No public appearances scheduled

Tuesday, May 24

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Speak at the Annual Meeting of State Department of Education Killington Resort
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Public Signing Ceremony for Motor Vehicle Bill Creates Veterans' License Plates for Motorcycles Vietnam Vets of America Rutland Chapter Office Second floor of VFW building 15 Wales Street, Rutland
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Public Signing Ceremony for two bills Veterans Tax Credit and Educational Continuity for Children of Military Families Camp Johnson, Colchester
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Present Awards at HUD Awards Ceremony 88 King Street, Champlain Housing Trust, Burlington
5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Present the Deane C. Davis Award Hall of Fame UVM School of Business Administration 55 Colchester Ave., Burlington
6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	Speak at the Annual Wines of Canada and Cheeses of Vermont Reception, Burlington Country Club

Wednesday, May 25

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Speak at Chittenden County Regional Sustainability Project
Ethan Allen Center, Champlain College, Burlington
- 9:25 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Attend and speak at Vermont Business and Industry EXPO
Present the Deane C. Davis Award
Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Energy Bill
Farm at South Village, 136 Allen Rd., South Burlington
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Speak at New England Federal Credit Union 50th Anniversary
141 Harvest Lane, Williston

Thursday, May 26

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Health Care Reform Bill
Vermont State House
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Attend and speak at Vermont National Guard's, "Fallen Hero's Observance Day"
Camp Johnson, Colchester
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Speak to Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership
St. Michael's College, Colchester
- 7:00 p.m. Speak at Friends of Northern Lake Champlain Annual Dinner
The Tyler Place, Highgate Springs

Friday, May 27

- 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Keynote speaker Graduation Ceremony of the 91st Basic Class at the Vermont
Police Academy
317 Academy Road, Pittsford

Two possible bill signings TBA

Saturday, May 28

- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. March in Essex Memorial Day Parade
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Riverside Graduation & Ribbon Cutting
30 Lily Pond, Lyndonville

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 29-30:

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2011 3:07 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 29-30:

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
May 29 – 30**

Sunday, May 29

10:30 a.m. Run in Burlington Marathon as part of relay team

Monday, May 30

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. March in and speak at Vergennes Memorial Day Parade

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Speak at Annual Memorial Day Ceremony
Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Randolph Center

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 30 - June 4

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 30 - June 4

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule May 30 – June 4

Monday, May 30

11:00 a.m. March in and speak at Vergennes Memorial Day Parade

3:00 p.m. Speak at Annual Memorial Day Ceremony
Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Randolph Center

Tuesday, May 31

8:45 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony for the DUI Bill, Nick's Bill
Missisquoi Valley High School, Swanton

2:30 p.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Fish and Wildlife Bill
Barre Fish and Game Club, Gun Club Road

4:00 p.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Human Trafficking Bill
Courage in Bloom Memorial Garden, Baldwin St., Montpelier

Wednesday, June 1

10:00 a.m. Speak at the Vermont Alliance of Independent Country Stores
Annual Meeting
The Pitcher Inn, Waitsfield

11:00 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Transparency in Government Bill

11:30 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Palliative Care Bill

11:45 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony for Office of Professional Regulation Bill
All three bill signings will be held in the Ceremonial Office, State House

2:00 p.m. Participate in 4th Annual Governor's Cup
Mooring's Marina, Colchester

3:00 p.m. Possible Bill Signing in Colchester area; TBA

Thursday, June 2

8:30 a.m. Speak at the Vermont Architects for Sustainable Design
Coach Barn, Shelburne Farms

10:00 a.m. Public Signing Ceremony of Dispensaries Bill
Ceremonial Office, State House

Friday, June 3

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Guest on Vermont Edition, Vermont Public Radio

Saturday, June 4

9:00 a.m. Participate in Strolling of the Heifers
Downtown Brattleboro

1:30 p.m. Attend and make welcoming remarks, Community College of Vermont
Graduation Ceremonies
Norwich University, Shapiro Field House, Northfield

5:00 p.m. Present Governor's Community Service Awards, Commission for National &
Community Service
State House

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 4-13

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 4:08 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 4-13

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule June 4 – 13

Saturday, June 4

9:00 a.m. Participate in Strolling of the Heifers
Downtown Brattleboro

1:30 p.m. Attend and make welcoming remarks, Community College of Vermont
Graduation Ceremonies
Norwich University, Shapiro Field House, Northfield

5:00 p.m. Present Governor's Community Service Awards, Commission for National &
Community Service
State House

Monday, June 6

No public appearances scheduled

Tuesday, June 7

9:00 a.m. Kick off the daylong Governor's Housing Summit
State House

11:30 a.m. Speak at the Annual Convention of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of
Vermont
Courtyard-Marriott, 25 Cherry St., Burlington

12:30 p.m. Speak at the Vermont Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals,
Annual Meeting
Burlington Country Club

Wednesday, June 8

Press Conference; details TBA

Thursday, June 9 – Monday, June 13

Time off

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 14-18

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 14-18

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
June 14 – 18**

Tuesday, June 14

9:30 a.m. Speak at Turrell Fund Day; Vermont Children's Trust
Burlington Country Club

12:10 p.m. Speak at Great Burlington Industrial Corp. Annual Meeting
Doubletree Inn; South Burlington

2:00 p.m. Emergency Board Meeting
5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building, Montpelier

Wednesday, June 15

9:00 a.m. Speak at Vermont Ski Areas Association Annual Meeting
Sugarbush Resort

12:00 p.m. Speak at Diversity Summit, Vermont Human Resource Association
Hilton, Burlington

3:00 p.m. Speak at King Arthur Flour Groundbreaking Event
135 US Route 5 South, Norwich

Thursday, June 16

10 a.m. Speak at Vermont Financial Literacy Summit
Champlain College, Burlington

Friday, June 17

10:30 a.m. Meeting with Leadership Class at Richmond Middle School
Pavilion Office, Montpelier

Saturday, June 18

2:30 p.m.

Speak at Founders Day, The Bennington Historical Society
Battle Monument, Bennington

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 18-25:

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for June 18-25:

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
June 18 – 25**

Saturday, June 18

2:30 p.m. Speak at Founders Day, The Bennington Historical Society
Battle Monument, Bennington

Monday, June 19

No public appearances scheduled

Tuesday, June 20

No public appearances scheduled

Wednesday, June 21

Meetings with Vermont's Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C.

5:00 p.m. Speak at Captive Insurance Industry 30th Anniversary Event
Union Station, Burlington

Thursday, June 22

9:00 a.m. Interview on Rutland radio program: Catamount Radio

10:00 a.m. Tour ReSource, visit with YouthBuild and ReTrain programmers
28 Granite Street, Barre

10:45 a.m. Press Availability at ReSource in Barre

3:00 p.m. Speak to delegates at Green Mountain Boys State
State House

6:00 p.m. Participate in Thunder Road's Governor's Cup
Barre

Friday, June 23

10:00 a.m.

Speak at Vermont School Custodians & Maintenance Association Annual Meeting
Hartford High School Auditorium
73 Highland Avenue, White River Junction

1:30 p.m.

Sign Proclamation for Slam Diabetes Day
5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building, Montpelier

5:40 p.m.

Speak at Pop Up Art Gallery Ribbon Cutting
25 Winooski Falls Way, Winooski

6:30 p.m.

Speak at 'Champaign and VT Chocolate Preview'
Vermont Quilt Festival
Miller Center, Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction

Saturday, June 24

10:00 a.m.

Speak at Ribbon Cutting for the beach house at Elmore State Park
856 VT Route 12, Lake Elmore

12:00 p.m.

Speak at kick-off for Burke Mountain & Kingdom Trails (new mountain bike trails)

8:45 a.m. 0:15 a.m. Shookout House (C-1) (A-1) Q

[illegible]

Tuesday, April 5

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Press Conference
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House

Wednesday, April 6

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Legislative Open Door
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Press Conference
Governor's Ceremonial Office, State House

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Speak at Vermont Family Network Meeting
Stoweflake Resort and Conference Center, Stowe

Thursday, April 7

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Speak at The Atlantic's 2011 Health Care Forum
Willard Intercontinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Speak at DGA Governor's Series Luncheon
1201 15th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Attend and Speak at Burlington Business Association
Hilton, Burlington

Friday, April 8

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Speak to AmeriCorp Volunteers
Room 11, State House

Saturday, April 9

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Attend 5th Annual LEAP Energy Fair
Crossett Brook Middle School, Duxbury

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Kick Off Opening Day of Fishing Season
Duxbury (specific location TBA)

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Speak at Fish & Wildlife Recognition Day
Capital Plaza, State Street, Montpelier

5:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Speak at Dismas House event
Hilton Hotel, Burlington

6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Speak at Foster/Adoptive Family Association's Annual Conference
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington

7:30 p.m.

Speak at Premier of "Ask Us Who We Are?" Documentary
Waterfront Theater, Burlington

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Public Appearance Schedule for Gov. Peter Shumlin

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 5:34 PM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: Public Appearance Schedule for Gov. Peter Shumlin

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333
March 25, 2011

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
March 26 – April 2**

Saturday, March 26

11:30 a.m. – Noon Speak at Vermont NEA Annual Meeting
Sheraton Conference Center, South Burlington

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Speak with Medical Students Supporting Single Payer
Health Care Reform
State House, Montpelier

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Attend Vermont Trappers Association Annual Meeting
Elks Club, Montpelier

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Speak at Poultney Rotary Annual Meeting
Green Mountain College, One Brennan Circle

Monday, March 28

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Bethel Business Association Legislative Breakfast
Breaking Grounds, 245 Main Street, Bethel

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Visit IVEK
10 Fairbanks Road, North Springfield

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Visit Springfield Area Parent-Child Center
2 Main Street, North Springfield

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Press Conference
Jones and Lamson Plant One, 160 Clinton Street, Springfield

11:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Tour Edgar May Health and Recreation Center

140 Clinton Street, Springfield

11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Visit Fellows/PVDC Property Redevelopment
One Hundred River Street, Springfield

12:20 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.

Springfield Rotary Club/Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
Hartness House, 30 Orchard Street, Springfield

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting and Press Conference with U.S. Rep. Peter Welch and Karen Rae, Deputy
Administrator, Federal Railroad Association
Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center Business Park
1 Scale Street, #92, Rutland

Tuesday, March 29

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Present 2011 Worksite Wellness Awards
Sheraton Conference Center, South Burlington

Wednesday, March 30

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Legislative Open Door
Ceremonial Office, State House

Thursday, March 31

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Page Recognition Ceremony
Ceremonial Office, State House

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Press Conference
Ceremonial Office, Statehouse

10:00 a.m.

Travel to Rhode Island; agenda to be announced early next week

Saturday, April 2

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Speak at Vermont Student Assistance Corp.
“College Pathways” Conference, Castleton State College

9:50 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Speak at Conservation Connections: Vermont’s Statewide Conference; College of St.
Joseph, Rutland

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Vermont Woodlands Association Annual Meeting
Vermont Technical College, Randolph

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of April 25-30

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 4:44 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of April 25-30

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333
April 22, 2011

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule April 25 -- 30

Monday, April 25

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Breakfast at Libby's Blue Line Diner
46 Highpoint Center, Colchester

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Champlain Islands Parent Child Center
114 South Street, #2, South Hero

11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. PRESS CONFERENCE
Samaritan House Homeless Shelter
20 Kingman St, St. Albans

Tuesday, April 26

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Meet with U32 Girls Ice Hockey Championship Team
Ceremonial Office, State House

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Present Game Warden of the Year Award
Ceremonial Office, State House

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. PRESS CONFERENCE: Fair Housing Month
Ceremonial Office, State House

Wednesday, April 27

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Legislative Open Door
Ceremonial Office, State House

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Attend Sen. Mazza's Annual Italian Lunch
Room 10, State House

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Vermont Foreign Language Association Proclamation Signing
State House

Thursday, April 28

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Sign Proclamation for Veterinary Year
Ceremonial Office, State House

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Weekly Press Conference
Ceremonial Office, State House

Friday, April 28

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Kick-off for the 6th Annual Community Spring Days of Caring
Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Burlington

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Speak at Stowe Weekend of Hope
Stoweflake Resort

Saturday, April 29

5:30 p.m. Military Ball with the National Guard Association of Vermont
Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Burlington

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 7-14:

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2011 6:39 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for May 7-14:

Please note there are an unusually high number of public appearances as the Governor tours the state to discuss the accomplishments of the 2011 legislative session.

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493
May 6, 2011

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
May 7 -- 14**

Saturday, May 7

11:00 a.m. – 11:25 p.m. Attend National Train Day
102 Railroad Road, White River Junction

11:25 – 11:40pm GreenUp Vermont Day
Damon Hall, Routes 5 & 12, Hartland Three Corners

1:30 p.m. Speak at Goddard College Inauguration Event
Goddard College, Plainfield

Monday, May 9

6:25 a.m. Appear on WCAX Morning Show

7:00 a.m. Appear on The Charlie & Ernie & Lisa Show, WVMT

9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Press Conference
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
60 Main Street, Suite 100, Burlington

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Press Conference and Bill Signing with Sen. Dick Sears
Bennington County Child Advocacy Center/Special Investigative Unit, 439 Main Street Suite #8; 2nd Floor

Tuesday, May 10

7:30 a.m. Appear on WTSA radio live with Tim Johnson, Brattleboro

10:35 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Press Conference at Weidmann Electrical Technology
One Gordon Mills Way, St. Johnsbury

Wednesday, May 11

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Speak at U-32 High School
Designated as an 'Exemplary School Library'
930 Gallison Hill Rd, East Montpelier

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Signing of Respectful Language Bill
Ceremonial Office, State House

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Governor's Institute Celebration
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

6:00 p.m. Speak at United Way of Chittenden County
Retirement for Gretchen Morse
Hilton Hotel, Burlington

Thursday, May 12

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Speak at Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility
Spring Conference
UVM, Davis Center, Burlington

9:20 a.m. Speak at 9th Annual Vermont Workplace Safety Conference
Doubletree Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd., Burlington

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Broadband Press Conference
State House, Montpelier

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Vermont Department of Corrections,
Reward & Recognition Ceremony
Montpelier Elks Club

6:00 p.m. – 6:20 p.m. Attend Very Special Arts (VSA Vermont)
Main Street Landing, Burlington

6:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Attend The Vermont Women's Fund event
Shelburne Farms

Friday, May 13

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Ribbon cutting at Casella Waste Management's
compressed natural gas cooling station
220 Avenue B, Williston

Saturday, May 14:

9 a.m. – Noon Speaker at Green Mountain College Graduation Ceremonies
Poultney

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of April 30 -- May 7

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 3:50 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of April 30 -- May 7

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333
April 29, 2011

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
April 30 – May 7**

Saturday, April 30

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Speak at Dismas House
Comcast Cares Day, 96 Buell Street, Burlington

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit Everything Equine
Champlain Valley Expo

5:30 p.m. Military Ball with the National Guard Association of Vermont
Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Burlington

8:00 p.m. Attend Yo-Yo Ma Concert
Flynn Theater, Burlington

Sunday, May 1

1:35 p.m. Participate in Vermont Day at Boston Red Sox Game
Fenway Park

Monday, May 2

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Press Conference: Promoting Green Up Day
Ceremonial Office, State House

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Speak and participate in Public Service Recognition Week
Montpelier Elks Club

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Tour BioTek Instruments
100 Tigan Street, Winooski

Tuesday, May 3

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Attend 5th Annual Hunger Conference
Introduce the Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services
Lake Morey Inn, 1 Clubhouse Road, Fairlee

Wednesday, May 4

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Legislative Open Door
Ceremonial Office, State House

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Speak to National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
Double Tree Inn, Williston Road, Burlington

Thursday, May 5

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Press Conference
Ceremonial Office, State House

Friday, May 6

8:30 a.m. Pick up trash along I-89 with state employees
Part of Green Up Day

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Vermont Arbor Day event
Front lawn of State House

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Speak at 2011 Excellence In Government Awards Ceremony
Hilton Burlington, 60 Battery Street

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Attend ECHO'S Expansion Campaign Celebration
With U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Host creamer fundraiser for Mikayla Sienkiewicz,
who needs a kidney and liver transplant
Mobile Short Stop, 1555 North Ave, Burlington

Saturday, May 7

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Attend National Train Day
102 Railroad Road, White River Junction

2:00 p.m. Attend Goddard College Inauguration Event
Goddard College, Plainfield

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation, identifying the problem, and determining the scope of the problem.

1112 0120 0000

[illegible]

[illegible]

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:29 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Jan. 15 -- 22

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 5:01 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: RELEASE: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Jan. 15 -- 22

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333

**Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
Jan. 15 -- 22**

Saturday – January 15, 2011

9:00 – 12:00 Yankee Sportsman's Classic
Champlain Valley Exposition
105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction

Monday – January 17, 2011 (note that this is a state holiday)

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Volunteer at CHIPS and Teen Center
With Hal Colston, Executive Director of Vermont Commission on National and Community
Service
5 Corners Intersection, Essex Junction
For directions, call 878-6982

11:10 – 12:00 Volunteer at Good News Garage
With Hal Colston
331 North Winooski Ave., Burlington

12:00 – 12:30 Speak at CEDO Speak Out event
With Hal Colston
City Hall, Burlington

4:15 – 5:40 Speak at Onionstock: Celebrating the Heart and Soul of Winooski
Winooski High School
80 Norman Street, Winooski

Tuesday – January 18, 2011

9:45 – 10:30 Press Conference with Congressional Delegation
Ceremonial Office, State House

Wednesday – Jan. 19, 2011

8:30 – 9:30	Legislative Open Door Ceremonial Office, State House
9:30 – 9:45	Introduce Dr. Hsiao House Chamber, State House
12:00 – 12:15	Speak at Vermont Captive Insurance Legislative Luncheon Capitol Plaza, Montpelier
1:30 – 2:00	Press Conference TBA Burlington

Thursday – Jan. 20, 2011

5:15 – 6:00	Attend Getting Ahead Program Fundraiser St. John's Club, Burlington
8:00 – 9:00	Call the Governor Program Vermont Public Television

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 1:21 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333
Jan. 21, 2011

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
Jan. 24 – Jan. 29, 2011

Monday, January 24

7:30 – 8:30 Rutland Chamber Legislative Breakfast
South Station, 170 South Main, Rutland

Tuesday, Jan. 25

2:00 – 3:00 Deliver Governor's Budget Address
House Chamber, State House

Thursday, Jan. 27

11 a.m. – 12:00 Governor's Weekly Press Conference
Ceremonial Office, State House

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of Feb. 12-19.

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 5:22 PM
To: EXE; 'larryc@sover.net'
Subject: FW: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for the week of Feb. 12-19.

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-828-3333
Feb. 11, 2011

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
Feb. 12 – Feb. 19, 2011

Saturday, Feb. 12

10:00 – 11:00 Press Conference with Speaker Smith and President Pro Tem Campbell
American Legion Post, Colchester
3650 Roosevelt Highway

11:45 – 12:30 Visit and speak at St. Albans Co-op Annual Meeting
St. Albans Town Educational Center
169 South Main Street, St. Albans

Monday, Feb. 14

Travel to Montreal for meeting with Hydro-Quebec and Gaz Metro officials
Travel to Quebec City

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Meetings in Quebec City with Premier Jean Charest; Canadian U.S. Consul General; Quebec Department of International Relations; business visits; the National Assembly, Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade officials; and Natural Resources and Wildlife officials.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

12:00 – 1:00 Vermont League of Cities and Towns Legislative Luncheon
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

Thursday, Feb. 17

11:00 – 12:00 Weekly Press Conference
Ceremonial Office, State House

12:00 – 1:00

Vermont Coalition for Employment & Prosperity Luncheon
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

1:00 – 1:15

Speak at Vermont Press Association Annual Meeting
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule. Media note: Please call my cell phone if you would like to speak with the Governor at the NGA meeting over the weekend.

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 3:51 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin's public appearance schedule. Media note: Please call my cell phone if you would like to speak with the Governor at the NGA meeting over the weekend.

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493 (cell phone)
Feb. 25, 2011

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule
Feb. 26 – March 5

Saturday, Feb. 26

11:00 - 12:30 p.m. NGA - Opening Plenary Session
JW Marriott Hotel
Growing a Competitive State Economy

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. NGA - Governor's Only Lunch & Business Session

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. NGA - Education, early Childhood and Workforce Committee

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Chinese Embassy Governors Reception
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place NW

Sunday, Feb. 27

7:45 - 8:45 a.m. Meeting of Coalition of Northeastern Governors
JW Marriott Hotel

8:45 - 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the New England Governors' Conference
JW Marriott Hotel

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. NGA - Governor's Only Business Session
JW Marriott Hotel – Salon I

- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Meeting with the Premier of New Brunswick
JW Marriott
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. NGA - Governors Only Lunch and Business Session
JW Marriott Hotel
- 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Governors' Evening with the President and Mrs. Obama
White House

Monday, Feb. 28

- 9:30 - 12:00 p.m. Governors meet with the President
White House
- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. NGA - Governors Only Lunch and Business Session
JW Marriott Hotel

Tuesday, March 1

Gov. Shumlin will be attending Town Meeting Day events. Schedule to be announced.

Wednesday, March 2

- 12:00 – 1 p.m. Weekly Press Conference
Conference Room, 5th Floor, Pavilion Building

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the desired outcome.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:27 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Missing schedules

Just looked on my laptop, I have a bunch of them. They're vaulted, so I'm going to come back and use my computer to forward them to you.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:25:57 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Missing schedules

Found May 4, Jan. 7th.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:25 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Missing schedules

Let me check, I don't think I deleted those.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:23:44 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Missing schedules

Doubt you do, but do you have any public appearance schedules from 2011: Jan 1-June 18; around June 25th; any in July; around Sept. 22nd, around Dec. 17th?
2012: Around Jan. 7th; around May 4th?

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Missing schedules

Found May 4, Jan. 7th.

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Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:25 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Missing schedules

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Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:23:44 -0400
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2012: Around Jan. 7th; around May 4th?

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Missing schedules

Doubt you do, but do you have any public appearance schedules from 2011: Jan 1-June 18; around June 25th; any in July; around Sept. 22nd, around Dec. 17th?
2012: Around Jan. 7th; around May 4th?

London, Sarah

From: YouSendIt <delivery@yousendit.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:22 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: File Delivered: Cover Photo For UVM Draft Report

To: bgs-printshop@state.vt.us
bill.lofy@state.vt.us

Subject: Cover Photo For UVM Draft Report

Message: Hey Andy,

Here is the cover photo for the UVM report. If you can please incorporate the photo for the mock-up, we'd appreciate it.

Best,
Ari

File: 20110825_SpringSummer-21-Edit-Edit.tif - 55.94 MB

Expires: File will be available for download until June 08, 2012 08:22 PDT

Here's the link to this file:

<http://www.yousendit.com/download/QlVqV296ayt3TGhMWE5Vag>



YouSendIt, Inc. | [Privacy Policy](#)
1919 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, CA 95008

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:23 AM
To: Blake-Sayers, Eileen
Subject: Re: weekly report

Great! Thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Blake-Sayers, Eileen" <Eileen.Blake-Sayers@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:21:59 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: weekly report

Ok. yes. I believe Brian will be sending that out. I will have him forward to you.

Thanks.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:21 AM
To: Blake-Sayers, Eileen
Subject: Re: weekly report

Hi, no problem. I'm talking about the Weekly Report from your Agency to the Governor.
Hope that's helpful...if not let me know.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Blake-Sayers, Eileen" <Eileen.Blake-Sayers@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:19:06 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: weekly report

Hi Ariel.

Are you talking that Agency report or the Governors report? Sorry, Jo normally does this and she didn't leave instructions.

~Eileen

Eileen Blake-Sayers

Executive Office Assistant

State of Vermont Agency of Transportation

One National Life Drive | Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

ph: 802.828.2667 | fax: 802.828.3522

From: Wengroff, Ariel

Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:12 AM

To: Blake-Sayers, Eileen

Subject: weekly report

Hi Eileen,

I just wanted to ask that you send the weekly report to me.

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

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~Eileen

Eileen Blake-Sayers

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State of Vermont Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive | Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
ph: 802.828.2667 | fax: 802.828.3522

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~Eileen

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One National Life Drive | Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Zaharias, Krista <KZaharias@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [presssec] GOVERNORS PRAISE SENATE ACTION TO PRESERVE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NGA News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2012

Contact: Krista Zaharias, 202-624-5367

GOVERNORS PRAISE SENATE ACTION TO PRESERVE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

WASHINGTON—The National Governors Association issued the following statement regarding the Senate Armed Services Committee's passage of the Defense Authorization bill:

"The nation's governors are encouraged by the Senate Armed Services Committee's work to protect the Air National Guard from disproportionate and damaging reductions. Governors are particularly appreciative of the work of Committee Chairman Michigan Sen. Carl Levin and Ranking Member Arizona Sen. John McCain, as well as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin for their efforts to preserve Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve aircraft and personnel at fiscal year 2012 levels for fiscal year 2013.

"The Senate Committee action follows adoption of similar protections for the Air National Guard that were included in the bill passed by the House last week. Both bills provide a path to meet fiscal responsibilities while protecting the aircraft and personnel necessary to fulfill the Guard's critical mission at home and abroad.

"This pause gives governors and the Department of Defense the opportunity to put a process in place for 2014 that recognizes the cost-effectiveness and value of the Guard."

###

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

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You are currently subscribed to [presssec] as Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-210962-
161127.165c04f32dcd6703909c1ce74aa7c1c5@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Ross, Angela
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: weekly reports

Lucky girl!

Angela J. Ross | Assistant to the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Education | p) 802.828.3135 | f) 802.828.3140
education.vermont.gov | facebook.com/VTEducation | twitter.com/VTEducation

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Ross, Angela
Subject: Re: weekly reports

Great, thanks. No need for the next two weeks, she's in Spain with not a lot of chances to check e-mail!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Ross, Angela" <Angela.Ross@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:16:38 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: weekly reports

Will do, Armando is proofing the CWR now. Should I still copy Aly?

Angela J. Ross | Assistant to the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Education | p) 802.828.3135 | f) 802.828.3140
education.vermont.gov | facebook.com/VTEducation | twitter.com/VTEducation

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Ross, Angela; Lamberton, Helen
Subject: weekly reports

Hi,

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Thanks!
Ari

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London, Sarah

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Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

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Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Subject: RE: weekly reports

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education.vermont.gov | [facebook.com/VTEducation](https://www.facebook.com/VTEducation) | twitter.com/VTEducation

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Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Ross, Angela
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: weekly reports

Will do, Armando is proofing the CWR now. Should I still copy Aly?

Angela J. Ross | Assistant to the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Education | p) 802.828.3135 | f) 802.828.3140
education.vermont.gov | facebook.com/VTEducation | twitter.com/VTEducation

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Ross, Angela; Lamberton, Helen
Subject: weekly reports

Hi,

I just wanted to ask that you both send me the weekly reports.

Thanks!
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Flood, Patrick; Pallito, Andy
Cc: Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: SEXE-Copier12052508480.pdf

Dear Patrick and Andy,

Today a constituent named [REDACTED] dropped off a letter and a packet of disposable photographs to Mayor Weinburger of Burlington and Governor Shumlin. I've included the letter as an attachment in this email. It appears that she is involved with the Burlington Police Dept. fairly regularly--I plan to check in with Chief Shirling, as well. She claims to be a victim of routine theft in her apartment, and also claims to be victim of genetic mutation conspiracy by the government/CIA.

Ari Wengroff spoke with her once when she stopped into the office last year with the same photographs--her situation does not seem to have escalated/changed much.

I wanted to check in and ask whether she is in your systems.

Patrick, I am not familiar with your processes if you find that she is not in contact with the DMH, but will leave it to your judgment.

Andy, I wanted to keep you in the loop in case she should be arrested. You'll see in the attached letter that she has been accused of stalking on various occasions and is not unfamiliar to the Burlington police, and may be eligible for mental health support.

Thank you,
Dru

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Percival, Penny
Cc: Markowitz, Deb; Recchia, Chris; Snyder, Michael; Mears, David; Berry, Patrick; Chadwick, Steve
Subject: Re: Weekly report from ANR

Thanks! You too Penny.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 11:05:39 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Markowitz, Deb" <Deb.Markowitz@state.vt.us>, "Recchia, Chris" <Chris.Recchia@state.vt.us>, "Snyder, Michael" <Michael.Snyder@state.vt.us>, "Mears, David" <David.Mears@state.vt.us>, "Berry, Patrick" <Patrick.Berry@state.vt.us>, "Chadwick, Steve" <Steve.Chadwick@state.vt.us>
Subject: Weekly report from ANR

Hi Ariel,

Attached, please find our weekly report for the governor.

Thanks and hope you have a great holiday weekend,
Penny

Penny Percival
Executive Assistant
Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
(802) 583-7178
penny.percival@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Ross, Angela; Lamberton, Helen
Subject: weekly reports

Hi,

I just wanted to ask that you both send me the weekly reports.

Thanks!
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Blake-Sayers, Eileen
Subject: weekly report

Hi Eileen,

I just wanted to ask that you send the weekly report to me.

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:12 AM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: News Release: Government Officials Preparing for Future Emergency Events

May 25, 2012: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Sue Minter: 828-3333
FEMA News Desk: 802 662-8651

State/Local Officials Working to Prepare for "Next Time"

Hurricane Season begins June 1: The time to prepare is now

MONTPELIER, VT – With the 2012 hurricane season officially starting on June 1, every Secretary and Commissioner in state government went through special in-depth emergency training at Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) this week to prepare for the next emergency event.

"This training is part of our mission to build back stronger following Irene. Training for emergency response will help our state hone its response for the next big storm," said Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding. "Our state employees performed with great skill and dedication during and after Tropical Storm Irene, and have learned many lessons from that experience. We know that success in an emergency depends upon being well prepared for the next event."

VEM staff ran the executives through Incident Command basics, Emergency Operations Plans, and Continuity of Operations Planning among many other tenets of emergency response. The integration of all state agencies has long been an important part of Vermont's emergency response, and those agencies have representatives at Vermont's Emergency Operations Center during incidents.

Also this week, community leaders from Richmond and Huntington took part in a two-day course offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross on Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance. Community agencies, public and private organizations, and businesses trained to work together with emergency management and traditional mass care providers to provide services to those affected by a disaster.

The course in Richmond on May 23–24 is a pilot program. This is only the second time it has been held anywhere in the United States.

"This was an ideal location to pilot the Mass Care and Emergency Assistance training," said FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer James N. (Nick) Russo. "Irene and last spring's storms are still fresh in people's minds and this is when it is easier to commit time to doing something that will have long-term effects."

In addition to government entities, individuals also need to take responsibility when damaging weather is moving in their direction. Families need to keep an eye on the sky and have an emergency kit and a plan for communicating with each other if they are separated in a storm. More information may be found at <http://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness> and <http://www.ready.gov/>.

#30#

*Sue Minter
Irene Recovery Officer
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828-3333
fax: 828-3339*

London, Sarah

From: Carle, David (Leahy) <David_Carle@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Ariel--Senate tonite confirmed Gen. Dubie --

You bet.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wengroff, Ariel [mailto:Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Carle, David (Leahy)
Subject: Re: Ariel--Senate tonite confirmed Gen. Dubie --

Thanks for sending this out David

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/24/12 11:09 PM, "Carle, David (Leahy)" <David_Carle@leahy.senate.gov> wrote:

>Senate Confirms General Dubie As New Deputy Commander Of NORTHCOM
>

>. . . Head Of The Vermont Guard Will Take #2 Post In U.S. Military's
>Homeland Defense Mission

>
>

>(THURSDAY, May 24) - The U.S. Senate Thursday night confirmed the
>Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, Major General Michael
>Dubie, to a top post in the U.S. military's homeland defense mission.
>General Dubie, nominated by President Obama, will be the Deputy
>Commander of the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), the
>military's unified command in charge of protecting U.S. territory and
>providing military support for civil authorities in the event of a national emergency.
>Senator Patrick Leahy (D) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I), joined in the
>effort by Representative Peter Welch (D), had pushed for prompt Senate
>action on the nomination.

>

>In a joint statement, Leahy, Sanders and Welch Thursday night said:

>"This is a proud moment for Vermont and a great credit to our exemplary Guard.
>General Dubie has given Vermonters the benefit of his skill and
>leadership, which meant so much to our state during major deployments
>to Afghanistan and in Irene's wake. The nation now will have the value
>of his service in this vital and sensitive new assignment."

>

>Dubie, who has headed Vermont's National Guard since 2006, will become
>a three-star general. He will be the third general from the ranks of
>the National Guard to fill the number two position at NORTHCOM. Leahy,
>who chairs the Senate National Guard Caucus, succeeded in enacting
>reforms that set aside this position for National Guard general
>officers under Leahy's National Guard Empowerment Act of 2008.

>

>NORTHCOM, created in 2002 in the aftermath of 9/11, is co-located with
>the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air
>Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. In addition to protecting the
>contiguous United States, NORTHCOM is responsible for Alaska, Canada,
>Mexico, and surrounding international waters out to 500 nautical miles.

>

>#####

>

London, Sarah

From: Percival, Penny
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Markowitz, Deb; Recchia, Chris; Snyder, Michael; Mears, David; Berry, Patrick; Chadwick, Steve
Subject: Weekly report from ANR
Attachments: 120525 ANR Governor's Weekly Report.docx

Hi Ariel,

Attached, please find our weekly report for the governor.

Thanks and hope you have a great holiday weekend,
Penny

Penny Percival
Executive Assistant
Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
(802) 583-7178
penny.percival@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Maguire, Jo Ann
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25, returning on Tuesday, May 29 . If you need immediate assistance, please contact Eileen Blake-Sayers at 828-2657 or at Eileen.Blake-Sayers@state.vt.us. Otherwise, I'll respond when I'm back in the office.

Thanks,

Jo

London, Sarah

From: Gaidys, Maureen
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

I will be out of the office on Friday, May 25th, returning Tuesday, may 29th. For immediate assistance, please contact Angela Ross at Angela.Ross@state.vt.us/802-828-3135 or Helen Lamberton at Helen.Lamberton@state.vt.us/802-828-3136.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Miller, Lawrence; MoultonPowden, Pat; Bothfeld, Diane; Maguire, Jo Ann; Wolffing, Erika; Noonan, Annie; Percival, Penny; Flynn, Keith; Hofmann, Sarah; Nealy, Diane; Kimbell, Steve; Johnson, Harriet; Gaidys, Maureen; Minter, Sue; Spaulding, Susan
Cc: Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Hey,

I just wanted to remind everyone to please send me their weekly reports today!

Thanks again,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 11:55:03 -0400
To: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MoultonPowden, Pat" <Pat.MoultonPowden@state.vt.us>, "Bothfeld, Diane" <Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Wolffing, Erika" <Erika.Wolffing@state.vt.us>, "Noonan, Annie" <Annie.Noonan@state.vt.us>, "Percival, Penny" <Penny.Percival@state.vt.us>, "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>, "Hofmann, Sarah" <Sarah.Hofmann@state.vt.us>, "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>, "Kimbell, Steve" <Steve.Kimbell@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Gaidys, Maureen" <Maureen.Gaidys@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Cc: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Dear all,

This Friday, May 25 AND next Friday, June 1st please send your weekly reports directly to Ari Wengroff at Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us. She is cc-ed here as well.

I will be out of town with very limited access to email and will not be able to forward reports that come directly to me, so please send them only to Ari.

Thanks to all of you!

Best,
Aly

Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Peterson, Cliff
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: Weekly report

I will be out of the office until Tuesday 5/29 and checking emails only infrequently.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Peterson, Cliff
Subject: Re: Weekly report

Thanks Cliff!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/24/12 8:04 PM, "Peterson, Cliff" <Cliff.Peterson@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Ariel -- Attached is the weekly report from the Department of Financial
>Regulation.
>
>Cliff
>
>
>Clifford Peterson
>General Counsel
>Vermont Department of Financial Regulation (formerly Department of
>Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care
>Administration)
>89 Main Street
>Montpelier, VT 05620-3101
>802-828-3301
>cliff.peterson@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Carle, David (Leahy)
Subject: Re: Ariel--Senate tonite confirmed Gen. Dubie --

Thanks for sending this out David

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/24/12 11:09 PM, "Carle, David (Leahy)" <David_Carle@leahy.senate.gov> wrote:

>Senate Confirms General Dubie As New Deputy Commander Of NORTHCOM
>
>... Head Of The Vermont Guard Will Take #2 Post In U.S. Military's
>Homeland Defense Mission
>
>
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>Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, Major General Michael
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>General Dubie, nominated by President Obama, will be the Deputy
>Commander of the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), the
>military's unified command in charge of protecting U.S. territory and
>providing military support for civil authorities in the event of a national emergency.
>Senator Patrick Leahy (D) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I), joined in the
>effort by Representative Peter Welch (D), had pushed for prompt Senate
>action on the nomination.
>
>In a joint statement, Leahy, Sanders and Welch Thursday night said:
>"This is a proud moment for Vermont and a great credit to our exemplary Guard.
>General Dubie has given Vermonters the benefit of his skill and
>leadership, which meant so much to our state during major deployments
>to Afghanistan and in Irene's wake. The nation now will have the value
>of his service in this vital and sensitive new assignment."
>
>Dubie, who has headed Vermont's National Guard since 2006, will become
>a three-star general. He will be the third general from the ranks of

>the National Guard to fill the number two position at NORTHCOM. Leahy,
>who chairs the Senate National Guard Caucus, succeeded in enacting
>reforms that set aside this position for National Guard general
>officers under Leahy's National Guard Empowerment Act of 2008.

>

>NORTHCOM, created in 2002 in the aftermath of 9/11, is co-located with
>the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air
>Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. In addition to protecting the
>contiguous United States, NORTHCOM is responsible for Alaska, Canada,
>Mexico, and surrounding international waters out to 500 nautical miles.

>

>#####

>

London, Sarah

From: Nealy, Diane
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Weekly report

Thanks Ariel.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Nealy, Diane
Subject: Re: Weekly report

Okay, I'll wait for the edits! Thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 10:22:30 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Weekly report

Ariel;

Can you please ignore the report I sent you this morning? I need to make an edit and will resend it.

Thanks,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Nealy, Diane
Subject: Re: Weekly report

Okay, I'll wait for the edits! Thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Nealy, Diane" <Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 10:22:30 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Weekly report

Ariel;

Can you please ignore the report I sent you this morning? I need to make an edit and will resend it.

Thanks,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Johnson, Harriet
Subject: Re: Admin Weekly Report

Thank you!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 10:57:10 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Admin Weekly Report

Hey Ari – here is the Admin weekly report.

Thanks, Harriet

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Admin Weekly Report
Attachments: 05 25 12.doc

Hey Ari – here is the Admin weekly report.

Thanks, Harriet

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:49 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

----- Reply message -----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, May 25, 2012 10:48 am
Subject: Weekly Memo
To: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

Sorry Susan, will call them all again today. I haven't had good luck reaching mine.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Fri, 25 May 2012 10:47:37 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

Hi Ari. Just noticed in one of sue Allen's media clips she said they will be announcing the new student appointment soon. Any luck on reaching the interviewees that didn't get appointed?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

----- Reply message -----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, May 24, 2012 5:45 pm
Subject: Weekly Memo
To: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

thanks Susan, I've been helping Lisa all afternoon so I haven't yet, I'll call them all again now.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 24, 2012, at 5:10 PM, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

Hi Ari – I've attached my weekly memo for tomorrow. Any luck getting in touch with the students?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

<BCMemo.052512.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Out of Office: Weekly Memo

I will be out of the office Friday, May 25th. I will have very limited access to email. If you need immediate assistance please call 802-828-3333. Thank you. Susan Spaulding

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

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Cell: 802-279-6825

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Montpelier, VT 05609

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Cell: 802-279-6825

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The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
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Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

<BCMemo.052512.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
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To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

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To: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

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Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

<BCMemo.052512.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Photos
Attachments: IMAG0159.jpg

93rd basic training class from police academy. Sorry they're not great quality.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Photos
Attachments: IMAG0154.jpg

93rd basic training class from police academy. Sorry they're not great quality.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Flags to Lowered to Half Staff in recognition of Memorial Day - Monday, May 28, 2012
Importance: High

Date Issued: May 25, 2012

NOTICE

Flags to be Lowered to Half Staff

Per Federal Code P.L. 94-344 and Presidential Proclamation

Where the flags will be lowered:

The Vermont State House, all Federal and State Facilities around the state and public buildings and grounds around the state.

Which flags will be lowered:

The U.S flag, Vermont State flag, POW flags, and any other flags **

Date the flags are to be lowered:

At sunrise on Monday, May 28, 2012

Date the flags are to return to full staff:

At **noon** on Monday, May 28, 2012

Reason to lower flag(s):

In keeping with the Presidential Proclamation, the Governor has ordered the U.S. and Vermont flags at all federal and state facilities lowered to half staff in recognition of Memorial Day. The U.S. flag is displayed at half staff until noon, then raised to top of staff (per Federal Code P.L. 94-344 and Presidential Proclamation).

** Please note **all flags must fly at half-staff** for that period of time.

Rule: When the U.S. flag is lowered, the Vermont flag, the POW flag, and any other flag must also be lowered, because the U.S. flag must always fly above or equal to any other flags that are flown.

Notice sent by: Wendy L. Cadorette
Office of the Commissioner
Buildings & General Services
(802) 828-3519

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: FW: Notice of Incoming UVM File Transfer

From: Karen Nystrom Meyer <knmeyer@uvm.edu>
Reply-To: "karen.meyer@uvm.edu" <karen.meyer@uvm.edu>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Fwd: Notice of Incoming UVM File Transfer

Hi Bill.

If you can, see if you can check out the photo on this file transfer. It is the picture that Aly and I want to use as the cover of the report. We think it is cool - looking outward, has a student and grown up (both unidentifiable - we made sure), has the US and Vermont and environmental flags flapping, new science building featured (it is Jeffords Hall but not identified as such), and for those of us who know the location, looks east to all of Vermont.

I am not coping Aly on this as the file is huge and hopefully she is somewhere over the Atlantic! If you agree, could you get it to whomever is mocking up the report at BGS to see if this can work? Fall back with will (boring) state and UVM seals....

Karen.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Notice of Incoming UVM File Transfer

Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 11:53:23 -0400

From: Sally.McCay@uvm.edu

To: karen.meyer@uvm.edu

This is an automatically generated email, informing you that a file is being transmitted to you using UVM's file transfer service (<https://www.uvm.edu/filetransfer/>).

From: Sally.McCay@uvm.edu

To: karen.meyer@uvm.edu

Description: High Res Image from Sally McCay

Filename: 20110825_SpringSummer-21-Edit-Edit.tif.zip (55170241 bytes)

Recovery Password: BTnQf66HiY

UVM File Transfer Service Page:

https://www.uvm.edu/filetransfer/pickup/?recover_email=karen.meyer@uvm.edu&recover_key=BTnQf66HiY

To retrieve the file, go to the URL listed above. You will be asked for the email address this message was delivered to (as listed above) and the recovery password.

This data will expire in three weeks and be removed.

Please report any misuse of this service to abuse@uvm.edu.

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Photos
Attachments: IMAG0154.jpg

93rd basic training class from police academy. Sorry they're not great quality.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

London, Sarah

From: Nealy, Diane
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Weekly report

Ariel;

Can you please ignore the report I sent you this morning? I need to make an edit and will resend it.

Thanks,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:20 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: FW: Flags to Lowered to Half Staff in recognition of Memorial Day - Monday, May 28, 2012

Importance: High

From: Cadorette, Wendy
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:19 AM
To: BGS - Flag; Border Patrol - Swanton; Christine O'Neil - USPS; Federal Protective Service - Philadelphia Megacenter; Sue Ray; Tom Rizzo
Subject: Flags to Lowered to Half Staff in recognition of Memorial Day - Monday, May 28, 2012
Importance: High

Date Issued: May 25, 2012

NOTICE

Flags to be Lowered to Half Staff

Per Federal Code P.L. 94-344 and Presidential Proclamation

Where the flags will be lowered:

The Vermont State House, all Federal and State Facilities around the state and public buildings and grounds around the state.

Which flags will be lowered:

The U.S flag, Vermont State flag, POW flags, and any other flags **

Date the flags are to be lowered:

At sunrise on Monday, May 28, 2012

Date the flags are to return to full staff:

At **noon** on Monday, May 28, 2012

Reason to lower flag(s):

In keeping with the Presidential Proclamation, the Governor has ordered the U.S. and Vermont flags at all federal and state facilities lowered to half staff in recognition of Memorial Day. The U.S. flag is displayed at half staff until noon, then raised to top of staff (per Federal Code P.L. 94-344 and Presidential Proclamation).

** Please note **all flags must fly at half-staff** for that period of time.
Rule: When the U.S. flag is lowered, the Vermont flag, the POW flag, and any other flag must also be lowered, because the U.S. flag must always fly above or equal to any other flags that are flown.

Notice sent by:

Wendy L. Cadorette
Office of the Commissioner
Buildings & General Services
(802) 828-3519

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 10:20 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn; Wengroff, Ariel
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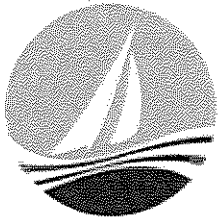
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Notice sent by: Wendy L. Cadorette
Office of the Commissioner
Buildings & General Services
(802) 828-3519

London, Sarah

From: Community Sailing Center <Community_Sailing_Center@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Slota, Bianca
Subject: Opening Day & Season Pass Sale!



community sailing center
lake champlain : burlington vermont

Lake access.
Life lessons.
For all.

CSC Opening Day - Tomorrow!

42 days earlier than last year.

The season officially begins at 10 am this Saturday, May 26th (that's tomorrow, yippee!) We really love having adventures on the lake, and we're excited about sharing the fun with as many people as possible. When you rent one of our sail boats, kayaks, canoes, or paddleboards, we'll also include life jackets and paddles along with some safety basics.

Rental Program Hours

Spring: May 26 - June 10

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

Memorial Day (5/28) 10 am - 6pm

Summer: June 16 - September 3

Monday - Friday 4pm - 8pm

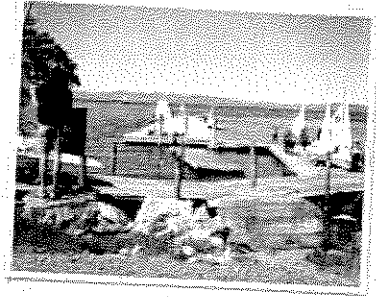
Saturday & Sunday 9am - 8pm

Come to visit us on the waterfront on Saturday and Monday! We are closed Sunday to cheer on our friends and neighbors at the Vermont City Marathon.

One Day Season Pass Sale - Saturday ONLY!

30% Off Season Passes

We are celebrating the start of the season, the fact that we are not operating underwater, and Memorial Day weekend by conducting a 1 day special THIS Saturday- 30% off all Season Passes!



You always buy a ski pass to your local mountain, make the same commitment at the CSC and spend the entire summer on the water! Come visit, register online, or simply give us a call to get setup with an awesome season pass.

To register for your pass online, click here.

*Sshhh...The promo code is **SEASSPASS30***

Family All Access

Registration Fee: \$700

30% Off = \$490

Individual Dinghy

Registration Fee: \$300

30% Off = \$210

Individual All Access

Registration Fee: \$500

30% Off = \$350

Student Dinghy

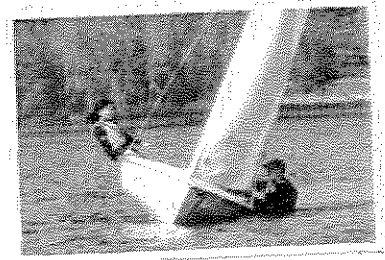
Registration Fee: \$200

30% Off = \$140

Youth Camp Information Session

This Saturday at 12 Noon

Want to learn more about our summer camp offerings? We have LOTS of options for all kids ages 6-16 (not just sailing!) Interested families are invited to the Sailing Center at 12:00PM on May 26th and June 23rd to tour our facility, check out the boats, and talk with our staff about ways to get your child onto the lake this summer. Drop-ins welcome!

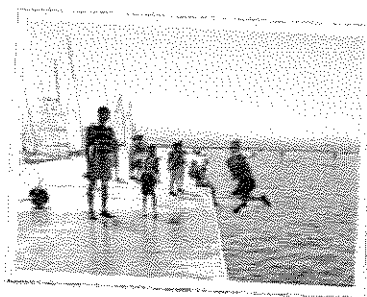


Questions? Call Nick Neverisky, CSC Program Director at (802) 864-2499 or check out the event on Facebook!

Returning Campers!

Don't get left on the shore this summer - Register TODAY to ensure your spot in one of our 58 different camp sessions. Spaces are filling up fast!

2012 Program & Event Guide



CHECK IT OUT!

We hope the brand new 2012 Program & Event Guide ended up in your mailbox last week! Take a moment to check out ALL the ways you can get out on Lake Champlain this season. Adult lessons, family packages, kid's camps, paddleboard rentals - if there is a way to have fun on the Lake we offer it.

Just in case you didn't receive one in the mail - it's available online -



Follow Us



Friend Us



Watch Us

The Community Sailing Center encourages and celebrates the responsible use and long term stewardship of Lake Champlain by fostering educational and recreational opportunities for all members of our community.

{ PO Box 64818 Burlington, VT 05406 | 802.864.2499 | www.communitysailingcenter.org }

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
PO Box 64818
Burlington, Vermont 05406
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

vertical
response DELIVERED BY
Try It Free Today!

London, Sarah

From: Nealy, Diane
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Racine, Doug; Oliver, Christine; Hutt, Monica
Subject: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc
Attachments: AHS Weekly Report 052512.doc

Ariel;

Attached please find the AHS Weekly report.

Have a great long holiday weekend.

Regards,

Diane

London, Sarah

From: Bosma, Mark
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:45 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: VEM Leadership Training

Oh, I didn't even see you here! Welcome.

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Emergency Management
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:44 AM
To: Bosma, Mark
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: VEM Leadership Training

Yes thanks Mark! I'm going to use mine as well.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 25, 2012, at 8:34 AM, "Bosma, Mark" <Mark.Bosma@state.vt.us> wrote:

Sue, Ari,
I have photos from this morning's leadership training here at VEM. Do you want them for your Facebook page? Do you still have Tuesday's?

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Emergency Management
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

London, Sarah

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Public Information Officer
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(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

London, Sarah

From: Cochran, Chris
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:15 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Not to be a pest....

Coolio.

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Cochran, Chris
Subject: Re: Not to be a pest....

I remember yesterday that Sue said she forwarded it for review. Let me touch base with her and I'll get back to you.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 25, 2012, at 8:12 AM, "Cochran, Chris" <Chris.Cochran@state.vt.us> wrote:

Some help?? No urgency for me, but our partners don't feel the same.

Lord knows the world needs type-As. . . .

Thanks!

From: Cochran, Chris
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Not to be a pest....

But, do you have a time to review that quote for the Preservation Conference release?

Thanks.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Cochran, Chris
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Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Not to be a pest....

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Thanks.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Allen, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: FW: VEM Duty Officer Report
Attachments: VEM Duty Officer Report 5-25-12.pdf

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Weinert, Bob
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 7:56 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] VEM Duty Officer Report

Good Morning All,

Please find the Duty Officer Daily Report attached and a brief narrative below.

Bob

Bob Weinert, MSEM/ERP
Emergency Management Coordinator &
State System Administrator for VEPARDS-DisasterLAN-Vermont Alert

Vermont Emergency Management
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671
Direct (802) 241-5243
BB (802) 839-6071
General (800) 347-0488
Fax (802) 241-5556
Email: bob.weinert@state.vt.us

VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DAILY SITUATION REPORT
Friday, May 25, 2012

CURRENT SITUATION:

Duty Officer: [REDACTED]

Report Covers [REDACTED]

Next Scheduled Report: [REDACTED]

VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS: Level 1

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- [REDACTED] ter
- [REDACTED]

NON-HAZMAT RELATED INCIDENTS:

- State EOC recovery operation continues due to Tropical Storm Irene. A major disaster was declared on September 1, 2011 for the State of Vermont. All counties are included for Public Assistance and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties have been included for Individual Assistance.

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS:

WEATHER:

[National Weather Service Burlington](#)

[National Weather Service Albany](#)

[Local Weather](#)

VERMONT HIGHWAYS:

[Vermont Road Traveler Information Service](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY

[DHS Website for Threat Levels](#)

[Vermont Homeland Security Website](#)

RIVER FLOW INFORMATION:

[Northeast River Forecast Center](#)

[USGS Daily Flow Condition](#)

[NWS Self Briefing Page](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 8:04 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Cc: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: This morn

Hey,

I'm in Waterbury helping Sue with the SEOC meeting. I should be in the Office by 9:30 and then I'm gonna help Dru out front since Leigh and Carolyn are out!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 6:24 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 15 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

**Commissioner to seek independent review of guards' response to prison attack
BY SAM HEMINGWAY**

The near death of an inmate last month and the way prison guards at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield handled the incident will be investigated by an outside entity, Corrections Commissioner Andrew Pallito said Thursday.

Inmate Ryan John, 19, of Newport was found asphyxiated — with a sheet wrapped tightly around his neck — inside the cell of another inmate, Dakota Gardner, 21, of Springfield on April 23. John was listed in critical condition at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for several days before recovering.

John is now back at the Springfield prison. Gardner, who earlier in April was charged in U.S. District Court with writing letters threatening to injure Gov. Peter Shumlin and kill President Barack Obama, has been moved to a federal facility. A criminal investigation of the asphyxiation incident by the Vermont State Police is ongoing.

Pallito, who has maintained workers at the prison followed proper protocols during the incident and likely saved John's life, said Thursday that he decided to seek to have an outside entity conduct an independent investigation following discussions with the governor's office and Human Services Secretary Douglas Racine.

"Given the gravity of what happened, the secretary or the Governor's Office remarked it might be worth having someone independent come in and have a look," Pallito said. "I think me saying our staff did a remarkable job is different than somebody else coming in and saying this is what happened. It's a good learning experience."

Pallito said an internal review of the incident by his department showed that guards discovered that someone had covered up the window to Gardner's cell less than three minutes after it occurred. He said guards entered the cell five minutes later and began efforts to resuscitate John.

Pallito said he decided to ask for an independent investigation a few days ago and contacted Defender General Matt Valerio to ask Valerio if his office would undertake the task. Pallito, however, did not disclose his plan until Thursday, two days after Sen. Vincent Illuzzi, R-Essex/Orleans, sent him an email raising questions about the incident.

(Page 2 of 2)

"It appears that two inmates were unsupervised for enough time so that one almost killed the other," Illuzzi said in a May 22 email to Pallito that he provided the Burlington Free Press. "In such a small unit, it's difficult to understand how this could have happened."

Illuzzi, in an interview Thursday, said a "truly independent" investigation is needed to determine what the standard was for protecting inmates from each other, and whether the Springfield jail was adhering to those standards at the time of the incident. He also wants the investigation to look into whether all applicable mental health protocols for the two inmates were being followed.

Valerio said he received Pallito's request to conduct the investigation Thursday morning but had not had time to decide whether his office could take on the task. He said his office would have a conflict if public defender lawyers had represented John or Gardner in court proceedings.

Illuzzi said he would rather have someone outside of the executive branch of state government undertake the investigation.

"It's very difficult for one agency of the executive branch to investigate the conduct of another agency of the executive branch," Illuzzi said.

Illuzzi has long followed prison issues as a lawmaker. In 1993, after an inmate at a St. Albans jail choked on his vomit and died following an altercation with a guard, Illuzzi led the push for a legislative investigation of the Corrections Department.

Sorrell to kick off re-election campaign Wednesday

Bill Sorrell announced two campaign kickoff events for his campaign for re-election as Attorney General.

The official announcement is slated for 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday in the Cedar Creek Room of the Vermont State Capitol Building. Later that day, there will be a campaign kickoff celebration at the Wakefield Room of the Burlington Boat House from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Both events are open to the public.

Some influential supporters will be attending both events. Rep. Rebecca Ellis will introduce Sorrell at the Cedar Creek Room, and former Governor Madeleine Kunin will be a host at the Wakefield Room celebration.

Sorrell said, "I am looking forward to talking to Vermonters about my accomplishments as Attorney General and my priorities for my next term."

Voice of the Free Press: Be wary of moves to limit free speech

The Burlington City Council navigates the difficult terrain between conflicting basic rights in choosing to move forward with an ordinance to create a protective zone around a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Council members must be certain their actions are based on more than their personal views on abortion.

While protests are common in Burlington, the largely peaceful vigils against Planned Parenthood are unique in that they have been sustained for years. At times, there have been conflict between demonstrators and clinic clients and workers.

The essential question in putting this restriction on free speech is this: How does the city provide reasonable protection to clinic clients from possible harassment and intimidation, while preserving the right of abortion foes to peaceably assemble to publicly advocate their position?

The services Planned Parenthood offers include a procedure that is likely to remain controversial for the foreseeable future. The organization should expect a degree of friction.

By opting for a 35-foot buffer zone around the clinic, the City Council chooses a course similar to those taken by other states and communities, and upheld by the US. Supreme Court.

The key for Burlington is to make sure the council's decision to offer this protection is based on something other than the demonstrators' position on abortion, that the city extend the same protection to anyone in a similar situation regardless of the issue involved.

The demonstrators have a right to air their views, but not to confront individually each person who chooses to visit the clinic. Repeated protest can begin to come across as harassment. At the same time, the buffer zone must never become a tool for diminishing the voice of abortion foes or intimidating them into silence.

Planned Parenthood is a medical facility, a place where people go for the most personal reasons. There is every reason to protect those seeking medical advice or treatment from unnecessary outside intrusion into what society generally agrees is among a person's most private affairs.

The buffer zone must equally protect the rights of people to go about their business without facing harassment or intimidation, and the legitimate free speech rights of others.

The perceived need for such an ordinance says as much about the state of discourse in our society today — especially over issues burdened with heavy emotions — as what is actually happening on our streets.

The goal is to promote a safe environment for those who work at and visit the clinic, and for the demonstrators, a goal that rises above any particular issue. The buffer zone might be necessary and preferable to an unlikely police line, but everyone in Burlington should be wary of moves to limit free speech.

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Sen. Bernie Sanders stands alone on Senate vote

Posted on May 24, 2012 by Nancy Remsen

Vermont's independent senator showed his independence on a vote on a Food and Drug Administration bill.

According to Sen. Bernie Sanders' website, the U.S. Senate voted 96-1 on Thursday for a Food and Drug Administration bill. The legislation would perpetuate a system that makes Americans pay far more for medicine than people anywhere else.

Sanders was that lone "no" vote.

"The most pressing prescription drug issue in our country today is that Americans pay, by far, the highest prices in the world for their medicine and millions of people cannot afford the medications their doctors prescribe. I voted against this bill because it does far too little to address this crisis while it perpetuates a prescription drug system that continues to fail the American people," Sanders said.

Wednesday, Sanders had tried to strengthen the bill with an amendment, but it failed to win support.

Sanders' amendment, according to a news release, would have taken away "exclusive marketing rights – potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars – if a company is found to be at fault for fraud involving a particular drug."

"Companies that are fined for overcharging Medicare or Medicaid, or for dangerous illegal marketing practices, should not enjoy government-granted monopolies on those same medications," Sanders said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 6:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 25:

WATERBURY RECORD:

Goal: back to normal ReBuild helping with recovery

Kristen Fountain

Eight months ago, Dzehva and Fikret Kadric's first floor was an empty shell. Like 200 other structures in Waterbury village, their home on South Main Street had been stripped of the furniture, rugs and walls damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene.

Their home — along with several dozen others — is still not back to normal. But that has been changing rapidly in the last few weeks, thanks to the ReBuild Waterbury construction program.

Since last fall, the program has been marshaling construction expertise, volunteer labor and discounted materials from area vendors to help struggling homeowners.

"I say, 'Thank you, God,' for this rebuilding program," said Dzehva Kadric, a former refugee from Bosnia who has made her life in Waterbury since 1996. "They are helping us a lot."

ReBuild Waterbury, a disaster-recovery organization under the umbrella of Revitalizing Waterbury, pays for the material and for some of the volunteer transportation through donations.

So far, the group has raised more than \$500,000, but still needs much more to meet its goal of \$918,000. The money is expected to fund the organization's work — which includes individual and family case management — for 18 months.

In the past six months, 10 houses have been restored; 24 are still in varying stages of reconstruction.

Homeowners' needs are constantly changing as they move into different stages of their projects, said Dave Kerr, ReBuild's construction manager. "One second somebody is fine, the next second they're not," he said.

Some homeowners just need someone to show them how to move forward; others are looking for help with specific, more complex renovations and for access to discounts, Kerr said.

For 11 houses across town, the program is performing significant demolition and renovation work.

The primary sources of labor are volunteers, managed by Kerr and his "right-hand man," Lee McKinstry. Since Oct. 31, 13 organizations, from businesses to nonprofits to school groups, have donated more than 5,000 hours of work, said ReBuild volunteer coordinator Mame McKee.

More than half of those hours were put in by young people enrolled in ReTrain YouthBuild. The program, operated by the nonprofit ReSource in both Burlington and Barre, trains 16- to 24-year-olds from Chittenden and Washington counties who have dropped out of high school and are looking for personal development and job skills.

Working on homes in Waterbury has provided real-life, hands-on experience for trainees, said Jason Monaco, a construction instructor.

"Every day, they are learning something new," said Monaco, while repainting the Kadrics' front room with students this week.

The lessons are not just about painting or putting in insulation or sheetrock; they are about showing up on time and behaving professionally on the job.

"We use construction as a tool to teach those life skills," he said.

Michael Isabelle, 20, of Barre, a trainee with the program for the last three months, said working on the Kadrics' home in Waterbury has been particularly rewarding.

"It's kind of nice giving back," he said. "This place got pretty messed up."

Another core group of volunteers has come from the Burlington chapter of Habitat for Humanity. "They are steady as could be," McKee said.

Chapter volunteers are between house projects and have been bringing their considerable skills and expertise to Waterbury twice a week. Kerr said he relies on them for rebuilding kitchens and doing other fine carpentry.

More steady volunteers have come from Waterbury Rotary and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Several schools have sent student groups: Lyndon State College, Johnson State College, University of Vermont, Champlain Valley Union High School, Winooski High School and Crossett Brook Middle School. And other nonprofit and government groups have pitched in, including the Granville-based Rozalia Project, Vermont Works for Women, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and employees at the Vermont Housing and Finance Agency.

Dzehva Kadric and her husband have been eagerly watching the progress on their house from next door, where they are living with their daughter and granddaughter, Safa and Samira.

Both elder Kadrics have suffered injuries that make physical labor impossible. But Dzehva prides herself on providing a homemade lunch to volunteers every day. She sells traditional Yugoslavian and Greek dishes and baked goods through area farmers' markets as Kadric Fresh Foods.

She still can't believe how many people have been helping rebuild their house.

"Everybody does a nice job," Dzehva said. "I don't know how David found them."

Hearing to be held May 30 on plans for state offices

Gov. Peter Shumlin and Vermont lawmakers have weighed in, and now state and federal officials want to hear the public's thoughts on plans to rebuild the flood-damaged State Office Complex in Waterbury.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Vermont state government will hold a public hearing Wednesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School cafeteria in Waterbury, seeking public comment on the state's proposal to re-occupy the State Office Complex and add new buildings there.

"We're asking for feedback on the potential effects of the proposed work on historic and environmental resources, including the planned demolition of some buildings and some new construction," said James N. "Nick" Russo, the head of FEMA's operations in Vermont.

The hearing will be preceded by an open house at 6:30 p.m., here people can view general information about the project and talk directly to federal and state representatives.

"We are proposing to remove some buildings and take other steps to reduce future flooding and restore the floodplain," said Rob Evans, river corridor and floodplain manager with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. "We're hoping to hear the public's thoughts on the impact to the historic campus, as well as on the floodplain."

Public comments are being sought as part of FEMA's development of an environmental assessment, part of a review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

A preliminary copy of the draft environmental assessment is available at Waterbury Municipal Offices, 43 S. Main St., and the Waterbury Public Library, 28 N. Main St.

After the meeting, public comments will be accepted until 4 p.m. June 15, and can be mailed to Peter Thomas, FEMA Essex Junction Joint Field Office, 30 Allen Martin Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452.

STOWE REPORTER:

On the market: Many businesses for sale in Stowe; plenty of lookers

By Nathan Burgess

Prospective restaurateurs, hoteliers and shopkeepers with a dream and some dough could find what they are looking for in Stowe.

A number of key commercial properties are on the market, including the Rusty Nail Bar and Grille, Foxfire Inn, and the former Santos Cucina Latina. Several smaller properties are also available.

"There is no lack of inventory, that's for sure," said Ken Libby of Stowe Realty.

Local Realtors say interest in commercial real estate has bounced back after the recession, and "it is a buyer's market," said Ed Izzo of Pall Spera Co. Realtors. "But so far it hasn't been about pulling the trigger."

According to the Lamoille Area Board of Realtors, of the 270 properties sold in Stowe in 2011, 11 were listed as commercial at the time of sale. In 2010, 15 of 128 sales were listed as commercial.

Libby, who's president of the Lamoille Area Board of Realtors, said it's not unusual to have a lot of commercial buildings on the market — the ebb and flow of the business world often means owners come and go.

But despite the lingering effects of the recession, slow business isn't the main reason owners are choosing to sell, he said.

"The majority of them are owned by people who have had them for many, many years, and the time has come for most of them," Libby said.

But in recent years, it has been tricky to sell commercial real estate, he said.

"The commercial market is all about numbers," Libby said.

Buyers are often looking for strong sales in a business, and lenders also want strong sales data before financing a buyer.

"They like to see three years of the seller's financial statements and they like to see positive cash flow, so that's been a struggle," he said.

Still, Libby has seen positive signs from buyers, at least when compared to the past few years.

"There are more lookers right now than I've seen in a year or two, with some fairly aggressive people looking," he said. "But they're not fairly aggressive people making an offer."

Izzo agrees: "A lot of people think it is going to go further. The consensus I've heard is it's already hit rock bottom. The commercial market is tough, but it will bounce back."

What's available?

- The 151-seat Rusty Nail restaurant and nightclub has been on the market for a couple of years after a dip in sales forced it to close. It reopened in late 2010.

"The Nail" has a long history in Stowe. Gar Anderson opened the Rusty Nail in 1969 in a spot that is now the Gale Farm Shopping Center on Mountain Road. It was torn down and later reopened in its current location in 1990. In 1994, the building burned down and the current Rusty Nail building was constructed in 1996. Owner Bobby Roberts sold the business to Dan Swierzewski of KSK Properties LLC of Holyoke, Mass., in 2005. Slow business forced it to shut down in April 2010; it reopened that November with Kate Wise, a former bartender there, at the helm.

"It's been on the market for a few years now and I think (Swierzewski) was just ready for a change," she said.

Wise described The Nail as a turnkey business — a property completely ready for a potential buyer; all the new owner would have to do is turn the key to unlock the door.

"The restaurant and nightclub runs itself," she said.

Wise said there has been interest in the property, but, with the economy weak, buyers have been squeamish. Despite a warm winter that slowed business around town, Wise said the Nail's sales were up from the previous winter, when there was more snow.

The current selling price is \$1.85 million.

- Another turnkey restaurant on the market is Santos Cucina Latina, which opened on Mountain Road in 2009. The restaurant has been closed since last fall. Owner Miguel Garcia and Izzo, the real-estate agent for the property, declined to say exactly why the restaurant had closed, but Izzo said it has a lot to offer a buyer.

"Everything is there — it's fully equipped, and it's actually brand new to the extent it is very energy-efficient right down the line," he said.

The property, built by Gordon Dixon of Stowe also includes three luxury apartments above the restaurant, he said.

All furniture, equipment and fixtures are included in the \$2.2 million asking price.

- The former Stowe Hardware building at 151 Main St. has been empty since December, when the hardware store moved to Mountain Road. The Art Store continues to operate in the building's basement. Frank Talarico, a

Massachusetts resident who owns the building, has put it on the market for \$1.5 million; he's also willing to lease the Stowe Hardware space.

"It's an anchor building on Main Street and it has a large retail space," he said. "It's been there for 175 years."

Talarico said it's been tough to sell real estate since the economic collapse, and he's prepared for the worst.

"I'm not an optimist when it comes to what's happening in Stowe, God bless them," he said. "My building has been largely empty since January."

Downtown Morristown battles setbacks

By Lisa McCormack

Last summer, it seemed downtown Morristown was about to experience a renaissance.

- Two affordable-housing agencies signed a contract to buy and renovate three empty buildings that had housed Arthur's Department Store. Shops, restaurants and office space would be downstairs; 18 affordable apartments would fill the two upper stories.
- Owners of several empty storefronts on Portland Street received state tax credits to renovate their buildings.
- The United Way bought an empty building, intending to rent the downstairs to a business that would employ tenants who would live in affordable apartments upstairs.
- Rumors flew about businesses looking to move into town: A brewery, a Vermont country store, a natural foods co-op, a Mexican restaurant.

Interest in revitalizing downtown Morrisville picked up steam last spring, when the Vermont Council on Rural Development led a series of grant-funded forums to gauge the community's interest in a variety of projects, from recruiting downtown businesses to extending the town's network of recreation trails.

Since then, though, there have been only a few outward signs of a transformation.

Last week, 14 wooden Adirondack-style chairs painted by local artists were placed throughout the downtown to invite passersby to sit and stay for a while.

"The chairs are like what the (painted) cows were in Burlington and the (painted) pigs were in Brandon," said Todd Thomas, Morristown's planning and zoning officer. "They look really nice and are going to draw people into the village."

A Vermont Public Radio reporter, in town for a short broadcast about the chairs, noted that several storefronts were empty, so people drawn to the village had few options for lingering and spending money.

The largest property on Main Street, the former Arthur's Department Store, has been vacant for a year and a half; a handwritten sign in the window announces that the store's fixtures are for sale.

Plans to rehabilitate the buildings are on hold, for now.

Housing Vermont and Lamoille Housing Partnership, both nonprofits, are co-developers; the Arthur's project is expected to cost between \$4 million and \$4.5 million.

However, their joint application for a federally funded community development block grant was denied last month.

What now?

A small group of Morrisville residents and business owners met with Thomas last week to discuss revitalization efforts.

The grant application “only asked for funding for the upstairs apartments,” Thomas said. “The state was worried about the viability of the project without commercial tenants.”

A few potential tenants — including Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley, Pall Spera Co. Realtors, and the Morristown town government offices — had considered buying commercial space in the building, but pulled out because of the high cost and lengthy construction process, Thomas said.

The developers will reapply for the block grant in June. While the project has secured \$240,000 in federal low-income housing credits and \$75,000 in state affordable-housing credits, it needs the grant money to move forward.

Portland Street

While Portland Street appears mostly unchanged from a year ago, upbeat changes could be on the way.

The price of a derelict Portland Street building known as the “Water and Wood Building” recently dropped from \$229,000 to \$149,000, and town officials hope an investor will buy and refurbish it.

More than a dozen local investors have looked at the property since the price dropped, Thomas said.

The building houses the Corner Pocket and Dunlavey’s Black Belt Academy. A Canadian real-estate investor owns it and has been trying to sell it for years.

The two-story building has enough square footage for 13 apartments, plus retail and commercial space.

“It has a good structure and foundation,” Thomas said. “It would have to be stripped to the bones, but the bones are good.”

Just down the street, the United Way of Lamoille County has bought the building that had housed Malarkey’s. The nonprofit plans to install transitional apartments upstairs for tenants who have had trouble finding and keeping housing in the past. Downstairs would be a commercial or retail business willing to employ and train the upstairs tenants.

The Hot Tamale Mexican restaurant in Johnson had been slated to move into the space, but pulled out of the deal. Now, the United Way is looking at opening a used furniture store, where donated items would be sold.

Nearby, the former Lamoille Valley Railway station, most recently a restaurant, remains empty, as does the Nepveu building, which has boarded-up windows and would have to be completely gutted before tenants could move in.

Heather Sargent, a member of the Morristown Alliance for Culture and Commerce, would like the town government to ask taxpayers for money to buy and refurbish one of the empty buildings along Portland Street.

The town could use it for office space, or rent it as retail or commercial space, she said.

“I think we as a community have to stand up and do something for the town,” Sargent said.

Co-op, retail study

Town officials have approved a marketing and feasibility study to see if a natural food co-op and other small businesses could be successful in downtown Morrisville.

The \$28,500 study will be funded by a mix of state grants and donations from local groups.

Participants in community forums held last year chose a natural food co-op as one project they wanted to research.

The Morristown Co-op — MoCo — Committee has been researching the idea since last summer and working to raise money for a study.

Ideally, the co-op would be located downtown. Nonmembers would be able to shop there, and while the inventory would focus on locally grown and produced food, it would also sell natural food products from outside sources to keep the shelves filled.

The town is working to launch a fundraising campaign for the co-op on Kickstarter, a website that helps startup businesses raise cash. It's asking for \$200,000 to buy and refurbish an empty building. So far, Kickstarter hasn't approved the project.

The market analysis will also look at other businesses that could fill empty storefronts.

"I'd like to know what businesses they feel would be successful in our downtown," Sargent said.

Sargent suggested that a moderately priced restaurant, such as Five Guys Burgers and Fries, would work well in Morrisville, as would a wine bar.

It's crucial to attract new businesses before the Morristown bypass is completed, said Marcia Marble, a local Realtor. Construction is expected to begin this summer on the new road, which will carry Route 100 north to Route 15 on the west side of the village, detouring trucks away from downtown.

"If the bypass keeps everyone away from the downtown, we are going to be where we are today," Marble said.

Arthur Breault, who ran Arthur's Department Store with his wife, Theresa, would like to see a shop that sells socks, underwear and basic clothing so that residents wouldn't have to drive to Chittenden County for such things.

The market analysis will look at Morrisville's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, as well as local retail trends.

It will likely include a zip code survey, in which businesses in north-central Vermont ask customers for their zip codes when they check out. The results would help pinpoint where Morrisville residents spend their money.

"They're quite revealing," Thomas said.

Town officials will begin interviewing consulting groups shortly and the survey should be completed later this summer.

EDITORIAL: HOW ARE WE?

The conclusion of the legislative session always comes with "how're we doing?" scorecards. By many measures, Vermont is doing quite well.

An exhaustive study by British epidemiologists Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett found that Vermont ranks among the top states in levels of trust, education, low rates of mental illness, and social well-being. Why? Because it is a "more equal" state. Wilkinson and Pickett determined that wealth equality results in broad social well-being. It's timely

research, as the wealth gap widens in American society (the top 1 percent of Americans possess more wealth than the bottom 90 percent).

The Wilkinson-Pickett study found that, among developed nations, those with the highest levels of inequality also had the highest social problems; the same was true among America's 50 states. More unequal states, such as Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, fare poorly on most well-being measures; "more equal" states, such as New Hampshire, Minnesota and Vermont, do the best.

Wilkinson and Pickett have put their research into a book, "The Spirit Level: Why more equal societies almost always do better," and into a TED talk you can find online. Gross inequality in society, they argue, tears at the human soul and psyche, corrodes social trust and community life, and causes stress, anxiety and a host of mental, social and physical ailments. They support their thesis with a mountain of data and research.

"If you fail to avoid inequality," they write, "you will need more prisons, more police; you will have to deal with higher rates of mental illness, drug abuse and every other kind of problem."

Noted in the Wilkinson and Pickett research is Vermont's high school dropout rate, which is routinely in the low single digits, and dropping. Researchers asked residents in every state if most people can be trusted. Nearly 60 percent of Vermonters said yes, just a few percentage points below the most trusting states. On obesity, mental illness and on and on, Vermont does better compared to states with greater income inequality.

While the data for Vermont are somewhat comforting, the research shows the United States as a whole is behind virtually every other developed nation. Wilkinson and Pickett found no statistical relationship between wealth and well-being; only when inequality was factored in did the data offer a predictable pattern.

The most equal developed nations, Sweden and Japan, are the healthiest, happiest and best educated, while nations with the deepest income inequality, such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, the United States and Singapore, fare the worst.

A stunning data point: The percentage of the U.S. population with mental illness is three times what it is in Japan. On Unicef's "index of child well-being," the United States is at the bottom; Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway and Switzerland are at the top.

Another assessment involved social mobility: In what countries is upward mobility least related to the financial status of parents? Scandinavian countries fared best among developed nations; the UK and the United States worst. "If Americans want to live the American dream, they should move to Scandinavia," the authors concluded.

These questions are central in the national debate about taxes, unemployment insurance and social spending cuts. It's no wonder Vermont's well-being indexes are higher than many others. This state spends a great deal on leveling the playing field — on health care, education, early childhood education, and more.

But Vermont achieves greater equality partly by default, partly intentionally. The Wilkinson-Pickett analysis of American states finds the same contrasts as in nations: Some achieve more equality through redistribution of wealth; others have smaller income differences. Vermont falls somewhere in the middle: Few are making big bucks here, and taxes are moderately high.

Clearly, we're doing some things right, but much more remains to be done.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 5:56 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 25:

VTDIGGER:

Fourteen industrial wind farms planned in Vermont despite intense local opposition

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

Peering through the trees in Steve Therrien's driveway, the white flash of a wind turbine blade whisks through the air. From this vantage the nearby towers are barely visible through the forest.

Although sound studies conducted by the developer First Wind show the noise level from the Sheffield Wind project is below acceptable levels set by state regulators, Therrien says it still wakes him up some nights.

Therrien lives with his wife and two children in their modest home less than a mile from the largest operating wind farm in the state. Sheffield hosts 16 turbines, each 420 feet tall.

He is part of an growing vocal contingent of citizens who are speaking out against wind projects in Vermont.

"A little humming, I could deal with that," Therrien said. "When it's waking you up in the middle of the night, you know something's wrong."

Citizens groups that oppose wind power projects, such as Energize Vermont and Vermonters for a Clean Environment, say their focus is on citizen involvement, but their critics say there is a well-funded and dedicated effort to stop all wind energy projects in the state. According to IRS 990 records, Vermonters for a Clean Environment received \$155,794 in private contributions in 2010. Between 2006 and 2010, it received \$590,484 in gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees.

Therrien has been something of a squeaky wheel for the Sheffield project. He says he wasn't opposed to the project until he filled out a survey by the group Vermonters for a Clean Environment. Shortly afterward, he heard from its executive director, Annette Smith, and he has complained publicly about the project since.

Therrien said he didn't oppose the project during the yearlong construction period. Once the project began operating in October, he said he began to have concerns.

"The noise coming off these towers sounds just like equipment running up there and I'm going to hear this for another 20 years," he said. "Well I'm not going to because I'm going to move."

A growing number of residents like Therrien who live near planned and operating wind projects are raising concerns about the influx of turbines on the state's ridge lines.

At least 14 industrial wind projects with towers of similar size (about 400 feet tall) and with electric generation outputs of varying amounts from 100 kilowatts up to a 100-megawatt project in Newark are either planned, under construction or already operating in Vermont.

Here is a list of industrial wind projects in the state, with the name of the project, its location, how many turbines it has or has planned, the power capacity and the developer:

Operating

- Sheffield Wind, Sheffield, 16 turbines, 40 megawatts, First Wind.
- Searsburg wind farm, Searsburg, 11 turbines, 6 megawatts, Green Mountain Power.

Under construction

- Kingdom Community Wind, Lowell, 21 turbines, 63 megawatts, Green Mountain Power.
- Georgia Mountain Community Wind, Milton/Georgia, four turbines, 12 megawatts, Jim Harrison/David Blittersdorf.

Proposed or in application process

- Grandpa's Knob, West Rutland/Castleton/Hubbardton/Pittsford, 20 turbines, 50 megawatts, Reunion Power/Nordex.
- Vermont Community Wind Farm, Ira/Poultney/West Rutland, 32-42 turbines, 80 megawatts, Enel.
- Manchester/Sunderland, 8 turbines, 24 megawatts, Endless Energy.
- Deerfield Wind, Readsboro, 15 2-megawatt turbines, 34 megawatts, Iberdrola.
- Derby Line, two 2.3-megawatt turbines, 4.6 megawatts, Encore Redevelopment.
- Newark/Brighton/Ferdinand, 30 3-megawatt turbines, 60-100 megawatts, Eolian Wind Energy & Nordex.
- Eden, BNE Energy, measuring tower constructed.
- Waitsfield, 20 2- to 3-megawatt turbines, 30-60 megawatt capacity, Citizens Energy.
- Londonderry, 20 2-megawatt turbines, 40-megawatt capacity, Volkswind.
- Bolton/Ricker Mountain, Bolton, measuring tower constructed, 6-7 turbines, Green Mountain Clean Energy.

Nearly all of the projects, small and large, have met resistance from individual community members or statewide citizens groups. Opponents have sought out media attention, and public meetings in the Northeast Kingdom and southern Vermont have seen vehement resistance from some locals.

That outspoken opposition, however, contradicts polls showing widespread support for in-state renewable energy. Green Mountain Power customer surveys conducted since 2008 consistently show that 68 percent to 72 percent of residents support wind power. A recent poll by WCAX News showed that of 607 Vermonters surveyed, 70 percent supported wind turbines on the state's ridgelines.

Efforts to stop wind projects also run counter to the state's policy of developing more in-state renewable projects.

In 2005, the Vermont Legislature created the Sustainably Priced Energy Development Program or SPEED. The program promotes the development of in-state renewable energy projects in order to meet a goal of producing 20 percent of Vermont's electricity with renewables by 2017.

Over the last 10 years lawmakers have developed a clear policy in favor of renewable energy projects inside the state's borders.

Former Gov. Jim Douglas, a Republican, was an outspoken critic of industrial wind and his opposition resulted in a de facto moratorium on large projects.

That temporary hold on projects ended when Gov. Peter Shumlin was elected in 2009. The governor, a Democrat, has been an avid backer of the renewable industry in Vermont, and he pushed for wind development when he was in the Senate.

At a recent press conference Shumlin said, "I'm proud of the fact as governor we're finally building wind in Vermont."

In order to meet the 20 percent objective, the state has guaranteed 20-year, above-market contracts for small (less than 2.2-megawatt projects). In 2009, the Obama administration and Congress expanded clean-energy incentives for renewable energy projects, including wind farms. The federal government offers production tax credits of 2.2 cents per kilowatt hour of energy produced in the first 10 years. The tax credits particularly benefit larger businesses with more income to offset. The incentives are designed to attract investors to the projects, which require millions in up front capital and years of work before developers get a return on their investments.

In recent years, developers have taken advantage of state and federal policies and have begun to build out a number of wind projects, seemingly all at once.

Lowell: The ongoing battle in the Northeast Kingdom

Perhaps no individual project has seen as much media coverage as the Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell.

On May 31, 2011, the Vermont Public Service Board approved a certificate of public good for the Green Mountain Power project. Construction began later that year despite an outcry from activists and neighboring landowners.

Lowell, in particular, sheds light on the appearance of divided communities.

In a Town Meeting Day vote, Lowell residents voted 3-to-1 to endorse the Green Mountain Power project. The neighboring communities of Craftsbury and Albany opposed it. Part of that split may have been due to the fact that Lowell would receive around a half million dollars each year for 25 years, while the other towns would receive closer to \$50,000."

In a Town Meeting Day vote, Lowell residents voted 3-to-1 to endorse the Green Mountain Power project. The neighboring communities of Craftsbury and Albany opposed it. Part of that split may have been due to the fact that Lowell would receive around a half million dollars each year for 25 years, while the other towns would receive closer to \$50,000.

The Lowell project has become the poster child for controversial wind projects in Vermont. Steve Wright, a former Fish and Wildlife commissioner and outspoken opponent of the project, recently took aerial photos of the ridgeline to demonstrate what he sees as the destruction of a pristine area.

Other opponents were arrested when they trespassed on the site to block construction of the turbines.

Green Mountain Power wants the \$150 million, 63-megawatt facility ready for operation by the end of 2012 in order to take advantage of roughly \$48 million in federal production tax credits, which could expire at the end of the year. At that point it would be the largest operating wind facility in the state.

Critics hold up a Clean Water Act violation last fall and illegal logging at the site before construction began as examples of bad environmental stewardship. Environmental groups like the Vermont Public Interest Research Group support the project because renewable power helps to reduce the amount of electricity produced with fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

The Newark project

An even larger wind farm under consideration near Newark would produce up to 100 megawatts of power.

Currently, wind turbine manufacturer Nordex and Eolian Renewable Energy from Portsmouth, N.H., are applying to set up towers to gauge the wind capacity of a ridgeline in Newark, Brighton and other Essex County towns.

The project would be almost twice as large as the Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell. It could mean 30 to 35 turbines 400 feet tall. Lowell will have 21 turbines.

The project received a negative reaction from the Newark Planning Commission. A letter from the commission states that a citizens group in the town garnered 300 signatures opposing the project. There are 492 residents in the town.

Wind projects in the Northeast Kingdom raised a brief stir in the Legislature this year also.

Four lawmakers from the Northeast Kingdom voted in favor of a two-year moratorium on wind projects in the state. That effort failed, but Republican Sen. Joe Benning from Lyndonville said the fight is not over.

Benning said he is opposed to the Newark project and other large wind farms in the Kingdom.

"I'm opposed to any industrial wind projects at a time when we have more than enough power on the New England grid to supply power we need," Benning said.

He said the power from wind projects is not needed in the Northeast Kingdom, and if the more populous and prosperous Chittenden County demands power, projects should be built there.

Jack Kenworthy, CEO of Eolian Renewable Energy, said it would likely be at least two and a half years before the project could begin construction.

"We're trying to address people's concerns in a productive way." We don't discount but don't consider as final the signatures that were acquired by local groups. There just hasn't been a lot of time to get accurate information in people's hands."

He said the project site is attractive because it already has existing roads and is large enough that turbines can be situated far enough away from homes to avoid bothering people with noise.

Kenworthy said he is well aware of the concerns of some residents. He said it is early in the process, however, and while a community group may have been able to rile up some opposition, he hopes to be able to educate people about the real effects of turbines rather than the unease that some people can feel when they are bombarded with information about the downsides of wind turbines.

"We're trying to address people's concerns in a productive way," he said. "We don't discount but don't consider as final the signatures that were acquired by local groups. There just hasn't been a lot of time to get accurate information in people's hands."

On the one hand, Kenworthy said, people accuse wind developers of presenting one-sided information since many studies are funded by developers. "There is a lot of misinformation out there," he said, often coming from opponents of wind projects. It's a challenge to have a reasonable dialogue once emotions begin to run high, he said.

Strife at the border

While the larger project in the Northeast Kingdom lurks in the background, another much smaller project in Derby Line has caused even more controversy.

Encore Redevelopment, a Burlington development company, plans to erect two 2.2-megawatt turbines on two farms on the Vermont-Canada border. Project manager Chad Farrell said his project has seen the same resistance as larger projects like Lowell.

"We are unfortunately facing the same opposition that much larger projects are facing, but these are much smaller, which is making it much more difficult to move forward with Vermont's interest of developing in-state renewable energy," Farrell said.

The Derby Line project has seen opposition on both sides of the border.

Vicky Farrand-Lewis, who lives in Derby near the two proposed turbines, said she is concerned about the infrasound and low frequency noise the machines could produce as well as reduced property values.

"For me it's not just one thing," Farrand-Lewis said. "The scale and siting of this project is wrong."

She said 1,000 residents in a 2.5-mile radius will be affected. Farrand-Lewis said the developers have been dishonest about the amount of outreach they have made to affected community members.

The two turbines, which would sit on two different farms, have created disputes across the border, with the mayor of Stanstead, Quebec, threatening to cut off water to the U.S. side and a lingering dispute over which country's law governing setbacks applies.

Paul Stuart, a city councillor in Stanstead said more residents on the Quebec side will be affected by the noise and aesthetics of the turbines than on the U.S. side.

"I think the reason there's more opposition over here is because it's going to affect more homes than it is in on the U.S. side within a 2-kilometer circle," he said.

"The misgivings many people had with Lowell have influenced the thinking of people in Derby and brought many issues to the fore," he said. "Many of these issues have been decided in other cases, but it's a developing science. It's hard to say the extent to which issues may come back to haunt developers."

The town of Stanstead rejected the projected, but the Derby select board has yet to take it up for a vote.

Dick Saudek, former chair of the Vermont Public Service Board, is representing the town as its attorney.

He said Derby is trying to decide what its stance will ultimately be. He said if the town and the Public Service Board disagree, the board will prevail, but it will likely tread carefully in approving a project the town does not want.

Saudek said the controversy in other parts of the state appears to have affected the town's reaction in Derby.

"The misgivings many people had with Lowell have influenced the thinking of people in Derby and brought many issues to the fore," he said. "Many of these issues have been decided in other cases, but it's a developing science. It's hard to say the extent to which issues may come back to haunt developers."

Southern Vermont and Chittenden County

In the past weeks and months, developers in various parts of the state have engaged in heated meetings with local communities. At meetings in southern Vermont, protesters voiced opposition to protest a 20-turbine proposed wind farm on the Grandpa's Knob ridgeline in Proctor, West Rutland, Hubbardtown and Castleton.

Another project in the Green Mountain National Forest in the towns of Readsboro and Searsburg, has spawned a lawsuit against the federal government over effects on wildlife.

The Grandpa's Knob project, proposed by Reunion Power, raised concerns from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, which says it is planned on a section of the Taconic Range that is considered "a rare, irreplaceable natural area" by the state.

A 10-megawatt project on Georgia Mountain in Milton and Georgia has rattled some neighbors. That four-turbine project is funded in part by renewable energy entrepreneur David Blittersdorf, who made headlines when his companies

received millions in tax credits from the state's Clean Energy Development Fund. He had been appointed to the board by Gov. Peter Shumlin and then later resigned in 2009. That same year, he became one of Shumlin's biggest campaign supporters, contributing \$28,000 to the governor's election effort. Blittersdorf continues to work on renewable project development. He started NRG Systems, a wind measurement technology company, and is now CEO of AllEarth Renewables. He declined to comment for this story.

Neighbors of the project expressed concerns earlier this month when construction began and they were not notified.

For Fletcher resident Heidi FitzGerald, the issue is the same as for other projects in the state. She says the four-turbine project will be too close — 150 feet — from her 83-year-old mother's property line.

"We don't have that much land here in Vermont, and our mountains are some of the most important parts of our state. Putting industrial turbines on top of ridgelines doesn't seem to be what we should be about."

FitzGerald has been working with neighbors to fight the project.

She said the policy of the state appears to be "going green, at any cost basically."

"We don't have that much land here in Vermont, and our mountains are some of the most important parts of our state," she said. "Putting industrial turbines on top of ridgelines doesn't seem to be what we should be about."

Martha Staskus, the spokesperson for the Georgia Mountain Community Wind project, is also chair of the board of Renewable Energy Vermont, a trade group for the renewable energy industry.

Staskus has been measuring wind and working on projects in Vermont for more than 25 years. She said the reason things seem to be coming to a head with wind energy is that after long permitting processes, projects are starting to be built.

Many potentially viable spots are not being considered for development, she said.

"If you look at all the windy places in Vermont and what's actually going in, it's a small percentage," she said.

Despite what a very vocal opposition across the state says, Staskus said, citizen involvement in wind projects is quite robust.

She said the Legislature's goal of more renewable energy, including wind, is a reflection of what people want. She said the opposition to projects comes from a very small minority of Vermonters who make a lot of noise and are very effective at steering the media.

"I think there is a very small in numbers, loud in voice, well-funded, dedicated organization that's looking to move their agenda forward," Staskus said. "That is to not have wind turbines in Vermont. Poll after poll and survey after survey comes back again and again with Vermonters supporting in-state renewable generation. The Legislature responded from that perspective."

The Georgia Mountain project has its license in hand and needs to be up and running by the end of the year to take advantage of federal money.

The opposition

Persistent opposition appears to come from numerous wind projects stems from residents who live near projects and two well-organized groups that reach out to local residents.

One group, Vermonters for a Clean Environment, says it is not against wind energy.

Annette Smith, the executive director of VCE, has been working with the organization for 14 years.

"From our perspective, it's not about opposing one technology or being in favor of another," she said. "The first job is making sure the public has a say. We advocate for a collaborative stakeholder processes."

One problem wind developers have, Smith said, is they fail to engage local communities adequately.

Smith cut her teeth fighting a gas pipeline project and later moved on to industrial-scale wind projects. She said her group supports smaller, community-scale projects.

"We support community-based projects of all sorts," she said. For example, she said Vermonters would probably accept the smaller turbines that exist at a project in Searsburg.

Smith said for any sort of project, there needs to be a stakeholder process where community members can air their concerns and actually have a say in how and where projects should be built.

She claims her organization does not have an agenda.

Lukas Snelling, executive director of Energize Vermont, an organization that has challenged numerous wind projects, says likewise his group is not anti-wind.

"We're a pro-renewable energy organization," he said. "We just want to see it done right. We want to do the right projects in the right places. It's about finding a process that facilitates appropriate-scale renewable energy."

"We're a pro-renewable energy organization," he said. "We just want to see it done right. We want to do the right projects in the right places. It's about finding a process that facilitates appropriate-scale renewable energy."

Snelling said one concern is that developers appear to be driven by profits and ignoring local concerns when it comes to some wind projects.

"We're really in a gold rush for this," he said.

The "gold rush" Snelling refers to is the federal grants and tax credits provided by the federal government for wind and solar projects.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, the Granite Reliable wind project in Coos, N.H., received a partial guarantee of a \$168.9 million loan from the federal government.

A November New York Times article outlines how similar guarantees, requiring customers to pay higher rates, can guarantee private investors profits for years to come. But federal and state officials say the assistance makes sense both environmentally and economically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost the economy.

Vermont's unique renewable energy program in particular incentivizes in-state projects over out-of-state by allowing utilities to sell "renewable energy credits" from projects like wind farms. Other states in New England have "renewable portfolio standards" that require utilities to purchase set amounts of renewable power. They can do this by buying it directly from renewable sources or by purchasing these credits. Vermont utilities do not have to buy or account for the credits, so they are able to sell them out of state, keeping the costs of projects down.

The subsidies for renewable energy projects are a talking point for wind opponents, who say the industry should be able to stand on its own.

On the national level, one accountability group has even traced some local efforts against wind and solar energy to ultra-conservative groups with financial ties to the fossil fuel industry.

Industry groups say much of the opposition comes from a sense of hysteria, often times brought on by inaccurate information.

Gabrielle Stebbins, executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont, said opponents of wind projects will often tout issues like "shadow flicker" — where turbine blades cast shadows through windows of neighboring properties, low frequency noise and water quality issues from construction runoff.

"The most frustrating thing is that so much of the information being provided is skewed or inaccurate and doesn't represent the facts," she said. "The facts are not always as compelling as things that get people impassioned."

Proponents of wind projects in the state say Sheffield Wind in the Northeast Kingdom is an example of a successful project with minimal effects on the environment or neighbors.

A report by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources found that construction of the Sheffield Wind Project had no adverse impact on the water quality and aquatic life of cold-water streams near the project.

The project also remained below sound levels set by the Public Service Board.

Josh Bagnato, the environmental permitting and compliance officer of Sheffield Wind, said the company went above and beyond to ensure there were no impacts on wildlife either. He said it took account of beech trees to make sure enough bear habitat remained, conserved 2,700 acres and studied curtailing the turbines to protect bats.

Much of the controversy between wind opponents and proponents boils down to which scientific studies are used. On the one hand, developers often hire their own consultants to do studies on things like low-frequency and other noise effects. Perhaps not surprisingly, a study conducted in Falmouth, Mass., that was partially funded by an opponent of a local wind farm, found that low-frequency noises from nearby wind turbines produced adverse health effects, such as sleep deprivation and anxiety. Town officials opted to shut down one of those turbines this month.

But proponents of wind projects in Vermont say much of the opposition likely comes from the fact that for many years Vermonters have not had to see where their power comes from.

Much of the power Vermonters use comes from Hydro-Quebec and other out-of-state sources. Now that the state has made the choice to push more renewables in-state, Vermonters are seeing the effect of that choice.

John Lamontagne, a spokesman for First Wind, the Sheffield project developer, said opponents of projects in New England have been particularly vocal.

"Certainly, there are pockets of opposition in a lot of locations," he said. "In Vermont, the opponents have been particularly vocal and very active in opposition to wind energy and to renewables."

He said citizens in Hawaii, for example, are more receptive to renewable energy. They are also more directly affected by fluctuations in fossil fuel costs because most of their energy comes from fossil fuels.

Despite a widespread media campaign and plenty of outreach to disgruntled neighbors, wind opponents have seen minimal success in stopping projects. Kingdom Community Wind is in mid construction, Sheffield is up and the Georgia Mountain and Deerfield projects have certificates of public good in hand from the Public Service Board.

In its decisions, the Public Service Board has addressed issues like noise, habitat fragmentation and property values, often finding that the projects' benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

The board's Kingdom Community Wind order states: "While it is possible that some individual properties may experience negative value impacts as a result of the proposed project, there is no empirical basis to assume that the proposed project will have any negative impacts to aggregate town, county-wide, or regional real property values."

Likewise, the board found, with noise and water pollution.

The board has, however, refused to approve one project. One 2006 board order, however, did find a project planned for East Mountain in East Haven would disturb too much undeveloped land.

The order begins: "The ultimate question in this proceeding ... is whether the proposed project promotes the general good of the state. Answering that question for this project, and for any proposed high-elevation wind generation facility in Vermont, requires a balancing of two fundamental state policies: promoting in-state renewable resources, and protecting Vermont's ridgelines."

That particular project, the order said, was in the wrong place.

"While this renewable-energy project would provide undeniable benefits, those benefits would come at a significant cost: the project, with four, 329-foot-tall wind turbines, would be located in the midst of extensive lands that have been protected from development through years of effort and the expenditure of millions of dollars of public funds," the order reads.

Environmental critics of the efforts against wind

While Energize Vermont and Vermonters for a Clean Environment focus on preserving the state's ridgelines, at least one environmental group says aesthetics and views should not be factors in wind farm siting.

In comments on the state's comprehensive energy plan, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group said considering stopping a project because it might affect someone's view could effectively ban turbines on Vermont's ridgelines.

"We need, as a state, to develop clean, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels," the group's comments states. "Giving, or considering giving, such weight to aesthetic concerns should not be on the table at all, given what is at stake."

Paul Burns, VPIRG's executive director, said his group has been working on energy issues for 40 years and has opposed its fair share of projects and practices, including the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, trash incineration and hydraulic fracturing for natural gas.

It's more of a problem with the coordinated campaign among a small number of groups and individuals who simply oppose all wind out of hand that has nothing to do with specific issues of any particular project. That position is, in my opinion, indefensible."

Burns said he has no problem with citizens expressing concerns over specific projects and with some groups such as the Green Mountain Club, which has sounded the alarm about the possibility of lifting a wind "moratorium" on state lands.

The problem, he said is with the categorical opposition against every wind project.

"It's human nature that people would be particularly concerned about something in their neighborhood," he said. "The idea of people coming together to express concerns about a local issue, that's democracy. It's more of a problem with the coordinated campaign among a small number of groups and individuals who simply oppose all wind out of hand that has nothing to do with specific issues of any particular project. That position is, in my opinion, indefensible."

Burns said VPIRG focuses more on broader energy policies like getting energy from a variety of clean sources. The group has not opposed any specific wind projects in the state.

Burns said critics of wind appear to be missing the big picture. While groups like Vermonters for a Clean Environment and Energize Vermont support solar projects it is not possible for residential solar to provide all the power Vermont needs and uses any time soon, he said.

If the state wants to wean itself off fossil fuels, Burns said, wind needs to be part of that portfolio.

"It's not an either or proposition," he said.

Is there a solution?

Wind energy portrays clearly the competing values between combatting climate change and preserving Vermont's landscape. While there may be no one solution, a professor at Vermont Law School recommends a different approach.

Sean Nolon, a law professor who specializes in alternative dispute resolution, wrote an article on wind siting and citizen involvement.

He proposes that developers and the government should involve citizens earlier on in the process to help develop policy rather than fight projects that are already on their way toward completion.

"The premise is that citizens who are involved in developing a comprehensive wind policy will be more effective and productive participants in the siting decisions that implement those policies," Nolon's paper says.

The idea, he said, is that the state should first develop a policy of how much wind projects it wants and where they are appropriate.

"The model I propose starts with a statewide process to determine how much energy we want to get from renewable resources," he said. "Then the state should decide what facilities are appropriate and where they are appropriate. Finally, once that has been done, then the state needs to provide support for municipalities and applicants with projects in those areas."

He said one of the problems is that the Public Service Board has to look at each project on a case-by-case basis rather than through a lens that is guided by a more comprehensive state policy.

"If we want to help the Public Service Board with their decisions, we should really have a statewide or regional plan that identifies what level of renewable energy we want, what do we want renewable energy facilities to look like, what areas are appropriate sites for those facilities, and how are we going to cut back on energy from fossil fuels," he said. "Ideally, citizens should be involved in all stages of that planning process."

For now, tension will inevitably continue in the state over these projects.

As for his sense of public support for wind power, "People cry louder than they praise," Nolon said.

Charest cancels trip to Vermont; UVM students protest in solidarity with Montrealers

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

In solidarity with striking students in Quebec, UVM students and members of the Vermont Workers' Center planned to protest Quebec Premier Jean Charest's Vermont visit. The premier had been scheduled to sign a cooperative agreement with Gov. Peter Shumlin.

James Haslam, lead organizer for the Vermont Workers Center, claimed Charest bagged out of the Green Mountain visit because he was turned off by the planned protests.

Vermonters successfully sent a loud and clear message to Quebec Premier Charest that his agenda of union-busting, repression and austerity aren't welcome here. Apparently after hearing the buzz about the solidarity rally being organized by leaders of Occupy Burlington and the Vermont Workers' Center to support the Quebec students strike, Charest decided to cancel his trip.

But it seems unlikely that Charest would have been turned off by a smallish group of Vermont protesters in contrast with the thousands of Quebecois who have been turning up in the streets for weeks to oppose tuition hikes. The official word from Shumlin's office was that Charest had postponed his trip to Vermont to attend debates in the General Assembly in Quebec City.

VTDigger.org was unable to connect with Charest's press aide Thursday, but news reports from Canada said he had abruptly changed his chief of staff. The Montreal Gazette wrote that "his office is denying the sudden decision is related to the student crisis rocking the government."

For more than 100 days now, Quebec students and supporters have protested tuition increases for the province's universities. The Quebec National Assembly passed an emergency law recently requiring anyone planning a protest to notify police eight hours in advance.

Ashley Wolf, a senior at the University of Vermont, said students planned to highlight the events in Quebec and make connections between the struggles students face in both places.

Tuition at UVM for in-state students for the 2012-13 year is \$13,344. For out-of-state students it is \$33,672.

Wolf said the steep cost drives some students to other states.

"A lot of Vermont students can't go to UVM," she said. "That's an issue."

While Vermont students will still be paying far more than their neighbors in Quebec, Wolf said the percentage increase in tuition raises concerns.

The increase in tuition in Quebec will cost students \$325 more each year for five years, raising tuition to just under \$4,000 by 2016-17.

Haslam said there are solidarity protests planned in other parts of the United States also.

"For Vermonters, we feel we have a heightened responsibility to show there is strong support for the students in Quebec," he said.

He said it is not so much the money but the trend toward a more U.S.-style policy that is less friendly to the working class.

In recent days, police have arrested hundreds of protesters in Quebec under the emergency law that was passed last week.

Protesters in Quebec are demanding that the premier roll back the tuition hikes. Quebec has the lowest tuition rates in Canada, but even after such an 80 percent increase, it would remain among the lowest in the country.

Across the border in Vermont, the tuition increase at the University of Vermont was up 3.5 percent from the year before.

Richard Cate, UVM's vice president for finance and administration, said that is actually less of an increase from last year, which was 5.8 percent.

Typical UVM students who have to borrow money to go to school leave with around \$20,000 in debt, Cate said. The state university's tuition is one of the highest for in-state students in the country. Part of that, Cate said, is due to low state funding.

Despite the small appropriations for higher education in the state, Cate said, Vermont has not seen drastic cuts like other states.

"In our case, we have been fortunate in that the rules of the game haven't changed substantially," Cate said. "We've had less public support but it hasn't been volatile."

Another reason the university's tuition increase rose less steeply this year, Cate said, was a decrease in the financial aid the school gave out as a result of incomes in the state increasing. Less financial aid going out means less pressure to increase tuition across the board.

In Quebec, Cate said, the tuition hike is a much greater change in past process that seems to be precipitating angst. Education is much more heavily subsidized in Quebec, he said, meaning more shock at the increase in tuition.

When asked about the pending protests at a press conference Wednesday, Gov. Peter Shumlin said he did not get involved in the internal political issues in Quebec.

"I would kill to have the inflation increases in higher ed they're protesting in Quebec right here in Vermont," Shumlin said.

Of the \$300 or so increases in tuition, he said, "We would take that any day of the week."

Markowitz: 2012 legislative session in review

Editor's note: This op-ed is by Deb Markowitz, the secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources.

This was a remarkable year in the Legislature for Vermont's environmental and natural resources. Important work was done throughout the session to protect and enhance Vermont's environment. This is great news, since Vermont's environment and natural resources are vital to growing good jobs, enhancing our quality of life and strengthening our economic future.

I want to give a special thanks to Sen. Ginny Lyons and the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Rep. David Deen and the House Fish and Wildlife Committee, and Rep. Tony Klein and the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They should feel proud of all they accomplished for Vermont this past year.

These are some highlights:

Flood Resiliency: A top priority of the administration, coming from our experiences with Tropical Storm Irene, was to pass legislation to enhance ANR's ability to respond to future flood emergencies, and to help Vermont's communities become more resilient to flooding. The River and Lakes Management Bill (S.202) accomplished this goal. This broad bill covers many aspects of river corridor and floodplain management and protection, and has important provisions relating to emergency response and water quality protection. The principle behind this bill is that by reconnecting our rivers to our floodplains, and by encouraging revegetation of our stream banks and lakeshores, we will both reduce the risk of loss from flooding and improve water quality.

Recycling: Today, Vermonters recycle 36 percent of the waste stream, but half of the other 64 percent is recyclable, and yet ends up in our landfills which are nearing capacity. This was one of the reasons the House unanimously passed, and the senate nearly unanimously passed H.485, the Universal Recycling bill. This new law advances Vermont into the next generation of solid waste and materials management and ensures that Vermonters have good options for managing their recyclables and organic residuals (the stuff we can compost). Over the next eight years we will be phasing in mandatory recycling of all recyclable materials, including organics; and our solid waste haulers and facilities (who, incidentally, largely testified in support of this bill) will be required to offer collection services for those materials.

The Working Landscape: Vermont's future prosperity is tied directly to how we manage our natural resources. That is why it was so important that the Legislature and the administration collaborated to invest in the future of our green innovation economy. The Working Landscape Bill (H.496) provides an initial investment of a million dollars to jump start farm and forestry projects. The Working Lands fund will be administered by a board who will focus on three key areas:

- Grants and loans to land-based and value-added businesses that are new or want to grow;
- Wrap-around services to working lands enterprise including technical assistance, business planning, financial packaging, and other services required by companies ready to transition to the next stage of growth; and
- Needed infrastructure for creative diversification projects, value-added manufacturing, processing, storage, distribution, and collaborative ventures.

It is largely agreed that this is the most important economic development bill of the session, and if we can keep this fund alive it will do much to protect, preserve and enhance Vermont's natural resources well into the future.

In a separate bill the Legislature makes it easier for Vermonters to build renewable energy projects for their homes and businesses by streamlining the regulatory process and by requiring utilities to provide net metering based on the standard rate charged to the majority of its residential customers.

Renewable Energy: Last fall Vermont adopted a new comprehensive energy plan that sets a goal for Vermont of meeting 90 percent of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. The Energy Bill (S.214) is an important first step toward achieving this goal. This large, wide-ranging bill will support and expand renewable energy development in Vermont. It expands Vermont's community-scale renewable energy "standard offer" program that guarantees renewable energy developers a standard offer pricing for renewables. This will, in the long run, create consistency in the market and drive down the costs. The bill also creates incentives for developers to locate projects in smart places — areas that will prevent the need for new transmission and distribution upgrades.

The bill also requires ANR to look at greenhouse gas impacts and use a carbon accounting protocol to be developed in the upcoming year. It clarifies ANR's role in assessing efficient use of natural resources when considering electricity generating biomass energy projects, and provides for harvesting and procurement practices that support forest health. In a separate bill the Legislature makes it easier for Vermonters to build renewable energy projects for their homes and businesses by streamlining the regulatory process and by requiring utilities to provide net metering based on the standard rate charged to the majority of its residential customers.

A Ban on Fracking: Vermonters have been watching with increasing concern the use of hydraulic fracturing ("hydrofracking") to recover natural gas or oil in our neighboring state of New York, and in other states like Pennsylvania and Texas. Fracking involves injecting a massive volume of water, sand, and chemicals underground at high pressure to break up rock formations, allowing oil or gas to flow up the well. This causes a real risk to both surface and ground water. Although Vermont does not have the kind of geology that makes us a good candidate for natural gas recovery using hydraulic fracking, Vermont is leading the nation by being the first state to institute a ban on hydrofracking.

Wildlife Violators Compact: Vermont joined most all other states by entering into a reciprocal wildlife violators compact (through H.53) that ensures violators of wildlife regulations in other states cannot receive a license to hunt here in Vermont.

Stablizing ANR's Budget: Last, but perhaps most importantly, the Legislature took great strides to stabilize ANR's budget after years of punishing cuts. (Over the past five years or so we have lost nearly 20 percent of our staff.) Our budgets were essentially level funded, with \$1.4 million of general funds added to the Fish & Wildlife Department's budget to offset a reduction in license revenue. Two positions and general funds were added to the Department of Environmental Conservation to support additional river management staff. The DEC fee bill will raise enough funds to help buffer expected losses in federal funds and to create a more balanced and stable financial foundation for DEC. The Fish & Wildlife fee bill included modest increases for hunting and fishing licenses in 2013 and 2014, a new separate bear tag fee, the creation of two new funds for threatened and endangered species permit fees and mitigation funds, and a host of technical corrections to licensing statutes.

Thank you to all who participated in the legislative process this year. One of the true gifts of living in Vermont is how accessible our decision makers are, and how each one of us can make a difference.

London, Sarah

From: Carle, David (Leahy) <David_Carle@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:09 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Ariel--Senate tonite confirmed Gen. Dubie --

Senate Confirms General Dubie As New Deputy Commander Of NORTHCOM

... Head Of The Vermont Guard Will Take #2 Post In U.S. Military's Homeland Defense Mission

(THURSDAY, May 24) – The U.S. Senate Thursday night confirmed the Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, Major General Michael Dubie, to a top post in the U.S. military's homeland defense mission. General Dubie, nominated by President Obama, will be the Deputy Commander of the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), the military's unified command in charge of protecting U.S. territory and providing military support for civil authorities in the event of a national emergency. Senator Patrick Leahy (D) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I), joined in the effort by Representative Peter Welch (D), had pushed for prompt Senate action on the nomination.

In a joint statement, Leahy, Sanders and Welch Thursday night said: "This is a proud moment for Vermont and a great credit to our exemplary Guard. General Dubie has given Vermonters the benefit of his skill and leadership, which meant so much to our state during major deployments to Afghanistan and in Irene's wake. The nation now will have the value of his service in this vital and sensitive new assignment."

Dubie, who has headed Vermont's National Guard since 2006, will become a three-star general. He will be the third general from the ranks of the National Guard to fill the number two position at NORTHCOM. Leahy, who chairs the Senate National Guard Caucus, succeeded in enacting reforms that set aside this position for National Guard general officers under Leahy's National Guard Empowerment Act of 2008.

NORTHCOM, created in 2002 in the aftermath of 9/11, is co-located with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. In addition to protecting the contiguous United States, NORTHCOM is responsible for Alaska, Canada, Mexico, and surrounding international waters out to 500 nautical miles.

#####

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:20 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Thank you

Thank you everyone for all of your help this past week. Though Charest didn't end up making it, I think it was a very successful day for the Governor.

I appreciate all the work everyone did to help me. Thanks to those of you who answered all the emails and calls about the events, and those who staffed the reception. I also want to say a special thank you to Leigh for taking over the UVM RSVP list. He organized a confusing set of lists, handled a corrupted list from Quebec and was able to get me and UVM the information we needed all week long. You are great!

Thank you all for adding this extra work to your already full plates.

Lisa

Sent from my iPad

London, Sarah

From: Peterson, Cliff
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:04 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Kimbell, Steve
Subject: Weekly report
Attachments: Weekly report 5-25.docx

Ariel -- Attached is the weekly report from the Department of Financial Regulation.

Cliff

Clifford Peterson
General Counsel
Vermont Department of Financial Regulation (formerly Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration)
89 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-3101
802-828-3301
cliff.peterson@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 7:59 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

Thanks. I just don't want them to find out by reading about it. How did the uvm reception go?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Phone

----- Reply message -----

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, May 24, 2012 5:45 pm
Subject: Weekly Memo
To: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>

thanks Susan, I've been helping Lisa all afternoon so I haven't yet, I'll call them all again now.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 24, 2012, at 5:10 PM, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

Hi Ari – I've attached my weekly memo for tomorrow. Any luck getting in touch with the students?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

<BCMemo.052512.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 5:46 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: Weekly Memo

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109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

<BCMemo.052512.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Weekly Memo
Attachments: BCMemo.052512.docx

Hi Ari – I've attached my weekly memo for tomorrow. Any luck getting in touch with the students?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Erickson, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 4:32 PM
To: Erickson, Nancy; VT Health Department
Cc: Cimaglio, Barbara; Chen, Harry; Dolan, Tracy; Henry, Dixie; Clark, Leo; Philibert, Dawn; Racine, Doug; Allen, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Wilcox, Debra; AHS - VDH - District Directors-Exclusive; AHS - VDH - Directors Extended; AHS - VDH - Communication Office; Bosma, Mark; Oliver, Christine
Subject: Health Media Contacts: May 23, 2012

Binge Drinking

Ric Cengari, Vermont Public Radio producer, requested Deputy Commissioner Barbara Cimaglio for Vermont Edition on May 30 (live at 12 noon) about binge drinking in Vermont. The show will focus on the impact of binge drinking on public health, and what the Health Department is doing to educate Vermonters about the problem.

STDs

Jennifer Reading, WCAX, requested sexually transmitted disease statistics for Vermonters over the age of 50 as part of a national story on a perceived increase in the incidence of STDs among older people in the past few years. Vermont reports incidence of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis and the numbers for the past 10 years have been fewer than five cases a year for people over 50, and almost no cases for anyone over age 60.

MRSA and Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections

Christine Hinkel, WCAX, interviewed Patsy Kelso, state epidemiologist for infectious disease, about MRSA infections. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that does not respond to some antibiotics that are commonly used to treat staph infections. Kelso discussed the Health Department's Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) prevention program that is working to prevent the spread of MRSA and other common infections in patients in hospital and long-term care settings.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Paint

Christine Hinkel, WCAX, interviewed State Toxicologist Sarah Vose about volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in paint and how much of a health hazard they pose to the public. VOCs are nearly everywhere in the environment. VOCs are unstable, carbon-containing compounds that readily vaporize into the air and react with other elements to produce ozone (air pollution). Some VOCs have been linked to cancer, as well as kidney and liver damage.

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Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/HealthVermont

London, Sarah

From: Brian Pines, It Gets Better Project <noreply@itgetsbetter.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Ten Ways to Help It Get Better

IT GETS BETTER PROJECT™

WWW.ITGETSBETTER.ORG

Dear Ariel,

Thank you for joining the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have pledged to provide hope for LGBT youth and put an end to anti-LGBT bullying.

We often get asked, how can I help the It Gets Better Project and support LGBT youth? Well, we created a list of ten ways you can get involved with the Project, as well as in your local community:



Add Your Voice, Submit a Video

Give hope to LGBT youth by adding your unique voice or story to the Project. Every story can save a life. Check out our site for some examples and tips.



Search, Watch and Share Videos

Visit our site to watch videos from thousands of inspiring people who have shared their stories. New videos are posted regularly!



Visit Our Resource Center

In need of support now? Want to support your community? Visit our Resource Center to find people you can talk to right now or locate organizations near you.



Get the T-Shirt

Show your support! Our new 2012 Pride shirt is now available. Or you can purchase an original It Gets Better Project T-shirt.



Connect With Us

Stay up to date on the latest from the It Gets Better Project by joining us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).



Send a Copy of the It Gets Better Book to a School or Library of Your Choice

Bring "It Gets Better" to your community. For a \$25 donation, we'll send a copy of It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying and Creating a Life Worth Living to a school, library or location of your choice.



Get the Book

Read inspiring "It Gets Better" stories and help support the Project by purchasing a copy of The New York Times Bestseller, It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying and Creating a

Get Help

If you are a young person who is in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgment-free, confidential place to talk, call 24/7 to:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK

The Trevor Project Lifeline
1-866-488-7386

You can also visit our **Resource Center** to find local organizations that can be of assistance.

Life Worth Living. Now available in hardcover, paperback and eBook formats.



Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

Your support and generosity provide important resources for LGBT youth and enables us to raise awareness, as well as fund suicide prevention and anti-bullying programs.



Donate in Honor or in Memory of Someone

Honor someone with a donation to the It Gets Better Project.



Share the It Gets Better Project

Share the It Gets Better Project website and videos with your contacts by using our simple website tool.

Since the It Gets Better Project launched in the fall of 2010, it has become a library of over 50,000 inspiring videos, reaching millions and helping countless LGBT youth through their darkest times.

With your support we can continue to raise awareness about anti-LGBT bullying and suicide prevention programs and encourage individuals to get involved in their community.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Brian Pines
It Gets Better Project

DONATE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and The Trevor Project are organizations that provide services including crisis intervention, suicide prevention and mental health support, as well as community outreach. They are not affiliated in any way with the It Gets Better Project. They are listed here for informational purposes only.

This email was sent to: Ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us | [Click Here to Unsubscribe](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 4:07 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Media Request

Came in via IQ:

"From: "Anthony Michael Kreis" [REDACTED]
Date: 5/23/2012 12:38:06 PM
To: "GovernorVT@state.vt.us" <GovernorVT@state.vt.us>
Cc:
Subject: Marriage Equality Law Review Article

Governor Shumlin,

I hope this email finds you well. I write to invite you to participate in a large-scale project that seeks to capture personal histories from key players in recent same-sex marriage legalization and prohibition efforts.

As a key leader in Vermont's landmark legislative enactment of marriage equality, any historical record would be incomplete without your perspective.

The exposé's goal is to neutrally preserve a detailed, comprehensive, and viewpoint diverse historical record of key players' personal perspectives on the merits of same-sex marriage, the process involved, the importance of interest groups, the relevance of personal relationships/religious background in the decision making process, and the effect of related policy considerations including, but not limited to, religious liberty exemptions.

Once the histories are recorded, they will be compiled and synthesized into a single volume and submitted for publication consideration to top-tier law reviews including Yale Law Journal, Harvard Law Review, and Stanford Law Review for future generations of scholars, judges and legal practitioners in February 2013.

In order to best facilitate the collection of testimonies, I am requesting to schedule a brief 10-15 minute telephone interview.

I hope you decide to lend your voice and join the other governors, legislators, national activists, members of the media, and scholars, including former New York Governor Paterson, key legislative leaders in New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, and national leaders Evan Wolfson and Ted Olson, who have already agreed to contribute to this historically important endeavor.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully,

Anthony

Anthony Michael Kreis, J.D.
Ph.D Candidate, University of Georgia
School of Public and International Affairs

Department of Political Science
Department of Public Administration and Policy”

Carolyn Wesley
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Visit Governor Shumlin’s Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Mace, David <David.Mace@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Barnett, Tim; Rose, Ben; Bradley, RichardE; Brown, Eugene; Cook, Angela; Costello, Frederick; Curran, Jennifer; Rapaport, Dave; Edmonds, Darrell; Erickson, Nancy; Ferri, Albert; Filkorn, Erik; Halliday, Kathryn; Haskell, Emery; McLane, Lauren; Minter, Sue; Nygaard, Corey; Coffey, Peter; Pinkham, Dennis; Piper, Michael; Rennert, Peter; Riley, Bill; Robinson, Myrna; Nagy, Ross; Russo, James N; Ryerson, Chad; Stewart, Charlotte; Stewart, John; Stirewalt, Robert; Truman, Bennett; Wengroff, Ariel; Whedbee, Grace; Whitton, Kelli; Alvarado, Diego; Blagg, Mary; Davis Jr, Wendell; Davis, Wendell; Foglino, Annette; Mace, David; Bosma, Mark; Mccarthy Barnett, Kate; Valeja, Samir; Zuzy Zvarova
Subject: Potential SPAM: DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report May 24, 2012
Attachments: DR-4022 - 4043-VT 05-24-12 Media Monitoring.docx

DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report Thursday, May 24, 2012

HOT ISSUE: *No hot issues.*

SUMMARY: *Sen. Vince Illuzzi touted the new affordable housing legislation as correcting a glitch in the state's regulations pertaining to mobile homes, saying it helped overcome FEMA's objections to authorizing "maximum housing grants" to the owners of destroyed mobile homes due to the fact that the state didn't have anyone authorized to issue condemnation letters for mobile homes (**The Commons**); the selectboard in Braintree dealt with a number of Irene-related issues recently, including its application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant (**Herald of Randolph**); some families in Rochester are still awaiting the return of their relatives' remains, which were washed away when the local cemetery was flooded (**WCAX**); Windham County is hoping an influx of state money will help reverse its economic fortunes post-Irene (**The Commons**); an op-ed piece by a New Hampshire professor chides the "Connect The Dots" movement for their recent event linking the destruction of the Bartonsville Covered Bridge to global warming, likening them to charlatans who, lacking scientific evidence, "depend for their occult power (which, historically, is always derived from the contemporary ruling banking elite) on their privileged access to and comprehension of divine signs of revealed truth" (**The Commons**); the selectboard in Randolph discussed formalizing the relationship between the town and the Red Cross regarding the use of the local school as an emergency shelter (**Herald of Randolph**); months after Irene, many of the phone lines in the Waterbury State Office Complex are still not functioning and the state has not revised online listings to correct numbers that are out of service (**WPTZ**).*

NEGATIVES: *None.*

TRENDS: *Post-legislative analysis and local recovery efforts continue to garner significant news coverage.*

Link to National FEMA Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/fema/>

Link to DHS Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/dhs/>

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None

DR-4022-VT:

New legislation for mobile home parks opens doors for residents

The Commons

May 23, 2012

By Olga Peters/The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Sylvia Renfrew hasn't slept under her own roof in eight months thanks to the one-two punch of Tropical Storm Irene and the regulations around mobile homes.

But new legislation aimed at protecting some of Vermont's most affordable housing should help Renfrew and her Glen Park neighbors move back home.

"I was surprised at how many friends I did have," said Renfrew of the support she has received over the last eight months.

Renfrew, 79, who moved to Glen Park in 1979, stays in an apartment on Greenleaf Street because Irene's floodwaters soaked the floor of her mobile home. Green mold is the building's primary inhabitant now.

Since Irene, mobile home residents like Renfrew have lived in a no-man's land. Their mobile homes are treated differently from traditional houses under current housing regulations, creating more challenges for those who have less money to help them rebound.

The passage of a new law, S.99, will help smooth this uneven terrain, housing advocates say.

The legislation, in addition to providing protections to mobile home owners, includes provisions to encourage the development of more parks; improves residents' negotiation rights before a park's sale; allocates \$1.5 million in funds and tax credits to assist in purchasing and building mobile home parks; and codifies the state's intent that a Vermont public agency administer Section 8 housing subsidies, unlike other states that allow private companies to manage the federal subsidies.

The law, signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin May 14, also makes it illegal to discriminate in land use and permitting decisions against a park based on the residents' income.

Despite numerous anti-discrimination laws designed to protect renters and homeowners, the state had overlooked mobile home owners, said Sen. Vincent Illuzzi, R-Essex/Orleans, one of the bill's proponents, at a May 16 press conference at Glen Park.

"We never passed a law that allowed communities not to discriminate against mobile home parks," he said.

Illuzzi added that the legislation cleared FEMA's claims that state law did not designate a specific official to order a mobile home condemned. This glitch kept mobile home owners like Renfrew from collecting the \$30,200 flat rate that FEMA offers for condemned buildings after a disaster.

State officials worked on this issue until "FEMA threw in the towel" and agreed the governor could retroactively issue the letters of condemnation necessary for owners looking to leave their severely flood-damaged homes, said Illuzzi.

The legislation also provides some temporary relief for Tri-Park in the form of deferred loan payments.

Last year, the park completed upgrades to its water and sewer system financed through Brattleboro's pot of State Revolving Loan Funds. Irene's damage wiped away nearly all the park's \$250,000 reserves.

Loan deferral

With loan payments looming, Tri-Park approached the town about deferring payments. S.99 carries a provision to defer \$496,000 of payments for two years.

"We did listen. We acted on it," said Illuzzi. "You deserve all the thanks," he told the audience.

Fellow legislators joined Illuzzi at Glen Park to announce the bill's passage: Sen. Jeanette White, D-Windham, Rep. Mollie Burke, P/D-Brattleboro, and Rep. John Moran, D-Wardsboro.

Sen. Peter Galbraith, D-Windham, and Rep. Sarah Edwards, P/D-Brattleboro, were both out of town.

In a separate interview, Galbraith, who led the charge for the legislation with Illuzzi, said he was "very pleased" with the law's passage. Ensuring that mobile home owners received the same benefits and rights as owners of built homes was paramount for him and Illuzzi.

The old stereotypes of trashy trailer parks are wrong, he said, adding that mobile homes provide affordable housing, while parks like those in the Tri-Park cooperative build community.

S.99 has tried to address how funding like disaster relief has disproportionally favored conventional homes over mobile homes, which most banks consider depreciating assets, he said.

Illuzzi and Galbraith previously met with Tri-Park residents during a visit to Windham County on March 30. The Tri-Park cooperative consists of three mobile home parks — Black Mountain, Mountain Home, and Glen Park — with about 320 units in total.

Glen Park saw the worst of Irene's flooding from the Whetstone Brook. Ten severely damaged units have been removed.

The message Illuzzi received March 30 was that residents felt their recovery sat in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hands, not their own.

"Although we're a small state," he said, "we decided we would make a difference."

Illuzzi serves on the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs with Galbraith, as well as on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. According to Illuzzi, these assignments helped him support the bill by "carrying the ball to the appropriations committee."

Mary Durland, known as "The Mayor of Glen Park," described S.99 as "successful for mobile home owners and their parks beyond their wildest dreams."

She said the legislation will help Renfrew replace her mobile home.

"That \$10,000 to \$15,000 that made it impossible has been taken care of," Durland said.

Bigger problems linger

But S.99 won't solve all of the residents' problems.

The fact remains that Glen Park sits in the Whetstone Brook's floodplain. Resident Judy Malloy wants the Whetstone "addressed ASAP," taking issue with environmentalists worrying more about trees than houses.

Resident Carol Perry said that, even before Irene, she looked into senior housing after her husband needed nursing home care.

This change cut her income in half, but not her bills. This past winter, Perry said, heating fuel was one bill she couldn't pay.

She considers affordable housing an important issue for Vermonters and wants lowered rents that include heating fuel. The state also needs to define what qualifies as an "affordable housing" figure.

"When we say we don't have any money, we mean we don't have any money," said Perry, who also works with the grassroots organization, the Vermont Workers Center.

Perry had federal flood insurance. But, she said, only two homes at Glen Park could meet FEMA's insurance qualifications.

"That's a mistake," she said.

Still, Perry sees a silver lining to Irene's floods.

"Our park came together as neighbors," she said. "[Glen Park] was a trailer park. Now it is a mobile home park, and we're owners."

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Braintree Selex Tackle Issues, Many Due to Irene

Herald of Randolph

May 17, 2012

The following summary of the Braintree Selectboard's April 3 meeting was written from approved minutes submitted to The Herald.

The board heard a proposal to process payroll, from CompuCount. The discussion will be continued.

The board agreed to work with the White River Partnership to remove garbage from area brooks, including Riford Brook, below Atkinson's. A small section of Thayer Brook may also need work, along with the Third Branch in and below West Braintree.

Highway Foreman Jeff Masterson is still waiting for hydraulic studies for three of the culverts, which are needed before the town can continue with project worksheets. The board approved replacing the large culvert at the top of Duclos Road with the multi-plate recommended by the hydraulic study. The board also agreed to replace the big Lemery culvert with a bridge.

Masterson advised that a lot of brush cutting needs to be done this year, along with many other road maintenance and flood-related projects. The board asked him to develop a four-year plan for roadside brush cutting, using the current grant for brush removal along Braintree Hill Road and Thresher Road. There was discussion about using part-time labor this summer for some of the brush cutting, but this was tabled.

Treasurer Jessie Brassard said she would like to wait to hire consultant Alice Asterita until she understands what questions to ask. She has a number of resources she can draw from right now.

Appointees

The board appointed Rick Enser, Allen Carter, Paul Kendall, Linda Morse, and Joan Richmond-Hall to the conservation commission with Jocelyn Stohl, alternate.

Mark White, Tut Doane, Nathan Cleveland, Paul Rea, and Nancy Davoll were appointed to the Irene recovery committee.

Board member Tim Caulfield said the grant proposal for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation program has been submitted. He has been working through the steps for the Wheeler Bank Stabilization Project.

Financial Policies

The board unanimously approved the accounting, auditing, and financial reporting policy.

Board Chair Howard Boutwell recommended some changes to the personnel policy. The board will review a draft of the amended policy at the next meeting.

Janice Thresher advised that updating the website is proving to be more difficult than she thought it would be. It is being worked on.

Caulfield has received a response from a lawyer at VLCT regarding payroll for the outgoing treasurer. He forwarded the response to Jocelyn Stohl and explained how the board had calculated the amount paid to her. He also asked her to let him know if she disagreed with the calculations or the interpretation of the statutes. He has not heard anything back. Therefore the board is considering the issue resolved.

The board agreed to pay Carl Tilton for gravel taken from his property at the recalculated amount of 577 yards at \$2.50 per yard.

The highway crew will grade the field on Brian Jones' property, where it was used to access the brook during flood recovery efforts. The board approved overweight permits.

The board agreed to have the town seek a higher credit limit of \$2000 on the town credit card.

Caulfield volunteered to review the Energy Baseline Report that TRORC put together for the town.

The state will give the town \$90,307 in FY13 for maintenance of town roads, \$6307 more than estimated in the FY13 budget.

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Vt families still search for remains lost to Irene

[WCAX](#)

May 23, 2012

By Keith McGilvery

ROCHESTER, Vt. - What Tropical Storm Irene stole from Darlene Thompson and her little girl, Mackenzie, may prove impossible to replace.

"There was my father and my mother, my grandmother, a brother and uncle," Thompson said.

Irene wiped out the remains of 50 people at the Rochester Cemetery. Thompson's parents are two of just 23 people who have been recovered. Their remains are in vaults hundreds of yards from their washed out grave and recovered headstone.

"I enjoyed decorating their headstone, I enjoyed planting flowers, I enjoyed putting them in there, and this just doesn't even seem real," Thompson said.

Her brother and uncle are still missing and the woman she originally thought was her grandmother when we first met in November, may in fact be someone else. Thompson continues to bring flowers to her remains as she awaits DNA results.

"I'll still keep doing it because there's somebody's grandmother right there, there's somebody's grandmother right there, I may know her, I don't know," she said.

No additional remains have been recovered here at the cemetery since we first met Darlene Thompson last fall and of those that have been, only 11 have been identified.

"DNA is not a fast process like you see on TV. They don't get the results like boom just overnight or whatever and they don't have a big team like they do on television that works on that exclusively because they've got other things that are happening," said Sue Flewelling of the Rochester Cemetery Commission.

Flewelling oversees the cemetery commission and says while no formal effort is underway to find additional remains; if people find anything unusual in the water or land near the cemetery they should call the state police.

"A lot of people need that tangible bit of evidence of their loved ones and you can't blame them. That's the way they believe and that's the way they feel they want a place to come and put flowers on Mother's Day and Memorial Day and to be able to talk to the ones that I passed," Flewelling said.

People like Darlene Thompson, whose storm continues long after Irene left her hometown.

"I mean I want them back where they should be back side-by-side. I mean my parents aren't even next to each other," Thompson said.

The cemetery commission is hoping to use federal funds to repair the cemetery and return these vaults to their rightful place we're told that could happen as soon as July.

The repair and internment work at the cemetery could cost close to \$300,000.

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County looks forward to state money

Senators credit citizen testimony in bringing new funds to a region battered by the economy and Irene

The Commons

May 23, 2012

By Olga Peters/The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—Visitors and members of the Sustainable Valley Group (SVG) wander through the Transportation Center sampling local foods and reading about industrial hemp.

The meeting represents a celebration of sorts. Windham County could soon receive additional state funds now that the legislative session has closed.

Sen. Vincent Illuzzi, R-Essex/Orleans, and Pat Moulton Powden, deputy secretary for the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, peer into shotglass-sized paper cups.

“Chocolate ice cream made from hemp?” asks Illuzzi. “I don’t know. You go first.”

A tour of the Island, where the Transportation Center is located, follows the ice cream.

According to SVG director Gary Fox, the Island, the former home of the Rutland and the Boston & Maine railroads’ freight yard, and several other industrial properties, is listed on the National Register of Historic Place. Unfortunately, he said, a third of the original buildings have disappeared since 1984, casualties of haphazard development.

Fox says that SVG, a nonprofit organization working to promote a local green economy, hopes to provide a cohesive development plan for the Island.

The organization wants to rehabilitate the Island’s former manufacturing space, promote sustainable and green businesses, and provide job training.

The Island, which is home to the Amtrak railroad station, thus is considered one of the gateways to the town.

Seeing results

Illuzzi and Sen. Peter Galbraith, D-Windham, members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (SEHGA), took testimony March 30 with committee member Sen. Bill Doyle, R-Washington.

Sen. Jeanette White, D-Windham, although not a member of the committee, sat in. Committee members Sens. Timothy Ashe, D/P-Chittenden, and William Carris D-Rutland, did not attend.

SVG had presented its Green Island Project at a special hearing of the Senate Economic Development Committee on March 30 in Brattleboro.

Based on testimony they collected from SVG and more than 20 other county organizations and municipalities during the five-hour hearing, Illuzzi and Galbraith pushed through legislation to provide \$225,000 to support economic development in the county.

Although early attempts by Illuzzi and Galbraith to earmark funds for the county did not survive to the final Appropriations Bill, Illuzzi said the legislative intent remains that Windham County should receive preference to receive the funds.

The funding breaks down to \$100,000 for a post-Tropical Storm Irene economic development initiative managed by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and access to \$75,000 for jobs training through the Department of Labor's Workforce Education and Training Fund (WETF).

WEFT is a competitive grant program. Interested applicants can find more information at the State Department of Labor's website under grants.

The Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategy's (SeVEDS) will receive \$50,000 for continued post-VY planning.

SeVEDS representatives did not attend the event.

Illuzzi and Galbraith's original amendment to the Appropriations bill requested \$393,000 for the county. Seed money to the tune of \$110,500, put forward by the senators for the Green Island project, was one of the legislative session's funding casualties.

"It's not a lot of money, that's the thing," Illuzzi, in a separate interview, said of the final amount. "It's more about focusing the state government's attention."

According to Powden, the Legislature instructed the ACCD to find the \$100,000 within its existing budget. She expects the agency will assemble the funds from a combination of sources, such as Downtown Tax Credits.

Powden said the agency didn't support the provision of \$100,000 because it didn't have that kind of extra funding. The \$100,000 will come available, she said, later in the fiscal year as the agency finds savings or receives new grants.

The Legislature has also instructed ACCD to hold a public hearing.

Agency representatives will collect testimony on how the community wants to use disaster funds to meet long-term infrastructure and housing needs, said Powden. The hearing is scheduled for June 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre.

Illuzzi recommended that people testifying prepare a brief written statement and a proposed budget.

The Capital Bill, which passed, included an amendment from Illuzzi and Galbraith to study the feasibility of a higher-education collaborative in downtown Brattleboro, a project that Illuzzi described as a public incubator space.

In the Appropriations bill, Illuzzi also included a provision for a feasibility study on expanding Vermont's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to include commercial properties.

Making hemp legal?

Industrial hemp tops the afternoon's conversation. The federal government prohibits the growing of industrial hemp, lumping the plant in with its cousin, marijuana.

The government does, however, allow U.S. companies to import hemp.

After testimony in March by representatives of Hempfully Green, a local company that specializes in using hemp in building construction, Illuzzi proposed an amendment to remove a clause on the state's existing industrial hemp statute.

This “trigger clause” currently makes the state law take effect only after the federal government making industrial hemp legal.

Lawmakers balked, and the law will remain as is.

Instead, the Legislature instructed the state Agency of Agriculture to develop rules and procedures for licenses.

“It’s up for states like Vermont to lead the charge,” countered Illuzzi. “I think the solution is in the courts. I don’t think the Congress will act.”

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Connect the Dots: Desperate and misguided

Lack of scientific legitimacy for all of the apocalyptic claims

[The Commons](#)

May 23, 2012

LES KOZACZEK teaches at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H

Brattleboro - At the risk of being ostracized by the region's dilettante trustafarians, and also, I fear, by Globalists worldwide, I am compelled to note the glaring flaw in the rationale underpinning the newly launched “Connect the Dots” Warmist initiative.

“Connect the Dots” is not, as it sounds, an attempt to prove that the moon landing didn’t happen. (Although it’s certainly in that ballpark.)

Rather, it is a desperate and misguided political tilt at reconstituting the (mercifully) rapidly evaporating global Warmist cult, by invoking the Shamanic divinations of weather-related signs, signs of imminent, climate-caused apocalypse.

These signs — e.g., a washed-out bridge in Vermont, flooded plains in Pakistan and Thailand — are apparently portents of Gaia’s final reckoning for Mankind’s profligacy and inherently Nature-hating evil.

The flaw that bedevils the Connect the Dots meme is the startling lack of scientific evidence supporting its central — allegedly scientific — claim that “climate change” caused the Tropical Storm Irene–related storms that whopped Brattleboro and the region.

Indeed, Eric Blake, a hurricane expert at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is quoted on Politico as saying exactly the opposite when asked about Irene:

“I think the state of the science is such that you cannot link any singular event to global warming,” said Blake, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center near Miami, several days before the storm.

Besides, Blake added, “there’s nothing new about a hurricane hitting the Northeast” — even if it’s rarer than a storm that whacks Florida or the Gulf Coast.”

In fact, the Dotties should not even refer to Irene as a hurricane, since NOAA downgraded Irene from being a hurricane to being a tropical storm before it landed.

The only proven connection between Irene and alleged global warming is the demagoguery of Warmist cult hardliners, who, to stay relevant, must elevate anecdote, alarmism and populist illogic over empirical, scientific investigation.

* * *

For example, southern Vermont's self-appointed and bug-eyed High Priests of Warmism — who, I'm sure, all walked with a joyful carbon-free skip to their Warmist revival on the site of the Bartonville covered bridge — say they have read the tea leaves, rolled the bones, and dunked the witch.

All the signs are in.

The divination is over.

There can be no doubt.

Weather, as we all suspected, is the Antichrist, and, if we don't cast it from our Eden — right now — the End is Nigh! And we shall all be damned for eternity to burn in Hell. (Or, at least, some of us might want to consider moving a few miles inland and grow our own grapes.)

The 800-pound-gorilla lack of scientific legitimacy sitting on the Dotties' apocalyptic claims does not concern them.

Rather, the absence of science — the eternal sworn enemy of cult-think — supporting their divinations and pontifications actually enhances the Warmist High Priests' reputation among Disciples of the Dot as being seers and soothsayers.

Our local Warmist High Priests crave the self-indulgent, blind adherence to anti-scientific political dogma that High Priests of other cults demand.

For example, Corporatist High Priests Karl Rove and Dick Cheney famously insisted that their truth — despite its incompatibility with reality — is the truth, that that their Math trumps actual math, Archimedes be damned.

Similarly, our homegrown High Priests of Warmism glibly construct and proselytize their own math, based on the revealed wisdom issued forth from "climate" computer modeling software that is paid for by, and programmed to empower and enrich, the world's carbon-trading and carbon-tax-collecting global banking interests.

Warmist High Priests consider this proprietary wisdom to be so inspired and so divine that it transcends any need for the tiresome authentication of rigorous scientific investigation.

It's their truth.

You will accept it.

End of story.

* * *

Of course, the way to stop pollution is not, as the High Priests preach, to waste time aimlessly connecting dots, so that we can draw anti-scientific conclusions based on dubious proprietary computer modeling. And all to what end?

Rather, we should enforce and enhance current law, so that major corporate polluters are shut down and their officers are locked up for life and, if they cause death, face the death penalty for their actions.

Nation-state polluters can be embargoed and boycotted by other nations.

But a law-based program of fighting pollution is not going to satisfy the High Priests of Warmism.

What use to them is a Bible — a widely available and robust body of strictly-enforced law preventing and punishing pollution — that the peasants can read and interpret for themselves?

Like the early clergy, our modern High Priests of Warmism depend for their occult power (which, historically, is always derived from the contemporary ruling banking elite) on their privileged access to and comprehension of divine signs of revealed truth.

Absent this revealed truth, Disciples of the Dot must abandon any claim they have to being vibrant and progressive political activists; they quickly become, for example, a clutch of well-intentioned, misinformed malcontents huddled on a bridge.

* * *

So, sure, let's Connect the Dots; we can pretend that every weather event that has ever occurred and that will ever occur in the world, is just one more sign of the coming climate Apocalypse.

But let's not forget that, while our climate-change-connectin' crayon manically twitches from connecting one arbitrary weather-event dot to the next arbitrary weather-event dot, what we'll be producing is nothing more than a Rorschach Inkblot.

The Warmist high priests will stare solemnly and knowingly at this scribbled blot — they might even go into an eye-ball rolling trance — and they will surely divine in it a blueprint for humanity's impending and certain self-immolation, from which only they can preserve us. And, even then, only if we all commit unquestioningly to the mysteries of their Warmist cult.

The rest of us, however, will stare at the crayon-connected dots and discern ... well, nothing more than an incoherent mess of dots and lines that wouldn't look out of place taped to our fridge door.

Some of us might even quietly lament the unnecessary waste of an otherwise perfectly good sheet of paper.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Selex Discuss School as Red Cross Shelter, Gun Use at Gravel Pit

Herald of Randolph

May 17, 2012

By Amy Danley-White

At its May 14 meeting, the Bethel Selectboard heard from Principal Kevin Dirth and School Board Chair Kristen LaFromboise about the use of Whitcomb Jr./Sr. High School as a Red Cross certified emergency shelter.

The night of the flooding from Tropical Storm Irene, the board ran into several problems using the site. The principal and school board didn't know the town had designated it as a shelter. It was not a Red Cross certified shelter, so many supplies they could have had weren't available. Both Dirth and LaFromboise agreed that the school was a logical place for a town shelter.

Board member Joe DeFreitas, who has begun to take classes from the Red Cross, said that a certified shelter has to have people who are trained by the Red Cross in how to open and operate the shelter. These people have to have a longterm commitment to the program, as disasters are often few and far between.

Board chair Neal Fox said that with certification, the Red Cross becomes responsible for the entire upkeep of the building while it is used for that function. Dirth and LaFromboise said they would need to pass the request by the entire school board before giving an answer.

Molly LaFromboise presented a check to the board of \$512.50 for flood relief, which was earned by the seventh graders of Whitcomb from sales of their book about the flood.

There was a public forum on limiting the discharge of weapons at the town gravel pit. Several people from River Street and surrounding areas of the pit complained of the constant noise from the pit, "seven days a week, from morning until after dark." Residents said people use automatic weapons and skeet shoot at the pit as well. Several people commented that they had no problem with hunters sighting their weapons there.

Town Manager Del Cloud presented the firearm ordinance for the town of Bethel. The only areas in the town where firearm discharge is prohibited are Peavine Park, the Church Street common, and the Bethel Recreation Area. The board agreed it was dangerous to have automatic weapon fire and shooting into the air near houses, and said it would act quickly on a decision on this matter.

Lisa Campbell and Mary Russ of the White River Partnership talked about a proposed tree planting on the riverbank around Peavine Park. Russ said that the WRP had 150 trees and shrubs available for planting at no cost to the town, planted by volunteer labor. The only requirement is for the town to sign an agreement not to cut down the shrubs and trees for 20 years.

Fox said he wouldn't sign a binding contract, but perhaps the town manager would. He also asked if the parks and public spaces committee saw this proposal, as they are the ones who ordinarily would present such things to the board.

Campbell said that she had run it by Mary Floyd, who would have attended, but had a conflict.

Willow Griffith presented the board with a tree-planting project she proposed along a steep riverbank up the road from the park.

Campbell asked for permission to host a park beautification event on May 26. She said volunteers were welcome. She expected about 30 volunteers from Daniel Luttrell's youth leadership group. The Bethel Area Rotary said they would provide lunch. Fox said it was obvious that Campbell had a lot invested in restoring Peavine Park. He asked her if she would like to chair the parks and public spaces committee. She accepted and four others asked to join her on the committee.

Cloud also shared e-mail at the meeting from the Vermont Telecommunications Authority saying that AT&T will use the proposed cell tower site at the town garage.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Broken government phone lines

Vt. state website still needs rework after Irene

[WPTZ](#)

May 23, 2012

By Bridget Shanahan

MONTPELIER, Vt. - It's been nearly nine months since Tropical Storm Irene and still you might not be able to reach state troopers, the department of corrections or even public safety.

Dozens of state phone numbers listed on the vermont.gov website simply do not work.

Many of them are Waterbury numbers associated with a water logged and now vacant state office building.

Look up a state department, dial the number and it's busy or your told it's not in service. Try the next one on the list, and it's the same thing.

Close to fifty numbers altogether are not working for one reason or another.

That could keep people from being connected to the help they need.

We went to the governor with our findings, and he says he'll fix it.

"It seems to me we could solve a very simply matter of information technology," Gordon Bock said.

Bock works with former inmates and their families through an advocacy program called CURE Vermont. He worries without access the right resources they'll face an added burden.

Generally speaking people involved with the correctional system or the loved ones of people involved with the correctional system are dealing with a lot already," Bock explained.

The bulk of the unavailable numbers are on the vermont.gov website under the phonebook. Most of them are Waterbury digits all starting with 2-4-1, including several belonging to the d-o-c like the Vermont offender work program and the probation and parole lines for customer service and information.

"It seems to me that would be a highly frustrating situation and it's not providing the right service to people who really need that," Bock added.

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The entire state office complex is empty right now. That's because last august Tropical Storm Irene swept through Waterbury leaving behind chest high water forcing the employees who work in this building into random areas across the state and giving them new phone numbers.

There are close to 30 out of service or otherwise unresponsive numbers listed under economic services, family services, fish and wildlife and the now defunct state hospital among others.

Close to 20 more work but have technical problems, give you a new number or ask you to leave a message, including the number you'd dial to report cases of Medicaid fraud and residential abuse, so we went to the governor.

"Listen I'm not familiar with this particular problem. All I can tell you is my team has been all hands on deck in the Irene recovery. As you know it distracted us from some of things we normally get done," Governor Peter Shumlin said.

That's what Governor Shumlin had to say when we told him what we found.

And as to when the numbers will be fixed:

"We want numbers to work. We want to get call backs. I can tell you that I have an 800 number to my office and I've had no complaints about this so far so you have obviously done more research on this than I have on this one. All I can tell you is it's a problem and we're here to fix it," Shumlin added.

Newschannel 5 also called the people who run Vermont.gov to find out how long it would take to fix the numbers that aren't working right, and we're still waiting on a call back.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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External Affairs Writer
DR-1995/4001/4022/4043-VT
FEMA Joint Field Office
30 Allen Martin Drive
Essex Jct., VT 05452
Main Phone: (802) 662-8500
Office Phone: (802) 662 8706 (Business Hours Only)
FEMA Cell: 571-488-8411



FEMA

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:54 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: anti-harassment bills

Sure

On May 24, 2012, at 1:17 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Can we do a blog to coincide?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Noah Michelson <noah.michelson@huffingtonpost.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 13:15:18 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: anti-harassment bills

That is so cool. We're actually kicking off an eight-week anti-bullying program on Gay Voices.

Any chance Gov would have time to whip up a blog post about this for us to run?

N

On Thu, May 24, 2012 at 12:29 PM, Wengroff, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:
Hey,

Hope you're well. Thought you might be interested in this:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120524/NEWS03/120523057/outright-vermont-harassment-bullying-gov-peter-shumlin?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Thanks,
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--

Noah Michelson

Editor, The Huffington Post Gay Voices

Noah.Michelson@HuffingtonPost.com

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Noah Michelson
Subject: Re: anti-harassment bills

Perfect. Thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Noah Michelson <noah.michelson@huffingtonpost.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 13:40:13 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: anti-harassment bills

Totally fine. Just submit in the system like you normally do and we'll get it up early next week.

N

On Thu, May 24, 2012 at 1:39 PM, Wengroff, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Oh that would be great! He's crazy busy with a business EXPO today, so it couldn't be until tomorrow on our end. That alright?

Thanks,
Ari

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London, Sarah

From: Noah Michelson <noah.michelson@huffingtonpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:40 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
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Noah Michelson
Editor, The Huffington Post Gay Voices
Noah.Michelson@HuffingtonPost.com

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:30 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Friday, May 25th

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:17 PM
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Noah Michelson
Editor, The Huffington Post Gay Voices
Noah.Michelson@HuffingtonPost.com

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Ha, we'll try!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 13:01:28 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ari,
Thank you for the update, make sure he shares.. :)

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Rick,

The cookies just arrived today! Thank you very much.

Best,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:37:54 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ariel,

How are you today? I hope you are enjoying your day so far. We sent cookies to Governor Shumlin via your attention and I believe they have arrived at your office. Would just like to make sure that you received them. Have a nice and safe Memorial Day Weekend.

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 11:01 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Yes, that's the Governor's Office address. Thanks so much
Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:59:31 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

one last item should I use the address you have on your e-mail?

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:53 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Absolutely, if you would like to send that I'm sure the Governor would be thankful.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:48:00 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Also, I would like to send a box of cookies to Governor Shumlin as a thank you for attending the event. Is that allowed?

Renee

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:33 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Renee,

It was no problem!

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:31:02 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ari,
Thank you so much for sending the photos to us we really do appreciate it. Have a great day.
Renee

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: "<renee@tippedcowcompany.com>" <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 9:43 AM
Subject: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Please find the attached photo of Governor Shumlin and you at the Make A Wish Cookie Dunk event.

Best,
Ari Wengroff

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

IMG_1080.jpg

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

London, Sarah

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:01 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ari,
Thank you for the update, make sure he shares.. :)

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

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To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:54 PM
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Hi Rick,

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Best,
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Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:37:54 -0400
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Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Absolutely, if you would like to send that I'm sure the Governor would be thankful.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:48:00 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Also, I would like to send a box of cookies to Governor Shumlin as a thank you for attending the event. Is that allowed?

Renee

Thank you,
Rick Vierra
Tipped Cow Cookies
802-524-4243
www.tippedcowcompany.com

From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:33 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Renee,

It was no problem!

Thanks,
Ari

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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:31:02 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ari,
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From: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>

To: "renee@tippedcowcompany.com" <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>

Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 9:43 AM

Subject: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Please find the attached photo of Governor Shumlin and you at the Make A Wish Cookie Dunk event.

Best,
Ari Wengroff

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

IMG_1080.jpg

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:55 PM
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Rick,

The cookies just arrived today! Thank you very much.

Best,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:37:54 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Ariel,

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Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 11:01 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>

Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>

Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:59:31 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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From: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>

Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>

Date: Wed, 16 May 2012 10:48:00 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:55 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Wesley, Carolyn; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re: cookies mystery

Perfect thank you

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:53:47 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: cookies mystery

They came in today.

They're in Lisa's cubbie

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:42 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Wesley, Carolyn; Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: cookies mystery

Hey,

Just tried to call you! We are expecting Tipped Cow Cookies in the mail...can you let me know when they arrive so I can e-mail the people? They're concerned that they didn't come.

Thanks,
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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

Hi Rick,

I hope you're well.

We're checking, so far the cookies haven't arrived. I'll let you know as soon as they do. Thank you again for sending them our way!

Best,
Ari

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Cell: 802-279-6825

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Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 11:01 AM
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
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Cell: 802-279-6825

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Reply-To: Tipped Cow Cookies Tipped Cow Company <renee@tippedcowcompany.com>
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To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Photo with Governor Shumlin

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:35 PM
To: Anne Lyons
Cc: Beth Lester
Subject: Re: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

No problem! I'll follow-up as I soon as I speak with a couple of other folks.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:34:04 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com>
Subject: RE: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Oh, good to know—thanks (and sorry about that).

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thanks again!

Anne Lyons | Events Manager | POLITICO | (m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com

From: Wengroff, Ariel [<mailto:Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Anne Lyons
Cc: Beth Lester
Subject: Re: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Hi Anne,

Bianca actually left almost a year ago and I've taken over her position.

Thank you very much for inviting Governor Shumlin to be the keynote speaker on healthcare. I'm going to check with our Scheduler and others. This seems great!

Thanks,
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Office: 802-828-3333
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From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
To: "Slota, Bianca" <Bianca.Slota@state.vt.us>
Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com>
Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Dear Bianca,

My name is Anne Lyons and I am the Events Manager at POLITICO. In honor of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, POLITICO is hosting a week of policy lunches. These discussions will explore how energy, health care, technology and economic policies will affect the November election and the future of the industries.

On behalf of our editorial team, we would like to invite Gov. Shumlin to headline the policy lunch focused on health care—this event will be the key forum for discussing health care's impact on the presidential race and the options policymakers will have in 2013. We think Gov. Shumlin's perspective is vital to the conversation and we would be honored to have him join us in Charlotte.

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The hour-long conversation will be with a POLITICO editor or senior reporter about health care policy's role in the 2012 election and in the coming years — no speeches, slides or presentations are necessary. The event will be on the record, open to the press and streamed live on POLITICO.com—we expect about 75 guests will attend and many more will join via the livestream. We plan to host the energy program at a downtown Charlotte location from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 6.

Thank you for your consideration and for your help. Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Anne

Anne Lyons | Events Manager | POLITICO | (m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:34 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Cc: Trombley, Shana
Subject: FW: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin
Attachments: 5-24-2012 SHUMLIN.pdf

I think this would be a great opportunity...

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Best,
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London, Sarah

From: Twitter Counter <sam=[REDACTED]> on behalf of Twitter Counter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:34 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your Twitter Stats for Last Week (21) | Lady Gaga nears 25 million followers

TWITTER counter THE #1 STATS SITE
POWERED BY Twitter

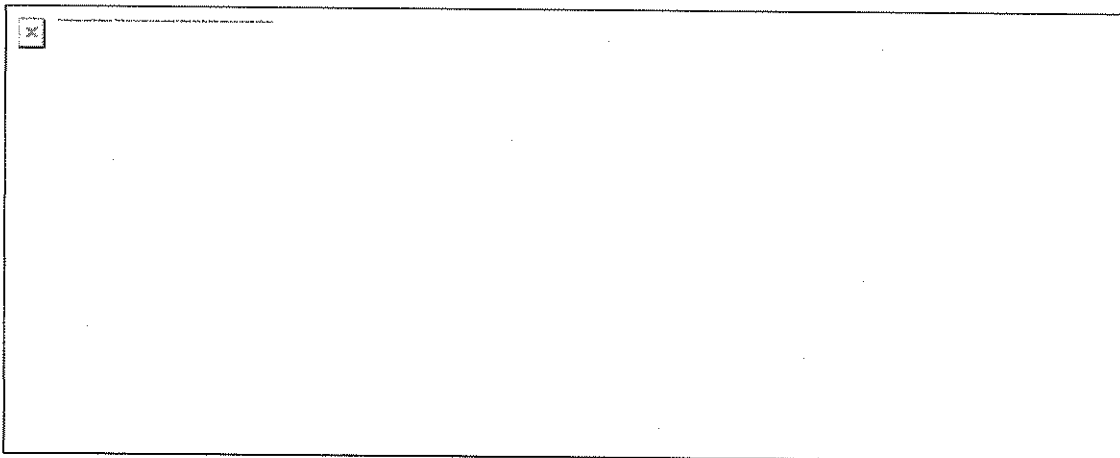
Hi @GovPeterShumlin

Here's your weekly update. We hope you gained some cool new followers.

By the way, did you know that **Lady Gaga** is hitting 25 million (!) followers in just 8 days from now? The Queen of Twitter will be the first one hitting the 25 million milestone. Crazy isn't it? We hope she won't miss this milestone herself. You should neither. That's why we made it easy for you with our milestone notifications. **Go check them out**

Followers	Growth this week	Prediction next week
4,621	65	4,695

[See full stats and predictions on twittercounter.com](http://twittercounter.com)



You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive a weekly newsletter from Twittercounter at <http://twittercounter.com> | [Unsubscribe](#)

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My name is Anne Lyons and I am the Events Manager at POLITICO. In honor of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, POLITICO is hosting a week of policy lunches. These discussions will explore how energy, health care, technology and economic policies will affect the November election and the future of the industries.

On behalf of our editorial team, we would like to invite Gov. Shumlin to headline the policy lunch focused on health care—this event will be the key forum for discussing health care's impact on the presidential race and the options policymakers will have in 2013. We think Gov. Shumlin's perspective is vital to the conversation and we would be honored to have him join us in Charlotte.

The official invite from our Vice President is attached, and here are the details:

The hour-long conversation will be with a POLITICO editor or senior reporter about health care policy's role in the 2012 election and in the coming years — no speeches, slides or presentations are necessary. The event will be on the record, open to the press and streamed live on POLITICO.com—we expect about 75 guests will attend and many more will join via the livestream. We plan to host the energy program at a downtown Charlotte location from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 6.

Thank you for your consideration and for your help. Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Anne

Anne Lyons | Events Manager | [POLITICO](#) | (m) 571-839-9171 | alyons@POLITICO.com

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Anne Lyons
Cc: Beth Lester
Subject: Re: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

Hi Anne,

Bianca actually left almost a year ago and I've taken over her position.

Thank you very much for inviting Governor Shumlin to be the keynote speaker on healthcare. I'm going to check with our Scheduler and others. This seems great!

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Anne Lyons <alyons@politico.com>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 12:30:25 -0400
To: "Slota, Bianca" <Bianca.Slota@state.vt.us>
Cc: Beth Lester <blester@politico.com>
Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin

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Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:30 PM
To: Slota, Bianca
Cc: Beth Lester
Subject: 2012 Convention: POLITICO invitation for Gov. Shumlin
Attachments: 5-24-2012 SHUMLIN.pdf

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:30 PM
To: Noah Michelson
Subject: anti-harassment bills

Hey,

Hope you're well. Thought you might be interested in this:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120524/NEWS03/120523057/outright-vermont-harassment-bullying-gov-peter-shumlin?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Bell, Chris
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:54 AM
To: VT Health Department; AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: Re: news

Chris Bell

Director

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services

Vermont Department of Health

(802) 863-7223 Office

(802) 863-7483 Fax

(802) 316-0448 Cell

Email:

Chris.Bell@ahs.state.vt.us

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 03:38 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org' <maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org>
Subject: news

City Leaders Champion Smart Meters in Burlington - BFP

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120523/NEWS02/120523026/City-leaders-champion-smart-meters-Burlington-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Dartmouth Pharmacist Leaves Job – Valley News

By Mark Davis

Valley News Staff Writer

Hanover -- Dartmouth College has severed ties with a campus pharmacist accused of improperly diverting painkillers while at the same time college officials said they are reviewing hiring practices.

Dick's House pharmacist Jeffrey Licht earlier this month had his license suspended by state regulators after he was charged with taking medication from the campus infirmary on 60 occasions and had been personally prescribed nearly 10,000 pills in little more than two years. He had been hired by Dartmouth despite a prior conviction of a federal crime and admitting to stealing medication while working at three pharmacies in Maine earlier in his career.

"Jeffrey Licht no longer works at Dartmouth," college spokesman Justin Anderson said in a statement late yesterday. "We have launched an internal investigation concerning the circumstances of his hiring and to see how we can strengthen our procedures."

Anderson declined further comment.

In a phone interview, Licht, who had previously been placed on administrative leave at Dartmouth, said that he had retired. While maintaining that he had done nothing wrong, Licht said he was weary of negative publicity surrounding the suspension, and worried about the effect it had on his three children.

"I'm all done," Licht, 62, said. "I've done nothing wrong, but I'm out. It's, 'Bye pharmacy, bye Dartmouth.' I'm looking forward to retirement."

Dartmouth has refused to discuss its decision five years ago to hire Licht.

However, in interviews with the Valley News, several outside experts questioned whether the college had done its due diligence before hiring Licht to dispense medication to students and staff.

"Somebody didn't do their homework," said Woodstock pharmacist Jim Marmar, head of the Vermont Pharmacists Association. "Obviously, if they had they would have found all this about him."

Licht had been granted a provisional pharmacist's license by the New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy when he was hired by Dartmouth, and it is unclear how much the college knew of Licht's past.

But records of his prior transgressions are publicly available, and pharmacy industry professionals interviewed by the Valley News say they should have raised red flags, if not disqualified Licht from working around medication.

"That guy should not have been working with narcotics," said Karen McBride, director for pharmacy services at Fletcher Allen Hospital. "If I had that (from) a background check, I would have weeded him out."

The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy suspended Licht's pharmacy license earlier this month after an investigation showed that he allegedly diverted nearly 900 pills containing hydrocodone and acetaminophen -- the main ingredients in vicodin -- from Dick's House, and was prescribed more than 10,373 pills of the same medication during a two-year period by a disgraced Rhode Island doctor.

It was the first time in at least three years that the board ordered an emergency suspension.

Licht asked the board to drop the suspension at a hearing last week, and a decision is still pending.

During that hearing, investigators testified that Licht had previously been in trouble with authorities.

In 2002, Licht signed a plea agreement with federal prosecutors in Maine admitting that he falsified military records by claiming that he served in Vietnam and had been in a prisoner of war camp in an attempt to garner more generous military benefits.

And, in 2000, Licht voluntarily surrendered his Maine pharmacist license after admitting that he had taken medication from three separate pharmacies, investigators testified. Licht told the board that, after that incident, he entered therapy and turned his life around before moving to New Hampshire.

Hanover Police Chief Nick Giaccone said that his department is investigating whether Licht broke any laws while working at Dick's House, and is coordinating with investigators from the pharmacy board.

While Giaccone said officers are not reviewing the decision to hire Licht, he said Dartmouth should have vetted Licht more thoroughly.

"That's a Dartmouth issue," Giaccone said. "They have to look at (their hiring) practices. They were probably more trusting than they should be. Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people who walk through the door don't have a criminal record. It's the one-tenth of one percent that do. I can't fault (Dartmouth), but after you get burned, you should obviously look at your background checks."

The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy, aware of Licht's employment past history in Maine, nonetheless issued a provisional license to Licht in 2003 that required him to submit to urine tests for five years. He maintained a clean record in New Hampshire, until the findings earlier this month.

Minutes of the board meeting when Licht was granted his license do not show any discussion about Licht's past. The pharmacy board has wide discretion in granting licenses, Pharmacy Board Director James Queenan said, but New Hampshire says the board can only forbid someone convicted of a felony from getting a license -- Licht's federal crime was a misdemeanor, according to court records, and therefore didn't rise to the threshold.

But pharmacy experts told the Valley News that healthcare providers should not rely solely on a pharmacy board's licensing standards when vetting potential employees.

CVS, which employs 23,000 pharmacists nationwide, conducts criminal background checks of prospective pharmacists in addition to checking with the licensing board in the state where the prospective employee would work, company spokesman Mike DeAngelis said.

Plymouth pharmacist Ralph Oliver, a member of the New Hampshire Pharmacy Association, said that he checks with other boards of pharmacy.

"Certainly, if someone moves here from Connecticut or Massachusetts, one of the most prudent things to do would be to check with those boards of pharmacy," Oliver said.

Experts noted that Dartmouth supervisors, with only a few keystrokes, could have consulted a national database that contains state reports and findings of wrongdoing from medical boards across the country.

While not accessible to the general public, the National Practitioner Healthcare Integrity and Protection database is readily available to health care providers. The database, experts said, almost certainly would have included records of Licht's problems in Maine.

"It's a flagging system for individuals looking to hire someone," said David Bowman, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Basically, people who are doing the hiring of practitioners have this as a tool to check up on backgrounds and prevent someone who may be dangerous from being hired."

However, Bowman said, the database should be augmented with more fundamental due diligence.

"It is not a substitute from doing a thorough background investigation," Bowman said. "People should be contacting the people who previously employed them and getting the scoop."

Licht said he was unsure about Dartmouth's hiring protocols.

"I've always had a great reputation in New Hampshire," Licht said. "That's about all I can say. They hired me. Had they done more extensive background checks, would they have hired me? I don't know. I'm not the one who hired me. It's not for me to rat out Dartmouth."

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: US Atty General

Great, thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 11:51:20 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: US Atty General

Great. "Its" is possessive and doesn't need an apostrophe.

On May 24, 2012, at 11:49 AM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

Based on below, are you okay with me posting this:

Today, Attorney General Eric Holder hailed Vermont for making progress in its war on recidivism: "States like Vermont – which, after reinvesting \$6 million to advance its reentry goals, reduced its three-year recidivism rate by 4 percent and, over the last two years, saw a 5 percent decrease in violent crime – are providing models for other states to learn from and replicate." - Attorney General Eric Holder, speaking this morning at the National Second Chance Act Conference in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-120522.html>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 11:43:07 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: US Atty General

Gov wanted some publicity on this. If you can track it down (I'll also try to find it), can we tweet/post it?
Sue

From: GPS
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Fwd: US Atty General

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>
Date: May 23, 2012 9:28:27 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: US Atty General

Getting a name out there!

-----Original Message-----

From: Pallito, Andy
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:00 AM
To: Bartlett, Susan; Racine, Doug
Cc: Oliver, Christine; Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: US Atty General

FYI!

-----Original Message-----

From: Miodownik, Derek
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 12:32 PM
To: Pallito, Andy; Peebles, David
Subject: US Atty General

Hi Andy & David.

Atty General Eric Holder gave the opening remarks at the SCA conference this morning. He only mentioned 2 specific States by name as examples of examples of significant recidivism reduction: Hawaii & VT.

Good press, nice work.

Thanks.

Derek

London, Sarah

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:50 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: US Atty General

Based on below, are you okay with me posting this:

Today, Attorney General Eric Holder hailed Vermont for making progress in it's war on recidivism: "States like Vermont – which, after reinvesting \$6 million to advance its reentry goals, reduced its three-year recidivism rate by 4 percent and, over the last two years, saw a 5 percent decrease in violent crime – are providing models for other states to learn from and replicate." - Attorney General Eric Holder, speaking this morning at the National Second Chance Act Conference in Washington, D.C.

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Derek

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: US Atty General

"Such efforts are resulting in significant taxpayer savings and public safety improvements nationwide. And states like Vermont – which, after reinvesting \$6 million to advance its reentry goals, reduced its three-year recidivism rate by 4 percent and, over the last two years, saw a 5 percent decrease in violent crime – are providing models for other states to learn from and replicate." - Attorney General Eric Holder, speaking this morning at the National Second Chance Act Conference

<http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-120522.html>

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 11:43:07 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: US Atty General

Atty General Eric Holder gave the opening remarks at the SCA conference this morning

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:40 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Our guy. The Blurb.

Thanks!

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Our guy. The Blurb.

I just forwarded the quote to Bill again.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 11:04:28 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Our guy. The Blurb.

What's the status? He came by again and asked

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:39 AM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: More news

Bristol's HUB furnishes cash for sex education - Addison Independent

BRISTOL — How do you get a group of teens to discuss and learn about the socially taboo and awkward topic of sex? Give them \$100.

That's the strategy Jim Lockridge, director of The Hub teen center, and Ryan Krushenick, program coordinator at the Bristol center, are taking to engage young adults in a federally funded sex education program. To encourage local teens to participate in the course, which begins Monday, May 14, at The Hub, Lockridge and Krushenick are earmarking for participants one-third of the \$300-per-person funding provided by the feds.

When questioned about giving teens money for their completion of the program, Krushenick was unwavering in his belief that the \$100 will be enough incentive to effectively bring the issue of teen sex risks into the open and drive youngsters to learn about them.

"It's not a bribe — it's an incentive," he said. "In teen life there's a clandestine element to sexual activity. Parents and society often don't want to think or talk about teens having sex, and this \$100 is meant to tear down the clandestine nature of teen sex."

Vermont Department of Health employee Ilisa Stalberg is the state administrator for the program, called the Personal Responsibility Education Program or PREP. She said that PREP programs across the U.S. are funded by the Affordable Care Act and are using financial and material rewards to encourage teen participation.

"We know that lots of other programs nationally are also implementing these kinds of incentives," she said. "They've shown to be very effective to get kids into the program and complete the program."

Lockridge and Krushenick applied for funding to run a PREP program when they saw that risky sexual behavior was on the rise in the state's 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Addison County — the findings were reported in the *Independent* last Nov. 14. The biennial survey found that, of the 1,271 county high school students who participated:

- 39 percent have had sexual intercourse, up from 36 percent in 1999 and 34 percent in 2005.
- 30 percent have had intercourse in the past three months, up from 27 percent in 1999 and 25 percent in 2005.
- 40 percent did not use condoms the last time they had intercourse, up from 35 percent in 1999, 27 percent in 2007 and 33 percent in 2009.

The Hub — one of four organizations across the state to receive funding for this education program — seeks to reduce those numbers, Krushenick said.

He and Lockridge recently finished **Department of Health** training to effectively carry out the program's curriculum. Throughout the four-week course, they said, students will learn about pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection prevention methods, using a combination of abstinence and contraception.

"Abstinence is the most successful form of safe sex," said Krushenick. "But we're also going to cover other forms of safe sex, from standard condoms to female condoms to birth control. And we're going to cover all the risks of not having safe sex and the risks that can still exist while having safe sex."

Teens enrolled in the program will learn how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to deal with uncomfortable situations, said Krushenick.

"We're teaching scenario awareness and scenario control ... instead of only teaching these kids, 'Just say no,' or, 'Just do this,' and then have it fall to the backburner," he said. "The kids will be engaging in role playing — not sexual — but learning how to feel confident saying no or when the right time might be. And, if it comes up, what options might exist for having safe sex. If you give a kid a cucumber and a condom, they're going to break four before they get it right. It'll help people know they're totally competent in handling sexual scenarios."

To sign up for the course, young people can stop by The Hub after school. But be warned, parents must provide consent.

"Parents have to know that their kids are enrolled," said Krushenick. "The parents will be aware, and that's mandatory."

One thing teens in the course won't have to worry about is a month full of horror stories.

"When I took sex-ed in high school, it was very much based on shock value and worst-case scenarios," said Krushenick. "It scared some kids away from sex, if it worked."

The goal, he said, is to educate and empower teens.

"There will be no scare tactics here," he said.

London, Sarah

From: Cochran, Chris
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel; Mackay, Noelle; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Quote Approval for Wilmington Conference Press Release

The Governor is scheduled to make noontime remarks (15 mins, I believe) at the Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference, June 8, Wilmington.

The Preservation Trust of Vermont is the lead organizing partner and would like to include a quote from the Gov. in this release.

Can you please okay this for us?

We will send over talking points/bullets early next week.

Thanks!

For more information:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ann Cousins
Preservation Trust of Vermont
104 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 434-8180, ann@ptvermont.org

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN WILMINGTON, VERMONT

On Friday June 8, from 10:00am to 4:30pm, Wilmington, Vermont will host the 18th Annual Historic Preservation and Downtown Conference. The conference, titled *Resiliency*, will pay tribute to community organization, altruism, and the ingenuity of adaptation that help historic places survive and thrive, even in the face of overwhelming obstacles. According to Paul Bruhn, Executive Director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, "We chose Wilmington for this year's conference to honor the tremendous fortitude and courage Wilmington residents and businesses demonstrated in the recovery following Irene's devastation. We're learning from Wilmington what 'community' is all about."

Stuart Comstock-Gay, President & CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation, will deliver the keynote address which will illustrate how Irene recovery efforts help us rediscover the essence of Vermont. At noon, Governor Peter Shumlin will announce his administration's new Flood Recovery Tax Credit, which will provide \$500,000 in refundable tax credits to eligible downtown and village center small businesses, rental property owners, and not-for-profits that sustained flood-related damage in 2011. "Many of Vermont's small businesses are still recovering from the 2011 floods. These refundable tax credits will quickly put money into their pockets and help transform this disaster into an opportunity to strengthen our economy and create more jobs for hardworking Vermonters," said Governor Shumlin.

Eight afternoon workshops will be offered, including one that details how to apply for the new Flood Recovery Tax Credits. The tax credit workshop is open and free to anyone who would like to learn more about the tax credits.

The conference is organized by the Preservation Trust of Vermont and supported by its partners, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the Vermont Downtown Program, and the State Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development and is open to the general public. Registration is \$35 or \$25 for Wilmington residents. Scholarships are available for volunteers. To register, see the full agenda, and for information on sessions and speakers, visit www.ptvermont.org or call 802-658-6647. AIA Learning Units for Architects, and Relicensure Credits for teachers are available.

###

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Omeear, Jodi
Subject: Re: [pressec] NGA Communications Press Query

Hey Jodi,

Hope you're well. We got that request faxed over yesterday. I haven't made contact with them yet, but they're going to be in Vermont on June 15th and are requesting a room from 8 am to 6 pm. They'd ideally like to have 500 square feet for the interviews and are hoping for four crew passes, along with radio-TV-film students that they'll need passes for as well.

The Producer/Director is William M. Windsor and the contact e-mail is Bill@WhistleblowerProductions.com

We're not sure how we're going to handle it yet, so any information you can provide from other states would be helpful.

Thanks,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Omeear, Jodi" <JOmeear@NGA.ORG>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 08:13:02 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: [pressec] NGA Communications Press Query

Dear Communications Staff:

One of your colleagues received an inquiry from Whistleblower Productions about a filming of "Lawless America." The company claims to be filming a movie in all 50 states at every capitol during a 143 day road trip this summer. They are interviewing several state citizens and are requesting an interview with the governor, a room to conduct all of the interviews and a place at the capitol to park their 38-foot long Mobile Film Studio.

If you have any additional information about this request and would be willing to share with your colleagues, please email me at jomeear@nga.org.

Thanks for your help!

Jodi

Jodi Omeear
Director, Office of Communications
National Governors Association
202-624-5346

 [Facebook](#) |  [Twitter](#)

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You are currently subscribed to [presssec] as Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-210872-161127.165c04f32dcd6703909c1ce74aa7c1c5@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Our guy. The Blurb.

I just forwarded the quote to Bill again.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 11:04:28 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Our guy. The Blurb.

What's the status? He came by again and asked

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Our guy. The Blurb.

What's the status? He came by again and asked

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:03 AM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: Foley Family of Rutland named Deane C Davis Outstanding Business of the Year

FYI – I'm on Foley Distributing mailing list as they are a state contract vendor. Thought some might like to see the press release they sent out.

From: Foley Distributing Corp [mailto:info@foleydistributing.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 10:49 AM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Foley Family of Rutland named Deane C Davis Outstanding Business of the Year

This morning at the Opening Ceremonies of the Vermont Chamber Business & Industry EXPO, Governor Peter Shumlin presented the highly anticipated Deane C Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award to Foley Family of Companies of Rutland.

In an effort to recognize and honor Vermont's best companies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine created the Deane C Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award in 1990. Named for the former Governor of Vermont, this annual award honors a Vermont business that shows an outstanding history of sustained growth while displaying an acute awareness of what makes Vermont unique.

This year's finalists each exemplify the resourcefulness, innovation and success that radiates from all corners of the state capturing the essence of Vermont business. All share in common a dedication to their employees, communities and Vermont's natural environment. However, each tells a unique story of vision, commitment and growth.

The Foley Family of Companies started in 1879, when Michael Foley purchased Goodwin's Laundry in Rutland, Vermont. The business grew over generations and eventually became Foley Laundry, a business still in operation today. The Foley family used the small operation to launch new business ideas and in 1973, the Foley Family of Companies was created. Today, the thriving business owns and operates The Party Store, Pistols & Roses, Foley Services and Foley Distributing.

The Foley Family of Companies attributes over 130 years of success to the dedication of their customers and employees. The company business model is built on the work and creativity of its staff; empowering their workforce to continually develop new ideas to better serve existing customers. Weekly staff meetings and semi-annual reviews keep the business on track to continually set benchmarks and goals for both employee performance and customer service.

One criterion for the Deane C. Davis award is a company's recognition of the environment as a natural and economic resource for Vermont. The Foley Family of Companies has promoted green initiatives over the last 20 years, beginning with the simple act of partnering with companies that produce recycled products such as paper, towels and GreenSeal certified cleaning chemicals. The company led regional hospitals in a composting project and helped initiate the first large scale composting program in healthcare foodservice. The Foley Family of Companies has also implemented a new Power of Three® closed loop recycling system. The Power of Three ®

is a partnership with three innovative companies, Casella Waste Systems, SCA Tork® and Foley Distributing. Casella Zero Sort® collects Foleys customer's recyclables and sorts the materials using state-of-the-art technology. SCA purchases the Zero Sort® recycled paper from Casella to be made into various paper and tissue products. Closing the Loop, Foley Distributing delivers these renewed resources back to their customers.

The Foley Family of Companies embodies the very essence of the Deane C. Davis award. They have struck a balance between serving their community and workforce while maintaining a savvy business sense enabling them to stay profitable. Congratulations Foley Family of Companies!

Article available on vermontbiz.com.

This email was sent by:

Foley Distributing Corp
PO Box 99
280 Seward Rd
Rutland, VT 05702-0099
<http://foleydistributing.com>

To unsubscribe from these emails, please contact us at info@foleydistributing.com

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 10:51 AM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: news

Human Skull Found in Northfield Vermont - AP

NORTHFIELD, Vt.—Vermont State Police say human remains, including part of a skull, have been found on private property that was being excavated in Northfield.

Police say the skull piece and other skeletal remains found at the construction site will be sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory for further investigation.

The office of the Vermont chief medical examiner and a University of Vermont anthropologist determined that the bones are human.

Vermont State Police say investigators are not speculating on the origin or identity of the remains until further analysis is done.

An archaeologist for the state Division of Historic Preservation also is examining the site.

Pavilion Building Evacuated - RH

MONTPELIER — The Pavilion Building, which houses the Vermont governor's office, had to be evacuated after some state workers starting feeling sick.

The employees reported having headaches and watery eyes Wednesday.

The source appears to have been a waterproof sealant that was being applied to the outside bricks and wafting into the building.

The employees were sent home, and the building was being ventilated.

Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding said he expected all workers would be able to return today.

Immune to Reason - Seven Days

Poli Psy

By Judith Levine [05.23.12]

I stayed out of the vaccination debate for a while, for fear of being stood against a wall by the anti-vaxxers — including some of my neighbors and friends — and executed with a barrage of hypodermic needles.

But then Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin reversed his position on S.199, the bill that would have eliminated parental "philosophy" as a reason to opt a kid out of immunization. Abandoning his health commissioner, Harry Chen, the governor announced that, on second thought, maybe public health decisions ought to be made by private citizens.

Shumlin's change of heart came on the eve of World Immunization Week, April 21 to 28, sponsored by the World Health Organization, which this year involved 180 countries. "Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions. It prevents between 2 and 3 million deaths every year," said the WHO in the week's publicity.

So while the members of the Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice (VCVC) were clamoring against the violation of their "essential human right of vaccine choice," the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, a public-private partnership that raises funds for immunizations in developing countries, was extolling "the universal human right to health, of which immunization is a key component."

While VCVC was defending Vermont's families from rapacious drug companies and overreaching government, elsewhere in the world very poor people — including 1.4 million children under the age of 5 each year — were literally dying for vaccines.

And, while the Vermont coalition was insinuating that an aggressive pro-vaccine lobby had pushed S.199, with Chen as its puppet, the real story was the precise opposite. Big Pharma has long been running away from vaccines, because they are big losers. The drug companies would much rather address the medical needs and desires of the well-off and long lived, such as Alzheimer's, erectile dysfunction and acid reflux. Health advocates have to push the drug companies to make (and give away) vaccines.

Vaccines are lousy consumer products. They are expensive to produce. Their purchasers are almost exclusively government agencies, which are frugal. Each consumer uses them at most a few times in a lifetime. And, when vaccines are effective, they put themselves out of business. A 2002 study by economists Michael Kremer of Harvard and Christopher Snyder of George Washington University determined that drug companies earn more treating the diseases that vaccines prevent than selling the vaccines themselves.

Then there's the prohibitive cost of product-liability insurance. This is not because vaccines are harmful. It is because anti-vax misinformation convinced enough people that they are. In 1974, a British researcher published an article saying that the pertussis vaccine had caused brain damage in 22 children. Personal-injury lawyers leapt on this and other stories of harm. Companies started withdrawing from the vaccination business. By the 1980s, myriad investigations had disproved claims of every serious harmful effect of vaccines, but the lawsuits kept coming. To cover the liability insurance, the price of a dose of pertussis vaccine rose from 17 cents to \$11. One suit, alleging without scientific substantiation that a vaccine manufactured by Lederle had paralyzed a boy, won the plaintiff \$1.13 million — equal to nearly half the pertussis vaccine market that year. More companies stopped making it. That led to shortages and even higher prices.

Today, in nations that can't afford vaccines, preventable pneumococcal diseases, such as pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis, take one child a minute, according to the United Nations. For each two survivors of the illness, one is disabled for life.

Independent research overwhelmingly affirms that vaccines are safe, with extremely rare and almost always mild and transient adverse effects. The most commonly cited claim, that vaccinations cause autism, has been solidly and repeatedly disproved. "While there are still a handful of parents who, in almost a religious way, cling to the notion that vaccines cause autism," the Autism Science Foundation proclaims, "there is no data to support an autism-vaccine link. There never has been. Vaccines don't cause autism."

Vaccines are effective. They fail to work only when people don't use them. That's true for individuals and for populations. In Colorado, children whose parents refused vaccination were 23 times more likely to get whooping cough than fully immunized children, according to a study published in *Pediatrics* in 2009. The study cites earlier research demonstrating that "states with high nonmedical exemption rates have an increased incidence of pertussis among children ages 3 to 18 years." One such state is Vermont.

Thanks to gaps in vaccination, once-vanquished diseases are resurging. Europe has recently seen measles epidemics, and the illness is increasing in the U.S. Polio is spreading throughout the developing world.

Paranoid ideology has helped bring back polio. In northern Nigeria, Muslim clerics convinced parents that polio vaccination was a Western plot to sterilize their youth. Parents stopped having their kids vaccinated. The boycott spread across West Africa to Sudan and the Middle East. Now 25 countries are no longer polio free. Afghanistan is one of them.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out how polio in Badghis Province might make its way to, say, Bennington County.

Why do people who scoff at climate-change denial deny the global scientific consensus on vaccines?

It's not just skepticism of Western medicine or partiality to traditional and alternative practices. After all, the most traditional of practitioners — village healers in sub-Saharan Africa — cooperate with public health workers in vaccination campaigns.

It's not just criticism, however legitimate, of for-profit medicine or its government toadies. Some of the world's fiercest critics of Big Pharma and the international patent laws that reward its greed are also the strongest advocates for universal vaccination.

Reason has nothing to do with the antivaccination passion. The movement runs on two contrary emotions: fear and a blithe expectation of well-being.

Much of the fear is the fruit of 30 years of conservative and neoliberal propaganda adulating everything private and condemning everything public — whether the CIA or the Census Bureau, the federal penitentiary or the local public school. This fall, the Tea Party crucified Texas Gov. Rick Perry — then a GOP presidential hopeful — for his executive order to vaccinate all preteen girls against HPV, the virus that causes deadly cervical cancer. Rick Santorum called the vaccination order "big government run amok."

The anti-vax people in Vermont tend to be progressive on many issues. But paranoia festers where right and left libertarianism meet: in America's radical individualism, the belief that all of us should take care of our own and the illusion that we do, whether with hand sanitizer and home-alarm systems or with homeschooling and organic vegetables.

The hubris of this individualism is seated in an emotion that's antithetical to fear: the uniquely American *expectation* of well-being. Despising government and thinking you're doing it all yourself means ignoring the public infrastructure, from clean-water regulations to well-maintained roads — to universal immunization — that helps foster this reasonable assumption of safety in the first place.

Vermont's health services, education and environmental protections are superior to those in most states, and help explain why it is the healthiest state in the nation. That's why anti-vaxxers' use of this distinction as an argument for mistrusting public health officials is particularly circular, and galling. In fact, the state's remarkable safety affords Vermonters the luxury of fearing imaginary perils — in this case, those lurking in a vaccine. Most of the world does not have this luxury.

The spinning of those imaginary perils into felt truths helped hobble the vaccination industry. But this victory for the anti-vax movement had unintended consequences. It contributed to the diminished supply and high cost of vaccines, and those prices play a role in the deaths of millions of children.

Pharmaceutical corporations must not be allowed to make life-and-death decisions based on their bottom lines. But individuals carry moral responsibility, too. Where immunization is concerned, each family's responsibility reaches far beyond its own children, or even the other children in the schoolroom.

In Vermont, the defeat of S.199 may look like the status quo ante. Shumlin's flip-flop was nothing new, either. He concluded that politically, if not medically, the risks outweighed the benefits.

But his capitulation to a clutch of noisy, individualist flat-earthers also will have unintended consequences. The governor has not just undermined Vermonters' health and the credibility of his own health commissioner (if I were Chen, I'd resign). He has dealt a blow to the notion of public health — and the public good — itself, and to elected government as the chief agent responsible for promoting it.

Shumlin has also damaged himself — that is, the chances for success of his own most ambitious and progressive project: single-payer health care. That damages the chances of ever winning universal health care nationally.

Now, in addition to death panels and rationing of treatments and medicines, the opponents of reform have the evil vaccinators with which to foment paranoia. And paranoia is like the poliomyelitis or rubella virus: Its nature is to spread.

Recovering and Helping Others Recover - BR

http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_20696537/recovering-and-helping-others-recover

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: posts

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 10:22:42 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: posts

"The bills I signed a few days ago give the authority that schools need to make clear that discrimination of any kind is unacceptable at any hour." - Governor Shumlin

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: posts

good

From: <Wengroff>, Ariel <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: posts

Bullying bills are getting great press through our social media!

First: "The bills I signed a few days ago give the authority that schools need to make clear that discrimination of any kind is unacceptable at any hour." - Governor Shumlin (link to Free Press article)

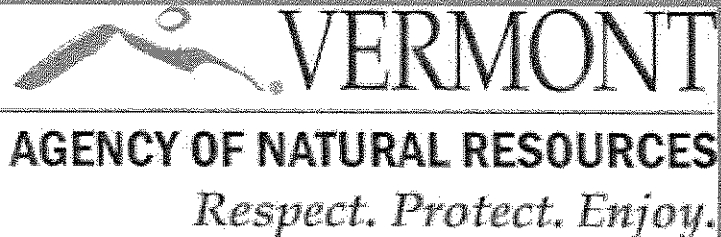
Second: Photo Gallery: We Will Stand Up to Bullying in Vermont (pics from gps visiting outright)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources <penny.percival@state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: News from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources / 2012 Legislative Update



May 24, 2012

In This Issue:

[2012 Legislative Review](#)

[New App for State Parks](#)

[Free Fishing Day](#)

[Volunteer Lake Monitors](#)

Greetings.

I hope you find these messages interesting and informative. If you do not want to receive them, please use the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the page.

Thank You,
Deb Markowitz, Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

New iPhone App for State Parks!

The weather is gorgeous, and Memorial Day is just around the corner. To help make your summer outdoor adventures a breeze, Vermont State Parks has released a new, free iPhone app available for download from the iTunes store, or the Vermont State Parks website. "Oh Ranger, VT State Parks" was created in

**2012 Legislative Session
in Review**

by ANR Secretary Deb Markowitz

This was a remarkable year in the legislature for Vermont's environmental and natural resources. Important work was done throughout the session to protect and enhance Vermont's environment. This is great news, since Vermont's environment and natural resources are vital to growing good jobs, enhancing our quality of life and strengthening our economic future.

I want to give a special thanks to Senator Ginny Lyons and the Senate Natural Resources committee, Representative David Deen and the House Fish and Wildlife Committee, and Representative Tony Klein and the House Energy and

partnership with the American Park Network and is based on their popular nationwide park finder app.

The app will let you search for parks based on fun recreational activities that interest you. You can display parks by proximity to your location, pick a park from a Google map, get directions, view park information and activity details, access park maps, get info on special events, even make reservations. An Android version will be available soon.

Download "Oh Ranger, VT State Parks" at these links:

[iTunes Store](#)
[Vermont State Parks website](#)

Free Fishing Day

Saturday, June 9, is Vermont's Free Fishing Day — the one day in the year when residents and nonresidents may go fishing without a fishing license. It's a great opportunity to take the family fishing and create memories to last a lifetime.

Vermont has 284 lakes and over 7,000 miles of clear streams offering the greatest variety of high quality fresh water fishing in the Northeast. Finding a place to fish in Vermont is easy, but the department also hosts a special event especially for kids on Free Fishing Day in Grand Isle.

To find out more about great fishing opportunities and to plan your trip, contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at 802-241-3700 and ask for a

Natural Resources committee. They should feel proud of all they accomplished for Vermont this past year.

These are some highlights:

Flood Resiliency: A top priority of the administration, coming from our experiences with Tropical Storm Irene, was to pass legislation to enhance ANR's ability to respond to future flood emergencies, and to help Vermont's communities become more resilient to flooding. The River and Lakes Management Bill (S.202) accomplished this goal. This broad bill covers many aspects of river corridor and floodplain management and protection, and has important provisions relating to emergency response and water quality protection. The principle behind this bill is that by reconnecting our rivers to our floodplains, and by encouraging revegetation of our stream banks and lakeshores, we will both reduce the risk of loss from flooding and improve water quality.

Recycling: Today, Vermonters recycle 36% of the waste stream, but half of the other 64% is recyclable, and yet ends up in our landfills which are nearing capacity. This was one of the reasons the House unanimously passed, and the senate nearly unanimously passed H.485, the Universal Recycling bill. This new law advances Vermont into the next generation of solid waste and materials management and ensures that Vermonters have good options for managing their recyclables and organic residuals (the stuff we can compost). Over the next eight years we will be phasing in mandatory recycling of all recyclable materials, including organics; and our solid waste haulers and facilities (who, incidentally, largely testified in support of this bill) will be required to offer collection services for those materials.

The Working Landscape: Vermont's future prosperity is tied directly to how we manage our natural resources. That is why it was so important that the legislature and the administration collaborated to invest in the future of our green innovation economy. The Working Landscape Bill (H.496) provides an initial investment of a million dollars to jump start farm and forestry projects. The Working Lands fund will be administered by a Board who will focus on three key areas:

- Grants and loans to land-based and value-added businesses that are new or want to grow;
- Wrap-around services to working lands enterprise including technical assistance, business planning, financial packaging, and other services required by companies ready to transition to the next stage of growth; and
- Needed infrastructure for creative diversification projects, value-added manufacturing, processing, storage, distribution, and collaborative ventures.

It is largely agreed that this is the most important economic development bill of the session, and if we can keep this fund alive it will do much to protect, preserve and enhance Vermont's natural resources well into the future.

Renewable Energy: Last fall Vermont adopted a new comprehensive energy plan that sets a goal for Vermont of meeting 90% of our energy needs from renewable sources by

copy of their "Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Laws and Guide" or discover more from their website. While there, check the new interactive page about Family Friendly Fishing spots.

Volunteer Lake Monitors

Congratulations to the volunteers with the 34 year-old Vermont Lay Monitoring Program, recognized last month as a finalist in the Burlington Free Press's Green Mountain Citizen Monitoring Awards! Every summer over a 100 dedicated volunteers collect weekly water quality samples on 70+ lakes to monitor long-term trends in water quality and inform lake protection efforts.

As summer gets into full swing, consider helping your favorite Vermont lake! Many of our lakes are fortunate to have a full cadre of volunteers to take care of them: from monitoring water quality, to checking for invasive species, greeting boaters, and conducting pollution source surveys. Visit the Lakes and Ponds website to find all kinds of great information such as depth charts, water quality data, what fish and plants live in a lake, and learn how to avoid the spread of invasive species or practice good shoreland management. If you are a regular visitor or live on a lakeshore, you can help by monitoring water quality or checking for invasive species through the Lay Monitoring Program.

2050. The Energy Bill (S.214) is an important first step toward achieving this goal. This large, wide-ranging bill will support and expand renewable energy development in Vermont. It expands Vermont's community-scale renewable energy "standard offer" program that guarantees renewable energy developers a standard offer pricing for renewables. This will, in the long run, create consistency in the market and drive down the costs. The bill also creates incentives for developers to locate projects in smart places - areas that will prevent the need for new transmission and distribution upgrades. The bill also requires ANR to look at greenhouse gas impacts and use a carbon accounting protocol to be developed in the upcoming year. It clarifies ANR's role in assessing efficient use of natural resources when considering electricity generating biomass energy projects, and provides for harvesting and procurement practices that support forest health. In a separate bill the legislature makes it easier for Vermonters to build renewable energy projects for their homes and businesses by streamlining the regulatory process and by requiring utilities to provide net metering based on the standard rate charged to the majority of its residential customers.

A Ban on Fracking: Vermonters have been watching with increasing concern the use of hydraulic fracturing ("hydrofracking") to recover natural gas or oil in our neighboring state of New York, and in other states like Pennsylvania and Texas. Fracking involves injecting a massive volume of water, sand, and chemicals underground at high pressure to break up rock formations, allowing oil or gas to flow up the well. This causes a real risk to both surface and ground water. Although Vermont does not have the kind of geology that makes us a good candidate for natural gas recovery using hydraulic fracking, Vermont is leading the nation by being the first state to institute a ban on hydrofracking.

Wildlife Violators Compact: Vermont joined most all other states by entering into a reciprocal wildlife violators compact (through H.53) that ensures violators of wildlife regulations in other states cannot receive a license to hunt here in Vermont.

Stablizing ANR's Budget: Last, but perhaps most importantly, the legislature took great strides to stabilize ANR's budget after years of punishing cuts. (Over the past 5 years or so we have lost nearly 20% of our staff.) Our budgets were essentially level funded, with \$1.4 million of general funds added to the Fish & Wildlife department's budget to offset a reduction in license revenue. Two positions and general funds were added to the Department of Environmental Conservation to support additional river management staff. The DEC fee bill will raise enough funds to help buffer expected losses in federal funds and to create a more balanced and stable financial foundation for DEC. The Fish & Wildlife fee bill included modest increases for hunting and fishing licenses in 2013 and 2014, a new separate bear tag fee, the creation of two new funds for threatened and endangered species permit fees and mitigation funds, and a host of technical corrections to licensing statutes.


Contact [Bethany Sargent](#) or [Amy Picotte](#) to find available opportunities. You are also invited to attend the June 1st annual [Vermont Lake Seminar](#), organized jointly by the Lakes and Ponds Section and the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds.

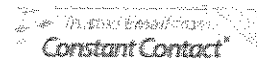
Thank you to all who participated in the legislative process this year. One of the true gifts of living in Vermont is how accessible our decision makers are, and how each one of us can make a difference.

[Return to Top](#)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | 103 South Main Street | Waterbury, Vermont 05671 | 802-241-3600

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Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | 103 South Main Street | Waterbury | VT | 05671

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:55 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: posts

Bullying bills are getting great press through our social media!

First: "The bills I signed a few days ago give the authority that schools need to make clear that discrimination of any kind is unacceptable at any hour." - Governor Shumlin (link to Free Press article)

Second: Photo Gallery: We Will Stand Up to Bullying in Vermont (pics from gps visiting outright)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Subject: Re:

Ah I know! Love that this got so much support. And the cover of the Free Press.

Love you TONS

:)

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 09:48:32 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Shumlin to mark anti-bullying bills' passage

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin will visit the offices of the gay rights organization Outright Vermont to celebrate the recent passage of two bills aimed at stamping out bullying in schools.

Shumlin recently signed into law two bills related to bullying.

One allows people to sue schools for failing to take steps to stop harassment. The other requires schools to adopt policies aimed at cracking down on harassment, hazing and bullying.

Outright is praising Shumlin as a protector of gay rights.

☺ Also, great LGBTQA support facebook posts recently.

<3 you

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3605

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel

Shumlin to mark anti-bullying bills' passage

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Spaulding, Susan; Wesley, Carolyn; Appleby, Leigh; Bartlett, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Student appointment

Definitely, I'll go through the rounds again today and gave them all my cell phone number in the message so that they can reach me at any time.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Thu, 24 May 2012 09:16:08 -0400
To: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>, Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Student appointment

I agree. Can you and Ari please let us know when all the students have been contacted. THANK YOU.

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:07 AM
To: Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel; Bartlett, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: Student appointment

I know Ari was only able to leave messages yesterday and she didn't tell the students the outcome, so we probably need to wait until tomorrow on the press release.

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:05 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel; Wesley, Carolyn; Bartlett, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Subject: Student appointment

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Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:22 AM
To: EXE
Subject: Saturday!

As you all know we have a busy weekend ahead of us. I need one more volunteer for Saturday morning....

Saturday, 9am
Essex Junction
Sue and ??

Saturday, 1:pm
Dem. Convention, Barre
Alex & Ari

Monday, 10:30am
Vergennes
Dru & Shana

Thanks everyone!

Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor's office
802.828.3333 (o)
802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel; Bartlett, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: Student appointment

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Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Snow, Jennifer (HHS/IEA) <Jennifer.Snow@hhs.gov> on behalf of HHS IEA (OS/IEA) <HHSIEA@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:14 AM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: CANCELED: TODAY'S Affordable Care Act Conference Call with States at 4pm EDT

Good afternoon,

The weekly Affordable Care Act conference call with states that was scheduled for today, Thursday, May 24 has been **canceled**. We look forward to speaking with you during our next call.

Feel free to email HHSIEA@hhs.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
US Department of Health and Human Services

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:07 AM
To: Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Wengroff, Ariel; Bartlett, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: RE: Student appointment

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Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

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Cc: Allen, Susan
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Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
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109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

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Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:05 AM
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Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Lofy, Bill; Trombley, Shana; Kunin, Lisa; Roessle, Drusilla; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Today

I will be in Burlington for meetings and available by cell/email.

A

Alexandra MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
1-802-272-0443

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:32 AM
To: EXE
Subject: UVM reception is on

The UVM reception is on for today. Please relay this information to anyone who asks.

Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:22 AM
To: EXE; GPS
Subject: Today

Please follow schd that I sent out last night - the outlook one still needs adjusting.

Sent from my iPhone
Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor Shumlin

London, Sarah

From: Omeear, Jodi <JOmeear@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [presssec] NGA Communications Press Query

Dear Communications Staff:



One of your colleagues received an inquiry from Whistleblower Productions about a filming of "Lawless America." The company claims to be filming a movie in all 50 states at every capitol during a 143 day road trip this summer. They are interviewing several state citizens and are requesting an interview with the governor, a room to conduct all of the interviews and a place at the capitol to park their 38-foot long Mobile Film Studio.

If you have any additional information about this request and would be willing to share with your colleagues, please email me at jomeear@nga.org.

Thanks for your help!

Jodi

Jodi Omeear
Director, Office of Communications
National Governors Association
202-624-5346

 [Facebook](#) |  [Twitter](#)

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You are currently subscribed to [presssec] as Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-210872-161127.165c04f32dcd6703909c1ce74aa7c1c5@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Thanks Ariel.

Janis Carrier
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Telephone: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:03 AM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Fwd: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

Begin forwarded message:

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Date: May 23, 2012 11:43:46 PM EDT
To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Invoice

Governor Peter Shumlin

ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us

Governor

VT Office of the Governor

[View and update your account details »](#)

Invoice Date: 2012-5-21

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Invoice Number: [REDACTED]

Amount Paid

\$5.99
USD

Billing Details

Balance Forward

\$0.00

Pro Package (HootSuite Recurring Service - 1 @ 5.99 ea)

\$5.99

Electronic Payment

\$-5.99

Amount Paid 5/21/2012

\$5.99

Thank you for using HootSuite social media dashboard.
For billing-specific questions or concerns please see our
Billing FAQs or submit a help ticket.

Keep up with HootSuite news and tips by
following @hootsuite and/or
@hootsuite_help

HootSuite Media Inc.
37 Dunlevy Ave.
Vancouver, BC
Canada, V6A 3A3

Canada only: HST/GST # 84250 7261 RT0001

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 6:27 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 24 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Stand against school harassment gains an ally in Governor's Office

BY Catherine Boudreau, Free Press staff writer

After weeks of advocating for the passage of bills strengthening anti-harassment policy in schools, Outright Vermont, alongside the Human Rights Commission, saw their efforts pay off.

Two bills, H. 412 and H. 771, passed the Vermont Legislature at the end of April and recently were signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin. The governor arrived at what Outright Vermont calls its queer youth center to thank staff and volunteers of the organization for their work.

"We have all the tools we need to deal with electronic bullying, with after-school bullying, bullying beyond school grounds, and beyond the school day," Shumlin said Wednesday. "The bills I signed a few days ago give the authority that schools need to make clear that discrimination of any kind is unacceptable at any hour."

Prior to the passing of bills in early May, there was a gray area surrounding harassment laws in school, said Llu Mulvaney-Stanak, director of development for Outright. The Burlington-based organization works with roughly 3,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people ages 13-22.

Now the lines are more clear: Individuals can sue schools for not stopping harassment, and schools are required to adopt cohesive harassment-, hazing- and bullying-prevention policies. Also, the term harassment has been redefined. Previously, acts of harassment were required to be both pervasive and severe. Now, it is defined as pervasive or severe.

"One incident of harassment can be so severe that it can have lifelong implications," said Melissa Murray, executive director of Outright Vermont. "So it's just a really important distinction, because it gives our youth more protection in schools."

According to Murray, sexual orientation and gender identity are among the biggest reasons young people are harassed in school. The 2011 Vermont Youth Survey reported that gay and lesbian youths were twice as likely to be bullied and five times more likely to attempt suicide.

Shepard Lantz, 17, has been involved with Outright for four years and called his involvement with the organization "eye-opening." Referencing a recent documentary titled "Bully," he detailed the importance of the issue.

"It's such a dear thing to my heart and so many of the hearts of the people here, especially in terms of what I have seen people go through and my personal struggles. It really means a lot," Lantz said.

Lantz said he hopes the new laws will help students not only be more comfortable in their school environment, but also in their own skin.

For Elissa Benoit, 21, the passage of this legislation means the defending and protection of Vermont's young people.

"This will help youth come out and be who they truly are," Benoit said.

Outright Vermont travels statewide to schools to educate students, parents and faculty about anti-harassment policy and prevention. The organization also has held support groups every Friday since 1989. Outright is funded to present in high schools, but Shumlin recently supported funding that helped Outright extend its reach to middle schools.

Quebec Premier Charest postpones visit to Vermont

BY TERRI HALLENBECK

Quebec Premier Jean Charest has postponed his planned visit Thursday to Vermont, where he was to sign an agreement with Gov. Peter Shumlin on environmental, trade and other issues.

Charest instead will remain in Quebec City to attend debates in the national assembly, Shumlin spokesman Sue Allen said late Wednesday afternoon.

Charest has plenty on his plate back home. University students angry over tuition hikes have been striking for three months, with massive protests in the streets of Montreal. Charest has come under fire for an emergency law the national assembly put into place last Friday that includes strict regulations on protests and heavy fines for violators, and also suspends the winter and summer terms at affected institutions.

Charest had been due to spend the day Thursday in Vermont, starting with a 9:15 a.m. signing of a cooperative agreement between the state and the province at Shelburne Farms. He was then scheduled to attend a reception at the University of Vermont, visit the Vermont Business and Industry Expo in South Burlington and attend the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain meeting in Highgate Springs.

Allen said her understanding was that Charest would come at another time.

The agreement is a renewal of a 2003 pact between Vermont and Quebec in which the two governments outlined how they would work together on energy, environment, trade and other issues.

Asked Wednesday at his news conference for his thoughts on Quebec's student protests, Shumlin said he stays out of Charest's internal issues, and Charest stays out of his. Shumlin said, however, "I would kill to have the inflation increases

in higher education that they're protesting in Quebec right here in Vermont. We would take those increases — I think it's \$342 — we'd take that any day of the week."

Occupy Burlington and other groups had planned to protest Charest's visit in solidarity with Quebec students demonstrating against university tuition increases. In a statement, James Haslam of the Vermont Workers Center called the cancellation of Charest's visit a victory for the people.

A Charest spokesman says the premier was not aware of the planned protest in Vermont.

Superintendent's apology on race in schools draws mixed reviews

BY MOLLY WALSH

The apology this week from Burlington Schools Superintendent Jeanne Collins in response to critics who say she has not acted aggressively enough to combat racism in city schools comes at a critical time.

Collins faces a major test next month when the School Board discusses her action plan on diversity issues and the extension of her contract from its end date in the summer of 2013. The discussion about her employment status is scheduled to take place at a June 12 board meeting, according to Keith Pillsbury, chairman of the Burlington School Board.

He supports renewal of the superintendent's contract for another year, through summer 2014, despite calls for her resignation at recent board meetings. Pillsbury said Collins is the right person to carry forward initiatives already started, including the effort to bring socio-economic balance to city elementary schools with the creation of two magnet schools in the Old North End, the implementation of a 2012 grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation and a one-to-one student technology program set to be phased in this fall.

"If the board tells her that she will no longer have a contract after next year, then these kinds of initiatives will be in jeopardy," Pillsbury said. Collins understands the complexity of the Burlington school district, he said.

"One of the things that's so important here, is that we are a district that needs to fulfill the needs of the gifted and talented and those who are struggling to learn English," Pillsbury said.

Others are dismayed that it appears to have taken calls for Collins to step down to trigger a sense of urgency to resolve inequities that some say have festered for years.

One mother's view

Naima Dennis is a member of a task force that last fall issued a report saying students of color are not receiving equal opportunity in city schools. The report called for cultural competency training for all teachers, racial and socio-economic balance in all classrooms, and the hiring of more diverse faculty to reflect the changing demographics of the student body.

About 30 percent of Burlington's 4,000 students are nonwhite, and the district has in recent years become home to many refugee and immigrant students from around the world. Numbers for the 2010-11 school year show 95.6 percent of district teachers are white.

Dennis, a mother of two, including a first-grader who attends city schools and a daughter who graduated from Burlington High School last year, said improvements to the school climate are overdue.

"This whole thing is hard for me because we've been working on this for a long time," she said. "None of these issues are new, and while I really appreciate what she's saying and I want to believe that she's got these great plans that she's going to come out with, at this point in time it just seems a little contrived."

Dennis grew up in Brooklyn and said she never experienced racism directly until she moved to Burlington. She worries about how stereotyping might affect her young son.

"He's the sweetest boy, and I'm constantly terrified about how are people going to see him, just because he's an African-American male," she said.

"How do I make it so that when he gets to the high school, we don't have to have these conversations? How do we make it an environment that's going to feel safe for the kids, where you don't have to have children protesting outside the schools and going to the statehouse?"

Dennis did not call for Collins to resign but said whoever leads the district forward needs to take the reins and offer strong leadership. "Things are ... they are getting really ugly."

Others are also concerned about the heated tone of the public debate. Fritz Senftleber, vice president of the Burlington High School Boosters Club and a father of two, said he disagrees with those calling for Collins to be fired. He also disagrees with critics who have said BHS principal Amy Mellencamp should go. It's time for an end to the rhetoric of "chopping people's heads off," he said, and time for collaboration to fix the problems. "Let's get together and work," he said.

(Page 3 of 3)

David Rome, a Burlington High School math teacher who's raised concerns about the diversity task force's report, said Tuesday he had no comment on the statement that Collins issued.

Atmosphere of respect

Robert Appel, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, has been following the Burlington debate closely and has attended many School Board meetings.

He said Collins' statement was full of good intentions and not enough deadlines for measurable goals.

"We seem to be going around and around in the conversation and not moving measurably down the path to achieving the desired outcomes," he said.

There should be room for people to exchange honest opinions in a respectful way and the conversation in Burlington "has sort of slipped from that description," he said, suggesting stakeholders are "talking by each other and not really talking with each other."

It's going to take some "intentional work" to change that dynamic, he said, adding: "I commit to helping that work in any way I can."

Appel also put out the call to encourage people of color to run for elected office in Burlington. The Burlington School Board members and Burlington City Councilors listening to the debate about racism in the city are all white — which presents issues in itself, he said. It's hard for people who are white and don't have direct experience with the "scourge of racism" to truly understand its impact on those who are subjected to it, Appel said.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger welcomed Collins' statement Tuesday.

"As a community we, of course, face equity and diversity challenges in areas beyond our schools as well," Weinberger said in an emailed statement. "As a new administration we have begun the effort to assess our current efforts and plot a new course to ensure that our city is a place that is made stronger by its diversity, not torn apart by it."

Burlington deputy police chief takes state job

BY SAM HEMINGWAY

The state Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, under fire to reduce a backlog of elder and disabled person abuse cases, has hired the deputy chief of the Burlington Police Department to be one of its adult protective services investigators.

Walter Decker, a 28-year veteran with the Burlington Police Department, confirmed his hiring Wednesday and said he expects to begin his new job with the state in early June.

"This opportunity came up," Decker, 47, said Wednesday. "I've been eligible for retirement for a couple of years now so the timing just seemed to work out."

Dr. Susan Wehry, commissioner of the state Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living Department, was said to be in meetings Wednesday afternoon and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Decker will join an adult protective services unit that was sued by advocacy groups last year alleging the state was months behind in investigating hundreds of claims alleging physical abuse and financial exploitation of the state's more vulnerable residents.

"There's a host of challenges right now," Decker said. "This is a state that's growing older, and we have more and more individuals who are living out there, struggling to meet daily needs. As our population grows older ... there's probably going to be an increase in the number of suspected reports."

Decker has been deputy chief of the 94-member city police force since 2003. He was passed over for chief in 2008 when Chief Tom Tremblay left to become the state's Public Safety Commissioner. Fellow Deputy Chief Mike Schirling was picked to replace Tremblay. Decker's current salary with the police department is \$86,659.

Decker joined Burlington police as a patrol officer in 1984 and became a detective in 1986. He later helped found the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations, which investigates sex crimes, and was its first director.

"He is a consummate professional, and he's held almost every role in the organization over 27 years and done them all very well," Schirling said. "He's also a consummate troubleshooter who can find the landmines and defuse them. It's a talent in people that's hard to find."

Schirling said the process to select Decker's replacement is under way. Schirling said all of the candidates under consideration are from within the department, and he expects to recommend a finalist to the police commission within two weeks.

Voice of the Free Press: Follow strong words with powerful action

Burlington Schools Superintendent Jeanne Collins answered the potent charges of racism at Burlington High School with equally strong words.

"I have heard the criticisms. I take them to heart."

"To those of you who believe action has taken too long ... I am sorry."

"I intend to listen and act."

Collins must follow through on those words with equally powerful action.

"In the coming days," she promises "a series of aggressive actions to attack disparities."

The superintendent's letter to the community, published Tuesday in the Free Press, is an extraordinary mea culpa that rises to a level rarely seen from a public official. In the strongest terms possible, Collins takes responsibility for the problems in the schools and commits to finding solutions.

Collins' statement ends for the district the question of whether a problem exists. The community has placed considerable pressure on her to respond with meaningful action. What Burlington needs now are details of, and deadlines for, change.

The challenge is starkly simple, the real-life remedy distressingly difficult — difficult because the real answer lies in changing the way people think. But change must happen so students no longer feel marginalized within their own school because of their race.

A group of Burlington High School students, many of them immigrants from African countries, have said those who subject them to slurs in the hallways go unpunished, they are pigeonholed into classes for English learners and they are discouraged from taking higher-level courses.

The students organized a protest at the school and spoke before the School Board, the news media and the Legislature. What the students are asking for is that they be judged by more than how they look or how they score on a standardized test — by their classmates, their teachers and their community.

Critics of the schools' response have a reason for feeling the school district and Collins have had plenty of time to do something about the problem yet have failed to show meaningful progress. Collins has worked in the school district for more than a decade, and has been superintendent since 2006. In 2007, she met with a group of parents who complained of racism in the schools and demanded the district step up efforts to hire African-American teachers.

(Page 2 of 2)

In response to calls from some community members that Collins resign for the district's handling of the racism charges, the superintendent says she is staying. With that promise, Collins assumes the responsibility for addressing the charges.

Responsibility for facing this problem rests with more than Superintendent Collins alone. The members of the School Board are ultimately accountable. The charges of racism are a nightmare for any school board. Yet successive boards have permitted this issue to fester year after year and reach a level where it has become the center of a heated argument.

The School Board does deserve credit for authorizing, in 2010, a task force to deliver recommendations for a strategic plan for diversity, equity and inclusion in the school district. The report, delivered in October 2011, has helped raise the profile of issues surrounding race in the schools within the community.

The current conflict was fueled by the superintendent's response in March to a controversy stirred by the task force report.

This is how Collins responded this week: "My pledge is this — to do everything humanly possibly to eliminate disparities and inequities in our schools." These are the words the superintendent must live up to.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 6:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 24:

VTDIGGER:

Feds say there is no opting out of "Secure Communities" policing

BY TAYLOR DOBBS

A federal information-sharing policy newly implemented in Vermont has put the state's look-the-other-way, bias-free policing policy in jeopardy.

The policy, Secure Communities, uses existing procedure and infrastructure to assist the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement division in catching illegal immigrants.

Before Tuesday, when state or local police in Vermont made an arrest and submitted the suspect's fingerprints into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) database, the fingerprint information only went to the FBI database. The fingerprints were checked against known criminals or outstanding warrants, allowing for increased law enforcement capability across state lines.

Secure Communities is simple: It takes down a previously existing division between the FBI fingerprint database and ICE, thereby allowing immigration officials to track and investigate arrested individuals in Vermont.

In a statement, ICE Spokesman Ross Feinstein noted that since the beginning of the program's nationwide rollout in 2008, "Secure Communities has helped ICE remove more than 135,000 convicted criminal aliens including more than 49,000 convicted of major violent offenses like murder, rape and the sexual abuse of children. Approximately 95% of the 179,000 removals generated through Secure Communities clearly fell within one of ICE's enforcement priorities."

But critics of the program say the cost is too high. Migrant Justice, a Vermont-based activist group focused on the migrant community, held a protest outside Obama's Vermont campaign headquarters Tuesday.

Danilo Lopez, a volunteer for the group, is in the process of fighting deportation after a state trooper pulled over a car he was riding in.

"I, in September of last year, was a passenger ... the State Police stopped the car for speeding and the trooper saw my skin color and said 'Hey, are you illegal? I need your papers,' and pressured and pressured, and the trooper called border patrol to arrest me," Lopez said in a mix of English and Spanish.

Stories like this one shed a different light on the issue. Lopez was not committing a crime when the state police stopped the car he was in, and he says discriminatory policing led to the charges against him.

About 50 people marched through Burlington passing out orange pamphlets calling Obama "Deporter-in-Chief" that criticize the president for lack of follow through on campaign promises of immigration reform.

The pamphlet says Obama deported 1.4 million immigrants, set aggressive annual deportation quotas of 400,000, and is now imposing "S-COMM" nationwide without consultation.

Other communities have resisted Secure Communities, including Santa Clara County, California, where the county's board of supervisors voted to opt out of the program. Tuesday's protestors called on Vermont to do the same.

But Feinstein says there is no opting out of the program.

"The information-sharing partnership between DHS and the FBI that serves as the cornerstone of Secure Communities is mandated by federal law," Feinstein said in an email statement. "As a result, Secure Communities is mandatory in that, once the information-sharing capability is activated for a jurisdiction, the fingerprints that state and local law enforcement voluntarily submit to the FBI for criminal justice purposes to be checked against the Department of Justice's (DOJ) biometric identification system for criminal history records are automatically sent to DHS's biometric system to check against its immigration and law enforcement records."

Thus, the only way for Vermont to opt out of the program is to cease voluntary submission of fingerprints into the FBI database.

When asked what he thought about the possibility of opting out of the program, Gov. Peter Shumlin said:

"It's no secret that our national immigration policies don't necessarily synch with the way that we see things here in Vermont, and I've been pretty clear and outspoken about that," Shumlin said. "We cannot get milk to market, our farmers cannot thrive in a tough economy without some guest labor, we know that. We also know that we want to treat anyone who is working in the state Vermont with the dignity and respect they deserve and make them part of the community, not isolate them so they can't get to the doctors, can't get to the grocery store for fear of being found. Right now, the policy has been that whenever we do an arrest in America fingerprint arrested person and send that to a database with the FBI. They're now going to share that with immigration. I've asked my commissioner, Keith Flynn, to sit down with some of the groups we've been working with on other issues and look at this issue and see if we can help mitigate some of their concerns."

Commissioner of Public Safety Keith Flynn was unreachable for comment Wednesday.

Shumlin says Montpelier is making right decisions "to help people grow jobs"

BY ALAN PANEBAKER

Gov. Peter Shumlin took the opportunity to celebrate what seem like signs of an economic recovery at the Vermont Business and Industry EXPO Wednesday.

According to statistics released last week by the Vermont Department of Labor, the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for April 2012 was 4.6 percent, a decrease of two-tenths of a percent from the revised March rate.

That 4.6 percent rate puts Vermont at the fourth lowest in the country.

That decrease in unemployment has received some criticism as well. According to one think tank, the Public Assets Institute, notes that the total number of jobs in the state is shrinking.

According to Vermont labor force statistics, there was a decrease of 1,500 jobs in April from the revised March data. A large decrease in leisure and hospitality jobs, according to the Vermont Department of Labor came from the abrupt end of winter that happened when the state experienced an early spring heat wave in March. State labor statistics also reported a decrease in the labor force of 1,100 people from March to April.

Despite the naysaying, Shumlin said the unemployment numbers are still good news.

"There are no statistics that wise people can't criticize," he said. "In fairness, these unemployment numbers, they're 4.6 percent, are measured exactly same way they've been measuring them for years. That rate was 8.2 percent at the peak of the recession. What I'm hearing from employers across Vermont more and more, they're not saying to me things are tough we've got to lay people off. Instead, they're expressing optimism."

Shumlin credited the Legislature for helping the economy by balancing two consecutive budgets without raising broad-based taxes. He also praised lawmakers for passing a law that would put a moratorium on a state sales tax on cloud computing software.

"We're making the right decisions in Montpelier to help people grow jobs," he said.

Shumlin said one place where the state needs to improve is income growth.

"There are signs in last few numbers we've seen that incomes starting to rise in Vermont," Shumlin said. "For me that's really going to be the measure of our success."

According to a survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2008 to 2010, median household income in Vermont was \$53,490 in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars — making Vermont 15th in the nation.

Shumlin said he is not campaigning until after Labor Day, but he did say he was humbled by a recent poll by two news outlets showing he would likely win 60 percent of the gubernatorial vote if the election were held today.

While Shumlin patted his administration on the back for working to promote jobs, Randy Brock, who is running for governor, chatted with local business owners at the Expo.

Brock, a Republican senator, is not so convinced lawmakers are doing what is best for business.

The top issue on his campaign website says: "As your governor, I will: Change Vermont's heavy-handed regulatory environment so businesses can create and keep jobs."

Shumlin said he has focused on job growth.

"I do not believe that anyone with a straight face can say that my team has not been focused on jobs and raising incomes of those who have jobs in Vermont with the exception of rebuilding Vermont better than Irene found us, and I'm like a broken record that's what we do every day," he said.

PRESS RELEASE:

Vermont Energy Partnership: NRC annual report card shows Vermont Yankee is safe

Contact
Guy Page,
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Vermont Energy Partnership
802-505-0448,
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Plant Continues to Provide Important Economic and Environmental Benefits

Montpelier, VT/May 23, 2012 — In conjunction with tonight's public meeting by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Vermont Yankee, Brad Ferland, President of the Vermont Energy Partnership, which represents more than 90 businesses, labor and community leaders throughout the state, issued the following statement:

"Vermont Yankee continues to demonstrate that it is a safe facility. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following an exhaustive review by a panel of independent inspectors throughout 2011, once again determined Vermont Yankee achieved the NRC's highest safety rating — green.

"This has obviously been a difficult and uncertain year for the hundreds of hard working employees at Vermont Yankee and we applaud their commitment to ensuring the plant operates safely, day in and day out. Through their diligence and dedication, Vermont Yankee continues to earn the NRC's highest safety rating. These workers deserve the respect and appreciation of all Vermonters.

"Vermont Yankee is critically important to Vermont's economic growth and prosperity. Vermont's leadership in green jobs, as announced earlier this year by the U.S. Bureau of Labor, is due in part to the hundreds of green jobs at the zero-carbon Vermont Yankee facility. As Vermont plans for the future, Vermont Yankee should continue to play an important role in helping Vermont remain a great place to live and work."

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The Vermont Energy Partnership (www.vtep.org) is a diverse group of more than 90 business, labor, and community leaders committed to finding clean, affordable and reliable electricity solutions. Its mission is to educate policy makers, the media, businesses, and the general public about why electricity is imperative for prosperity, and about the optimal solutions to preserve and expand our electricity network. Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee, is a member of the Vermont Energy Partnership.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Meeting with NRC doesn't go as planned By JOSH STILTS

BRATTLEBORO -- A meeting between members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the public almost didn't happen.

It started civilly enough with a one-on-one question and answer session with various members of the NRC, including Chris Miller, director of the division of reactor safety.

Surrounding the art room of the Brattleboro Union High School were several diagrams of the nuclear reactors like that of Vermont Yankee and those opposed to and for its continued operation discussed numerous topics surrounding nuclear power.

But as the first part of the meeting transitioned from one-on-one to a question and answer session, civil disobedience began.

A group of women from the Shut It Down Affinity Group formed a semi-circle behind the tables set up for the members of the NRC. Karl Farrar, general council for Region 1, told the crowd the meeting wouldn't start until they sat down in the audience.

"We're not going to start this meeting until they sit down," Farrar said. "It's disrespectful. We're trying to conduct a civil meeting here. It's just terrible. They can make their statement but we're not going to start this meeting."

One woman asked to take a vote.

"Who wants the meeting to start with women standing in front?" she asked the crowd of approximately 100 people. "This is democracy in action."

Farrar continued to say that the meeting wasn't going to begin because those were the rules, to which George Harvey, of Brattleboro, replied, "Those are your rules sir, not ours."

That's when a group of 30 or so people who were in the crowd joined the women behind the tables and apparently Farrar had enough.

Brattleboro Police escorted the dozen or so members of the NRC out into a nearby hallway and refused to let anyone else into the hallway.

While the group of NRC officials was in the hallway the crowd conducted its own meeting.

Harvey said that based on the fact that Vermont Yankee got through another year without major mishap, people are expected to infer that the plant is safe.

"That is the logic of the nuclear industry," he said. "If there is no mishap, then the plant is safe, like driving up I-91 at 105 mph could be called safe if you don't have an accident."

Eventually the group from the NRC decided to hold the meeting but kept close to the exit.

Sarah Edwards was one of the first people to speak.

"Clearly we're at an impasse as the beginning of the meeting showed," Edwards said. "I want to thank you for your choice to make this meeting work."

She thanked the numerous people who have continued to work to shut down the plant and asked that they continue to and asked director Miller to take the spent fuel out of its pool so that an incident similar to that of Fukushima in Japan doesn't happen in New England.

Miller explained that there is still discussion ongoing about whether or not putting the spent fuel into dry cask storage is really the best method.

"Some think they'd rather have them not go into casks; others want them in there as fast as possible," he said. "One of the issues is the casks we have now require a cooling down period. Could it change and go to an all cask storage, I'm not saying it couldn't work but we're still studying it."

When asked about Vermont Yankee's most recent inspection, Miller said that the plant had operated safely and that it received a green rating, which meant it operated safely.

Miller's comments were not well received by the group and after nearly each response received replies of "lies," "shut it down" and the sounds of whistles blowing.

Chad Simmons of the Safe and Green Campaign said it was clear that people who have continued to oppose the plant's operation aren't being heard.

"Why are we here?" he said. "What do we have to do to get you to listen to us? We want this plant shut down."

The meeting ended after Westminster resident Betsy Williams asked Miller if there was anything the group could say that would change the mind of the NRC about Vermont Yankee.

"Is there anything we can say tonight that would convince you to shut down this reactor?" she said.

The director's answer was no, "that's not how the system works."

With Miller's words spoken the meeting ended much like it began, at the direction of the crowd as many got up and left the building.

Also on Wednesday, the regional power dispatch group of ISO New England changed its stance on the future of Vermont Yankee saying the nuclear plant won't be needed to ensure future power supplies and grid reliability.

The statement is a staunch change from the position ISO took last year and could have a dramatic impact in future hearings as the appeal of the judge's decision is heard.

After months of controversy and nearly a year in the legal system, a federal judge ruled that Vermont legislation infringed upon the purview of the NRC. The judge also ruled that the state's only nuclear plant could continue to operate until the case is settled.

Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation said that the new finding undercuts one of Entergy's main arguments for keeping the Vernon reactor open.

Entergy spokesman Mike Burns says aside from power, Vermont Yankee also provides millions of dollars in taxes to the state and its host town of Vernon, as well as more than 600 jobs.

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Modular offices leaving state site BY NEAL GOSWAMI

BENNINGTON -- Modular office space that housed local state employees for several years should all be cleared from the site in the next few weeks, according to a state official.

Peter Hack, the project manager for the state Department of Buildings and General Services, said crews will be working to disassemble the modular office space and ship the trailers out.

"We are shooting for the second week of June to have them all off site. I know they are storing them or working on them somewhere else in town where they are prepping them to hit the road," Hack said.

The work is dependent on the weather, however. Hack said workers are completing as much work as possible between bouts of rain. "They're doing a really good job," he said.

The state leased most of the modular office space from Modspace. Those are being returned to the company, Hack said. A smaller section of modular space was owned by the state. Hack said the state-owned trailers were recycled after there was no interest in them. Those were removed about a month ago.

The state installed the modular office space in 2007 after state officials closed the former office building. Several employees were diagnosed with the rare disease sarcoidosis. The state recently opened a rebuilt office complex on the same site.

Hack said the project is close to being fully completed.

"We're doing pretty well. There's a few things that aren't done, and then there's a few things that we can't do. We're doing the site cleanup once the modulares are gone and that will happen in a month or two, probably," he said. "The building itself is occupied and going very well. People are very happy with it. We're still going through the mechanical controls and making sure everything works. That's a long, drawn out process, especially with this building because the systems are so complicated."

The new office building has a solar hot water system and a geothermal cooling and heating system.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 6:02 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 24:

VPR:

Governor Says Vermont's Economy Headed In Right Direction

Governor Peter Shumlin says the state's economy is headed in the right direction as the unemployment rate declines and the business climate improves.

Shumlin held his weekly news conference in South Burlington, the business expo organized by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce. The annual event is the state's biggest business-to-business trade show. So the economy was at the top of the governor's talking points.

"There's good news. As you know, in the peak of the recession the unemployment rate was hovering around 8.2 percent," he said. "As we announced a week ago, it's now down to 4.6 percent, the fourth lowest unemployment rate in America."

Shumlin also talked about a general improvement in Vermont's business climate. He said that's reflected in a more positive outlook among business leaders since the 2008 recession.

Chamber President Betsy Bishop agreed with that assessment.

"Over the last two years I think we seen a stability starting to form," she said. "And I would say in my travels around Vermont as I talk to Vermont companies, there is some optimism out there and there's some sparks of bouncing back. I think it depends on the industry as well. I certainly see some manufacturing coming back; orders are up and some hiring happening."

University of Vermont economist Art Woolf says the governor is right about the trend lines - but that it's not time to celebrate yet.

"We've been gaining jobs now for the last year and a half or so. So the direction is up, so that's good. It's just that it's a very shallow up," he said. "The growth rate of new jobs is very, very low. And we're still well below our peak of employment back in 2007."

Woolf also publishes the Vermont Economy Newsletter and he says the state faces a demographic problem because the number of available workers is declining. He said a shortage of workers could affect companies' plans for growth.

"Whether or not we're going to be generating lots of new jobs, that's pretty unlikely, both because of the slow growth rate but also because Vermont's working age population is starting to decline," he said. "So it's just harder and harder for firms to find people, especially qualified people when you have shrinking population of people who want to work."

Woolf says Shumlin could do more to ease the tax and regulatory pressure on business.

The governor said he won't be satisfied until Vermonters start to earn more money. "To be working one, two, three, or four five jobs and find out you're making the same money you were ten years ago and find out you got to fill the car up

or the oil tank to heat the house and its 200 percent more than it was 10 years ago," he said. "So we have challenges ahead. When we see the numbers move on income we'll feel really good."

Shumlin gave credit to the Legislature for helping the economy because it imposed a moratorium on a new tax on cloud-based computer services.

Shumlin Throws His Support Behind F-35 Fighter Jets

Governor Peter Shumlin has thrown his support behind the plan to put F-35 fighter jets at the Vermont Air National Guard base.

Shumlin says he's proud that the Air Force has made the Vermont Guard one of its top two choices for the new planes.

"My own opinion is that we should be honored as a state to have this opportunity to host the F-35s, that it's a real comment and commentary on how proud I am of our National Guard," Shumlin said. "We've got the best National Guard in the country. That's why the Pentagon wants to put these planes here."

But the proposal has been much less welcome among officials and residents in communities around Burlington International Airport.

They worry about the noise the new generation planes will cause, especially in residential areas that currently are relatively protected from the F-16s that are now based in Burlington.

But Governor Shumlin says he thinks the noise will be offset by other factors.

"We know that these planes are louder than the current planes that we are flying," he said. "They also emit a lot less air pollution and they're faster. So it's a lot shorter period of time that you're going to hear the noise. Everything in life is a trade-off. We've got to look at all the challenges involved with this change."

City officials aren't nearly so supportive. The South Burlington City Council adopted a resolution opposing the F-35 this week.

The City Council in Winooski has raised questions about the noise, although it hasn't come out for or against the planes, yet.

The National Guard says the F-35s are important to its future.

The Air Force says it expects to decide where it will base the aircraft by the end of the year.

Vermont's General Fund Benefits From Foreclosure Settlement

Vermont's general fund has benefited from the national settlement of a foreclosure complaint.

The nation's five biggest banks agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to 49 states to address problems with mortgage foreclosures. Vermont qualified for \$2.6 million.

The independent news organization ProPublica analyzed how states spent the money and concluded that much of it hasn't gone to homeowners who have been involved in the foreclosure crisis.

ProPublica says in Vermont, \$500,000 has been dedicated to a statewide network of counseling centers for homeowners. But 78 percent of the aid went to the state's general fund.

Vermont's mortgage delinquency rate has been much lower than the national average. So the crisis has been muted here.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Vermont withdraws objection to landmark education law

BY CHRISTINA KUMKA

What was once seen as one of the most important actions the state Board of Education would ever take is now off the table.

The state last week pulled its application for a federal waiver to the No Child Left Behind education law, acting with the state board's unanimous approval.

That means Vermont has no other option than to abide by NCLB standards, which stress using only standardized test scores to judge schools and students.

Last year, then-Deputy Education Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf had said a waiver would be the first step in getting Vermont away from using test scores to measure the success of its schools.

However, education officials in Washington, D.C., had told the state Education Department more recently that even with a waiver it wouldn't have the opportunity to change the way test scores are used to label schools.

"It became apparent that the waiver was a misnomer," said Stephan Morse, chairman of the state board.

Now all schools are back to the status quo, required to have all their students proficient in math, reading, writing and science by 2014 unless the federal government changes the law.

Morse said Tuesday that the state Department of Education was pushed to apply for a waiver to the current law. That pressure followed a federal directive to call any Vermont school failing or underperforming if testing standards were not met.

Failing schools were labeled and asked to implement improvements, while getting more federal money to do so.

Bill Mathis, a state board member, had said earlier that the waiver should be carefully vetted because the importance of test scores to the federal government wasn't going away. Mathis is a former longtime school superintendent.

"The state board really said we wanted to look at this stuff rather than a blanket approval of a federal mandate. This could change the assessment system, the curriculum system and the way we evaluate teachers, the schools and the entire accountability and measurement system of the state of Vermont," Mathis said in October.

At the time, state education officials and Gov. Peter Shumlin recommended the state be allowed to stick to 2009 testing targets for three years while the state reforms how to keep students, schools and teachers accountable in other ways.

Now, there are no options.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan “said states would have more flexibility and get away from extreme reliance on standardized testing. ... We were excited about waivers when they first started, but the rules that they put in the waiver did not do any of that,” Mathis said Tuesday.

According to Mathis, a waiver would “increase the bureaucratic requirements (of state education departments) rather than decrease them. It would have made the situation worse rather than better. The government would want their own set of reforms through the waiver process.”

“The waiver would have required a massive data collection and evaluation of teachers by standardized test scores. There is no scientifically valid way of doing this given that different teachers teach different groups, across different grades, with different family supports and different subject matters,” Mathis wrote in an email.

As of February, 11 states — Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee — had been granted waivers and received flexibility from NCLB based on their locally designed plans to spur education reform, according to the federal government.

Twenty-six other states, including Vermont, also applied.

If approved, the states would have to set new “performance targets based on whether students graduate from high school ready for college and career rather than having to meet NCLB’s 2014 deadline based on arbitrary targets for proficiency, design locally tailored interventions to help students achieve instead of one-size-fits-all remedies prescribed at the federal level, be free to emphasize student growth and progress using multiple measures rather than just test scores, and have more flexibility in how they spend federal funds to benefit students,” according to the federal Education Department.

Montpelier weighs options to regain control at Berlin Pond

BY KEITH VANCE

MONTPELIER — City Manager William Fraser is asking the City Council to decide whether to enforce no trespassing on city land on Berlin Pond and to consider its options after the recent Vermont Supreme Court decision opening up the city’s drinking water source for recreational use.

“We’ve got land, it’s posted ‘No Trespassing,’ and people are trespassing,” Fraser said.

The City Council needs to decide, he said, whether Montpelier police officers should patrol the pond to keep people off its land.

The city owns all but a small portion of the land surrounding Berlin Pond. The town of Berlin owns one parcel.

Fraser said Police Chief Anthony Facos is fine with patrolling the pond for scofflaws, several of whom could be seen Wednesday afternoon flagrantly ignoring the city’s “No Trespassing” signs and fishing from shore.

Berlin Pond homeowner Phil Gentile has put up his own “No Trespassing” signs on his property.

In the 25 years he’s lived on the pond, he said, he has never put up signs forbidding people from walking across his property. But after what he witnessed last weekend, Gentile said, there were so many blatant trespassers, he felt he had to post the signs.

Gentile said he is happy to take them down as soon as some control is put in place.

"Right now," he said, "there's no control."

What he would like to see is a moratorium on any access to the pond until the science can be studied and the potential risks assessed.

"We're moving way too fast," Gentile said. "I think there needs to be caution."

He, along with several other Berlin residents, were planning to attend Wednesday night's City Council meeting to discuss the pond.

The city's attorney presented the City Council, mayor and Fraser with several options after the Supreme Court ruling that the city has no authority to regulate Berlin Pond, that it's rather the domain of the state.

The city's attorney, Glenn Howland of McKee, Giuliani & Cleveland, on Tuesday prepared five options for the council to consider.

The first option proposed by Howland is that the city stop all efforts to protect the drinking water in Berlin Pond and to sell the land Montpelier owns to the highest bidder.

"It may make no sense for the city to own any of (the land surrounding the pond), and the council could contemplate offering the property to the highest bidder," Howland said.

Berlin's zoning ordinances, he wrote, allow for a number of uses including schools, municipal offices, private clubs, public utilities and electrical transmission lines.

If the City Council chooses that option, the burden to protect water would be left to the Agency of Natural Resources and the town of Berlin.

In an email, Fraser said he doubted this option would be given much consideration.

The city, according to Howland's recommendation, could continue its "historical level of vigilance and stewardship over its water supply."

That could include working with the Berlin Select Board to implement a no-trespassing ordinance on the parcel of land Berlin owns and enforcing a parking ban on Mirror Lake Road.

Howland said that recent developments suggest the town of Berlin "may now be experiencing the political pressures attendant to uncontrolled public recreational access."

The city, Howland said, could also petition for a rule change from the Agency of Natural Resources.

A recently passed bill in the Legislature, signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin this month, moved the rulemaking authority for bodies of water from the Water Resources Panel to the Agency of Natural Resources.

According to the Natural Resources Board's general counsel, John Hasen, in 2007 the city petitioned for a rule change regarding access to Berlin Pond, but that effort was abandoned.

Hasen said the panel had requested more information from the city to support its petition but never heard back. According to Fraser, the panel rejected the petition.

Fighting the case in court, on the other hand, hasn't been cheap. To date, the city has spent \$37,493.24 on legal fees and expenses, the city manager's office said.

Other options outlined by Howland include state legislative changes, a city charter change, and building a physical barrier preventing access to the pond from Mirror Lake Road.

Power dispatch group: Yankee not needed

BRATTLEBORO — The regional power dispatch group ISO New England has changed its stance on the future of Vermont Yankee saying the nuclear plant won't be needed to ensure future power supplies and grid reliability.

That's a change from the position the ISO took last year.

Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation said the new finding undercuts one of Entergy Corp.'s main arguments for keeping its Vermont reactor open.

The plant got a 20-year license extension from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year, but still needs a state permit.

Entergy spokesman Mike Burns says aside from power, Vermont Yankee also provides millions of dollars in taxes to the state and its host town of Vernon, as well as more than 600 jobs.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 5:51 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 24:

WCAX:

Fallen soldiers honored at Camp Johnson today

COLCHESTER, Vt. - Vermont's fallen soldiers will be honored at a private ceremony at Camp Johnson today.

The Fallen Heroes memorial was formally dedicated on September 11, 2008, and includes the names of Vermonters killed in battle.

The site will be closed on Sunday.

Today's ceremony will be attended by Vermont National Guard members, as well as representatives of Vermont's state and congressional delegations.

Vermont accepts No Child Left Behind law

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont is no longer saying no to a controversial education law.

The state has withdrawn its application for a federal waiver to the federal No Child Left Behind law.

That means Vermont must abide by the federal standards. No Child Left Behind requires that all students be proficient in writing and math by 2014.

But critics say the law is too rigid, and leads educators to teach to the test. Eleven states have been granted waivers from the law.

Vermont education officials tell the Rutland Herald that school evaluations are still tied to test scores, even when waivers are granted.

Vt Yankee hearing turns heated

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - A meeting with federal regulators -- designed to update residents on the safety status of Yankee Nuclear -- turned into a protest.

As the minutes ticked toward 7 p.m. Wednesday night, it appeared the official portion of the meeting would never begin.

Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, exited and police blocked access through what had been the entrance-way to the public meeting.

A sergeant said they did so for the safety of the officials - though what threat the WCAX reporter posed is unclear.

When spokespeople did start taking questions, most in the audience complained about the long-winded and jargon-filled answers from NRC spokesman Chris Miller.

Miller said the NRC renewed Yankee Nuclear's operating license because its only had small infractions, and received the highest safety rating possible.

However, many in the audience questioned the thoroughness of those inspections, and say the rating amounts to grade inflation.

"If you want to find rust on a car, knock on the wheel wells, if you don't want to find rust on a car, knock on the roof," said Clay Turnbull of the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution.

Pro-nuclear blogger Meredith Angwin said, "they have a protocol and they know what kind of things need to be inspected frequently and what kind of things can wait between inspections."

Residents across the state appear to be more evenly split than Wednesday's audience.

A recent poll conducted by Castleton College for WCAX, WDEV, and Vermont business magazine, found 45-percent of folks support the state's effort to close the nuclear plant. 44-percent opposed that effort. Eleven percent of the people polled are unsure.

The State of Vermont contends that the federal agency overstepped its bounds by issuing a new permit to Yankee, without all the necessary paperwork in place. Yankee argues its earlier certificates are still in effect. Regulators would not answer questions regarding that suit or others.

But at this point it appears the Yankee controversy will be settled in the court of law, not public opinion.

Former Vt. Lt. Gov. Buckley dies

STOWE, Vt. - Former Republican Vermont Lieutenant Governor T. Garry Buckley has died.

Buckley's family says he died peacefully of old age in Stowe, where he lived with his wife. He became Lieutenant Governor in 1977 -- despite losing the general election. Neither candidate received a majority in the 1976 race. Lawmakers chose Buckley over Democrat John Alden in a 90 to 87 vote.

Buckley served just one term. T Garry Buckley was 89 years old.

Chemical forces Pavilion Building to close

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Evacuations Wednesday at the building that houses the governor's office.

State employees at the Pavilion Building in Montpelier began feeling ill with headaches and watery eyes. So the government building was evacuated.

It turns out bricks were being treated with a waterproof sealant and it was wafting into the building. All employees were sent home and the building is being ventilated.

Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding says he expects all employees will be able to return Thursday.

Progressive candidate to run for Vt governor

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont's Progressive Party is lining up a slate of candidates for the election in November, including a candidate for governor.

Party Chair Martha Abbott is gathering signatures to get on the ballot, setting up a three-way race with incumbent Democrat Peter Shumlin and Republican Randy Brock.

The Progressives sat out the 2010 governor's race after Democrats complained that Progressive-backed independent Anthony Pollina undermined their chances in 2008.

Along with Abbott, the Progressives are also putting up Marj Powers in the Lt. governor's race and Don Schramm in the treasurer's race.

Charest postpones Vt visit

QUEBEC CITY - Quebec Premier Jean Charest is postponing his trip to Vermont.

He was supposed to make a day trip to the Burlington area Thursday and hold a press event with Gov. Peter Shumlin to sign an agreement to work together on environmental, trade, and other issues. But now the Shumlin Administration says Charest plans to stay in Quebec City to attend debates in the national assembly there.

Shumlin to mark anti-bullying bills' passage

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin will visit the offices of the gay rights organization Outright Vermont to celebrate the recent passage of two bills aimed at stamping out bullying in schools.

Shumlin recently signed into law two bills related to bullying.

One allows people to sue schools for failing to take steps to stop harassment. The other requires schools to adopt policies aimed at cracking down on harassment, hazing and bullying.

Outright is praising Shumlin as a protector of gay rights.

FOX44:

Protecting Montpelier's Water Supply

BERLIN, Vt. - On Wednesday, the City of Montpelier took a step to make sure its drinking water remains safe.

Recently the Vermont Supreme Court ruled the city couldn't stop people from fishing, boating and swimming on Berlin Pond.

While the court said the city couldn't stop people from doing those things, the city decided it can try to stop people from getting to the water.

For fishermen, who haven't cast a lure here in at least 85-years, Berlin Pond is a dream.

"You know there's got to be some big fish in here. You just know it. You just got that gut instinct," says Leo Williams, a fisherman.

But this has become a nightmare for people in Montpelier who have relied on the pond for their drinking water for 130-years.

"My question is, this is our water supply and this is important and how are we going to secure it?" says Angela Timpone, Montpelier City Councilor.

On Wednesday, the Montpelier City Council tried to figure out what to do in response to a recent ruling from the Vermont State Supreme Court. The court ruled the city does not have the right to stop people from fishing, boating and swimming here.

"We have a few concerns, invasive species being in there," says Todd Law, director of public works.

Law says people and boats could contaminate the pond and the city's water supply.

"We have essentially been in a holding pattern to coordinate our response," says Chief Anthony Facos, Montpelier Police Department.

Facos says because the city owns most of the land around the pond officers could patrol the it and kick people out who are trespassing. That leaves just a small area on the water's edge not owned by Montpelier and would still be open.

"As long as it's open, I'll be here many more times because I want to get that one big bass," says Williams.

The City of Montpelier will also look at long-term solutions to stop people from using the pond again. But for now, they hope warnings and possible citations from police protect their water.

Eighth Grader Influences Life-Saving Law

Williston, Vt. - A new Vermont law will help save lives and it started with one influential eighth grader.

When Tommy Watson started his eighth grade project with the goal of training 100 people in CPR, he had no idea it would lead to a law.

That law was signed by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin at an assembly at Williston Central School on Wednesday. It gives all Vermont students the opportunity to learn CPR before they graduate from high school.

"It's pretty cool knowing that CPR does work. It's not just something that they say can help someone. It actually does work and it's proven," Watson said.

Cardiac arrest survivor Michelle Johnston can attest.

"I came home shopping one day, grocery shopping, and collapsed from sudden cardiac death. And my husband immediately reacted and called 9-1-1 and started CPR," Johnston said.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:03 AM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Fwd: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

Begin forwarded message:

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Date: May 23, 2012 11:43:46 PM EDT
To: "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Invoice

Governor Peter Shumlin

ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us

Governor

VT Office of the Governor

[View and update your account details »](#)

Invoice Date: 2012-5-21
Account Number: [REDACTED]
Invoice Number: [REDACTED]

Amount Paid \$5.99
USD

Billing Details

Balance Forward	\$0.00
Pro Package (HootSuite Recurring Service - 1 @ 5.99 ea)	\$5.99

Electronic Payment

\$-5.99

Amount Paid 5/21/2012

\$5.99

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@hootsuite_help

HootSuite Media Inc.
37 Dunlevy Ave.
Vancouver, BC
Canada, V6A 3A3

Canada only: HST/GST # 84250 7261 RT0001

London, Sarah

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:44 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: HootSuite - Payment Invoice

Invoice

Governor Peter Shumlin

ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us

Governor

VT Office of the Governor

[View and update your account details »](#)

Invoice Date: 2012-5-21
Account Number: [REDACTED]
Invoice Number: [REDACTED]

Amount Paid \$5.99
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Billing Details

Balance Forward	\$0.00
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HootSuite Media Inc.
37 Dunlevy Ave.
Vancouver, BC
Canada, V6A 3A3

Canada only: HST/GST # 84250 7261 RT0001

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:18 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Thursday, May 24

Thursday, May 24th 2012 Schedule

Scheduler
Governor's Office
802.828.3333

London, Sarah

From: HootSuite <no-reply@hootsuite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:15 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Your Scheduled message has been sent out



Hi Governor Peter Shumlin,

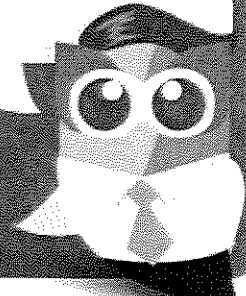
The following scheduled message has been posted:

Twitter Profile: GovPeterShumlin

Time Sent: May 23, 2012 at 8:15 PM

Message: "VIDEO: Growing Jobs & Protecting Our Natural Resources <http://ow.ly/b6RAI> #vtgov #vtbusinesses @VTChamber"

Please don't reply to this message as it is sent from an automated system. If you have any questions or need assistance, please visit our [HootSuite Help Desk](#).



London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 7:45 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: video post

Sure

On May 23, 2012, at 5:23 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

This will be for 8 pm – I'll pull a quote for reposting it tomorrow since some of my planning for Charest is no longer applicable.

VIDEO: Growing Jobs and Protecting Our Natural Resources

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: Re: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest¹'s visit to Vermont postponed

I know

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 5:50 PM, "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us> wrote:

What a bummer

Sent from my iPad

On May 23, 2012, at 4:29 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Media Advisory: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

The visit from Premier Jean Charest scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed. The Premier will remain in Quebec City to attend debates in the national assembly.

For more information, contact: Hugo d'Amours at 418-643-5321 or Susan Allen at 802-279-8493.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Bartlett, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

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Sent from my iPad

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Erickson, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:49 PM
To: Erickson, Nancy; VT Health Department
Cc: Cimaglio, Barbara; Chen, Harry; Dolan, Tracy; Henry, Dixie; Clark, Leo; Philibert, Dawn; Racine, Doug; Allen, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Wilcox, Debra; AHS - VDH - District Directors-Exclusive; AHS - VDH - Directors Extended; AHS - VDH - Communication Office; Bosma, Mark; Oliver, Christine
Subject: Health Media Contacts: May 22, 2012

MRSA and Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections

Christine Hinkel, WCAX, will interview Patsy Kelso, state epidemiologist for infectious disease, May 23 about MRSA infections. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that does not respond to some antibiotics that are commonly used to treat staph infections. Kelso will discuss the Health Department's Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) prevention program that is working to prevent the spread of MRSA and other common infections in patients in hospital and long-term care settings.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Paint

Alexi Rubenstein, WCAX, is working on a story for next Tuesday about volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in paint and how much of a health hazard they pose to the public. Christine Hinkel, producer, will interview Sarah Vose, state toxicologist, on May 23, and include parts of the interview in Rubenstein's overall story next week. VOCs are nearly everywhere in the environment. VOCs are unstable, carbon-containing compounds that readily vaporize into the air and react with other elements to produce ozone (air pollution). Some VOCs have been linked to cancer, as well as kidney and liver damage.

About Volatile Organic Compounds (from EPA):

Volatile organic compounds are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors. VOCs are emitted by a wide array of products numbering in the thousands. Examples include: paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment such as copiers and printers, correction fluids and carbonless copy paper, graphics and craft materials including glues and adhesives, permanent markers, and photographic solutions.

Nancy Erickson / Communication Director / Vermont Department of Health
108 Cherry Street Box 70 Burlington, VT 05402

nancy.erickson@state.vt.us / www.healthvermont.gov
802.863.7281 (desk) / 802.316.2121 (mobile)

Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/HealthVermont

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: video post

This will be for 8 pm – I'll pull a quote for reposting it tomorrow since some of my planning for Charest is no longer applicable.

VIDEO: Growing Jobs and Protecting Our Natural Resources

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: bullying post w/pic

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 5:11 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Good

On May 23, 2012, at 4:58 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

"We know that our youth cannot reach their full potential if they do not feel safe at school. I am proud that these anti-bullying bills will continue the effort of standing up to bullying in Vermont, while reminding our youth that it does get better." - Governor Shumlin at Outright Vermont, marking the passage of two anti-bullying bills that the Governor signed into law last week.

Ariel Wengroff
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109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Becky Raymond <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:14 PM
Subject: Fwd: Air conditioners needed

Hello everyone

Please review the email below and consider forwarding to anyone you can think of that might be able to assist Peter. For those of you who may not know, People's Health and Wellness was flooded last year and is one of many non-profits still trying to recover from the devastation. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Becky Raymond
Community Impact Director
Green Mountain United Way
963 Paine Turnpike N #2
Montpelier, VT 05602
[REDACTED]
www.gmunitedway.org

LIVE UNITED

"Like" us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/gmunitedway.

For disaster updates, visit Becky's Blog at www.gmunitedway.wordpress.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: People's Health & Wellness Clinic <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, May 23, 2012 at 10:49 AM
Subject: Air conditioners needed
To: Becky Raymond <[REDACTED]>

Hi, Becky,

I was wondering if you could help us spread the word that we need air conditioners here at the People's Health & Wellness Clinic?

As you know, we lost all five of ours last spring during the May flood - we hadn't yet installed them at the time we got gutted. We have gotten one donated, but are looking for four more.

We're looking for small (5000-6500 btu range) room air conditioners. Used is fine, as long as they are in good running condition. Thanks.

Peter

Peter Youngbaer, Director
People's Health & Wellness Clinic
553 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: (802) 479-5444
Website: www.phwcvt.org

Health Care for the Uninsured

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: bullying post w/pic

Good

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Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:59 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: bullying post w/pic

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Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 4 FINAL

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

If I were Randy Brock...

by: [jvwalt](#)

Wed May 23, 2012 at 15:00:00 PM EDT

So I've been consistently and harshly critical of the Randy Brock campaign. The lackluster start, the invisibility throughout the legislative session*, the missed opportunities, the minimal online presence, and the prefab Spampaign that launched a few days ago.

**Yes, I know it's a Vermont tradition to begin campaigns after the Legislature adjourns, but (1) it's an antiquated notion, (2) it's more honored in the breach than the observance, (3) there are ways around it even if you want to publicly honor it, and (4) Remember Gaye Symington. If you're going against a powerful incumbent, don't wait until May.*

Okay, wise guy, you may well say. If Randy Brock's campaign has been a laughable series of missteps, then what would you do?

Here's my strategy: Go all out, go all in. Hold nothing back, release the Kraken if you've got one. Bound For Glory Or Bound For Hell. This strategy requires a candidate willing to take chances and defy conventional wisdom. It also requires a candidate with a personality. Oh well, let's spin this out anyway...

[jvwalt :: If I were Randy Brock...](#)

-- **Fire the damn out-of-state consultants.** They're wasting your money on slick but inauthentic material.

-- **Stop the generic attacks on Shumlin**, and identify targeted attacks that have a chance to stick.

-- Drop the Titanicare weaksauce. Call it Shummycare. (With apologies to the Estate of Peter Freyne.) Put it all at Shumlin's feet, and make it personal. Heck, keep calling him Shummy, he might get mad and make some mistakes.

-- Don't call him "the most liberal Governor in history"; that doesn't resonate. Go for Shumlin's real negatives: his narcissism, his unilateral style, his bombast, his occasional screwing-over of his allies, his obvious ambitions for higher office, his cozy relationships with big corporations. (That's where the \$21 million CVPS deal can fit into a larger narrative.) And yes, you can be a Republican and attack a Democrat for corporate ties; it's called conservative Populism, and whether or not it makes sense as a political philosophy, it can resonate with many voters.

-- Stop with the over-exaggerated "Brink of disaster" stuff. Nobody believes it, except the real hardliners. Effective attacks have to be at least somewhat plausible.

-- **Talk to independents, moderates, and even liberals.** Find out what they want in a Governor, and find ways to tie that to your strengths. And identify issues that might help you pull away potential Shumlin voters, even if they aren't "core Republican" issues.

-- From those conversations, **give people some positive reasons to vote for you.** Specifically you, not just some generic Republican parroting the usual Republican talking points.

(The preceding two ought to have been done months ago, sometime last year. But it's not too late.)

-- Schedule as many **joint appearances as you can with Phil Scott**, the only VT Republican with proven broad appeal and credibility.

-- **Be creative about campaign appearances.** But whatever you do, don't do it halfway; authentically enjoy whatever you're doing, whether you're good at it or not. The only thing you can't be is stiff and inauthentic. If you can't milk a cow without looking like Calvin

London, Sarah

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Coolidge, then don't milk a damn cow. Go to places where you're comfortable enough to come across as real. (Maybe that means going to Dealer.com and talking high-tech.)

-- **Stop defending Vermont Yankee.** There's a sizable majority who either don't like nuclear power or don't trust Entergy. Mindlessly defending VY is a vote-loser, and it overshadows the rest of your energy pitch (such as it is). Here's a viable, and Republican, alternative: "I want Vermont Yankee to be part of our energy mix if it can be operated responsibly and if the decommissioning fund is replenished."

-- **Do your own radio ads.** Start with your own ideas (assuming that you do have some) and work with a radio pro (there's lots of 'em looking to make a few extra bucks) to write good scripts and help you read them effectively.

-- **Same with the TV ads.** Get a local videographer, or even a good amateur, and let them be a little rough-edged.

-- **Dump the "bears in the woods" spot** and, if you think it'll help bring Shumlin down a peg, do a fresh commercial emphasizing the ridiculousness of the whole bird-feeder escapade, and Shumlin's cluelessness for repeatedly bragging about that really stupid thing he did.

-- **Take some chances.** Speak off the cuff. Engage reporters whenever they show up. Talk to voters as much as possible. Have someone documenting it with a camcorder, and post the good stuff online. Create a YouTube channel that's actually entertaining. Yes, it's possible.

-- **Fully engage yourself in social media.** Train yourself to Tweet and post to Facebook whenever anything happens, relevant or not. (Twitpics from the road are better than stock campaign shots.) Mention interesting people you meet, things you saw, what you had for lunch. If you can't do this, get yourself a college-age intern who can keep you on the stick or even turn your comments into effective posts. And make it real, not just the obviously phony "I look forward to seeing you at the parade" stuff.

-- **Keep the bear mascot**, but turn it into a full-fledged cartoon. Decouple it from the CVPS issue and either make it more generic (Shummy Bear?) or give it a wardrobe of issue-specific T-shirts. Don't use it at Brock events; send it to Shumlin appearances. Tell the costume-wearer to stay within the law, but otherwise do whatever it takes to distract attention.

-- Given your age, **this is almost certainly your last shot** at statewide office. Dive into this thing, give it all you've got, and don't be afraid to be edgy and different.

I'm not saying that Randy Brock would win if he did all this. But he'd certainly attract a lot of attention. And he'd at least have a chance, which he doesn't with his current Spampaign. He might even set up his party for future success if he charts a new course and exploits some weaknesses in Shumlin's armor.

I also don't think there's a snowball's chance in hell that Randy Brock will actually do any of this. As I said above, it requires a candidate with a personality.

Dimon's Got an Edge

by: **BP**

Wed May 23, 2012 at 10:33:28 AM EDT

J.P. Morgan Chief Jamie Dimon is scheduled to testify before the Senate Banking Committee oversight hearings sometime next month about the company's \$2 billion (and still growing) loss from hedge bets made by "the London Whale". Banking Committee chairman Senator Tim Johnson released a statement saying

"Our due diligence has made it clear that the Banking Committee should hear directly from J.P. Morgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon".

Democrats are reportedly hoping now to make a case for finally passing the final important pieces of the 2010 Dodd-Frank banking regulations. Well by gosh, if handled well this could provide the leverage needed to wrench the "too big to fail" banking system back into some kind of order. You know, get that illusive level playing field we hear so much about back in sight at least. But wait there is more and it's not at all surprising, but none the less it's distressing.

Employees of the Wall Street giant and political action committees tied to it have given to the campaigns of eight of the banking panel's 22 members, according to a search of data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics. In the cases of some members – like ranking Republican Richard Shelby, and Jack Reed, the panel's No. 2 Democrat – J.P. Morgan-related donors are among their top five campaign contributors.

J.P. Morgan employees and related PACs are the No. 1 donor to panel chairman Tim Johnson. *During the 2007-2012 cycle, they've given just shy of \$39,000 to the South Dakota Democrat's campaign committee.*

(Much more here)

None of this *means* the fix is in but it is easy to think the campaign contributions might show a better long-term hedge against loss for Dimon and his JPMorgan-Chase than the ill fated trades with "the London Whale".

REUTERS:

Vermont Bans Fracking, Citing Injury Concerns

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin has signed into law the nation's first statewide ban against fracking, citing concerns the oil- and gas-extraction practice could hurt the environment and public health.

"This bill will ensure that we do not inject chemicals into groundwater in a desperate pursuit for energy," Shumlin said, according to CNN. The science behind fracking is "uncertain at best," he declared.

But supporters of fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, say Vermont's concerns are unfounded. They also point out that Vermont has little financial incentive to support the fracking industry.

That's because Vermont does not have extensive deposits of shale rock from which oil and gas is extracted via fracking. The process involves using pressurized fluids to create fractures that release oil and gas trapped in rock more than a mile underground, well below natural aquifers, according to Reuters.

By contrast, shale rock is found under many other U.S. states, with a huge deposit stretching from upstate New York down the spine of the Appalachian Mountains. Major oil companies are just beginning to tap into the deposits, and are planning to expand their operations.

But as Vermont's governor noted, there are risks associated with fracking. Methane and other gases can leak into the air, and the disposal of wastewater has been linked to fracking-related earthquakes, according to Reuters.

Chemicals used in fracking can also possibly contaminate groundwater, as an Environmental Protection Agency study suggested in December. But critics are blasting the EPA report as flawed, the *International Business Times* reports.

You can learn more about fracking in this Reuters infographic:

The debate over fracking's possible public-health effects is getting more nationwide attention. A recent NPR report highlighted possible fracking-related health problems "ranging from nosebleeds to cancer" in one Texas town. But scientific evidence is not yet conclusive, NPR reported.

THE COMMONS:

Colleges begin the journey to a downtown academic center

BRATTLEBORO—Plans to put a combined Community College of Vermont (CCV) and Vermont Technical College (VTC) academic center downtown have taken a big step forward.

Presidents of both institutions came to town to meet with Martha O'Connor, who is in charge of the search committee for finding a suitable site.

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin has made a big commitment toward putting a CCV/VTC campus in downtown Brattleboro.

Shumlin convinced the Legislature to appropriate \$1.5 million from the general fund and authorize another \$500,000 in potential borrowing to pay for the project.

There is no price tag yet on the project. The state is still trying to figure out what it needs for space and whether it wants to lease or buy a site outright.

At a May 22 meeting with business and civic leaders at the Marina Restaurant, CCV president Joyce Judy said that now that there is funding, "we expect to move very aggressively" on the project.

"A downtown presence is incredibly necessary for us," she added.

Judy said the school would need roughly 10,000 to 12,000 square feet of space, and that the two priorities are visibility and accessibility.

An ideal site, she said, would be an anchor for the downtown area, similar to other campuses that CCV has in city centers, and would have good access to parking and public transportation.

She said that in the short term plan, CCV will look at potential sites and come up with a proposal to present to the Vermont State College Board of Trustees by this fall.

Judy said that the current Brattleboro CCV location on Landmark Hill is too small and unable to offer the courses that other locations can.

The two locations that appear to be the front-runners for the campus are the Brooks House on Main Street and the former Sanel Auto Parts building on 47 Flat St., which was purchased earlier this year by Peter Johnson, the owner of Emerson's Furniture on Elliot Street.

Judy, Vermont State College Chancellor Timothy Donovan, and Vermont Technical College president Philip Conroy took a tour of both sites on Tuesday.

Renovation work on the fire-ravaged Brooks House is set to begin soon under the leadership of Bob Stevens and Craig Miskovich, who formed the investment group Mesabi LLC to take on the job.

On Tuesday, Stevens talked up the Brooks House, built in 1871, as an option. He envisions the joint CCV/VTC effort as an anchor tenant for the site, and he touted the benefits of being in the most prominent building in downtown Brattleboro.

Stevens offered a floor plan where CCV would have some classroom space at the rear of the first floor facing the Harmony Lot, and the bulk of its classroom and administrative space on the second floor.

Street-level retail space would still be located on the Main Street side of the building. Housing is still slated for the upper floors of the Brooks House.

The Sanel building, also part of the downtown Brattleboro Historic District, was built around 1900.

The four-story brick building was a warehouse for DeWitt Grocery Co. from 1906 until 1950, when the company got out of the grocery business and became a beer and beverage distributor.

Sanel Auto Parts, which has had a retail location on the first floor of the building for decades, moved to a new store on Putney Road earlier this year.

Representatives from the state colleges also toured the Sanel building during a recent visit.

Donovan said he was excited about the Brattleboro project.

“This is the first investment by the state in new educational facilities in about 15 years,” he said. “Now that we have some state money behind us, we can come up with an economically viable plan.”

Donovan said the biggest reason for why education is so expensive at Vermont’s state colleges is that the state is near the bottom in support for higher education. Student tuition ends up funding nearly all the costs of running the state’s system.

“A project like this one is a good first step toward changing that,” he said.

Still slow for some

By Randolph T. Holhut / *The Commons*

PUTNEY—With 18 months to go before the Shumlin administration’s deadline for universal broadband Internet access in Vermont, the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) says it has achieved that goal for 95 percent of the state.

According to a March 2012 analysis by the VTA, broadband service at a minimum download speed of 758 kilobytes per second (kbps) is available to 94.8 percent of locations in Vermont.

This figure includes DSL service from phone companies, high-speed service from cable companies, and providers of wireless Internet, cellular, and satellite services.

But the remaining locations in Windham County are proving difficult to connect.

On Monday night at the Putney Firehouse, Karen Marshall, the head of ConnectVT and the person in charge of making Gov. Peter Shumlin's broadband promise a reality, appeared before 30 area residents to give a progress report on how customers in the hardest-to-reach areas of the county will see broadband service.

State Rep. Mike Mrowicki, who helped set up Marshall's visit, told the audience he appreciated their patience.

But for the broadband-deprived people at Monday's meeting who were clustered around coverage maps, checking address lists, and peppering Marshall with questions during and after her presentation, broadband can't come fast enough.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this puzzle," she said. "This is about the worst place on the face of the earth to build a network."

But the goal remains: that every household in Vermont have access to one broadband connection other than satellite at a minimum download speed threshold of 768 kbps by Dec. 31, 2013.

Beyond that, Marshall said, most (but not all) locations in Vermont will have access to two connections by that time.

Connection speed, she said, is not as much a priority as making sure everyone has access to a minimum level of service. Faster connections will come later, Marshall said.

Two initiatives are in progress for Windham County, both funded in part with federal stimulus money.

One is Sovernet's Vermont Fiber Connect, which is stringing high-speed fiber-optic lines along heavily trafficked routes in the state.

Crews were installing lines last week along Putney Road in Brattleboro. Ultimately, the network will connect more than 300 community institutions, such as town halls, schools, and libraries, to highspeed service. It will also provide a stronger backbone for Internet traffic across the state.

But, as Marshall pointed, it costs \$40,000 to lay down a mile of fiber-optic cable, even when using existing utility poles.

The other key project is VTel's Wireless Open World (WOW) network. Last year, the VTA awarded \$2.05 million to VTel Wireless to provide broadband Internet to unserved areas in southern Vermont through its Backroads Broadband Program.

Marshall said Vermont is one of the few places using both fiber optics and wireless to provide high-speed Internet, which is important because of the lack of population density and the high cost of fiber makes wireless an important alternative.

The WOW service will likely be the primary source of broadband in many towns in Windham County, Marshall said.

By the end of this year, VTel Wireless hopes provide 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) broadband service to the towns of Brookline, Dummerston, Newfane, Putney, Townshend, Rockingham, and Westminster.

By the VTA's reckoning, there are 3,480 E-911 locations in those towns, and only 2,943 of those locations have broadband service.

According to Marshall, VTel projects that the WOW service will provide broadband to nearly all of the unserved locations with combined download and upload speeds equal to or greater than 5 megabits per second.

Other providers will be involved in the broadband expansion process.

Marshall said FairPoint, the state's primary landline telephone provider, is in the process of expanding its high-speed network. FairPoint, and other telecommunications and cable TV companies, have all submitted proposals to the VTA. They will be approved in the coming weeks.

"The process of 'when is it going to get here?' is well under way," she said.

SEVEN DAYS:

Payback Time?

Fair Game

BY **ANDY BROMAGE** [05.23.12]

Gov. **Peter Shumlin** says he doesn't need a raise. Secretary of State **Jim Condos** says he does. So does State Auditor **Tom Salmon**, who is putting three kids through college. State Treasurer **Beth Pearce**? Either she doesn't need a salary bump or isn't taking it. Ditto for Attorney General **Bill Sorrell** and Lt. Gov. **Phil Scott**.

The dawn of the 2012 campaign season finds Vermont's top officeholders in a tricky predicament — one that involves their taxpayer-funded salaries.

Last week, Secretary of Administration **Jeb Spaulding** sent a memo to the state's "exempt" employees — those not covered by a union contract — explaining how they'll be affected by the restoration of salary cuts that date back to 2009.

Back in the Great Recession, the state's unionized workforce sucked up a 3 percent pay cut to help balance the budget during tough times. Then-governor **Jim Douglas** asked Vermont's top elected officials to voluntarily accept a 5 percent pay drop in solidarity with the union grunts. All of them eventually did.

Now that revenues are rebounding, state employees are getting their 3 percent back, plus a 2 percent cost of living increase. Just in time for summer vacation season!

Salary hikes for union employees are automatic. But the exempt employees whose salaries are set by state law — i.e., the statewide officials Vermonters elect every two years — have a choice: Take the 5 percent pay restoration or decline it.

If they take it, politicians risk looking insensitive to recession-weary voters in an election year. Refuse it, and they might be declining money they actually need — and rightfully deserve — simply to make a point that could end up being lost on the voting public.

What to do?

If you're Shumdog Millionaire, who reported a net worth of \$10 million in 2010, you refuse the money, of course.

"The governor's not going to take the salary restoration as provided by law," Spaulding tells Fair Game. "It's not the right time to increase the salary at the upper end. Too many Vermonters are still struggling, and it's too early in the economic recovery."

That means Shumlin will continue earning \$136,700 a year rather than the \$143,977 he's authorized by law to collect.

Condos says he does plan on asking for his \$95,000 salary to be restored. Why? "Because that's what the state says I'm entitled to, and I think everybody should be compensated for their work."

"I'm not a wealthy person," adds Condos, noting that his current \$90,000 salary is not even close to the governor's and is less than what most of the gov's agency secretaries make. That would be \$115,000, which will increase to \$122,000 on July 1.

"I basically live check to check," says Condos. "I'm an average Vermonter from that standpoint."

Salmon is taking the extra money, too, "for the good of the office. It's not really going to affect me." Salmon announced last week he wouldn't seek reelection to another term as auditor this year — in

part because he needs a job that pays enough to put his kids through college. Salmon estimates that he could fetch a salary of “between \$160,000 and \$220,000, reasonably” in the private sector.

As auditor, Salmon earns \$90,000 and will make \$95,000 after the pay cut is restored. He said the job should pay between \$118,000 and \$125,000 to attract qualified professionals.

Pearce, who was appointed state treasurer by Shumlin and is seeking election in her own right this year, says she won’t take the pay increase.

“Right now, I think that it’s premature,” says Pearce, who also currently earns \$90,000. “I would rather let that pass and accrue to the taxpayers.”

Asked if her decision was political, Pearce said, “This is policy decision. I am comfortable with my salary. My first interest is serving the taxpayers of Vermont.”

Sorrell spokesman **Mike Pieciak** says AG Sorrell won’t boost his \$105,000 salary — at least not this year. “With so many Vermonters struggling in this economy, it was no time for him to abandon voluntary sacrifice,” Pieciak says.

Scott initially said he didn’t know whether he’d take the higher pay. The lite guy still draws income from his private construction business, so the public pay cut — from \$63,701 to \$60,515 — didn’t hit him terribly hard.

“If everyone else is going to continue to be reduced, I might just stay the same,” Scott said.

But after getting some questions answered, a Scott staffer says the lite guy will refuse the dough.

“Times are still tough. Irene recovery is not over yet,” says aide **Nancy Driscoll**. “He wouldn’t feel quite right about taking it.”

Pro-Life, Pro-Choice, Pro-Facts

Abortion is legal. So is protesting abortion. That’s why you frequently see people holding anti-abortion signs and praying with rosary beads outside Planned Parenthood clinics and other facilities that provide abortion services.

But the Burlington City Council wants to make it illegal to protest abortion within 35 feet of abortion clinics, and to fine violators \$50 to \$500 per offense.

The reason? Planned Parenthood says it’s seen an increase in protester activity since moving last November from Mansfield Avenue to its new downtown office on St. Paul Street. Patients have been “physically approached and verbally harassed,” said Planned Parenthood’s **Jill Krowinski**, creating “a serious public-safety issue.”

Lots of people agree with her. Monday night's city council meeting was packed with people in pink shirts, holding pink signs that read, "Protect Me, Vote Yes." A parade of pro-choice women — and a few men — told councilors that they believe in free speech, but not when it makes patients feel threatened and intimidated.

Opposing the "patient safety zone" were a priest from Underhill and a half-dozen middle-aged women wearing lapel pins that read, "Life is Precious." Over and over, pro-lifers said they never intimidated anyone — and challenged anyone to produce evidence to the contrary.

Amazingly, no one testified about being harassed or bullied by the protesters. Krowinski said the cops have been called twice, but testified that she wasn't aware whether anyone was found to have broken a law. Under questioning from City Councilor **Paul Decelles** (R-Ward 7), Council President **Joan Shannon** (D-Ward 5) said she hadn't invited the police chief to the hearing to provide that information.

If she had, she would have learned that the two incidents with protesters were sort of nonevents. According to the cops, that is.

Fair Game requested police reports from all incidents in which officers responded to protesters at Planned Parenthood's new location. There were two — both in March — during a 40-day pray-in organized by the group 40 Days for Life. On March 13, Planned Parenthood called police to report four protesters "standing still in front of the entrance in violation of city ordinance."

In his report, the officer on duty concluded, "No violation. On greenbelt, sidewalk and doorway clear."

On March 27, police responded to a complaint of "protesters bothering people in front of Planned Parenthood." Upon arrival, the officer found two protesters standing outside the clinic, holding signs. The officer asked Planned Parenthood staff if the protesters had blocked people from going in and out of the building. The answer was no. The officer explained that there's no law against "loitering," and that if the protesters weren't acting disorderly or impeding traffic, they weren't breaking any laws.

"I spoke with the two protesters, who were very polite, and asked them if they had been on the sidewalk earlier in the day while protesting," the officer wrote. "They responded that briefly one of them stepped on the sidewalk."

Are Planned Parenthood supporters making up stories of intimidation? Hard to believe. But they haven't provided much in the way of convincing evidence, either. Not that it mattered much to city councilors. Decelles was the lone councilor to vote against sending the no-protest zone proposal to the ordinance committee because, he said, there weren't enough facts on the table.

“What I’ve heard tonight is a lot of emotion on both sides,” Decelles told fellow councilors Monday. “I was looking for clarity from the police department on what tools they have to deal with this. Before passing this, I wanted clarity. All 14 of us should want clarity.”

Papers, Please!

Remember how Gov. Shumlin made Vermont one of the most immigrant-friendly states in America by making “look the other way” the state’s official policy on immigration enforcement?

Well, apparently the Obama administration didn’t get the memo.

Last week, the Shumlin administration learned that the feds plan to activate a controversial program called Secure Communities in Vermont on Tuesday, May 22. The fingerprint-sharing program links up local police agencies with a federal immigration database to look for deportable criminal aliens.

The feds have been rolling out S-Comm state by state with the goal of making it nationwide by 2013. Several states opted out of the program, only to find out it was mandatory.

Vermont is home to hundreds of migrant farmworkers who milk dairy cows and do lots of other hard work that Americans turn down. Many of the farmworkers are here illegally and live in fear of being rounded up and deported to their impoverished home countries.

Under pressure from farmworkers and their advocates, Shumlin established a new policy last year that directs state police to refrain from asking suspected illegal immigrants for papers unless they are suspected of committing a crime. The state legislature followed suit with a bill that could result in Vermont issuing driver’s licenses to immigrants, making it easier for them to get around, open bank accounts, etc.

The goal of S-Comm is to catch and deport dangerous immigrants who would roam free if not for the government’s state-of-the-art, fingerprint-matching technology. But the program has come under fire for sweeping up large numbers of minor offenders and separating foreign-born families.

Last November, Congressman **Peter Welch** (D-VT) signed onto a letter calling on President **Barack Obama** to “immediately stop” the enforcement program, writing that it “sows mistrust of the police and other uniformed personnel, thereby making our communities less safe.”

Maybe the president thought it was junk mail.

Will S-Comm make Vermont the next Arizona? No, but it will shift prosecutorial discretion from local police agencies to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities, who are notorious for issuing “ICE holds” — written demands that require states to hold suspected illegals — for minor violations. As **Brendan O’Neill** of the Burlington group Migrant Justice says, “ICE holds can be issued for people who were selling tortillas without a business license.”

Vermont Public Safety Commissioner **Keith Flynn** tells Fair Game that state police will maintain their policy of not asking crime victims and witnesses about their immigration status. But once someone is fingerprinted, it's out of Vermont's hands.

Fingerprints from local police agencies are currently checked against an FBI crime database. With S-Comm, those fingerprints will also be run through an ICE database, Flynn says, and anyone that ICE finds questionable could be whisked away to an undisclosed jail.

It happened to an 18-year-old Brazilian woman in Boston, who faced deportation after police stopped her for a traffic violation. And to a 28-year-old mother from El Salvador living in suburban Maryland. She was arrested and threatened with deportation — and separation from her 2-year-old daughter, a U.S. citizen — after calling police for protection from an abusive partner.

Feel safer now?

Andy also tweeted:

Andy Bromage (@andybromage)

@GovPeterShumlin says Quebec Premier Jean Charest will not visit #VT tomorrow, so he can attend national assembly debate at home.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 4 FINAL

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

If I were Randy Brock...

by: [jvwalt](#)

Wed May 23, 2012 at 15:00:00 PM EDT

So I've been consistently and harshly critical of the Randy Brock campaign. The lackluster start, the invisibility throughout the legislative session*, the missed opportunities, the minimal online presence, and the prefab Spampaign that launched a few days ago.

**Yes, I know it's a Vermont tradition to begin campaigns after the Legislature adjourns, but (1) it's an antiquated notion, (2) it's more honored in the breach than the observance, (3) there are ways around it even if you want to publicly honor it, and (4) Remember Gaye Symington. If you're going against a powerful incumbent, don't wait until May.*

Okay, wise guy, you may well say. If Randy Brock's campaign has been a laughable series of missteps, then what would you do?

Here's my strategy: Go all out, go all in. Hold nothing back, release the Kraken if you've got one. Bound For Glory Or Bound For Hell. This strategy requires a candidate willing to take chances and defy conventional wisdom. It also requires a candidate with a personality. Oh well, let's spin this out anyway...

[jvwalt](#) :: If I were Randy Brock...

-- **Fire the damn out-of-state consultants.** They're wasting your money on slick but inauthentic material.

-- **Stop the generic attacks on Shumlin,** and identify targeted attacks that have a chance to stick.

-- Drop the Titanicare weaksauce. Call it Shummycare. (With apologies to the Estate of Peter Freyne.) Put it all at Shumlin's feet, and make it personal. Heck, keep calling him Shummy, he might get mad and make some mistakes.

-- Don't call him "the most liberal Governor in history"; that doesn't resonate. Go for Shumlin's real negatives: his narcissism, his unilateral style, his bombast, his occasional screwing-over of his allies, his obvious ambitions for higher office, his cozy relationships with big corporations. (That's where the \$21 million CVPS deal can fit into a larger narrative.) And yes, you can be a Republican and attack a Democrat for corporate ties; it's called conservative Populism, and whether or not it makes sense as a political philosophy, it can resonate with many voters.

-- Stop with the over-exaggerated "Brink of disaster" stuff. Nobody believes it, except the real hardliners. Effective attacks have to be at least somewhat plausible.

-- **Talk to independents, moderates, and even liberals.** Find out what they want in a Governor, and find ways to tie that to your strengths. And identify issues that might help you pull away potential Shumlin voters, even if they aren't "core Republican" issues.

-- From those conversations, **give people some positive reasons to vote for you.** Specifically you, not just some generic Republican parroting the usual Republican talking points.

(The preceding two ought to have been done months ago, sometime last year. But it's not too late.)

-- Schedule as many **joint appearances as you can with Phil Scott**, the only VT Republican with proven broad appeal and credibility.

-- **Be creative about campaign appearances.** But whatever you do, don't do it halfway; authentically enjoy whatever you're doing, whether you're good at it or not. The only thing you can't be is stiff and inauthentic. If you can't milk a cow without looking like Calvin

Coolidge, then don't milk a damn cow. Go to places where you're comfortable enough to come across as real. (Maybe that means going to Dealer.com and talking high-tech.)

-- **Stop defending Vermont Yankee.** There's a sizable majority who either don't like nuclear power or don't trust Entergy. Mindlessly defending VY is a vote-loser, and it overshadows the rest of your energy pitch (such as it is). Here's a viable, and Republican, alternative: "I want Vermont Yankee to be part of our energy mix if it can be operated responsibly and if the decommissioning fund is replenished."

-- **Do your own radio ads.** Start with your own ideas (assuming that you do have some) and work with a radio pro (there's lots of 'em looking to make a few extra bucks) to write good scripts and help you read them effectively.

-- **Same with the TV ads.** Get a local videographer, or even a good amateur, and let them be a little rough-edged.

-- **Dump the "bears in the woods" spot** and, if you think it'll help bring Shumlin down a peg, do a fresh commercial emphasizing the ridiculousness of the whole bird-feeder escapade, and Shumlin's cluelessness for repeatedly bragging about that really stupid thing he did.

-- **Take some chances.** Speak off the cuff. Engage reporters whenever they show up. Talk to voters as much as possible. Have someone documenting it with a camcorder, and post the good stuff online. Create a YouTube channel that's actually entertaining. Yes, it's possible.

-- **Fully engage yourself in social media.** Train yourself to Tweet and post to Facebook whenever anything happens, relevant or not. (Twitpics from the road are better than stock campaign shots.) Mention interesting people you meet, things you saw, what you had for lunch. If you can't do this, get yourself a college-age intern who can keep you on the stick or even turn your comments into effective posts. And make it real, not just the obviously phony "I look forward to seeing you at the parade" stuff.

-- **Keep the bear mascot**, but turn it into a full-fledged cartoon. Decouple it from the CVPS issue and either make it more generic (Shummy Bear?) or give it a wardrobe of issue-specific T-shirts. Don't use it at Brock events; send it to Shumlin appearances. Tell the costume-wearer to stay within the law, but otherwise do whatever it takes to distract attention.

-- Given your age, **this is almost certainly your last shot** at statewide office. Dive into this thing, give it all you've got, and don't be afraid to be edgy and different.

I'm not saying that Randy Brock would win if he did all this. But he'd certainly attract a lot of attention. And he'd at least have a chance, which he doesn't with his current Spampaign. He might even set up his party for future success if he charts a new course and exploits some weaknesses in Shumlin's armor.

I also don't think there's a snowball's chance in hell that Randy Brock will actually do any of this. As I said above, it requires a candidate with a personality.

Dimon's Got an Edge

by: BP

Wed May 23, 2012 at 10:33:28 AM EDT

J.P. Morgan Chief Jamie Dimon is scheduled to testify before the Senate Banking Committee oversight hearings sometime next month about the company's \$2 billion (and still growing) loss from hedge bets made by "the London Whale". Banking Committee chairman Senator Tim Johnson released a statement saying

"Our due diligence has made it clear that the Banking Committee should hear directly from J.P. Morgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon".

Democrats are reportedly hoping now to make a case for finally passing the final important pieces of the 2010 Dodd-Frank banking regulations. Well by gosh, if handled well this could provide the leverage needed to wrench the "too big to fail" banking system back into some kind of order. You know, get that illusive level playing field we hear so much about back in sight at least. But wait there is more and it's not at all surprising, but none the less it's distressing.

Employees of the Wall Street giant and political action committees tied to it have given to the campaigns of eight of the banking panel's 22 members, according to a search of data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics. In the cases of some members – like ranking Republican Richard Shelby, and Jack Reed, the panel's No. 2 Democrat – J.P. Morgan-related donors are among their top five campaign contributors.

J.P. Morgan employees and related PACs are the No. 1 donor to panel chairman Tim Johnson. During the 2007-2012 cycle, they've given just shy of \$39,000 to the South Dakota Democrat's campaign committee.

(Much more here)

None of this means the fix is in but it is easy to think the campaign contributions might show a better long-term hedge against loss for Dimon and his JPMorgan-Chase than the ill fated trades with "the London Whale".

REUTERS:

Vermont Bans Fracking, Citing Injury Concerns

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin has signed into law the nation's first statewide ban against fracking, citing concerns the oil- and gas-extraction practice could hurt the environment and public health.

"This bill will ensure that we do not inject chemicals into groundwater in a desperate pursuit for energy," Shumlin said, according to CNN. The science behind fracking is "uncertain at best," he declared.

But supporters of fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, say Vermont's concerns are unfounded. They also point out that Vermont has little financial incentive to support the fracking industry.

That's because Vermont does not have extensive deposits of shale rock from which oil and gas is extracted via fracking. The process involves using pressurized fluids to create fractures that release oil and gas trapped in rock more than a mile underground, well below natural aquifers, according to Reuters.

By contrast, shale rock is found under many other U.S. states, with a huge deposit stretching from upstate New York down the spine of the Appalachian Mountains. Major oil companies are just beginning to tap into the deposits, and are planning to expand their operations.

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Representatives from the state colleges also toured the Sanel building during a recent visit.

Donovan said he was excited about the Brattleboro project.

“This is the first investment by the state in new educational facilities in about 15 years,” he said. “Now that we have some state money behind us, we can come up with an economically viable plan.”

Donovan said the biggest reason for why education is so expensive at Vermont’s state colleges is that the state is near the bottom in support for higher education. Student tuition ends up funding nearly all the costs of running the state’s system.

“A project like this one is a good first step toward changing that,” he said.

Still slow for some

By Randolph T. Holhut / *The Commons*

PUTNEY—With 18 months to go before the Shumlin administration’s deadline for universal broadband Internet access in Vermont, the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) says it has achieved that goal for 95 percent of the state.

According to a March 2012 analysis by the VTA, broadband service at a minimum download speed of 758 kilobytes per second (kbps) is available to 94.8 percent of locations in Vermont.

This figure includes DSL service from phone companies, high-speed service from cable companies, and providers of wireless Internet, cellular, and satellite services.

But the remaining locations in Windham County are proving difficult to connect.

On Monday night at the Putney Firehouse, Karen Marshall, the head of ConnectVT and the person in charge of making Gov. Peter Shumlin's broadband promise a reality, appeared before 30 area residents to give a progress report on how customers in the hardest-to-reach areas of the county will see broadband service.

State Rep. Mike Mrowicki, who helped set up Marshall's visit, told the audience he appreciated their patience.

But for the broadband-deprived people at Monday's meeting who were clustered around coverage maps, checking address lists, and peppering Marshall with questions during and after her presentation, broadband can't come fast enough.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this puzzle," she said. "This is about the worst place on the face of the earth to build a network."

But the goal remains: that every household in Vermont have access to one broadband connection other than satellite at a minimum download speed threshold of 768 kbps by Dec. 31, 2013.

Beyond that, Marshall said, most (but not all) locations in Vermont will have access to two connections by that time.

Connection speed, she said, is not as much a priority as making sure everyone has access to a minimum level of service. Faster connections will come later, Marshall said.

Two initiatives are in progress for Windham County, both funded in part with federal stimulus money.

One is Sovernet's Vermont Fiber Connect, which is stringing high-speed fiber-optic lines along heavily trafficked routes in the state.

Crews were installing lines last week along Putney Road in Brattleboro. Ultimately, the network will connect more than 300 community institutions, such as town halls, schools, and libraries, to highspeed service. It will also provide a stronger backbone for Internet traffic across the state.

But, as Marshall pointed, it costs \$40,000 to lay down a mile of fiber-optic cable, even when using existing utility poles.

The other key project is VTel's Wireless Open World (WOW) network. Last year, the VTA awarded \$2.05 million to VTel Wireless to provide broadband Internet to unserved areas in southern Vermont through its Backroads Broadband Program.

Marshall said Vermont is one of the few places using both fiber optics and wireless to provide high-speed Internet, which is important because of the lack of population density and the high cost of fiber makes wireless an important alternative.

The WOW service will likely be the primary source of broadband in many towns in Windham County, Marshall said.

By the end of this year, VTel Wireless hopes provide 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) broadband service to the towns of Brookline, Dummerston, Newfane, Putney, Townshend, Rockingham, and Westminster.

By the VTA's reckoning, there are 3,480 E-911 locations in those towns, and only 2,943 of those locations have broadband service.

According to Marshall, VTel projects that the WOW service will provide broadband to nearly all of the unserved locations with combined download and upload speeds equal to or greater than 5 megabits per second.

Other providers will be involved in the broadband expansion process.

Marshall said FairPoint, the state's primary landline telephone provider, is in the process of expanding its high-speed network. FairPoint, and other telecommunications and cable TV companies, have all submitted proposals to the VTA. They will be approved in the coming weeks.

"The process of 'when is it going to get here?' is well under way," she said.

SEVEN DAYS:

Payback Time?

Fair Game

BY **ANDY BROMAGE** [05.23.12]

Gov. **Peter Shumlin** says he doesn't need a raise. Secretary of State **Jim Condos** says he does. So does State Auditor **Tom Salmon**, who is putting three kids through college. State Treasurer **Beth Pearce**? Either she doesn't need a salary bump or isn't taking it. Ditto for Attorney General **Bill Sorrell** and Lt. Gov. **Phil Scott**.

The dawn of the 2012 campaign season finds Vermont's top officeholders in a tricky predicament — one that involves their taxpayer-funded salaries.

Last week, Secretary of Administration **Jeb Spaulding** sent a memo to the state's "exempt" employees — those not covered by a union contract — explaining how they'll be affected by the restoration of salary cuts that date back to 2009.

Back in the Great Recession, the state's unionized workforce sucked up a 3 percent pay cut to help balance the budget during tough times. Then-governor **Jim Douglas** asked Vermont's top elected officials to voluntarily accept a 5 percent pay drop in solidarity with the union grunts. All of them eventually did.

Now that revenues are rebounding, state employees are getting their 3 percent back, plus a 2 percent cost of living increase. Just in time for summer vacation season!

Salary hikes for union employees are automatic. But the exempt employees whose salaries are set by state law — i.e., the statewide officials Vermonters elect every two years — have a choice: Take the 5 percent pay restoration or decline it.

If they take it, politicians risk looking insensitive to recession-weary voters in an election year. Refuse it, and they might be declining money they actually need — and rightfully deserve — simply to make a point that could end up being lost on the voting public.

What to do?

If you're Shumdog Millionaire, who reported a net worth of \$10 million in 2010, you refuse the money, of course.

"The governor's not going to take the salary restoration as provided by law," Spaulding tells Fair Game. "It's not the right time to increase the salary at the upper end. Too many Vermonters are still struggling, and it's too early in the economic recovery."

That means Shumlin will continue earning \$136,700 a year rather than the \$143,977 he's authorized by law to collect.

Condos says he does plan on asking for his \$95,000 salary to be restored. Why? "Because that's what the state says I'm entitled to, and I think everybody should be compensated for their work.

"I'm not a wealthy person," adds Condos, noting that his current \$90,000 salary is not even close to the governor's and is less than what most of the gov's agency secretaries make. That would be \$115,000, which will increase to \$122,000 on July 1.

"I basically live check to check," says Condos. "I'm an average Vermonter from that standpoint."

Salmon is taking the extra money, too, "for the good of the office. It's not really going to affect me." Salmon announced last week he wouldn't seek reelection to another term as auditor this year — in

part because he needs a job that pays enough to put his kids through college. Salmon estimates that he could fetch a salary of “between \$160,000 and \$220,000, reasonably” in the private sector.

As auditor, Salmon earns \$90,000 and will make \$95,000 after the pay cut is restored. He said the job should pay between \$118,000 and \$125,000 to attract qualified professionals.

Pearce, who was appointed state treasurer by Shumlin and is seeking election in her own right this year, says she won’t take the pay increase.

“Right now, I think that it’s premature,” says Pearce, who also currently earns \$90,000. “I would rather let that pass and accrue to the taxpayers.”

Asked if her decision was political, Pearce said, “This is policy decision. I am comfortable with my salary. My first interest is serving the taxpayers of Vermont.”

Sorrell spokesman **Mike Pieciak** says AG Sorrell won’t boost his \$105,000 salary — at least not this year. “With so many Vermonters struggling in this economy, it was no time for him to abandon voluntary sacrifice,” Pieciak says.

Scott initially said he didn’t know whether he’d take the higher pay. The lite guy still draws income from his private construction business, so the public pay cut — from \$63,701 to \$60,515 — didn’t hit him terribly hard.

“If everyone else is going to continue to be reduced, I might just stay the same,” Scott said.

But after getting some questions answered, a Scott staffer says the lite guy will refuse the dough.

“Times are still tough. Irene recovery is not over yet,” says aide **Nancy Driscoll**. “He wouldn’t feel quite right about taking it.”

Pro-Life, Pro-Choice, Pro-Facts

Abortion is legal. So is protesting abortion. That’s why you frequently see people holding anti-abortion signs and praying with rosary beads outside Planned Parenthood clinics and other facilities that provide abortion services.

But the Burlington City Council wants to make it illegal to protest abortion within 35 feet of abortion clinics, and to fine violators \$50 to \$500 per offense.

The reason? Planned Parenthood says it’s seen an increase in protester activity since moving last November from Mansfield Avenue to its new downtown office on St. Paul Street. Patients have been “physically approached and verbally harassed,” said Planned Parenthood’s **Jill Krowinski**, creating “a serious public-safety issue.”

Lots of people agree with her. Monday night's city council meeting was packed with people in pink shirts, holding pink signs that read, "Protect Me, Vote Yes." A parade of pro-choice women — and a few men — told councilors that they believe in free speech, but not when it makes patients feel threatened and intimidated.

Opposing the "patient safety zone" were a priest from Underhill and a half-dozen middle-aged women wearing lapel pins that read, "Life is Precious." Over and over, pro-lifers said they never intimidated anyone — and challenged anyone to produce evidence to the contrary.

Amazingly, no one testified about being harassed or bullied by the protesters. Krowinski said the cops have been called twice, but testified that she wasn't aware whether anyone was found to have broken a law. Under questioning from City Councilor **Paul Decelles** (R-Ward 7), Council President **Joan Shannon** (D-Ward 5) said she hadn't invited the police chief to the hearing to provide that information.

If she had, she would have learned that the two incidents with protesters were sort of nonevents. According to the cops, that is.

Fair Game requested police reports from all incidents in which officers responded to protesters at Planned Parenthood's new location. There were two — both in March — during a 40-day pray-in organized by the group 40 Days for Life. On March 13, Planned Parenthood called police to report four protesters "standing still in front of the entrance in violation of city ordinance."

In his report, the officer on duty concluded, "No violation. On greenbelt, sidewalk and doorway clear."

On March 27, police responded to a complaint of "protesters bothering people in front of Planned Parenthood." Upon arrival, the officer found two protesters standing outside the clinic, holding signs. The officer asked Planned Parenthood staff if the protesters had blocked people from going in and out of the building. The answer was no. The officer explained that there's no law against "loitering," and that if the protesters weren't acting disorderly or impeding traffic, they weren't breaking any laws.

"I spoke with the two protesters, who were very polite, and asked them if they had been on the sidewalk earlier in the day while protesting," the officer wrote. "They responded that briefly one of them stepped on the sidewalk."

Are Planned Parenthood supporters making up stories of intimidation? Hard to believe. But they haven't provided much in the way of convincing evidence, either. Not that it mattered much to city councilors. Decelles was the lone councilor to vote against sending the no-protest zone proposal to the ordinance committee because, he said, there weren't enough facts on the table.

“What I’ve heard tonight is a lot of emotion on both sides,” Decelles told fellow councilors Monday. “I was looking for clarity from the police department on what tools they have to deal with this. Before passing this, I wanted clarity. All 14 of us should want clarity.”

Papers, Please!

Remember how Gov. Shumlin made Vermont one of the most immigrant-friendly states in America by making “look the other way” the state’s official policy on immigration enforcement?

Well, apparently the Obama administration didn’t get the memo.

Last week, the Shumlin administration learned that the feds plan to activate a controversial program called Secure Communities in Vermont on Tuesday, May 22. The fingerprint-sharing program links up local police agencies with a federal immigration database to look for deportable criminal aliens.

The feds have been rolling out S-Comm state by state with the goal of making it nationwide by 2013. Several states opted out of the program, only to find out it was mandatory.

Vermont is home to hundreds of migrant farmworkers who milk dairy cows and do lots of other hard work that Americans turn down. Many of the farmworkers are here illegally and live in fear of being rounded up and deported to their impoverished home countries.

Under pressure from farmworkers and their advocates, Shumlin established a new policy last year that directs state police to refrain from asking suspected illegal immigrants for papers unless they are suspected of committing a crime. The state legislature followed suit with a bill that could result in Vermont issuing driver’s licenses to immigrants, making it easier for them to get around, open bank accounts, etc.

The goal of S-Comm is to catch and deport dangerous immigrants who would roam free if not for the government’s state-of-the-art, fingerprint-matching technology. But the program has come under fire for sweeping up large numbers of minor offenders and separating foreign-born families.

Last November, Congressman **Peter Welch** (D-VT) signed onto a letter calling on President **Barack Obama** to “immediately stop” the enforcement program, writing that it “sows mistrust of the police and other uniformed personnel, thereby making our communities less safe.”

Maybe the president thought it was junk mail.

Will S-Comm make Vermont the next Arizona? No, but it will shift prosecutorial discretion from local police agencies to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities, who are notorious for issuing “ICE holds” — written demands that require states to hold suspected illegals — for minor violations. As **Brendan O’Neill** of the Burlington group Migrant Justice says, “ICE holds can be issued for people who were selling tortillas without a business license.”

Vermont Public Safety Commissioner **Keith Flynn** tells Fair Game that state police will maintain their policy of not asking crime victims and witnesses about their immigration status. But once someone is fingerprinted, it's out of Vermont's hands.

Fingerprints from local police agencies are currently checked against an FBI crime database. With S-Comm, those fingerprints will also be run through an ICE database, Flynn says, and anyone that ICE finds questionable could be whisked away to an undisclosed jail.

It happened to an 18-year-old Brazilian woman in Boston, who faced deportation after police stopped her for a traffic violation. And to a 28-year-old mother from El Salvador living in suburban Maryland. She was arrested and threatened with deportation — and separation from her 2-year-old daughter, a U.S. citizen — after calling police for protection from an abusive partner.

Feel safer now?

Andy also tweeted:

Andy Bromage @andybromage

GovPeterShumlin says Quebec Premier Jean Charest will not visit VT tomorrow, so he can attend national assembly debate at home.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 3

City leaders champion smart meters in Burlington

Smart-meters installed in Burlington are safer than cell phones and will help map reduced power, city leaders said Wednesday.

Burlington's transition to electrical meters that emit radio-frequency (or RF) waves thrice daily for about 10 seconds is a welcome advancement, despite detractors wholly on "bad science" to cast doubts on health- and privacy-related issues, said Tom Torti, president of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Also speaking at the Chamber's news conference, Mayor Miro Weinberger termed the new meters as an extension of newer technologies: tools that will allow users to analyze power usage and lower costs if they so choose.

About five percent of Burlington residents - most of them residents of the New North End - have opted out of option for the new meters, said Ken Nolan, the manager of power resources at Burlington Electric Department. Recent state legislation eliminating an opt-out charge resulted in a noticeable spike in meter rejections.

Nolan said widely circulated claims that the meters are health risks ignore vetted tests that indicate cell phones generate far stronger RF signals, and over longer periods of time, than the smart meters.

Privacy and security concerns are real, and have been anticipated by the industry, Nolan added. Codes within each meter are updated after every transmission, and cyber breaches would likely remain confined to individual meters, if they occurred at all.

Meters will receive periodic firmware updates designed to foil progressively more sophisticated threats, Nolan said.

The utility's wireless transmissions do not share protocols with Internet access or with the transmission utility Velco -- which also uses a proprietary system.

Vermont students rescued from stuck gondola in Quebec

MONTPELIER — A group of Vermont high school students are glad to be back on the ground after they were stuck in a gondola for seven hours during a trip to Quebec.

The 13 students from the Cabot High School and five chaperones were on a field trip to Quebec City with their French class when the gondola tour of Montmorency Falls stopped in mid-air because of a motor power failure.

New England Cable News reports that the Vermonters and other tourists had to be individually lowered from the trams by ropes about 200 feet to the ground.

Superintendent Nancy Thomas says a couple of the kids were nervous but for the most part they were fine and handled it really well.

The students are expected to return to school on Wednesday.

VT.BUZZ:

Shumlin, Brock and business

SOUTH BURLINGTON _ Gov. Peter Shumlin stepped up to the make-shift podium in the lobby of the Sheraton with Vermont Chamber of Commerce President Betsy Bishop by his side.

One of the first things out of his mouth was to note that Mike Smith, the head of FairPoint Communications in Vermont, opened the chamber's Business Expo on Wednesday by highlighting the rebounding economy. "There's a vibrancy about Vermont's business climate right now – jobs and economic opportunities – that we haven't seen since the great recession," Shumlin said. "Today, we have lots of good things happening."

Lots of subtle engineering going on there with Shumlin's comments.

1. The two people who were his new best business buds were both key aides to Republican Gov. Jim Douglas, Shumlin's predecessor. In the Vermont business community, Smith and Bishop are bona fides. As Shumlin runs for re-election, he wants to be seen with them.

2. Without explicitly saying so, Shumlin was implying that his tenure in office and the economic turnaround were intrinsically linked.

Bishop wasn't quite ready to concede that, also without explicitly saying so. The fall of 2008 was a particularly tough time for businesses, she said, but they started to stabilize about two years ago. That would have been the first half of 2010, when Douglas was still governor and Shumlin was still just one of five Democratic candidates hoping to succeed him. In other words, the recovery started before Shumlin was governor, but it's a lot easier to argue that you're doing something to help when things are going well.

Indeed, Bishop said, there are positive economic signs, including the fact that the Business Expo sold out to 200 exhibitors. In 2009, the event was not a sellout, she said.

Progress depends, though, on the business, she said. "Some are still in stability mode," she said, unwilling to spend capital.

On that, Shumlin agreed. Unemployment is down, but a sign of economic success would be growth in income that hasn't happened yet.

Out in the halls of the business expo, Shumlin's election opponent, Republican Randy Brock, was networking. One of his goals in the 2012 election will be to persuade voters that Shumlin is out-and-out bad for business.

On his campaign website, Brock alleges: "Vermont government policies restrain existing businesses and kill job development."

On taxes, he claims: "Democrats do not know how to cut taxes, and the Shumlin Administration never will."

Brock will have a tougher argument to make if the economy really does keep turning around and if every every time he turns around, former Douglas aides are standing by Shumlin.

Transactions on the lobbying front

The Montpelier lobbying firm of MacLean, Meehan & Rice announced today that Heidi Tringe of Montpelier has been named a partner in the firm.

Tringe, a former aide to Gov. Jim Douglas and U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords, joined MMR in August 2010 as an associate. She was also director of legislative affairs for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She was Douglas' liaison to the National Governors Association, the White House and federal agencies.

In a news release, MMR said Tringe has expanded the firm's scope to include client interactions with the National Governors Association, the Republican Governors Association, the Democratic Governors Association and the National Association of Medicaid Directors.

Same-sex couple gets a break from immigration — for now

Vermont's congressional delegation welcomed a federal decision to defer action on possible deportation of a Japanese woman married to a Vermonter who happens to also be a woman.

Here's the delegation's news release about the decision.

Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., "announced a breakthrough that will bring certainty and stability for now to the legal status of a Japanese-born woman, Takako Ueda, who is married under Vermont law to an American citizen, Frances Herbert. The couple live in Dummerston.

"The bi-national same-sex couple has been together for more than a decade and were legally married in Vermont last year, but U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had denied the Japanese-born Ms. Ueda a spousal permanent resident card – also known as a green card – because, under the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), their nuptials are not recognized at the federal level.

Leahy, Sanders and Welch announced that USCIS has used the agency's discretion to grant "deferred action" to Ms. Ueda, in effect suspending any potential deportation for now.

Earlier the lawmakers also had sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano urging that USCIS reconsider its December 2011 decision to deny a spousal green card for Ms. Ueda. They asked that the agency re-evaluate its policy on marriage-based immigration petitions for same-sex spouses, and particularly for the Dummerston couple.

VTDIGGER:

Today governor signs law that will keep the beat going

For immediate release

May 23, 2012

Contact:

Audra Burns

American Heart Association

Communications Director

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CPR in Schools Bill will Create a New Generation of Lifesavers

Williston, VT – Tommy Watson can soon add a very prestigious name to his log of CPR trainees. Today the eighth-grade student will train Gov. Peter Shumlin in Hands-Only CPR, just before the governor signs S.245. The new law provides every Vermont student with an opportunity to learn CPR

before graduating. Enactment of the new law, and a growing list of almost 300 trainees, has far surpassed the 14-year-old Williston student's goal of training 100 people in Hands-Only CPR for his 8th Grade Challenge.

WHEN: Wednesday May 23, 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Williston Central School, 195 Central School Drive, Williston

"I am really excited to have CPR in schools legislation passed," said Watson. "It was a huge achievement accomplished. It means a lot to me knowing future generations of Vermont youth are going to be able to potentially make a difference by using this life-saving technique. It is also an honor to be training the Governor of Vermont."

"Thanks to Tommy's hard work and commitment to this issue, students across the state for years to come will be trained in CPR and able to step forward with help in emergency situations," said Gov. Shumlin. "Tommy is an example to other students of how one Vermonter can make a real difference at the State House."

"We are very proud of Tommy's leadership in supporting the CPR bill," said Jackie Parks, principal of Williston Central School. "Our 8th grade challenge gives students an opportunity to pursue an area of interest that has a strong community connection. Tommy's project is a great example of what we hope students will accomplish with their projects."

AHA volunteer, emergency physician from Northwester Medical Center, Marc Kutler, said the new CPR law is a much-needed step as hundreds of thousands of cardiac arrest victims die every year because CPR is not started on time. "Teaching CPR to all Vermont students will create a generation in which every brother, sister, son, daughter, friend, and complete stranger is trained in CPR and is prepared to save lives," said Kutler.

Kutler noted that one barrier, the lack of experience, will be remedied by the hands-on practice included in the law because people are more inclined to take action if they've had practice. He added, "New Hands-Only CPR courses also mean the time commitment for training is less than 30 minutes — a very doable task and great skill for our schools to be teaching."

"I'm alive because my husband knew CPR," said Michelle Johnston of Shelburne, who suffered sudden cardiac arrest in October 2009. "I get chills thinking about how many more lives might be saved because so many students will know CPR."

According to the American Heart Association, only 11 percent of the 383,000 people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year survive. In children, less than 9 percent survive from sudden cardiac arrest.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for a new generation of lifesavers to be the beat for someone who needs it," said Tina Zuk, Government Relations Director of the American Heart Association in Vermont. "Thanks to the new law and Tommy's efforts, the odds of survival for cardiac arrest victims

just increased in Vermont as thousands of students will soon flood our communities with the ability to save lives.”

Bennington Rescue Squad Training Director Erin Ingebretsen said it’s critical for lay rescuers to know and perform timely CPR especially in many rural parts of Vermont. Ingebretsen said the rescue squad will train students at their local high school in the fall as part of the Bennington Rescue’s efforts to create a Heart Safe Community.

There were many other noted supporters of the bill including:

Senator Kevin Mullins, R-Rutland County, who was the lead sponsor of S.245 and chairs the Senate Education Committee where the first hearing on it was held

Senator Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden County is from Tommy Watson’s hometown of Williston. She also sits on the senate Education Committee. We introduced Tommy to Ginny prior to the session and he showed her how to perform hands-only CPR and told her how his project began. She was a co-sponsor of the CPR legislation.

Senator Phil Baruth, D-Chittenden County who was one of the bill’s biggest champions reporting it out on the Senate floor, testifying in favor of it before the House Committee when they took it up and pushing for the report on what schools were doing with CPR training when the bill went to conference committee

Representative Ann Donovan, D-Burlington, who is the chair of the House Education Committee.

Representative Kevin Christie, D-White River Junction, sits on the House Education Committee, reported the bill out on the House floor and sat on the bill’s conference committee.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America’s No. 1 and No. 3 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country.

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 2

FOX44:

Vt. Attorney General Warning of Another Text Messaging Scam

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

Attorney General William Sorrell is warning consumers of another text message scam.

According to a press release, the scam text message claims the consumer won a "\$1,000 Best Buy gift card." This is an attempt to gather personal information. The message directs consumers to a website that claims to offer reward program membership and requires a credit application.

Best Buy confirmed with the Attorney General's office that it has no affiliation with the texting scam and has verified that the "certificates" issued are not valid or redeemable.

Similar text message scams have been reported this week, like the MerchantsBank scam. The press release states that scammers are using a technique of random digital dialing to contact consumers.

Anyone who sent personal information, should take identity theft precautions by going to the CAP website at <http://www.uvm.edu/consumer/?Page=idtheft.html>.

If you received one of these text messages, you can report it to the Consumer Assistance Program at (800)-649-2424 or by email at consumer@uvm.edu.

Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Facebook & Essex High School Teaming Up to Keep Students Safe Online

ESSEX, Vt. -

On Tuesday, May 29 at 7 p.m., Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Facebook and Essex High School are teaming up to keep students safe online.

According to a press release, a presentation for parents, students and school staff showing them how to be safe when using Facebook.

Topics will include the basics of Facebook; how to report, prevent and diffuse bullying; how to use Facebook's privacy settings; age restrictions; and how to use these tools for better protection.

Parents and students from all schools are welcome to attend this event.

WPTZ (covered anti-bullying bills, :

Popular "smoke shows" targeted by police as criminal behavior

EAST BERKSHIRE, Vt. -

State police in Franklin County say that people who participate in "smoke shows," where cars peel out and spin on local roads, have been wreaking havoc in the area.

Police say the smoke shows are happening after auto shows, held during the summer months at the Pine Cone Snack Bar in East Berkshire. Officers say that as many as 50 cars fishtail and do tricks along Route 15.

Last Thursday, police say the activity got so out of hand that it prevented a man from driving his wife to the hospital.

"The smoke from the traffic was so thick that it actually stopped traffic. The visibility was zero," Sr. Trooper Jay Rikken said.

Rikken said the show lasted only 10 minutes and that because state troopers patrol a large area in the county, the cars had disbanded by the time police arrived. Still, he said that other bad behavior spun out of the event.

"In this area on that night we had assaults, we had vandalisms (and) quality of life violations. People (were) trying to keep the high going by continuing their destruction," Rikken said.

Linda Zelisky, who lives across the road from the Pine Cone, said that she has seen the smoke shows happen there for years.

"The smoke goes up in the air and you can hear the squealing of the tires," Zelisky said.

In fact, a Youtube video labeled "Pinecone car show burnout" shows a car peeling out. Rikken said that what's shown in the video is exactly the type of behavior police will no longer tolerate.

"If we'd been able to respond up here fast enough, these people would've been arrested. This behavior is absolutely criminal," Rikken said.

VPR (nothing new)

TIMES ARGUS:

A prospective on school's proper purpose

By Peter Berger

COMMENTARY

Teachers aren't the only people who wonder, "Why am I here?" But given the increasingly varied nonacademic responsibilities that get dropped off at the schoolhouse door, from dentistry and diets to family counseling and composting, it's a reasonable question. Now another in a series of prominent educators has answered it.

According to the executive director of the American School Counselor Association, "education has lost sight of why it exists today." Back in 1983 "A Nation at Risk" made a similar declaration. Except when "Risk's" authors warned that "our society and its educational institutions have lost sight of the basic purposes of schooling," they meant that schools had abandoned their focus on academics, that curricula had become "diluted" and excessively governed by "student choice," and that American public education had grown preoccupied with "personal" and "social" issues. The executive director offers a different take on the situation. He begins by recounting his own high school coursework from freshman through senior year. In social studies, for instance, he progressed systematically from

ninth grade world culture, through world and U.S. history, to 12th grade U.S. government. Math advanced from algebra through geometry and algebra 2 to trig, while his science sequence comprised biology, chemistry, and physics. But where “Risk” was alarmed that 1970s education reforms had driven systematic academic instruction from public school classrooms, the director describes that kind of rigorous, content-based program, in his day and in our present day, as an outdated remnant of the 20th century.

The director voices his concern that there are regrettably “many teachers who believe their job is to teach skills, such as math or science.”

In contrast, when he was an English teacher, he “never believed that [his] job was to teach grammar and literature.” Yes, that’s right — an ex-English teacher who proudly declares he didn’t teach grammar and literature. Remember that bizarre, all-too-common reform sentiment the next time you’re wondering why American students haven’t been learning much for 40 years.

He finds classes focused on content knowledge and skills “far too limiting.” Instead his “purpose was to teach students to love learning.”

Now he realizes that “even that’s not thinking big enough.” The way he sees it, the purpose of 21st century educators should be to “help the students of today become the productive adults of tomorrow,” adults who are “contributing members of society, not burdens on society.”

Rather than remain stuck in the 20th century and dwell on “the skills of the past” like math, science, English, and social studies, we need to teach “critical thinking,” “inquiry,” “communications,” and “community.”

It must be hard to cram that much empty rhetoric into one mouth. Find me the school in any century that set out deliberately to train its students to be noncontributing, unproductive burdens on society. Do today’s reformers truly imagine that they invented the idea of preparing the next generation to inherit the republic, a notion that was already old when Jefferson advocated 18th century American public schools for regular people?

Beyond its emptiness, the director’s vision is marinated in irony. It was shortly after his reform philosophy took root in public schools back in the 1970s that American culture began its ongoing slide from self-reliance to entitlement, a decline he now proposes to reverse by redeploying his failed theories on an even grander scale. Suggesting that schools must abandon their outmoded 20th century “purpose” and start teaching “community” and “collaboration” ignores the fact that the decades of graduating classes that have passed through post-1970s schools steeped in socialization and personal development have yet to approach the standard of sacrifice and common purpose set by the generation that suffered through “early 20th century” schools and went on to persevere through World War II.

Rechristening reading and writing as “communications” won’t make children more literate. There’s nothing wrong with inquiry and critical thinking, but first students need something to think about, an unlikely outcome if your

child's teacher finds concentrating on knowledge and skills too "limiting." Emotional, personal, and social development are certainly important, but they're not the reason we have schools. They're the reason we have families. I try to treat my students with respect, compassion, and humor, but my job is to teach them English and history.

Being a decent human being is just something that's supposed to happen along the way.

I enjoy learning. Sometimes in some scholastic veins I'd even go so far as to say I love it. But I haven't liked learning everything that's been set before me since I entered kindergarten. I still don't enjoy learning everything I'm expected to know.

When it comes to my students, I hope that I'm a model of intellectual curiosity. I try to make what I teach them as enjoyable as possible. After all, I have to listen to me, too. But enjoyment isn't my chief objective. If my students grow up to love learning, that's more than fine with me. But I'd far rather they recognize the value of knowledge even when it doesn't give them a warm, gushy feeling. Lifelong learners don't just learn the things that make their hearts race.

Once upon a time common sense would have told us that if our children aren't learning enough math, science, English, and history, the solution isn't to shift our focus away from math, science, English, and history.

That catastrophic strategy is precisely what reformers like the director have been preaching for the past 40 years. Yes, they dress their sermons up in cliches like the "love of learning," but no barrage of fatuous platitudes can alter the fact that American schools and students are weaker today because of education reform.

Schools and the children in them have suffered serial bandwagon innovations that aren't new and wave after wave of bright ideas that are manifest folly. Having slighted the systematic study of the liberal arts and sciences in favor of loftier sounding, hollow pursuits, reformers wonder why American students lack academic knowledge and skill. It's time we stopped letting the experts fail to solve the problem they helped to create.

Peter Berger teaches English at Weathersfield Middle School. Poor Elijah would be pleased to answer letters addressed to him in care of the editor.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Skull, human remains found at Northfield construction site

NORTHFIELD — The Vermont State Police disclosed Wednesday afternoon that a part of a human skull was found at a construction site in Northfield two weeks ago.

An excavator working on a job site on private property on Clark Road during sometime around May 11 unearthed a portion of what appeared to be a human skull, state police Lt. Brian Miller said in a news release.

The news release did not say why state police withheld information from the public until today, or specify when the remains were found.

Investigators said Wednesday it was too soon to speculate on the origin or identity of the remains.

Northfield police were contacted to investigate, and eventually state police detectives were called in to provide assistance. State police took possession of the skull and transported it to the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office for further examination.

Medical personnel confirmed the object was a section of a human skull, Miller said.

The Vermont State Police Crime Scene Search Team conducted a further excavation and search of the area during the week of May 14.

During that search, additional skeletal remains were located and subsequently examined by the Chief Medical Examiner's Office, and by a University of Vermont anthropologist. The bones were determined to be human and will be sent to the FBI's laboratory for further examination, police said.

An additional search is being evaluated, and an archaeologist for the State Division for Historic Preservation also is examining the site, police said.

Due to the deterioration of the remains, identification might prove difficult and could take a significant amount of time, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to call state police at 229-9191.

Small dairies go under as milk prices sink again

PLAINFIELD — The MacLaren brothers are third-generation dairy farmers, but they will likely be the last in their family.

After working all their lives on the hillside farm in Vermont that their grandfather bought in 1939, rising to milk cows at 3 a.m. even in blizzards and sub-zero temperatures, they decided to call it quits, auctioning off their roughly 200 cows and equipment ranging from stalls and hoof trimmers to tractors and steel pails.

The sale marked the end of the last dairy farm in Plainfield, a small town that once had several dozen, and the loss of the 14th dairy farm to go out of business in Vermont this year. A few small dairies have opened, but overall, the number of farms continues to drop in a state long known for its milk and cheese. Farmers say they can't make ends meet when milk prices are low and feed and fuel costs keep going up.

"The day of the small farms I think is gone," said Steve MacLaren, 54. "A lot of people are going to hold on as long as they can, but we decided not to. Why struggle on it any longer?"

Economic issues aside, the MacLarens are tired of being tied to the farm seven days a week. They plan to keep the land and grow feed — corn and grass for hay and silage — on more than 500 acres.

"No matter what, you've got a sick cow or a cow having a calf, you've gotta be around whether it's 1:00 in the morning, or it's whatever time you've got to take care of them," said Michael MacLaren, 48. "But if you've got a tractor break down, you can walk away from it. It's just a long hard grind, and I decided I'd like a change."

While the number of dairy cows in the U.S. hasn't changed much, the number of dairy farms has been dropping as small farms either go out of business or consolidate to become more competitive and cost effective.

The number of dairy farms nationally has dropped from nearly 92,000 in 2002 to less than 70,000 in 2007, according to the last agricultural census, which is being updated this year.

That's not the whole picture though. The number of small farms, with 100 to 199 cows, fell from about 11,000 to about 9,000 during that time, while those with more than 1,000 cows grew from about 1,300 to almost 1,600.

The shift has affected states like Vermont and Wisconsin, which have strong dairying histories, but tend to have smaller farms than other major milk-producing states like California and Texas.

Wisconsin has lost nearly 200 herds so far this year and now has about 11,600.

The farm closures are likely to continue with milk prices expected to keep falling this summer.

"It's a dying business," said Ron Wright, owner of Wrights Auction Service in Derby. He expects to do twice as many auctions this spring as last — eight to 10 auctions in Vermont and one in New York.

The U.S. had been gradually losing dairy farms for decades, but then milk prices plummeted during the recession and fuel costs soared in 2009. Vermont lost 52 dairies that year, while Wisconsin lost 519.

Prices have rebounded since, although they are expected to sink again to as low as \$16.50 per hundred pounds this summer, said Diane Bothfeld, Vermont's deputy agriculture secretary.

"It will be a very difficult year," said Bothfeld, who expects the auctions to continue.

The loss of small farms hurts local economies and the many businesses that rely on them, such as feed and tractor dealers and veterinarians, she said. It also could be a problem for Vermont tourism, which is closely tied to bucolic images of the state's mountains and dairies, although Bothfeld said she thinks much of the land will stay in farming.

Vermont watched the number of its dairies drop in the past 20 years from 2,272 to 977 this May. At the same time, its milk output has stayed relatively the same as surviving farms grow. In the past five years, the average dairy size has grown from 125 to 135 cows in Vermont.

"To succeed in farming it seems like you really have got to diversify or go big," said Jennifer Lambert, 26, of Washington, one of the few new dairy farmers in Vermont.

She and her husband have leased his uncle's farm, where they produce organic milk, which commands a higher and more stable price than conventional. They also grow livestock feed and picked up a \$7,500 seeder at the MacLaren's auction on May 16.

"It's very difficult to get started in this," said Jesse Lambert, 30, of the investment. They can't afford to buy the farm — or borrow the more than a half million dollars to do it — so were lucky to lease it, he said.

The MacLarens didn't watch as their cows were led one by one into the auction ring, where bidders sat on bales of hay. Michael MacLaren said he and his brother will miss the animals some.

"But you make the decision and have the courage to go through with it and you do it," he said. "That's the way it's gotta be."

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 1

WCAX:

Hikers rescued from Hunger Mountain

MIDDLESEX, Vt. -

Two hikers had to be rescued Tuesday night off of Hunger Mountain in Middlesex.

Both hikers are in their twenties. They called 911 after it got dark and they couldn't find their way down the mountain.

Vermont State police obtained a GPS fix from one of the hikers' cellphones and were able to find the pair.

No one was injured.

Poll: Voters split on Vermont Yankee

BURLINGTON, Vt. -

Vermonters are divided on whether the state should shutdown Vermont Yankee. That's according to a poll by WCAX, Vermont Business Magazine and WDEV.

It is a dead heat in the poll done by Castleton College. More than 600 registered voters were polled this month and 45 percent support the state's effort to close the nuclear plant, while 44 favor keeping it open; 11 percent of the people polled are unsure.

The governor, the attorney general and legislative leaders have led the charge to close the plant. A federal judge ruled in favor of Yankee saying the state does not have the power to close the plant for safety reasons. The state is appealing that decision while also hoping to force the closure of the plant through the state regulatory process.

We will have more poll results related to energy issues tonight on the Channel 3 News at 5 and 6 p.m., including Vermonters' views on a controversial plan to merge Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service.

POLL:

Our pollster, Castleton Polling Institute, asked 607 registered Vermont voters how they would vote.

Here are the results:

QUESTION: In your opinion, should the state of Vermont continue to try to close Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant?

	PERCENT
YES, TRY TO CLOSE VT YANKEE	44.8%
NO, DO NOT TRY TO CLOSE VT YANKEE	44.2%

NOT SURE/IT DEPENDS	10.7%
REFUSED	.3%

This survey was conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine by the Castleton Polling Institute at Castleton College. A total of 607 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone between May 7th to May 16th.

Those interviewed were selected from a random sample of registered voters in Vermont

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 4 percentage points.

N.E. power dispatch group: Vt. Yankee not needed

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) - The regional power dispatch group ISO New England has changed its stance on the future of Vermont Yankee saying the nuclear plant won't be needed to ensure future power supplies and grid reliability.

That's a change from the position the ISO took last year.

Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation tells Vermont Public Radio the new finding undercuts one of Entergy Corp.'s main arguments for keeping its Vermont reactor open.

The plant got a 20-year license extension from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year, but still needs a state permit.

Entergy spokesman Mike Burns says aside from power, Vermont Yankee also provides millions of dollars in taxes to the state and its host town of Vernon, as well as more than 600 jobs.

NRC officials to visit Vt. talk about Vt. Yankee

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) - Officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are coming to Vermont to talk about their annual safety assessment of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

NRC officials will be on hand Wednesday to talk with members of the public one-on-one in what they're calling an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. on May 23 at Brattleboro Union High School.

Beginning at 7 p.m., they'll convene a more formal public meeting where members of the public will be invited to ask questions.

The NRC says Vermont Yankee got good safety grades over the past year, with no issues presenting more than very low safety significance.

Vermont Business Expo kicks off in South Burlington

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. -

Hundreds of Vermont business leaders are busy networking this week.

The Sheraton Burlington Hotel is playing host to this year's 28th annual Vermont Business Expo. Betsy Bishop, the president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, appeared on the Channel 3 Morning News with a preview.

Public can weigh in on Waterbury complex plans

WATERBURY, Vt. -

It's the public's turn to weigh in on plans to rebuild the state office complex in Waterbury.

FEMA will hold a public hearing next Wednesday at 7p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School.

Gov. Peter Shumlin recently signed a \$158 million budget for state building projects over the next two years. The bill includes a \$16 million down payment to rebuild the Waterbury complex.

The repairs are expected to take about three years. And the state estimates it will bring nearly 1,000 jobs back to Waterbury.

Progressive candidate to run for Vt governor

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

Vermont's Progressive Party is lining up a slate of candidates for the election in November, including a candidate for governor.

Party Chair Martha Abbott is gathering signatures to get on the ballot, setting up a three-way race with incumbent Democrat Peter Shumlin and Republican Randy Brock.

The Progressives sat out the 2010 governor's race after Democrats complained that Progressive-backed independent Anthony Pollina undermined their chances in 2008.

Along with Abbott, the Progressives are also putting up Marj Powers in the lt. governor's race and Don Schramm in the treasurer's race.

Shumlin to mark anti-bullying bills' passage

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin will visit the offices of the gay rights organization Outright Vermont to celebrate the recent passage of two bills aimed at stamping out bullying in schools.

Shumlin recently signed into law two bills related to bullying.

One allows people to sue schools for failing to take steps to stop harassment. The other requires schools to adopt policies aimed at cracking down on harassment, hazing and bullying.

Outright is praising Shumlin as a protector of gay rights.

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From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 3

City leaders champion smart meters in Burlington

Smart-meters installed in Burlington are safer than cell phones and will help map reduced power, city leaders said Wednesday.

Burlington's transition to electrical meters that emit radio-frequency (or RF) waves thrice daily for about 10 seconds is a welcome advancement, despite detractors wholly on "bad science" to cast doubts on health- and privacy-related issues, said Tom Torti, president of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Also speaking at the Chamber's news conference, Mayor Miro Weinberger termed the new meters as an extension of newer technologies: tools that will allow users to analyze power usage and lower costs if they so choose.

About five percent of Burlington residents - most of them residents of the New North End - have opted out of option for the new meters, said Ken Nolan, the manager of power resources at Burlington Electric Department. Recent state legislation eliminating an opt-out charge resulted in a noticeable spike in meter rejections.

Nolan said widely circulated claims that the meters are health risks ignore vetted tests that indicate cell phones generate far stronger RF signals, and over longer periods of time, than the smart meters.

Privacy and security concerns are real, and have been anticipated by the industry, Nolan added. Codes within each meter are updated after every transmission, and cyber breaches would likely remain confined to individual meters, if they occurred at all.

Meters will receive periodic firmware updates designed to foil progressively more sophisticated threats, Nolan said.

The utility's wireless transmissions do not share protocols with Internet access or with the transmission utility Velco -- which also uses a proprietary system.

Vermont students rescued from stuck gondola in Quebec

MONTPELIER — A group of Vermont high school students are glad to be back on the ground after they were stuck in a gondola for seven hours during a trip to Quebec.

The 13 students from the Cabot High School and five chaperones were on a field trip to Quebec City with their French class when the gondola tour of Montmorency Falls stopped in mid-air because of a motor power failure.

New England Cable News reports that the Vermonters and other tourists had to be individually lowered from the trams by ropes about 200 feet to the ground.

Superintendent Nancy Thomas says a couple of the kids were nervous but for the most part they were fine and handled it really well.

The students are expected to return to school on Wednesday.

VT.BUZZ:

Shumlin, Brock and business

SOUTH BURLINGTON _ Gov. Peter Shumlin stepped up to the make-shift podium in the lobby of the Sheraton with Vermont Chamber of Commerce President Betsy Bishop by his side.

One of the first things out of his mouth was to note that Mike Smith, the head of FairPoint Communications in Vermont, opened the chamber's Business Expo on Wednesday by highlighting the rebounding economy. "There's a vibrancy about Vermont's business climate right now – jobs and economic opportunities – that we haven't seen since the great recession," Shumlin said. "Today, we have lots of good things happening."

Lots of subtle engineering going on there with Shumlin's comments.

1. The two people who were his new best business buds were both key aides to Republican Gov. Jim Douglas, Shumlin's predecessor. In the Vermont business community, Smith and Bishop are bona fides. As Shumlin runs for re-election, he wants to be seen with them.

2. Without explicitly saying so, Shumlin was implying that his tenure in office and the economic turnaround were intrinsically linked.

Bishop wasn't quite ready to concede that, also without explicitly saying so. The fall of 2008 was a particularly tough time for businesses, she said, but they started to stabilize about two years ago. That would have been the first half of 2010, when Douglas was still governor and Shumlin was still just one of five Democratic candidates hoping to succeed him. In other words, the recovery started before Shumlin was governor, but it's a lot easier to argue that you're doing something to help when things are going well.

Indeed, Bishop said, there are positive economic signs, including the fact that the Business Expo sold out to 200 exhibitors. In 2009, the event was not a sellout, she said.

Progress depends, though, on the business, she said. "Some are still in stability mode," she said, unwilling to spend capital.

On that, Shumlin agreed. Unemployment is down, but a sign of economic success would be growth in income that hasn't happened yet.

Out in the halls of the business expo, Shumlin's election opponent, Republican Randy Brock, was networking. One of his goals in the 2012 election will be to persuade voters that Shumlin is out-and-out bad for business.

On his campaign website, Brock alleges: "Vermont government policies restrain existing businesses and kill job development."

On taxes, he claims: "Democrats do not know how to cut taxes, and the Shumlin Administration never will."

Brock will have a tougher argument to make if the economy really does keep turning around and if every every time he turns around, former Douglas aides are standing by Shumlin.

Transactions on the lobbying front

The Montpelier lobbying firm of MacLean, Meehan & Rice announced today that Heidi Tringe of Montpelier has been named a partner in the firm.

Tringe, a former aide to Gov. Jim Douglas and U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords, joined MMR in August 2010 as an associate. She was also director of legislative affairs for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She was Douglas' liaison to the National Governors Association, the White House and federal agencies.

In a news release, MMR said Tringe has expanded the firm's scope to include client interactions with the National Governors Association, the Republican Governors Association, the Democratic Governors Association and the National Association of Medicaid Directors.

Same-sex couple gets a break from immigration — for now

Vermont's congressional delegation welcomed a federal decision to defer action on possible deportation of a Japanese woman married to a Vermonter who happens to also be a woman.

Here's the delegation's news release about the decision.

Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., "announced a breakthrough that will bring certainty and stability for now to the legal status of a Japanese-born woman, Takako Ueda, who is married under Vermont law to an American citizen, Frances Herbert. The couple live in Dummerston.

"The bi-national same-sex couple has been together for more than a decade and were legally married in Vermont last year, but U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had denied the Japanese-born Ms. Ueda a spousal permanent resident card – also known as a green card – because, under the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), their nuptials are not recognized at the federal level.

Leahy, Sanders and Welch announced that USCIS has used the agency's discretion to grant "deferred action" to Ms. Ueda, in effect suspending any potential deportation for now.

Earlier the lawmakers also had sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano urging that USCIS reconsider its December 2011 decision to deny a spousal green card for Ms. Ueda. They asked that the agency re-evaluate its policy on marriage-based immigration petitions for same-sex spouses, and particularly for the Dummerston couple.

VTDIGGER:

Today governor signs law that will keep the beat going

For immediate release
May 23, 2012

Contact:
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Communications Director
603.494.2179 (cell)
audra.burns@heart.org

CPR in Schools Bill will Create a New Generation of Lifesavers

Williston, VT – Tommy Watson can soon add a very prestigious name to his log of CPR trainees. Today the eighth-grade student will train Gov. Peter Shumlin in Hands-Only CPR, just before the governor signs S.245. The new law provides every Vermont student with an opportunity to learn CPR

before graduating. Enactment of the new law, and a growing list of almost 300 trainees, has far surpassed the 14-year-old Williston student's goal of training 100 people in Hands-Only CPR for his 8th Grade Challenge.

WHEN: Wednesday May 23, 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Williston Central School, 195 Central School Drive, Williston

"I am really excited to have CPR in schools legislation passed," said Watson. "It was a huge achievement accomplished. It means a lot to me knowing future generations of Vermont youth are going to be able to potentially make a difference by using this life-saving technique. It is also an honor to be training the Governor of Vermont."

"Thanks to Tommy's hard work and commitment to this issue, students across the state for years to come will be trained in CPR and able to step forward with help in emergency situations," said Gov. Shumlin. "Tommy is an example to other students of how one Vermonter can make a real difference at the State House."

"We are very proud of Tommy's leadership in supporting the CPR bill," said Jackie Parks, principal of Williston Central School. "Our 8th grade challenge gives students an opportunity to pursue an area of interest that has a strong community connection. Tommy's project is a great example of what we hope students will accomplish with their projects."

AHA volunteer, emergency physician from Northwester Medical Center, Marc Kutler, said the new CPR law is a much-needed step as hundreds of thousands of cardiac arrest victims die every year because CPR is not started on time. "Teaching CPR to all Vermont students will create a generation in which every brother, sister, son, daughter, friend, and complete stranger is trained in CPR and is prepared to save lives," said Kutler.

Kutler noted that one barrier, the lack of experience, will be remedied by the hands-on practice included in the law because people are more inclined to take action if they've had practice. He added, "New Hands-Only CPR courses also mean the time commitment for training is less than 30 minutes — a very doable task and great skill for our schools to be teaching."

"I'm alive because my husband knew CPR," said Michelle Johnston of Shelburne, who suffered sudden cardiac arrest in October 2009. "I get chills thinking about how many more lives might be saved because so many students will know CPR."

According to the American Heart Association, only 11 percent of the 383,000 people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year survive. In children, less than 9 percent survive from sudden cardiac arrest.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for a new generation of lifesavers to be the beat for someone who needs it," said Tina Zuk, Government Relations Director of the American Heart Association in Vermont. "Thanks to the new law and Tommy's efforts, the odds of survival for cardiac arrest victims

just increased in Vermont as thousands of students will soon flood our communities with the ability to save lives.”

Bennington Rescue Squad Training Director Erin Ingebretsen said it’s critical for lay rescuers to know and perform timely CPR especially in many rural parts of Vermont. Ingebretsen said the rescue squad will train students at their local high school in the fall as part of the Bennington Rescue’s efforts to create a Heart Safe Community.

There were many other noted supporters of the bill including:

Senator Kevin Mullins, R-Rutland County, who was the lead sponsor of S.245 and chairs the Senate Education Committee where the first hearing on it was held

Senator Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden County is from Tommy Watson’s hometown of Williston. She also sits on the senate Education Committee. We introduced Tommy to Ginny prior to the session and he showed her how to perform hands-only CPR and told her how his project began. She was a co-sponsor of the CPR legislation.

Senator Phil Baruth, D-Chittenden County who was one of the bill’s biggest champions reporting it out on the Senate floor, testifying in favor of it before the House Committee when they took it up and pushing for the report on what schools were doing with CPR training when the bill went to conference committee

Representative Ann Donovan, D-Burlington, who is the chair of the House Education Committee.

Representative Kevin Christie, D-White River Junction, sits on the House Education Committee, reported the bill out on the House floor and sat on the bill’s conference committee.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America’s No. 1 and No. 3 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country.

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London, Sarah

From: Mark Johnson <mark@gmavt.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

>Would he have any interest doing a phone interview anyway. I can keep
>it
short. At least it would give him a presence.
Mark

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

> May 23, 2012
>
> CONTACT:
> Susan Allen
> 802-279-8493
>
> Media Advisory: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed
>
> The visit from Premier Jean Charest scheduled for tomorrow has been
> postponed. The Premier will remain in Quebec City to attend debates in
> the national assembly.
>
> For more information, contact: Hugo d'Amours at 418-643-5321 or Susan
> Allen at 802-279-8493.
>
>
> Ariel Wengroff
> Special Assistant to the Governor
> 109 State Street
> Montpelier, VT 05609
>
> Office: 802-828-3333
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>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 2

FOX44:

Vt. Attorney General Warning of Another Text Messaging Scam

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

Attorney General William Sorrell is warning consumers of another text message scam.

According to a press release, the scam text message claims the consumer won a "\$1,000 Best Buy gift card." This is an attempt to gather personal information. The message directs consumers to a website that claims to offer reward program membership and requires a credit application.

Best Buy confirmed with the Attorney General's office that it has no affiliation with the texting scam and has verified that the "certificates" issued are not valid or redeemable.

Similar text message scams have been reported this week, like the MerchantsBank scam. The press release states that scammers are using a technique of random digital dialing to contact consumers.

Anyone who sent personal information, should take identity theft precautions by going to the CAP website at <http://www.uvm.edu/consumer/?Page=idtheft.html>.

If you received one of these text messages, you can report it to the Consumer Assistance Program at (800)-649-2424 or by email at consumer@uvm.edu.

Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Facebook & Essex High School Teaming Up to Keep Students Safe Online

ESSEX, Vt. -

On Tuesday, May 29 at 7 p.m., Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Facebook and Essex High School are teaming up to keep students safe online.

According to a press release, a presentation for parents, students and school staff showing them how to be safe when using Facebook.

Topics will include the basics of Facebook; how to report, prevent and diffuse bullying; how to use Facebook's privacy settings; age restrictions; and how to use these tools for better protection.

Parents and students from all schools are welcome to attend this event.

WPTZ (covered anti-bullying bills. :

Popular "smoke shows" targeted by police as criminal behavior

EAST BERKSHIRE, Vt. -

State police in Franklin County say that people who participate in "smoke shows," where cars peel out and spin on local roads, have been wreaking havoc in the area.

Police say the smoke shows are happening after auto shows, held during the summer months at the Pine Cone Snack Bar in East Berkshire. Officers say that as many as 50 cars fishtail and do tricks along Route 15.

Last Thursday, police say the activity got so out of hand that it prevented a man from driving his wife to the hospital.

"The smoke from the traffic was so thick that it actually stopped traffic. The visibility was zero," Sr. Trooper Jay Riggen said.

Riggen said the show lasted only 10 minutes and that because state troopers patrol a large area in the county, the cars had disbanded by the time police arrived. Still, he said that other bad behavior spun out of the event.

"In this area on that night we had assaults, we had vandalisms (and) quality of life violations. People (were) trying to keep the high going by continuing their destruction," Riggen said.

Linda Zelisky, who lives across the road from the Pine Cone, said that she has seen the smoke shows happen there for years.

"The smoke goes up in the air and you can hear the squealing of the tires," Zelisky said.

In fact, a Youtube video labeled "Pinecone car show burnout" shows a car peeling out. Riggen said that what's shown in the video is exactly the type of behavior police will no longer tolerate.

"If we'd been able to respond up here fast enough, these people would've been arrested. This behavior is absolutely criminal," Riggen said.

VPR (nothing new)

TIMES ARGUS:

A prospective on school's proper purpose

By Peter Berger

COMMENTARY

Teachers aren't the only people who wonder, "Why am I here?" But given the increasingly varied nonacademic responsibilities that get dropped off at the schoolhouse door, from dentistry and diets to family counseling and composting, it's a reasonable question. Now another in a series of prominent educators has answered it.

According to the executive director of the American School Counselor Association, "education has lost sight of why it exists today." Back in 1983 "A Nation at Risk" made a similar declaration. Except when "Risk's" authors warned that "our society and its educational institutions have lost sight of the basic purposes of schooling," they meant that schools had abandoned their focus on academics, that curricula had become "diluted" and excessively governed by "student choice," and that American public education had grown preoccupied with "personal" and "social" issues. The executive director offers a different take on the situation. He begins by recounting his own high school coursework from freshman through senior year. In social studies, for instance, he progressed systematically from

ninth grade world culture, through world and U.S. history, to 12th grade U.S. government. Math advanced from algebra through geometry and algebra 2 to trig, while his science sequence comprised biology, chemistry, and physics. But where “Risk” was alarmed that 1970s education reforms had driven systematic academic instruction from public school classrooms, the director describes that kind of rigorous, content-based program, in his day and in our present day, as an outdated remnant of the 20th century.

The director voices his concern that there are regrettably “many teachers who believe their job is to teach skills, such as math or science.”

In contrast, when he was an English teacher, he “never believed that [his] job was to teach grammar and literature.” Yes, that’s right — an ex-English teacher who proudly declares he didn’t teach grammar and literature. Remember that bizarre, all-too-common reform sentiment the next time you’re wondering why American students haven’t been learning much for 40 years.

He finds classes focused on content knowledge and skills “far too limiting.” Instead his “purpose was to teach students to love learning.”

Now he realizes that “even that’s not thinking big enough.” The way he sees it, the purpose of 21st century educators should be to “help the students of today become the productive adults of tomorrow,” adults who are “contributing members of society, not burdens on society.”

Rather than remain stuck in the 20th century and dwell on “the skills of the past” like math, science, English, and social studies, we need to teach “critical thinking,” “inquiry,” “communications,” and “community.”

It must be hard to cram that much empty rhetoric into one mouth. Find me the school in any century that set out deliberately to train its students to be noncontributing, unproductive burdens on society. Do today’s reformers truly imagine that they invented the idea of preparing the next generation to inherit the republic, a notion that was already old when Jefferson advocated 18th century American public schools for regular people?

Beyond its emptiness, the director’s vision is marinated in irony. It was shortly after his reform philosophy took root in public schools back in the 1970s that American culture began its ongoing slide from self-reliance to entitlement, a decline he now proposes to reverse by redeploying his failed theories on an even grander scale. Suggesting that schools must abandon their outmoded 20th century “purpose” and start teaching “community” and “collaboration” ignores the fact that the decades of graduating classes that have passed through post-1970s schools steeped in socialization and personal development have yet to approach the standard of sacrifice and common purpose set by the generation that suffered through “early 20th century” schools and went on to persevere through World War II.

Rechristening reading and writing as “communications” won’t make children more literate. There’s nothing wrong with inquiry and critical thinking, but first students need something to think about, an unlikely outcome if your

child's teacher finds concentrating on knowledge and skills too "limiting." Emotional, personal, and social development are certainly important, but they're not the reason we have schools. They're the reason we have families. I try to treat my students with respect, compassion, and humor, but my job is to teach them English and history.

Being a decent human being is just something that's supposed to happen along the way.

I enjoy learning. Sometimes in some scholastic veins I'd even go so far as to say I love it. But I haven't liked learning everything that's been set before me since I entered kindergarten. I still don't enjoy learning everything I'm expected to know.

When it comes to my students, I hope that I'm a model of intellectual curiosity. I try to make what I teach them as enjoyable as possible. After all, I have to listen to me, too. But enjoyment isn't my chief objective. If my students grow up to love learning, that's more than fine with me. But I'd far rather they recognize the value of knowledge even when it doesn't give them a warm, gushy feeling. Lifelong learners don't just learn the things that make their hearts race.

Once upon a time common sense would have told us that if our children aren't learning enough math, science, English, and history, the solution isn't to shift our focus away from math, science, English, and history.

That catastrophic strategy is precisely what reformers like the director have been preaching for the past 40 years. Yes, they dress their sermons up in cliches like the "love of learning," but no barrage of fatuous platitudes can alter the fact that American schools and students are weaker today because of education reform.

Schools and the children in them have suffered serial bandwagon innovations that aren't new and wave after wave of bright ideas that are manifest folly. Having slighted the systematic study of the liberal arts and sciences in favor of loftier sounding, hollow pursuits, reformers wonder why American students lack academic knowledge and skill. It's time we stopped letting the experts fail to solve the problem they helped to create.

Peter Berger teaches English at Weathersfield Middle School. Poor Elijah would be pleased to answer letters addressed to him in care of the editor.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Skull, human remains found at Northfield construction site

NORTHFIELD — The Vermont State Police disclosed Wednesday afternoon that a part of a human skull was found at a construction site in Northfield two weeks ago.

An excavator working on a job site on private property on Clark Road during sometime around May 11 unearthed a portion of what appeared to be a human skull, state police Lt. Brian Miller said in a news release.

The news release did not say why state police withheld information from the public until today, or specify when the remains were found.

Investigators said Wednesday it was too soon to speculate on the origin or identity of the remains.

Northfield police were contacted to investigate, and eventually state police detectives were called in to provide assistance. State police took possession of the skull and transported it to the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office for further examination.

Medical personnel confirmed the object was a section of a human skull, Miller said.

The Vermont State Police Crime Scene Search Team conducted a further excavation and search of the area during the week of May 14.

During that search, additional skeletal remains were located and subsequently examined by the Chief Medical Examiner's Office, and by a University of Vermont anthropologist. The bones were determined to be human and will be sent to the FBI's laboratory for further examination, police said.

An additional search is being evaluated, and an archaeologist for the State Division for Historic Preservation also is examining the site, police said.

Due to the deterioration of the remains, identification might prove difficult and could take a significant amount of time, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to call state police at 229-9191.

Small dairies go under as milk prices sink again

PLAINFIELD — The MacLaren brothers are third-generation dairy farmers, but they will likely be the last in their family.

After working all their lives on the hillside farm in Vermont that their grandfather bought in 1939, rising to milk cows at 3 a.m. even in blizzards and sub-zero temperatures, they decided to call it quits, auctioning off their roughly 200 cows and equipment ranging from stalls and hoof trimmers to tractors and steel pails.

The sale marked the end of the last dairy farm in Plainfield, a small town that once had several dozen, and the loss of the 14th dairy farm to go out of business in Vermont this year. A few small dairies have opened, but overall, the number of farms continues to drop in a state long known for its milk and cheese. Farmers say they can't make ends meet when milk prices are low and feed and fuel costs keep going up.

"The day of the small farms I think is gone," said Steve MacLaren, 54. "A lot of people are going to hold on as long as they can, but we decided not to. Why struggle on it any longer?"

Economic issues aside, the MacLarens are tired of being tied to the farm seven days a week. They plan to keep the land and grow feed — corn and grass for hay and silage — on more than 500 acres.

"No matter what, you've got a sick cow or a cow having a calf, you've gotta be around whether it's 1:00 in the morning, or it's whatever time you've got to take care of them," said Michael MacLaren, 48. "But if you've got a tractor break down, you can walk away from it. It's just a long hard grind, and I decided I'd like a change."

While the number of dairy cows in the U.S. hasn't changed much, the number of dairy farms has been dropping as small farms either go out of business or consolidate to become more competitive and cost effective.

The number of dairy farms nationally has dropped from nearly 92,000 in 2002 to less than 70,000 in 2007, according to the last agricultural census, which is being updated this year.

That's not the whole picture though. The number of small farms, with 100 to 199 cows, fell from about 11,000 to about 9,000 during that time, while those with more than 1,000 cows grew from about 1,300 to almost 1,600.

The shift has affected states like Vermont and Wisconsin, which have strong dairying histories, but tend to have smaller farms than other major milk-producing states like California and Texas.

Wisconsin has lost nearly 200 herds so far this year and now has about 11,600.

The farm closures are likely to continue with milk prices expected to keep falling this summer.

"It's a dying business," said Ron Wright, owner of Wrights Auction Service in Derby. He expects to do twice as many auctions this spring as last — eight to 10 auctions in Vermont and one in New York.

The U.S. had been gradually losing dairy farms for decades, but then milk prices plummeted during the recession and fuel costs soared in 2009. Vermont lost 52 dairies that year, while Wisconsin lost 519.

Prices have rebounded since, although they are expected to sink again to as low as \$16.50 per hundred pounds this summer, said Diane Bothfeld, Vermont's deputy agriculture secretary.

"It will be a very difficult year," said Bothfeld, who expects the auctions to continue.

The loss of small farms hurts local economies and the many businesses that rely on them, such as feed and tractor dealers and veterinarians, she said. It also could be a problem for Vermont tourism, which is closely tied to bucolic images of the state's mountains and dairies, although Bothfeld said she thinks much of the land will stay in farming.

Vermont watched the number of its dairies drop in the past 20 years from 2,272 to 977 this May. At the same time, its milk output has stayed relatively the same as surviving farms grow. In the past five years, the average dairy size has grown from 125 to 135 cows in Vermont.

"To succeed in farming it seems like you really have got to diversify or go big," said Jennifer Lambert, 26, of Washington, one of the few new dairy farmers in Vermont.

She and her husband have leased his uncle's farm, where they produce organic milk, which commands a higher and more stable price than conventional. They also grow livestock feed and picked up a \$7,500 seeder at the MacLaren's auction on May 16.

"It's very difficult to get started in this," said Jesse Lambert, 30, of the investment. They can't afford to buy the farm — or borrow the more than a half million dollars to do it — so were lucky to lease it, he said.

The MacLarens didn't watch as their cows were led one by one into the auction ring, where bidders sat on bales of hay. Michael MacLaren said he and his brother will miss the animals some.

"But you make the decision and have the courage to go through with it and you do it," he said. "That's the way it's gotta be."

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Afternoon Media Clips, Wednesday May 23 PART 1

WCAX:

Hikers rescued from Hunger Mountain

MIDDLESEX, Vt. -

Two hikers had to be rescued Tuesday night off of Hunger Mountain in Middlesex.

Both hikers are in their twenties. They called 911 after it got dark and they couldn't find their way down the mountain.

Vermont State police obtained a GPS fix from one of the hikers' cellphones and were able to find the pair.

No one was injured.

Poll: Voters split on Vermont Yankee

BURLINGTON, Vt. -

Vermonters are divided on whether the state should shutdown Vermont Yankee. That's according to a poll by WCAX, Vermont Business Magazine and WDEV.

It is a dead heat in the poll done by Castleton College. More than 600 registered voters were polled this month and 45 percent support the state's effort to close the nuclear plant, while 44 favor keeping it open; 11 percent of the people polled are unsure.

The governor, the attorney general and legislative leaders have led the charge to close the plant. A federal judge ruled in favor of Yankee saying the state does not have the power to close the plant for safety reasons. The state is appealing that decision while also hoping to force the closure of the plant through the state regulatory process.

We will have more poll results related to energy issues tonight on the Channel 3 News at 5 and 6 p.m., including Vermonters' views on a controversial plan to merge Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service.

POLL:

Our pollster, Castleton Polling Institute, asked 607 registered Vermont voters how they would vote.

Here are the results:

QUESTION: In your opinion, should the state of Vermont continue to try to close Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant?

	PERCENT
YES, TRY TO CLOSE VT YANKEE	44.8%
NO, DO NOT TRY TO CLOSE VT YANKEE	44.2%

NOT SURE/IT DEPENDS	10.7%
REFUSED	.3%

This survey was conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine by the Castleton Polling Institute at Castleton College. A total of 607 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone between May 7th to May 16th.

Those interviewed were selected from a random sample of registered voters in Vermont

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 4 percentage points.

N.E. power dispatch group: Vt. Yankee not needed

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) - The regional power dispatch group ISO New England has changed its stance on the future of Vermont Yankee saying the nuclear plant won't be needed to ensure future power supplies and grid reliability.

That's a change from the position the ISO took last year.

Sandra Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation tells Vermont Public Radio the new finding undercuts one of Entergy Corp.'s main arguments for keeping its Vermont reactor open.

The plant got a 20-year license extension from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year, but still needs a state permit.

Entergy spokesman Mike Burns says aside from power, Vermont Yankee also provides millions of dollars in taxes to the state and its host town of Vernon, as well as more than 600 jobs.

NRC officials to visit Vt. talk about Vt. Yankee

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) - Officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are coming to Vermont to talk about their annual safety assessment of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

NRC officials will be on hand Wednesday to talk with members of the public one-on-one in what they're calling an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. on May 23 at Brattleboro Union High School.

Beginning at 7 p.m., they'll convene a more formal public meeting where members of the public will be invited to ask questions.

The NRC says Vermont Yankee got good safety grades over the past year, with no issues presenting more than very low safety significance.

Vermont Business Expo kicks off in South Burlington

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. -

Hundreds of Vermont business leaders are busy networking this week.

The Sheraton Burlington Hotel is playing host to this year's 28th annual Vermont Business Expo. Betsy Bishop, the president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, appeared on the Channel 3 Morning News with a preview.

Public can weigh in on Waterbury complex plans

WATERBURY, Vt. -

It's the public's turn to weigh in on plans to rebuild the state office complex in Waterbury.

FEMA will hold a public hearing next Wednesday at 7p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School.

Gov. Peter Shumlin recently signed a \$158 million budget for state building projects over the next two years. The bill includes a \$16 million down payment to rebuild the Waterbury complex.

The repairs are expected to take about three years. And the state estimates it will bring nearly 1,000 jobs back to Waterbury.

Progressive candidate to run for Vt governor

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

Vermont's Progressive Party is lining up a slate of candidates for the election in November, including a candidate for governor.

Party Chair Martha Abbott is gathering signatures to get on the ballot, setting up a three-way race with incumbent Democrat Peter Shumlin and Republican Randy Brock.

The Progressives sat out the 2010 governor's race after Democrats complained that Progressive-backed independent Anthony Pollina undermined their chances in 2008.

Along with Abbott, the Progressives are also putting up Marj Powers in the Lt. governor's race and Don Schramm in the treasurer's race.

Shumlin to mark anti-bullying bills' passage

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin will visit the offices of the gay rights organization Outright Vermont to celebrate the recent passage of two bills aimed at stamping out bullying in schools.

Shumlin recently signed into law two bills related to bullying.

One allows people to sue schools for failing to take steps to stop harassment. The other requires schools to adopt policies aimed at cracking down on harassment, hazing and bullying.

Outright is praising Shumlin as a protector of gay rights.

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London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:35 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

Is it time for another cake?

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Media Advisory: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

The visit from Premier Jean Charest scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed. The Premier will remain in Quebec City to attend debates in the national assembly.

For more information, contact: Hugo d'Amours at 418-643-5321 or Susan Allen at 802-279-8493.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
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Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
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London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest¹'s visit to Vermont postponed

No kidding! Do you know what is being cancelled? Jeb was supposed to go in the morning.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:33 PM
To: Johnson, Harriet
Subject: Re: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest¹'s visit to Vermont postponed

A lot of it! Poor Lisa

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
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From: "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 16:32:30 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest¹'s visit to Vermont postponed

For real?! Does this mean everything is cancelled for tomorrow.

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:27 PM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

Okay thanks

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 16:26:19 -0400
To: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Cc: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

I'm fine with this
Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2012, at 4:25 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Assuming Lisa and Sue are ok w it, I'm fine

On May 23, 2012, at 4:24 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

This okay?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

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London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:26 PM
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Cc: Wengroff, Ariel; Allen, Susan
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Cell: 802-279-6825

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To: Lofy, Bill; Kunin, Lisa; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

Sue is okay with it, I'll wait for Lisa's before sending it out.

Ariel Wengroff
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From: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 16:25:16 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
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From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:25 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Kunin, Lisa; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

Assuming Lisa and Sue are ok w it, I'm fine

On May 23, 2012, at 4:24 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

This okay?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Media Advisory: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

The visit from Premier Jean Charest scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed. The Premier will remain in Quebec City to attend debates in the national assembly.

For more information, contact: Hugo d'Amours at 418-643-5321 or Susan Allen at 802-279-8493.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed

This okay?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:23 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed indefinitely

K sending it to bill

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 4:21 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Take out indefinitely (my bad)
Capitalize national assembly
Add me with cell number in addition to Hugo as contact
I'll send Hugo's last name in one minute
Get ok from bill if we can quickly.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2012, at 4:06 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

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109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:21 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed indefinitely

Hugo d'Amours

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2012, at 4:06 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Susan Allen
802-279-8493

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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:20 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed indefinitely

Take out indefinitely (my bad)
Capitalize national assembly
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I'll send Hugo's last name in one minute
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Sent from my iPhone

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: DRAFT: MEDIA ADVISORY: Quebec Premier Charest's visit to Vermont postponed indefinitely

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 23, 2012

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: summer intership

Great. Also, I was at a meeting yesterday with [REDACTED] and she says she is ready to start whenever you're ready.

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: summer intership

Talked to him

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 3:31 PM, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us> wrote:

Looping in Ari.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

----- Reply message -----

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, May 23, 2012 1:16 pm
Subject: summer intership
To: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>

Sam Jones called to see what was happening with the summer internship he applied for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor

109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:45 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Spaulding, Susan
Subject: Re: summer internship

Talked to him

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

----- Reply message -----

From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, May 23, 2012 1:16 pm
Subject: summer internship
To: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>

Sam Jones called to see what was happening with the summer internship he applied for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:39 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: news

City Leaders Champion Smart Meters in Burlington - BFP

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120523/NEWS02/120523026/City-leaders-champion-smart-meters-Burlington-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Dartmouth Pharmacist Leaves Job – Valley News

By Mark Davis

Valley News Staff Writer

Hanover -- Dartmouth College has severed ties with a campus pharmacist accused of improperly diverting painkillers while at the same time college officials said they are reviewing hiring practices.

Dick's House pharmacist Jeffrey Licht earlier this month had his license suspended by state regulators after he was charged with taking medication from the campus infirmary on 60 occasions and had been personally prescribed nearly 10,000 pills in little more than two years. He had been hired by Dartmouth despite a prior conviction of a federal crime and admitting to stealing medication while working at three pharmacies in Maine earlier in his career.

"Jeffrey Licht no longer works at Dartmouth," college spokesman Justin Anderson said in a statement late yesterday. "We have launched an internal investigation concerning the circumstances of his hiring and to see how we can strengthen our procedures."

Anderson declined further comment.

In a phone interview, Licht, who had previously been placed on administrative leave at Dartmouth, said that he had retired. While maintaining that he had done nothing wrong, Licht said he was weary of negative publicity surrounding the suspension, and worried about the effect it had on his three children.

"I'm all done," Licht, 62, said. "I've done nothing wrong, but I'm out. It's, 'Bye pharmacy, bye Dartmouth.' I'm looking forward to retirement."

Dartmouth has refused to discuss its decision five years ago to hire Licht.

However, in interviews with the Valley News, several outside experts questioned whether the college had done its due diligence before hiring Licht to dispense medication to students and staff.

"Somebody didn't do their homework," said Woodstock pharmacist Jim Marmar, head of the Vermont Pharmacists Association. "Obviously, if they had they would have found all this about him."

Licht had been granted a provisional pharmacist's license by the New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy when he was hired by Dartmouth, and it is unclear how much the college knew of Licht's past.

But records of his prior transgressions are publicly available, and pharmacy industry professionals interviewed by the Valley News say they should have raised red flags, if not disqualified Licht from working around medication.

"That guy should not have been working with narcotics," said Karen McBride, director for pharmacy services at Fletcher Allen Hospital. "If I had that (from) a background check, I would have weeded him out."

The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy suspended Licht's pharmacy license earlier this month after an investigation showed that he allegedly diverted nearly 900 pills containing hydrocodone and acetaminophen -- the main ingredients in vicodin -- from Dick's House, and was prescribed more than 10,373 pills of the same medication during a two-year period by a disgraced Rhode Island doctor.

It was the first time in at least three years that the board ordered an emergency suspension.

Licht asked the board to drop the suspension at a hearing last week, and a decision is still pending.

During that hearing, investigators testified that Licht had previously been in trouble with authorities.

In 2002, Licht signed a plea agreement with federal prosecutors in Maine admitting that he falsified military records by claiming that he served in Vietnam and had been in a prisoner of war camp in an attempt to garner more generous military benefits.

And, in 2000, Licht voluntarily surrendered his Maine pharmacist license after admitting that he had taken medication from three separate pharmacies, investigators testified. Licht told the board that, after that incident, he entered therapy and turned his life around before moving to New Hampshire.

Hanover Police Chief Nick Giaccone said that his department is investigating whether Licht broke any laws while working at Dick's House, and is coordinating with investigators from the pharmacy board.

While Giaccone said officers are not reviewing the decision to hire Licht, he said Dartmouth should have vetted Licht more thoroughly.

"That's a Dartmouth issue," Giaccone said. "They have to look at (their hiring) practices. They were probably more trusting than they should be. Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people who walk through the door don't have a criminal record. It's the one-tenth of one percent that do. I can't fault (Dartmouth), but after you get burned, you should obviously look at your background checks."

The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy, aware of Licht's employment past history in Maine, nonetheless issued a provisional license to Licht in 2003 that required him to submit to urine tests for five years. He maintained a clean record in New Hampshire, until the findings earlier this month.

Minutes of the board meeting when Licht was granted his license do not show any discussion about Licht's past.

The pharmacy board has wide discretion in granting licenses, Pharmacy Board Director James Queenan said, but New Hampshire says the board can only forbid someone convicted of a felony from getting a license -- Licht's federal crime was a misdemeanor, according to court records, and therefore didn't rise to the threshold.

But pharmacy experts told the Valley News that healthcare providers should not rely solely on a pharmacy board's licensing standards when vetting potential employees.

CVS, which employs 23,000 pharmacists nationwide, conducts criminal background checks of prospective pharmacists in addition to checking with the licensing board in the state where the prospective employee would work, company spokesman Mike DeAngelis said.

Plymouth pharmacist Ralph Oliver, a member of the New Hampshire Pharmacy Association, said that he checks with other boards of pharmacy.

"Certainly, if someone moves here from Connecticut or Massachusetts, one of the most prudent things to do would be to check with those boards of pharmacy," Oliver said.

Experts noted that Dartmouth supervisors, with only a few keystrokes, could have consulted a national database that contains state reports and findings of wrongdoing from medical boards across the country.

While not accessible to the general public, the National Practitioner Healthcare Integrity and Protection database is readily available to health care providers. The database, experts said, almost certainly would have included records of Licht's problems in Maine.

"It's a flagging system for individuals looking to hire someone," said David Bowman, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Basically, people who are doing the hiring of practitioners have this as a tool to check up on backgrounds and prevent someone who may be dangerous from being hired."

However, Bowman said, the database should be augmented with more fundamental due diligence.

"It is not a substitute from doing a thorough background investigation," Bowman said. "People should be contacting the people who previously employed them and getting the scoop."

Licht said he was unsure about Dartmouth's hiring protocols.

"I've always had a great reputation in New Hampshire," Licht said. "That's about all I can say. They hired me. Had they done more extensive background checks, would they have hired me? I don't know. I'm not the one who hired me. It's not for me to rat out Dartmouth."

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: summer intership

Looping in Ari.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular Android device

----- Reply message -----

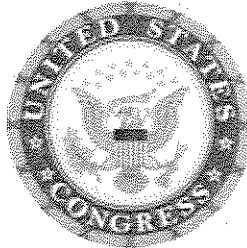
From: "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, May 23, 2012 1:16 pm
Subject: summer intership
To: "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>

Sam Jones called to see what was happening with the summer internship he applied for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:00 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: ADVISORY: Official appearance schedule for Congressman Welch



Congressman Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives

MEDIA ADVISORY:
Wednesday, May 23, 2012

CONTACT:
Scott Coriell
202.225.4115 (o)
202.689.5352 (c)

Official appearance schedule for Congressman Welch

Thursday, May 24, 2012
Schedule Subject to Change

Thursday, May 24:

2:00 p.m. Attend Vermont Chamber Business Expo Awards and Trade Show
Sheraton Hotel, 870 Williston Road, South Burlington

8:00 p.m. Guest on Vermont Public Television's Report from Washington
204 Ethan Allen Avenue, Colchester

#

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Outright. Will try to get better shots

No pic for some reason in the email

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 3:02 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>
>
> <photo.JPG>
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Outright. Will try to get better shots
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Governor Shumlin
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Kunin, Lisa
Subject: FW: Thursday May 24th reception confirmation

From: Pascal Benichou [mailto:pascal@eurobubbles.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 7:59 PM
To: Governor Shumlin
Cc: Anne Latchis
Subject: Thursday May 24th reception confirmation

This is to confirm attendance for:

Pascal Benichou
Anne Latchis

Company: Eurobrew Importer of Mc Auslan beers St Ambroise

Pascal Benichou
Eurobubbles/ Eurobrew, Inc.
<http://www.eurobubbles.com>
<http://www.eurobrews.com>
pascal@eurobubbles.com

58, Union Street , Ashland, MA 01721- USA-
Tel: 1-(508) 881 9900, fax: 1-(508) 881 9918

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Re: Lunch at Al's French fries

Good decision!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2012, at 2:30 PM, "Wengroff, Ariel" <Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Perfect, tweeted it!

>

> Ariel Wengroff

> Special Assistant to the Governor

> 109 State Street

> Montpelier, VT 05609

>

> Office: 802-828-3333

> Cell: 802-279-6825

>

>

>

>

> On 5/23/12 2:23 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>>

>>

>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Lunch at Al's French fries

Perfect, tweeted it!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/23/12 2:23 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>
>

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:29 PM
To: 'Lisa Hagerty'
Cc: Rapaport, Dave; ADM - 5th Floor Conf Room; Wengroff, Ariel; Richards, Alyson
Subject: RE: Irene - 1 year anniversary plans

Great!
S

From: Lisa Hagerty [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:37 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Cc: Rapaport, Dave; ADM - 5th Floor Conf Room; Wengroff, Ariel; Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Irene - 1 year anniversary plans

Sue,

I will be there. See you then. Best, Lisa

Lisa Hagerty Iphone
[REDACTED]

On May 23, 2012, at 1:21 PM, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us> wrote:

When: Thursday, May 31, 2012 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Admin Conf Room

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Per sue

<mime-attachment.ics>

London, Sarah

From: Pallas, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Comi, Chris
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel; Wesley, Carolyn; Hurlburt, Laurie
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Chris,

I assume this needs to be logged in your database for appropriate action?

Karen

FYI: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED] Voice: [REDACTED]

Karen Pallas | Office of the Commissioner | Vermont Department of Human Resources
110 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05620-3001 | Ph: 802-828-3491 | Fax: 802-828-3409

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Hurlburt, Laurie; Pallas, Karen
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333
Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
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London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:28 PM
To: Hurlburt, Laurie; Pallas, Karen
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Constituent Employee Conduct Complaint

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:24 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Lunch at Al's French fries
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:09 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Brick Sealing Work Postponed until Saturday 5/26

From: Barney, Sherry
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Ancel, Renee; Bailey, Jay; Carbo, Kelly; Carrier, Janis; Clasen, Michael; DII - Datacenter Manager; DII - Helpdesk; Farr, Gary; Ferland, Brad; Hebert, John; Hughes, Victoria; Johnson, Harriet; Mattison, Lestyn; Morey, Michael; Morse, Linda; Putney, Renee; Richards, Alyson; Robinson, Rita; Rutledge, Jonathan; Swanson, Mary-Kay
Cc: BGS - Security - Montpelier
Subject: BGS NOTIFICATION @ 109 STATE STREET

Weather permitting, the brick sealing will be completed on Saturday, May 26, starting at 8:00 a.m. and lasting to around 2:00 p.m. The air handlers will be shut down and Peter Hicks, BGS Clerk-of-the-Works, will be there with them.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sherry Barney

Sherry Barney
Administrative Assistant
BGS - Maintenance
120 State Street, Basement
Montpelier, VT 05620-2301
W(802)828-3312 F(802)828-3561
sherry.barney@state.vt.us

"Laughter and joy can alter moods and even promote physical healing." Donald E. Demaray

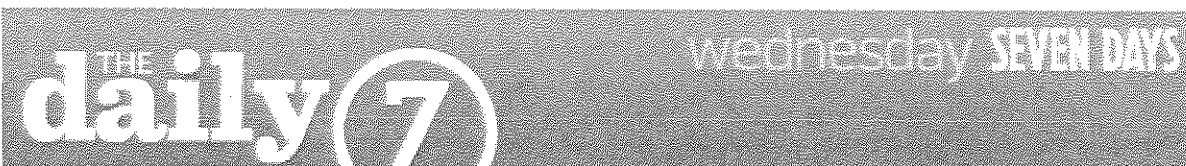
London, Sarah

From: Seven Days <yourfriends=sevendaysvt.com@mail347.us3.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Seven Days <yourfriends@sevendaysvt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: [Daily 7] Japan-Born Dummerston Woman Granted Deportation Reprieve; Feds Roll Out Immigration Database in Vermont

A deportation threat has been lifted, for now, for a Dummerston woman.

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012



Deportation Threat Lifted from Local Couple

SOURCE: BRATTLEBORO REFORMER, 05/23/12

A Dummerston woman born in Japan faced deportation because the federal government didn't recognize her marriage to a woman. Now the feds have granted her a reprieve until 2014, although it doesn't make her a U.S. citizen.

[Click to read.](#)



Feds Activate Controversial Immigration Program in Vermont

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/23/12

Federal immigration officials have activated Secure Communities, a program that links local police agencies with a federal immigration database of suspected illegal immigrants, in Vermont — despite the opposition of the state's top politicians. [Click to read.](#)



Popular "Smoke Shows" Targeted by Police as Criminal Behavior

SOURCE: WPTZ, 05/23/12

State troopers say "smoke shows," in which drivers peel out and do tricks on public roads, are getting out of hand in Franklin County.

[Click to read.](#)



In Burlington, Boaters Wait Years for a Place to Park

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/23/12

The most in-demand property in Burlington might be on the water. Boaters wait between



Burlington weather forecast

Today: Partly sunny; slight chance for an isolated shower, t-storm. High 79°, low 61°.

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. High 84°, low 63°.

[Click here for more details.](#)

sponsored links



five and nine years, on average, for a slip or mooring in Burlington Harbor. [Click to read.](#)
State Broadband Chief Updates Progress on Fast Internet Everywhere

SOURCE: THE COMMONS, 05/23/12

The good news: Broadband Internet service is now available in 95 percent of the state. Internet providers face challenges in connecting the remaining 5 percent, though, before the state-imposed goal of December 31, 2013. [Click to read.](#)



The Genealogy of AG Candidates Bill Sorrell and T.J. Donovan

SOURCE: SEVEN DAYS, 05/23/12

The two men competing for the Democratic nomination for attorney general both come from prominent political families — and they've been inextricably linked over the past few decades.

[Click to read.](#)



Students Return After Québec Gondola Scare

SOURCE: WCAX, 05/22/12

A group of Cabot High School students visiting Québec City were suspended in a stuck gondola cabin, 180 feet off the ground, for *nine hours* on Monday. How do you say "fear of heights" in French? [Click to read.](#)

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 255 S. Champlain Street
 Burlington, VT 05401

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 [Friend](#)

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Pen to tommy
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Workflow Reassignment Alert (Contact 801446) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100803)

User Carolyn Wesley has reassigned the following Workflow for Danielle Huntington, People ID #7009074, to you:
<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801446&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Carolyn Wesley <governorvt@state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Workflow Reassignment Alert (Contact 801447) (Intranet Quorum IMA00100802)

User Carolyn Wesley has reassigned the following Workflow for Eric Mendel, People ID #7009251, to you:
<http://iq02/iq/workflowhome.aspx?showfolder=workflow&showcontent=ID801447&iAccount=GOVERNOR>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: More

Thank you for these!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/23/12 1:59 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>
>

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Subject: updated fb event page

http://www.facebook.com/events/243211282451907/243738902399145/?notif t=plan_mall_activity

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: More
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Tommy on gov's right
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Tommy on gov's right
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Opening CPR kits before signing bill
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

London, Sarah

From: Jacqueline Donohoo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:39 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Cape Air

Dear Ariel,

It was very nice meeting you and the Governor last night.

The event was wonderful and it was such a pleasure to have your team there.

I am reaching out in hopes to collect the photo of us Cape Air folks with the Governor.

We are going to put a story in our in-flight magazine about the event and I think that photo would be excellent to have in there!

I hope you are having a wonderful day.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Donohoo
Northeast Marketing Manager
Cape Air
[REDACTED]

London, Sarah

From: Lisa Hagerty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:37 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Cc: Rapaport, Dave; ADM - 5th Floor Conf Room; Wengroff, Ariel; Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Irene - 1 year anniversary plans

Sue,

I will be there. See you then. Best, Lisa

Lisa Hagerty Iphone
508-560-3523

On May 23, 2012, at 1:21 PM, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us> wrote:

When: Thursday, May 31, 2012 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Admin Conf Room

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

Per sue

<mime-attachment.ics>

London, Sarah

From: VT Health Department
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 12:27 PM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane; Wengroff, Ariel; 'maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org'
Subject: News: "Considering Culture Conference" on May 29

Health Department Sponsors "Considering Culture Conference" on May 29

For Immediate Release: May 23, 2012
Media Contact: Communication Office
Vermont Department of Health
802-863-7281

BURLINGTON – The Vermont Department of Health will sponsor a "Considering Culture Conference" for health care providers on May 29 at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington. Registration for the conference (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) has reached its capacity and is now closed, as more than 200 have signed up to attend.

"Vermonters come from a wide range of racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In Burlington, 56 languages are spoken by students in the school system," said Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD. "The purpose of this conference is to promote best practices for developmental screening and assessment of all young children. Vermont health care providers are clearly committed to improving diagnosis and treatment of patients from diverse backgrounds."

Keynote speaker Naomi Steiner, MD, of Tufts University will present "Bilingualism for Health Professionals and Educators: How Kids Learn Two Languages" at 8:45 a.m. At 10 a.m., Roula Choueiri, MD, of Tufts University, and Elaine Gabovitch, Act Early State Team Leader at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, will discuss their team process of developing a multicultural autism screening kit.

Andrea Green, MD, director of the University Health Center Immigrant Clinic at Fletcher Allen Healthcare will share refugee stories from Vermont (11 a.m.).

A family experiences panel and a roundtable discussion will be held in the afternoon.

For more information on the Considering Culture Conference visit:

<http://healthvermont.gov/events.aspx#cshn> <<http://healthvermont.gov/events.aspx>>

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###

London, Sarah

From: Common Good Vermont <Common_Good_Vermont@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 12:25 PM
To: Slota, Bianca
Subject: Measuring What Matters: What's Your Impact?



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



23 May 2012

Vermont Nonprofit News

Measure What Matters: What Difference Do You Make?

CGVT EVENTS

**5/30 Measure What
Matters Conference**

**6/18 Succession
Planning: Giving Your
Organization a Once
Over Twice**

MORE>

VT NPO EVENTS

**5/24-Center for an
Agricultural Economy:
Hardwick SpringFest 2012**

**5/30-6/1-Slow Living VT
Summit in Brattleboro**

**6/8-VT Employment
Ownership Center Annual
Conference**

**6/13-Deadline to Nominate
Volunteers for United Way**

Common Good VT is proud to collaborate with the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and Gross National Happiness USA to present the "Measure What Matters" Conference in Burlington on May 30 at the Davis Center at the University of Vermont. **REGISTER TODAY**

As Noble Prize winner Joseph Steiglitz noted *"What you measure affects what you do. If you don't measure the right thing, you don't do the right thing."*

The day-long conference will focus on the Vermont Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) and bring together stakeholders and leaders from government, academia, VT's nonprofit community, and many many more.

In 2012, Vermont became the first state to legislate usage of the GPI (S.237) as a metric of well-being and success. This conference will be a great opportunity for leaders from across ALL sectors to join together for this crucial step in re-thinking how we measure our own well-being!

REGISTER TODAY!

Building Block Awards

FIND & ADD YOUR EVENTS TO THE VT NPO CALENDAR

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!

Have a question, comment, or resource you'd like to share the nonprofit community? Post it to the Common Good Vermont Facebook fan page and/or the Common Good Community Forum.

Need to reach us directly? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at 802.862.1645 x 21 or email Coordinator@CommonGoodVT.org

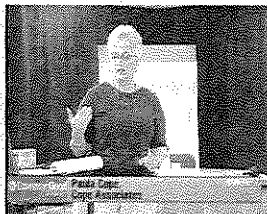
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Northeastern Graduate School
SerVermont
Sign-A-Rama
Spranco Group
SoverNet Communications
United Way of Vermont
Vermont Community Foundation

May 30 - Gross National Happiness Conference

Coming Up:

June 18 - Succession Planning for Your Organization with Paula Cope (Burlington & Webcast)



Watch [Here](#), [Register Today!](#)

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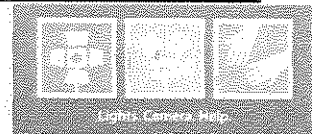
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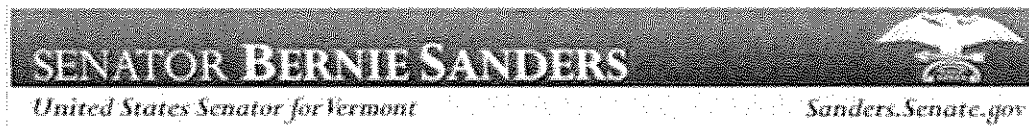
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Common Good Vermont
c/o CCTV Center for Media & Democracy
294 North Winooski Ave.
Burlington, Vermont 05401
US

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response
Try It Free Today!

London, Sarah

From: Briggs, Michael (Sanders) <Michael_Briggs@sanders.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 12:11 PM
Subject: NEWS: Sanders Proposes Crackdown on Pharmaceutical Fraud



Sanders: Crack Down on Pharmaceutical Fraud

WASHINGTON, May 23 - Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) today proposed tough new penalties to combat rampant pharmaceutical industry fraud.

Sanders' amendment to a Food and Drug Administration bill before the Senate would take away exclusive marketing rights – potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars – if a company is found to be at fault for fraud involving a particular drug.

“Companies that are fined for overcharging Medicare or Medicaid, or for dangerous illegal marketing practices, should not enjoy government-granted monopolies on those same medications,” Sanders said.

The pharmaceutical industry achieved a dubious distinction in 2010 when the dollar amount of fraud against the government surpassed the notoriously-corrupt defense contracting industry, according to a Public Citizen study. Drug makers accounted for nearly half – \$1.8 billion out of \$4.1 billion -- of the penalties collected in 2011 by the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program, a joint task force of the Department of Justice and the Department Health and Human Services. This year, pharmaceutical companies are expected to pay up to \$9 billion under pending fraud settlements, according to Taxpayers Against Fraud.

While the penalties are steep, the amount pales in comparison to the huge revenues generated by illegal and fraudulent practices such as off-label marketing and price inflation. The top-12 pharmaceutical companies made \$49.1 billion in profits in 2011, with Pfizer making \$10 billion and Johnson and Johnson making \$9.7 billion. “The penalties these companies pay when they are caught and prosecuted simply aren’t big enough to stop them from being repeat offenders,” Sanders said.

The senator described “a culture of fraud” that he said permeates the pharmaceutical industry. Over the past decade, virtually all of the major private pharmaceutical companies were involved in significant health care fraud. “The question arises, is fraud within the pharmaceutical industry the exception, or is it, simply put, their business model?”

The too-many-to-list examples include:

- Abbott Labs, which agreed last month to pay \$1.6 billion for illegally marketing the anti-seizure drug Depakote. The New York Times said the company also agreed to plead guilty to one misdemeanor charge for violating the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act for misbranding.
- Abbott Labs agreed to pay \$421 million in 2010, along with two smaller companies, to settle charges that they deliberately spiked drug costs by up to 10 times the actual cost in order to boost reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid.
- Pfizer, which paid \$49 million to settle charges that a subsidiary defrauded the Medicaid program by overcharging for the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor.
- A division of Pfizer pleaded guilty to two felonies and agreed to pay \$430 million to settle charges that it fraudulently promoted the drug Neurontin for a string of unapproved uses.
- GlaxoSmithKline, which in 2011 reached an “agreement in principle” to pay \$3 billion to conclude the company’s most significant ongoing federal government investigations into illegal sales and marketing practices for a diabetes drug that was severely restricted last year after it was linked to heart risks.
- Merck, which in 2009 reached a \$670 million settlement for fraud on patients and Medicare/Medicaid involving a conspiracy with hospitals to give the elderly cheaper drugs but charging them for the more expensive product prescribed by the patients’ doctors.
- Merck last year pleaded guilty to a criminal misdemeanor charge and paid a \$950 million settlement for illegally promoting Vioxx for rheumatoid arthritis before that use was approved. Vioxx was linked to thousands of heart attacks and sudden cardiac deaths before it was pulled from the market in 2004.
- Johnson & Johnson this year illegally marketed Risperdal, an anti-psychotic medication, to nursing home patients, and paid over \$2 billion in fines, a mere 6.3 percent of sales from the drug.

“And on and on it goes,” Sanders said. “The bottom line is that the pharmaceutical industry is making money hand over fist while it systematically defrauds taxpayers, all the while individuals in the United States (let alone the developed world) are not getting the medicines they need because they cannot afford them.”

Sanders’ amendment would send a message to the drug industry that illegal behavior will not be rewarded with government-granted monopolies.

The proposal is backed by Public Citizen, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, the National Women's Health Network and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

Contact: Michael Briggs (202) 224-5141

###

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:56 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: You are the bomb diggity!
Attachments: Weekly Reports - Checklist.docx

Thanks again for taking this on!! Attached is the weekly check-list, I have sent everyone a reminder email and you may want to reply-all to that on both Friday mornings to remind them to send them to you. Thanks chica!!

Xo,
Aly

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Miller, Lawrence; MoultonPowden, Pat; Bothfeld, Diane; Maguire, Jo Ann; Wolffing, Erika; Noonan, Annie; Percival, Penny; Flynn, Keith; Hofmann, Sarah; Nealy, Diane; Kimbell, Steve; Johnson, Harriet; Gaidys, Maureen; Minter, Sue; Spaulding, Susan
Cc: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Weekly Reports for the Next Two Fridays

Dear all,

This Friday, May 25 AND next Friday, June 1st please send your weekly reports directly to Ari Wengroff at Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us. She is cc-ed here as well.

I will be out of town with very limited access to email and will not be able to forward reports that come directly to me, so please send them only to Ari.

Thanks to all of you!

Best,
Aly

Alyson Richards
Policy Director
Governor's Office

w: (802) 828-6403
m: (802) 371-9750
alyson.richards@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Pardon Question

Thanks!

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Pardon Question

Okay I'll take care of it, thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 11:41 AM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333
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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:46 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Pardon Question

Okay I'll take care of it, thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On May 23, 2012, at 11:41 AM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333
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London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Pardon Question

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333
Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
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London, Sarah

From: Blagg, Mary <Mary.Blagg@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Alvarado, Diego; Blagg, Mary; Davis Jr, Wendell; Davis, Wendell; Mace, David; Bosma, Mark; McCarthy Barnett, Kate; Allen, Susan; Auer, Jeanne; Barnett, Tim; Rose, Ben; Costello, Frederick; Curran, Jennifer; Erickson, Nancy; Ferri, Albert; Filkorn, Erik; McLane, Lauren; Minter, Sue; Nagy, Ross; Nygaard, Corey; Coffey, Peter; Pinkham, Dennis; Piper, Michael; Rennert, Peter; Riley, Bill; Russo, James N; Ryerson, Chad; Stewart, Charlotte; Stewart, John; Truman, Bennett; Wengroff, Ariel; Whitton, Kelli; Whitton, Kelli
Subject: Media Monitoring Report DR-4022-VT 5.23.2012
Attachments: DR-4022_-_4043-VT_05-23-12_Media_Monitoring1.docx

Provided by intern Zuzy Zvarova today.

DR-4022-VT and DR-4043-VT Media Monitoring Report Wednesday, May 23, 2012

HOT ISSUE: *No hot issues.*

SUMMARY: *The lake is nothing like it was last season, but people should remain cautious of the lurking repercussions of Hurricane Irene (FOX 44); In preparation for a flood study, the Winooski river was found to be a potential aid in reducing the risk of future flooding (Stowetoday.com); The public has been called upon to weigh in on the plans to rebuild the Waterbury State Office Complex (WCAX); The number of Vermont Strong license plates sold have increased after the recently reported inflated sales numbers released by the Shumlin administration (WCAX).*

NEGATIVES: *None.*

TRENDS: *Post-legislative analysis and local recovery efforts continue to garner significant news coverage.*

Link to National FEMA Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/fema/>

Link to DHS Clips <http://www.bulletinnews.com/dhs/>

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[Flood Impacts Still Present in Vermont Waters \(Fox 44\)](#)

[Flood Analyst Eyeing Bridge \(Stowetoday.com\)](#)

[Public Can Weigh in on Waterbury Complex Plans \(WCAX\)](#)

[VT Strong License Plate Sales Pick Up \(WCAX\)](#)

News Clips:

DR-4043-VT:

None

DR-4022-VT:

Flood Impacts Still Present in Vermont Waters

Fox 44 News

May 22, 2012

Louisa Moller

Scientists say you may notice some changes this summer in Vermont's waterways due to last year's flooding.

Fox44's Louisa Moller headed out on a motorboat Tuesday with Mark Lurvey.

"I think it's going to be a good boating season because everything compared to last year is going to be easy," Lurvey said.

He is partially right. Lake Champlain is back at normal levels, but there are still some lurking dangers.

"There's always debris out there, especially in the spring. You know, all the rivers are dumping into the lake. Until it moves and settles through the summer, it's always a hazard," U.S. Coast Guard member Bryon Kravchuck said.

The debris should be nothing like what we saw last spring or from Tropical Storm Irene, but Kravchuck says it is a good idea to use extra caution.

"Safe speed and keep a sharp lookout for objects," Kravchuck said.

If you plan to go swimming, there are some other things to look out for. The water may look foggy due to a buildup of sediment from last year's flooding. Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources says this is not a health hazard.

However, ANR is also testing for chemicals dumped in the water by the floods. The agency says tests have not revealed anything dangerous so far. But, biologists will continue testing throughout the summer.

There is one more water danger that crops up every year: toxic blue algae. ANR says algae blooms on lakes could be higher this summer because of the extra sediment in the water.

Scientists say you may notice some changes this summer in Vermont's waterways due to last year's flooding.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Flood analyst eyeing bridge

Stowetoday.com

May 17, 2012

One small stretch of the Winooski River could hold the key for reducing the risk of future flooding for the rest of Waterbury village.

That's the conclusion of a river expert who is helping town and village officials prepare for a village-wide flood study.

The river channel naturally narrows and deepens at the Winooski Street Bridge, said Rob Evans, river corridor and floodplain manager with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The bridge marks the point at which the flow of the river begins to be hemmed in on the Duxbury side by the bedrock at the base of Camel's Hump. That constriction reduces the amount of water that is able to pass through easily at one time.

"It creates a funneling type of effect," Evans said, and during floods, that funnel effect could worsen the backup upstream.

Town and village officials made a multi-part village flood study one of their highest-priority projects in a recently completed planning process for long-term recovery from Tropical Storm Irene. Over the longer term, the study will result in a detailed map of the land contours in and around the village, said select board Chairman John Grenier, an engineer who is championing the project.

In the short term, the study will focus on trying to understand the impact of the river at the Winooski Street Bridge, he said.

The goal would be to use computer modeling to find out "if that bridge was a choke point that resulted in higher flooding" and to what degree, Grenier said. If the effect turns out to be significant, then the study will look at alterations that could be made to the bridge or the channel itself to help ease flooding, he said.

A similar computer-modeling study showed that channel constrictions at the Bolton Falls dam caused "virtually no impact to the village," Evans said.

The Winooski Street Bridge study is also important to the state Department of Buildings and General Services as it plans the reconstruction of the Waterbury State Office Complex.

An architect's proposal includes removing up to 3 feet of earth from the back 9 acres of the complex, thus increasing flood-storage space. That is a good idea in any case, Evans said, but it would be likely more effective if the constriction at the bridge were relieved.

He compares the situation to trying to drain water out of a bathtub full of bricks. Removing the earth at the complex is like taking some bricks out of the bathtub. Increasing the size of the channel at the bridge would be like installing a bigger drain.

"We think the success ... could be dependent on improving the situation at Winooski Street," Evans said.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Public can weigh in on Waterbury complex plans

[WCAX](#)

May 23, 2012

WATERBURY, Vt. - It's the public's turn to weigh in on plans to rebuild the state office complex in Waterbury.

FEMA will hold a public hearing next Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Thatcher Brook Primary School.

Governor Shumlin recently signed a \$158 million budget for state building projects over the next two years. The bill includes a \$16 million down payment to rebuild the Waterbury complex.

The repairs are expected to take about three years. And the state estimates it will bring nearly a thousand jobs back to Waterbury.

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VT Strong license plate sales pick up

WCAX

May 22, 2012

Susie Steimle

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Those charity Vermont Strong license plates have seen an uptick in sales following news that the Shumlin administration reported inflated sales numbers.

WCAX News ran a story last Wednesday that the governor had misstated the number of plates sold. He held a press conference declaring the sale of the 25,000th plate, but in reality only 8,000 had been sold.

Tuesday, Vt. Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Rob Ide said that number is close to 12,000. Ide says it's important to point out that each plate the state has been manufactured is stocked somewhere in a store. He says the number of plates sold changes by the hour.

"People need to understand that these numbers are changing daily. We're getting new orders, we're receiving money daily. As a very small example I sold 13 plates at the Montpelier Rotary Club yesterday when I spoke there at lunch. There's constant activity and we're actually seeing increased activity right now," Ide said.

Ide says it often takes a day or so for money to be processed by the state. Currently another 950 plates have been paid for and the state is expected to process them within the next 24 hours.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Mary S. Blagg

External Affairs Officer, DR-4022-VT

Office: 802-662-8650

FEMA cell: 802-881-7039

London, Sarah

From: Tim Caldwell <tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:33 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: Upper Valley Shindig
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Thank you, Ariel.

You and the Guv are doing great. Keep up the good work.

Best,

Tim

CALDWELL LAW
ESTATE PLANNING & SETTLEMENT
Taking good care of tomorrow.

tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com Hanover Road Professional Center
(603) 643-7577 Phone 367 Route 120, Suite 606
(603) 643-8888 FAX Lebanon, NH 03760-1430
(877) 643-7577 Toll Free VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.estateandelderlawgroup.com

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From: Wengroff, Ariel [mailto:Ariel.Wengroff@state.vt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Tim Caldwell
Subject: Re: Upper Valley Shindig

Hi Tim,

Definitely! It was great meeting you last night.

Here's the photo of you and the Governor. Let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

All the best,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: Tim Caldwell <tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com>

Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 10:23:51 -0400

To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>

Subject: Upper Valley Shindig

Dear Ariel:

It was great to see you and Peter last night. It sounds as if you have an interesting (and busy) job with the Governor.

If you have a chance, I'd love to see the pictures you took last night—I'll send them to my folks, good friends of Peter's, and they can all have a laugh.

Thank you.

Best,

Tim

CALDWELL LAW

ESTATE PLANNING & SETTLEMENTS

Taking good care of tomorrow.

tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com	Hanover Road Professional Center
(603) 643-7577 Phone	367 Route 120, Suite B-6
(603) 643-8888 FAX	Lebanon, NH 03766-0430
(877) 643-7577 Toll Free	VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.estateandelderlawgroup.com

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: Wed TP's

Thank you!!!!

Ariel Wengroff

Special Assistant to the Governor

109 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333

Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 10:22:44 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: Fwd: Wed TP's

Sent from my iPhone

Shana Trombley

Scheduler

Governor Shumlin

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>

Date: May 21, 2012 2:39:08 PM EDT

To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>

Cc: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>

Subject: Wed TP's

Draft attached

--

Lawrence Miller, Secretary
Agency of Commerce and Community Development
State of Vermont
National Life Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-5204 office
(802) 371-9075 cell
lawrence.miller@state.vt.us

The mission of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development is to help Vermonters improve their quality of life and build strong communities.

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Fwd: Wed TP's
Attachments: GPS Weekly Press Conference May 21.docx; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Shana Trombley

Scheduler

Governor Shumlin

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>
Date: May 21, 2012 2:39:08 PM EDT
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Wed TP's

Draft attached

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Agency of Commerce and Community Development
State of Vermont
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(802) 828-5204 office
(802) 371-9075 cell
lawrence.miller@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Tim Caldwell
Subject: Re: Upper Valley Shindig
Attachments: image001.jpg; caldwell.putney.jpeg

Hi Tim,

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Here's the photo of you and the Governor. Let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

All the best,
Ari

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 10:23:51 -0400
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If you have a chance, I'd love to see the pictures you took last night—I'll send them to my folks, good friends of Peter's, and they can all have a laugh.

Thank you.

Best,

Tim

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tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com

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(603) 643-8686 FAX

(877) 643-7577 Toll Free

Hanover Road Professional Center

367 Route 120, Suite 806

Lebanon, NH 03756-1430

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London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Ariel Wengroff
Subject: Emailing: IMG_1369.jpg
Attachments: IMG_1369.jpg

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

IMG_1369.jpg

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:20 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: happy to make no calls if you run out of steam

"no" calls for the [REDACTED]

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: happy to make no calls if you run out of steam

Haha no calls?

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

From: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 10:16:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: happy to make no calls if you run out of steam

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Tim Caldwell <tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Upper Valley Shindig
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Ariel:

It was great to see you and Peter last night. It sounds as if you have an interesting (and busy) job with the Governor.

If you have a chance, I'd love to see the pictures you took last night—I'll send them to my folks, good friends of Peter's, and they can all have a laugh.

Thank you.

Best,

Tim

CALDWELL LAW
ESTATE PLANNING & SETTLEMENT
Taking good care of tomorrow.

tim@estateandelderlawgroup.com Menover Road Professional Center
(603) 643-7577 Phone 367 Route 120, Suite 300
(603) 643-6666 FAX Lebanon, NH 03766-0430
(877) 643-7577 Toll Free VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.estateandelderlawgroup.com

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Ariel Wengroff
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Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

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Date: Wed, 23 May 2012 10:16:46 -0400
To: Ariel Wengroff <ariel.wengroff@state.vt.us>
Subject: happy to make no calls if you run out of steam

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

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London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: happy to make no calls if you run out of steam

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 10:00 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: Intvw on WDEV

Gracias!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

On 5/23/12 9:53 AM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Invt with Eric Michaels
>

London, Sarah

From: Dela Noche, Lisa <Lisa.DelaNoche@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:59 AM
To: Henderson III, Clyde; Conrad, David; Morales, Esther
Subject: U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Poneman Announces New Steps to Support Clean Energy Small Businesses

Colleagues,

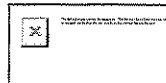
As part of National Small Business Week and to highlight President Obama's focus on small businesses as leaders in an economy built to last, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman today announced in Fayetteville, Arkansas, \$11 million in innovative research and technology grants of up to \$150,000 to nearly 70 small businesses nationwide. He also highlighted that over the past year, the Energy Department supported \$8 billion in contracts to over 4,000 small businesses.

The announcements were made during a tour of Arkansas Power Electronics International (APEI), a small business that received one of the Small Business Innovative Research grants of \$150,000. APEI develops state-of-the-art technology in power storage systems for electric vehicles and other clean technologies.

More detailed information can be found below in the Department's press release. If you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Lisa M. dela Noche
Intergovernmental Liaison Specialist
Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy
(202) 586-2866

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Public Affairs



News Media Contact: (202) 586-4940
For Immediate Release: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

**U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Poneman Announces New Steps to
Support Clean Energy Small Businesses**

Department Announces \$11 Million in Energy Innovation Grants to Nearly 70 Small Businesses, Highlights \$8 Billion in Small Business Contracts

FAYETTEVILLE, AR – As part of National Small Business Week and to highlight President Obama's focus on small businesses as leaders in an economy built to last, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman today

announced in Fayetteville, Arkansas, \$11 million in innovative research and technology grants of up to \$150,000 to nearly 70 small businesses nationwide. He also highlighted that over the past year, the Energy Department supported \$8 billion in contracts to over 4,000 small businesses.

Deputy Secretary Poneman made the announcements during a tour of Arkansas Power Electronics International (APEI), a small business that received one of the Small Business Innovative Research grants of \$150,000. APEI develops state-of-the-art technology in power storage systems for electric vehicles and other clean energy technologies.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, employing half of all workers in America and creating two out of every three new jobs in the U.S.,” said Deputy Secretary Poneman. “The grants and contracts announced today are just the latest step in the Energy Department’s efforts to support the critical role that small businesses are playing in creating jobs for American workers and expanding our country’s clean energy economy. These businesses are helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect our air and water, and ensuring that the United States leads in the global clean energy race.”

Energy Department Awards Small Business Innovation Research Grants Totaling \$11 Million

The Energy Department’s Small Business Innovation Research program is part of the Obama Administration’s broader support for job-creating small businesses and startup companies nationwide. These grants to small businesses of up to \$150,000 - totaling \$11 million – are developing new energy technologies that will help to grow America’s economy, create new jobs around the country and improve American competitiveness around the world. The small businesses selected will then be eligible to compete for a second phase of the program for awards up to \$1 million over two years.

The 67 small businesses will work on 75 innovative research projects ranging from designing better wind turbines to fuel cell technology to coal energy research. These small businesses are located in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

A detailed description of each of the awards is available [HERE](#).

Energy Department Awards \$8 Billion in Small Business Contracts, Announces 2011 Small Business Awards

As part of the Energy Department’s commitment to increasing small business contracting and strengthening our investments in these companies, the Department today announced that over the last year, the Department supported a total of \$8 billion in prime and sub-prime contracting to small businesses across the country. These awards to over 4,000 companies, including small businesses owned by women, veterans and minorities, have leveraged their unique skills, talents and experience to help the Department achieve its mission from solving energy, environmental and nuclear challenges to advancing transformational science and technologies.

Additionally, the Energy Department announced the 2011 Small Business Awards, recognizing small businesses, program managers and other partners who have gone above and beyond expectations, demonstrating exceptional performance and creativity towards helping the Department achieve its goals.

A detailed description of the awards is available [HERE](#).

###

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:44 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Wengroff, Ariel; Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Student appointment update

Thank you. Any chance you can scan those and email it to us so we can read them.

Susan M. Spaulding
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:33 AM
To: Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Wengroff, Ariel; Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Student appointment update

I will give Sue the two letters to the editor that [REDACTED] gave us as well

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Wengroff, Ariel; Wesley, Carolyn; Bartlett, Susan
Subject: Student appointment update

GPS asked me to check out [REDACTED] with Rep. Jeanette White. Jeannette thought he was a great kid so we are going forward with appointing [REDACTED]. Sue Allen will be traveling with the Governor today so I have given her [REDACTED] so the Governor can call him from the road. As soon as that happens Sue will let me know and we'll schedule a press release AFTER we have contacted the [REDACTED] students we interviewed who are not getting appointed.

Susan M. Spaulding
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The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

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Subject: RE: Student appointment update

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Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Wengroff, Ariel; Wesley, Carolyn; Bartlett, Susan
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The Pavilion - Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
(802)-828-3333 fax 828-3339

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: The Drive

I'm Uncle Dave, The Magic Bus Morning Show on 94.5 The Drive in Rutland

David Tibbs

It doesn't give his number since it's a Facebook comment, but let me know if you want me to message him for more info.

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:48 AM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: FYI

Thanks. I'm heading that way shortly!

-----Original Message-----

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:04 AM
To: EXE
Subject: FYI

Traffic northbound on 89 is awful from an accident by the shelburne exit

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
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Montpelier, VT 05609

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Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: 802-279-6825

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:04 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Allen, Susan; Wengroff, Ariel; Appleby, Leigh; Kunin, Lisa; Trombley, Shana; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: FW: VEM Duty Officer Daily Report 5.23.12

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Hamlin, Emily
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 7:58 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] VEM Duty Officer Daily Report 5.23.12

Good Morning,

Attached, please find the VEM Duty Officer Daily Report, as well as a brief narrative below.

Emily Hamlin
Vermont Emergency Management
1-800-347-0488

HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005

**VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DAILY SITUATION REPORT
Wednesday, May 23, 2012**

CURRENT SITUATION:

Duty Officer: Emily Hamlin

Report Covers: 5/22/2012 0700 hrs to 5/23/2012 0700 hrs

Next Scheduled Report: 5/24/2012 0830 hrs

VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS: Level 1

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- 1-2 gallon oil spill in Post Mills, Thetford.
- ~3500 gallons liquid manure spilled in Shaftsbury.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE:

- Recovery operations continue due to Tropical Storm Irene. Vermont Emergency is providing support to the State Recovery Office and maintaining a presence at the FEMA Joint Field Office in Essex. VEM is also overseeing the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for communities and other eligible entities. All Vermont counties are under a Public Assistance disaster declaration and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties have been included for Individual Assistance.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 7:52 AM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: Blood Drive this Friday @ Montpelier High School
Attachments: blood drive pr.doc

From: O'Brien, Maura
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:28 PM
To: O'Brien, Maura
Subject: Blood Drive this Friday @ Montpelier High School

Hi,

Please find attached a flyer for a **Red Cross Blood Drive this Friday, May 25th 10 AM-3 PM**. Please communicate this to employees in the Montpelier area and encourage them to attend.

Please note:

It is the policy of the State of Vermont to allow classified State employees reasonable release time from work to donate blood at local blood drawings sponsored by the Red Cross.

Employees are not required to charge this time off to annual, personal, or compensatory leave or off-payroll status.

Employees must request leave from their supervisors in advance. This granting of this leave shall be subject to the operating needs of the department as determined solely by the appointing authority.

Make your health and wellness a priority in 2012!

Maura O'Brien

Maura O'Brien
Program Coordinator
VT State Employees' Wellness Program

Visit the Vermont State Employees' Wellness Program Website:

<http://humanresources.vermont.gov/benefits/wellness>

For the latest health and wellness info "like" us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/VTWellness>

Maura O'Brien, Coordinator / State Employees' Wellness Program/ Division for Workforce Recruitment, Development & Wellness / Department of Human Resources/ The Summit: Center for State Employee Development/439 Industrial Lane/ Berlin/ VT/ 05641/ 802-828-2804/ Fax: 802-828-2809/ maura.obrien@state.vt.us

Please **Think Green** before you choose to print this email!

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immediately notify the sender and delete this email message from your computer. CAUTION: The Department of Human Resources cannot ensure the confidentiality or security of email transmissions.

London, Sarah

From: Murphy, Kathy
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 7:24 AM
To: Rachel Carter
Cc: Filkorn, Erik; Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Morning Rachel,

To update you, I checked in with Ariel a couple of weeks ago on our proposed social marketing workshops. She was working with her leadership team on the availability of budget resources; I'll outreach to her this morning and see where we may stand.

Erik and I met yesterday; please keep in mind that Erik is relatively new to SOV and therefore wasn't familiar with your master contract and the opportunity to work with you under the SOW process. Given that I've met with most other SOV entities on all CMO master contracts, including yours, I would presume that most marketing/information specialists are familiar with what's available in terms of marketing and communications resources via our office. That said, I'm happy to facilitate any connections and/or clarify your services across SOV. I am aware that budgets are extremely 'tight' and that many entities are working with fewer resources than in past.

Let's hope we'll be able to proceed with our planned social media workshops as I suspect they'll prove quite valuable to everyone involved.

Best, Kathy

Kathleen A. Murphy

Chief Marketing Officer
State of Vermont
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

From: Rachel Carter [mailto:rachel@rachelcarterpr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:27 PM
To: Murphy, Kathy
Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Hi Kathy,

I wanted to check back in on timing. I also wanted to let you know I met with Erik Filkorn the other day and he said he didn't know I was on a contract with the state and said he often gets asked how to help with social media pieces from other agency folks and thought many folks could benefit from sitting down with me for some training for a few hours as the contract was set up for. I am hoping we can let folks know there is the resource and a few hours of training doesn't need to turn into a huge budget item. I mentioned the social media trainings we were working on and that prompted me to touch base again and see where we stand.

Thanks,

Rachel

www.linkedin.com/in/rachelcarterpr

www.RachelCarterPR.com

Charlotte, Vermont

802-425-4886

From: Murphy, Kathy [<mailto:Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 9:33 AM

To: Rachel Carter

Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Just checking in to let you know ball's in Ariel's court vis a vis budget/expense funding and approval. I expect an update this week now that legislature is wrapped up.

Kathleen A. Murphy

Chief Marketing Officer

State of Vermont

National Life North Building

One National Life Drive - 6th Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

(802) 828-2999

From: Rachel Carter [<mailto:rachel@rachelcarterpr.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 9:00 AM

To: Murphy, Kathy

Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

I had one contract first that was through New Breed Marketing when they were an agency of record. That rate was \$100. Then, when I went to be a vendor as Rachel Carter PR per the contract I just sent, the rate changed to \$110 and is reflected in the contract from Sept. 2010 onward. It is printed as \$110 in the Sept 2010 contract.

Rachel

www.linkedin.com/in/rachelcarterpr

www.RachelCarterPR.com

Charlotte, Vermont

802-425-4886

From: Murphy, Kathy [<mailto:Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 8:56 AM

To: Rachel Carter

Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Can you clarify 'New Breed' reference please? Not certain I fully understand....thank you!

Kathleen A. Murphy

Chief Marketing Officer

State of Vermont

National Life North Building

One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

From: Rachel Carter [<mailto:rachel@rachelcarterpr.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Murphy, Kathy
Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Hello - the rate was revised from the New Breed rate when the new contract was signed Sept. 2010.
Please see attached.

Thanks,

Rachel

www.linkedin.com/in/rachelcarterpr
www.RachelCarterPR.com
Charlotte, Vermont
802-425-4886

From: Murphy, Kathy [<mailto:Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 7:26 AM
To: Rachel Carter
Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Morning,
I've outreached to Ariel this morning to see where she sits with dates, attendees list, budget, etc. BTW, your contract rate is \$100/hour so estimated total as outlined is \$1400. I'll be in touch as I hear back from her.

Thanks!

Kathleen A. Murphy
Chief Marketing Officer
State of Vermont
National Life North Building
One National Life Drive - 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-2999

From: Rachel Carter [<mailto:rachel@rachelcarterpr.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Murphy, Kathy
Subject: RE: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Hi Kathy - I was away, although camping didn't really work out.

What else do you need from me for this? I can offer this (rate is \$110):

2 hours of account coordination (meeting we had and communication between you, Ariel and I prepping these workshops.

2 hours per workshop with three workshops is 6 hours

Then to be safe, I would say 2 hours to prep each workshop for another 6 hours

= \$1540

Thoughts?

Rachel

www.linkedin.com/in/rachelcarterpr

www.RachelCarterPR.com

Charlotte, Vermont

802-425-4886

From: Murphy, Kathy [<mailto:Kathy.Murphy@state.vt.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 11:31 AM

To: Rachel Carter

Subject: CMO Master Contract Service Time Frame

Rachel,

You had asked that I verify our contract period; it's 9/2/10 through 9/1/12.

Next, if you would help me manage expenses for your meeting time, prep work and 'sessions' I'd like to be able to execute a SOW to you in early May for the social marketing/media workshops. Fiscal year end is 6/30/12 and I need to have all paperwork ready for month end/year end close.

I think you're out this week; let's touch base upon your return.

Best, Kathy

Kathleen A. Murphy

Chief Marketing Officer

State of Vermont

National Life North Building

One National Life Drive - 6th Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

(802) 828-2999

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:25 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 (final):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Associated Press story on Secure Communities (the illegal immigrants program) ran in today's Free Press. (See Times Argus clips today)

Superintendent's apology on race in schools draws mixed reviews
BY MOLLY WALSH

The apology this week from Burlington Schools Superintendent Jeanne Collins in response to critics who say she has not acted aggressively enough to combat racism in city schools comes at a critical time.

Collins faces a major test next month when the School Board discusses her action plan on diversity issues and the extension of her contract from its end date in the summer of 2013. The discussion about her employment status is scheduled to take place at a June 12 board meeting, according to Keith Pillsbury, chairman of the Burlington School Board.

He supports renewal of the superintendent's contract for another year, through summer 2014, despite calls for her resignation at recent board meetings. Pillsbury said Collins is the right person to carry forward initiatives already started, including the effort to bring socio-economic balance to city elementary schools with the creation of two magnet schools in the Old North End, the implementation of a 2012 grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation and a one-to-one student technology program set to be phased in this fall.

"If the board tells her that she will no longer have a contract after next year, then these kinds of initiatives will be in jeopardy," Pillsbury said. Collins understands the complexity of the Burlington school district, he said.

"One of the things that's so important here, is that we are a district that needs to fulfill the needs of the gifted and talented and those who are struggling to learn English," Pillsbury said.

Others are dismayed that it appears to have taken calls for Collins to step down to trigger a sense of urgency to resolve inequities that some say have festered for years.

One mother's view

Naima Dennis is a member of a task force that last fall issued a report saying students of color are not receiving equal opportunity in city schools. The report called for cultural competency training for all teachers, racial and socio-economic balance in all classrooms, and the hiring of more diverse faculty to reflect the changing demographics of the student body.

(Page 2 of 3)

About 30 percent of Burlington's 4,000 students are nonwhite, and the district has in recent years become home to many refugee and immigrant students from around the world. Numbers for the 2010-11 school year show 95.6 percent of district teachers are white.

Dennis, a mother of two, including a first-grader who attends city schools and a daughter who graduated from Burlington High School last year, said improvements to the school climate are overdue.

"This whole thing is hard for me because we've been working on this for a long time," she said. "None of these issues are new, and while I really appreciate what she's saying and I want to believe that she's got these great plans that she's going to come out with, at this point in time it just seems a little contrived."

Dennis grew up in Brooklyn and said she never experienced racism directly until she moved to Burlington. She worries about how stereotyping might affect her young son.

"He's the sweetest boy, and I'm constantly terrified about how are people going to see him, just because he's an African-American male," she said.

"How do I make it so that when he gets to the high school, we don't have to have these conversations? How do we make it an environment that's going to feel safe for the kids, where you don't have to have children protesting outside the schools and going to the statehouse?"

Dennis did not call for Collins to resign but said whoever leads the district forward needs to take the reins and offer strong leadership. "Things are ... they are getting really ugly."

Others are also concerned about the heated tone of the public debate. Fritz Senftleber, vice president of the Burlington High School Boosters Club and a father of two, said he disagrees with those calling for Collins to be fired. He also disagrees with critics who have said BHS principal Amy Mellencamp should go. It's time for an end to the rhetoric of "chopping people's heads off," he said, and time for collaboration to fix the problems. "Let's get together and work," he said.

(Page 3 of 3)

David Rome, a Burlington High School math teacher who's raised concerns about the diversity task force's report, said Tuesday he had no comment on the statement that Collins issued.

Atmosphere of respect

Robert Appel, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, has been following the Burlington debate closely and has attended many School Board meetings.

He said Collins' statement was full of good intentions and not enough deadlines for measurable goals.

"We seem to be going around and around in the conversation and not moving measurably down the path to achieving the desired outcomes," he said.

There should be room for people to exchange honest opinions in a respectful way and the conversation in Burlington "has sort of slipped from that description," he said, suggesting stakeholders are "talking by each other and not really talking with each other."

It's going to take some "intentional work" to change that dynamic, he said, adding: "I commit to helping that work in any way I can."

Appel also put out the call to encourage people of color to run for elected office in Burlington. The Burlington School Board members and Burlington City Councilors listening to the debate about racism in the city are all white — which presents issues in itself, he said. It's hard for people who are white and don't have direct experience with the "scourge of racism" to truly understand its impact on those who are subjected to it, Appel said.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger welcomed Collins' statement Tuesday.

"As a community we, of course, face equity and diversity challenges in areas beyond our schools as well," Weinberger said in an emailed statement. "As a new administration we have begun the effort to assess our current efforts and plot a new course to ensure that our city is a place that is made stronger by its diversity, not torn apart by it."

Small dairies go under as milk prices sink again

By Lisa Rathke, Associated Press

PLAINFIELD — The MacLaren brothers are third-generation dairy farmers, but they will likely be the last in their family.

After working all their lives on the hillside farm in Vermont that their grandfather bought in 1939, rising to milk cows at 3 a.m. even in blizzards and sub-zero temperatures, they decided to call it quits, auctioning off their roughly 200 cows and equipment ranging from stalls and hoof trimmers to tractors and steel pails.

The sale marked the end of the last dairy farm in Plainfield, a small town that once had several dozen, and the loss of the 14th dairy farm to go out of business in Vermont this year. A few small dairies have opened, but overall, the number of farms continues to drop in a state long known for its milk and cheese. Farmers say they can't make ends meet when milk prices are low and feed and fuel costs keep going up.

"The day of the small farms I think is gone," said Steve MacLaren, 54. "A lot of people are going to hold on as long as they can, but we decided not to. Why struggle on it any longer?"

Economic issues aside, the MacLarens are tired of being tied to the farm seven days a week. They plan to keep the land and grow feed — corn and grass for hay and silage — on more than 500 acres.

"No matter what, you've got a sick cow or a cow having a calf, you've gotta be around whether it's 1:00 in the morning, or it's whatever time you've got to take care of them," said Michael MacLaren, 48. "But if you've got a tractor break down, you can walk away from it. It's just a long hard grind, and I decided I'd like a change."

While the number of dairy cows in the U.S. hasn't changed much, the number of dairy farms has been dropping as small farms either go out of business or consolidate to become more competitive and cost effective.

The number of dairy farms nationally has dropped from nearly 92,000 in 2002 to less than 70,000 in 2007, according to the last agricultural census, which is being updated this year.

That's not the whole picture though. The number of small farms, with 100 to 199 cows, fell from about 11,000 to about 9,000 during that time, while those with more than 1,000 cows grew from about 1,300 to almost 1,600.

(Page 2 of 2)

The shift has affected states like Vermont and Wisconsin, which have strong dairying histories, but tend to have smaller farms than other major milk-producing states like California and Texas.

Wisconsin has lost nearly 200 herds so far this year and now has about 11,600.

The farm closures are likely to continue with milk prices expected to keep falling this summer.

"It's a dying business," said Ron Wright, owner of Wrights Auction Service in Derby. He expects to do twice as many auctions this spring as last — eight to 10 auctions in Vermont and one in New York.

The U.S. had been gradually losing dairy farms for decades, but then milk prices plummeted during the recession and fuel costs soared in 2009. Vermont lost 52 dairies that year, while Wisconsin lost 519.

Prices have rebounded since, although they are expected to sink again to as low as \$16.50 per hundred pounds this summer, said Diane Bothfeld, Vermont's deputy agriculture secretary.

"It will be a very difficult year," said Bothfeld, who expects the auctions to continue.

The loss of small farms hurts local economies and the many businesses that rely on them, such as feed and tractor dealers and veterinarians, she said. It also could be a problem for Vermont tourism, which is closely tied to bucolic images of the state's mountains and dairies, although Bothfeld said she thinks much of the land will stay in farming.

Vermont watched the number of its dairies drop in the past 20 years from 2,272 to 977 this May. At the same time, its milk output has stayed relatively the same as surviving farms grow. In the past five years, the average dairy size has grown from 125 to 135 cows in Vermont.

"To succeed in farming it seems like you really have got to diversify or go big," said Jennifer Lambert, 26, of Washington, one of the few new dairy farmers in Vermont.

She and her husband have leased his uncle's farm, where they produce organic milk, which commands a higher and more stable price than conventional. They also grow livestock feed and picked up a \$7,500 seeder at the MacLaren's auction on May 16.

"It's very difficult to get started in this," said Jesse Lambert, 30, of the investment. They can't afford to buy the farm — or borrow the more than a half million dollars to do it — so were lucky to lease it, he said.

The MacLarens didn't watch as their cows were led one by one into the auction ring, where bidders sat on bales of hay. Michael MacLaren said he and his brother will miss the animals some.

"But you make the decision and have the courage to go through with it and you do it," he said. "That's the way it's gotta be."

State police reject records request for dispatch logs
By Mike Donoghue

The Vermont State Police have rejected a request to turn over copies of their police dispatching log for Easter weekend, when a then-state trooper is accused of assaulting two Windham County men in Wilmington who he thought had stolen his canoe.

The Burlington Free Press made the request two months after the Vermont Supreme Court ruled police logs are public except in limited circumstances. The state police's freedom of information officer, Heidi Storm, rejected releasing any of the logs, however, in a four-paragraph email sent Tuesday afternoon.

Storm said she believed the records requested fell under an exemption to the state's public-records law dealing with "the detection and investigation of crime."

Meanwhile, the Vermont Attorney General's Office, responding to a separate public records request in the case of former Senior Trooper Eric J. Howley, released 22 pages of documents to the Burlington Free Press. The e-mails give an inside look at the internal battle between Attorney General William Sorrell's office and state police on what the public needed to be told, a battle that ended with state police issuing details on the Howley case Friday over Sorrell's objections.

Sorrell's office wanted to note only the issuance of a citation to the trooper, while state police ultimately decided to provide details routinely given in other crimes.

Assistant Attorney General John Treadwell blacked out several portions of the e-mails, including much of the 19-sentence news release the Vermont State Police eventually issued Friday. The release, which had been prepared a week earlier, came after Sorrell offered only a four-sentence release with no details, including the time and place of the assault or the names of the victims.

In March, the Vermont Supreme Court overruled a lower-court judge who had determined that dispatch logs fell within one of the many exceptions to Vermont's Public Records Act: the provision that allows the withholding of "records dealing with the detection and investigation of crime."

"We cannot assume, consistent with the purpose of the PRA, that simply because the records at issue were generated by a law enforcement agency, they necessarily are records 'dealing with the detection and investigation of crime,'" the high court said in its opinion in that case, *Steven Bain v. Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark and State's Attorney Tracy Shriver*.

"To so hold would allow for a 'potentially limitless' exemption," the court said.

Storm, the state police freedom of information officer, nonetheless determined the Howley case documents are not a matter of public record.

Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn, reached late Tuesday afternoon, said he would review Storm's denial of the records request. He said he would talk with the department's legal counsel, Rosemary Gretkowski, today. Treadwell, in his response to the Burlington Free Press request to the Attorney General's Office, also relied on the exemption of "detection and investigation of crime" to withhold some records. Other records his office withheld represented attorney-client work product, he said. He said other documents were exempt by law, but did not say what records or what law.

In records Treadwell did release, his office blacked out 16 of 19 sentences from the final news release issued by state police on Friday. A shorter earlier draft has several items blacked out, including the length of the police investigation.

Details contained in the documents Treadwell did release:

- By April 17, Shriver, the Windham prosecutor, had opted out of the case, according to an email to the Attorney General's Office from Capt. David Covell, the state police's chief criminal investigator.

"SA Shriver has taken a preliminary look at the case and advised, if possible, she would like to have the AG's review it instead of her office. If that is good w/ you plze let me know and I will send it your way," Covell tells Assistant Attorney General Cindy Maguire, chief of the criminal division. Treadwell blacked out the next several lines in Covell's email.

- The case was kept under wraps until May 15, when state police Director Col. Thomas L'Esperance gave Maguire a heads up that the Burlington Free Press "is all over this and requested some info related to Howley's work status."

L'Esperance acknowledged that afternoon in an e-mail to the Free Press that Howley was placed on administrative leave April 8, and that as of May 15, the department had Howley's resignation in hand.

- Stephanie Dasaro, the department's spokeswoman, had provided that morning a proposed "Draft 2" news release "for when Howley is arrested." That release would never be made public. Indeed, more than half of the page of that draft was blacked out by the time Sorrell's office released the document Tuesday.

- Detective Sgt. Robert Patten, one of the investigators in the case, on May 16 asked Sorrell's office for a copy of a proposed news release before it was made public. Sorrell would issue his news release May 17 with no specifics on the Howley case. He said he had an ethical obligation under the Professional Rules of Responsibility not to say anything that prejudice a potential jury.

- The following morning Flynn wrote the Attorney's General's Office and asked for a phone call as "I continue to get a number of inquiries about this matter." The emails indicated Deputy Attorney General Janet Murnane, Flynn and one of the state police's two lawyers spoke.

By early afternoon, Gov. Peter Shumlin's legal counsel, Sarah London forwarded a copy of the state police news release to Flynn, but no message is included. She also forwarded it to Murnane.

About a half hour later, state police spokeswoman Dasaro emailed the release to the media with basic details about why Howley was cited to appear in court.

Howley, 40, of Wilmington is due in Vermont Superior Court in June to face two counts of simple assault for an on-duty incident April 8.

Letter: Real health care reform overdue

By Jerry Kilcourse

The numerous commentaries by Jeff Wennberg and Bruce Lisman along with their TV and radio ads, ad nauseam, are long on fear and loathing of Green Mountain Care, the Vermont Legislature, and the Shumlin administration regarding real health care reform, and short on alternatives of any kind.

This is especially true concerning the "single-payer" issue as the above duo turns a blind eye to the fact that every other advanced country has a universal health care plan with better results at a lower cost.

For example, as Paul Starr, Pulitzer Prize recipient and Princeton University professor writes, the United States is the only economically advanced country where its citizens face "medical uninsurability," "medical bankruptcy," and "job lock," due to a lack of a universal plan. The above pundits never address these problems that the citizens of the world's most powerful and richest country face all too often.

Professor Starr also points out that other advanced countries' spend about 9 percent of GDP on universal health care including "single payer" while in the U.S. we spend 17.6 percent. Our result still leaves about 50 million uninsured, and probably as many underinsured at any one time.

For bizarre political reasons the United States is the only country where health care for its people is subservient to business interests of the insurance industry. Real health care reform is so long over due we must not wait any longer! To continue the status quo is insane.

JERRY KILCOURSE
Montpelier

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:12 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 23:

VTDIGGER:

WCAX/WDEV Poll: Shumlin has high approval rating, holds sure lead over Republican challenger

BY ANNE GALLOWAY

Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin would win 60 percent of the vote if the gubernatorial election were held today, according to a poll paid for by WCAX and WDEV.

About 27 percent of the more than 600 survey respondents gave their support to Republican Sen. Randy Brock.

The poll, conducted by Castleton Polling Institute, also showed President Barack Obama would win over Republican contender Mitt Romney by a similar margin (59.3 percent to 27.5 percent); Lt. Gov. Phil Scott has a 56.5 percent approval rating; and the Legislature's approval rating was 57.5 percent. Lawmakers also had high negatives: 31.5 percent disapproved of legislators' performance in the 2012 session.

At 65 percent, Shumlin's overall approval rating has outstripped former Republican Gov. Jim Douglas' favorability ratings, according to Eric Davis, a frequent pundit and retired Middlebury College professor.

Vermont governors tend to have high approval ratings, especially at the beginning of their tenures in office. "It didn't surprise me Shumlin had over 60 percent," Davis said. "That's consistent with first term governors in the past, such as Douglas and Dean."

Brock's media consultant, Robert Wickers, issued a statement downplaying the significance of the poll and attributed Shumlin's good showing to high name recognition.

"What the poll does not show is the concern voters have about his failed record on jobs, the economy, health care, and energy," Wickers wrote. "These poll numbers are similar to the poll numbers at the start of Randy Brock's 2004 campaign for State Auditor, which he went on to win by 10 points. The campaign for governor has just begun. As Vermonters learn more about Randy, and hear his positive message of economic growth and prosperity, this race will tighten."

Davis agrees that name recognition is the name of the game this early in the race.

"I wasn't surprised Shumlin had a big lead," Davis said. "Early polls are about name recognition more than anything else. Randy Brock had low name recognition last year and my guess is that he is as low as he was in the (WCAX/WDEV) poll because his name recognition was low. He's started to run bio ads on TV and that may help him."

Those ads, however, may no longer be as effective as they once were, Davis said. More voters, in his view, are gravitating to the Web for information instead of relying on broadcast and print news sources. He speculates that candidates may invest more money in Web advertising this campaign season.

New Burlington mayor favors F-35s, limits on Occupy, Planned Parenthood protests

BY GREG GUMA

Turnout has been high and dialogue heated at a series of public meetings held lately in Burlington and environs.

On Monday, dozens of people both in favor and opposed to a proposed health access buffer zone at Burlington reproductive health care centers brought their arguments and deeply-held beliefs to the City Council. Meanwhile, 40 Vermonters showed up just to watch the South Burlington City Council, in a 4-1 vote, reject a plan to base F-35 fighter jets at the airport.

Last week more than 300 people turned out in South Burlington for a US Air Force public hearing on the environmental impacts of the multi-purpose aircraft, the military's most expensive pet project yet.

Only days before more than 100 residents showed up at Burlington High School to speak their minds about racial inequality and harassment in the schools.

Some people called for Superintendent of Schools Jeanne Collins to resign. Collins recently issued a public apology, but added that she does not intend to step down.

"To those of you who believe action has taken too long," she wrote, "and particularly to students in our district who have suffered from the racism which I know continues, I say that I am sorry."

Progressive Vince Brennan, one of the first to call for Collins' replacement, suggested on Monday that safety and other race-related problems are being swept under the rug.

Mayor Miro Weinberger is about to release a statement about Collins and the school.

Mayor says noise a "limited" factor for F-35s

On Tuesday, the mayor defended his most controversial decision to date: support for basing 18 to 24 F-35s at the airport. Last week, Weinberger opted not to send a statement to the environmental impact hearing. Instead, he issued his decision in the days that followed in a rolling response to media inquiries.

Weinberger aide Mike Kanerick acknowledged that there was no press release, but insisted that it wasn't a calculated move.

The period for public comment on the F-35's impacts has been extended until June 20, according to the Air Force. This is mainly due to a request from Maine for a hearing. A number of Vermont public officials, including Gov. Peter Shumlin and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, haven't waited and are already on board, mainly touting economic benefits and the need to protect National Guard. Although there is no official link between where F-35s are based and the future of the Vermont Guard, many backers assume that cutbacks are more likely if Vermont is not chosen, or even seems less than enthusiastic.

Vermont's congressional delegation has expressed pride in the past about being considered for the F-35s. More recently, they have issued careful statements about balancing "legitimate concerns" with the value, services and excellence of the Guard. Little has been said about the aircraft itself.

Weinberger, a leading member of the Airport Commission before his election as mayor, said he decided to wait until after the hearing just in case "anything new" emerged in the discussion. That said, he feels the benefits of the Guard to the city and region are obvious and enormous, while "the environmental impacts have been limited."

"Having reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and listened closely to the public reactions to it, I do not believe that this balance will substantially change," his statement says. "I support the Air Guard in its efforts to base the F-35As here."

In response to VTDigger, Weinberger acknowledged that "some people will be more impacted than others," and said he respected the concerns and views offered during the hearing, and at other stages of the process. He bristled, however, at the suggestion that housing will be lost as a consequence of accepting the aircraft.

"Not a single person will lose housing because of this," he insisted. The airport's decision to purchase nearby residential properties is not linked to the F-35s, he added. "These properties are impacted not only by takes offs and landings, but also by a variety of impacts on the ground."

"The most significant F-35 impact is potentially increased noise," he added. "I'm not ignoring that, but it is a limited impact."

On Monday, the City Council authorized Weinberger and airport officials to purchase up to 14 properties near the airport for "anticipated growth, environmental compatibility (noise), and in the interest of public benefit." Reimbursement is anticipated through FAA grants.

The F-35 environmental impact statement (EIS) says that up to 1,300 properties will be affected adversely by the noise, to some extent and depending on how many fighter jets ultimately arrive. The nature and intensity of the impacts, plus the fact that lower-income areas will disproportionately feel the effects, are at the heart of the debate.

In Winooski on Monday night the City Council officially asked the Air Force to "clearly identify the potential impact on the economic health" of Winooski. They also want to know why Burlington's airport is a preferred alternative to "areas that may have fewer adverse impacts."

A controversial ordinance to fine protesters

Although the Burlington council also heard briefly from the Air Force, the focus in Contois Auditorium was on the healthcare buffer zone proposal, sparking debate over another question of balance – between free speech and access to health services.

Ultimately, the Council voted 13-1 to send the proposal on to the Ordinance Committee for review before its expected passage. The topic nevertheless dominated an intense, extended but civil Public Forum period. If the measure passes protesters could be fined between \$50 and \$500 for violating a 35-foot "sphere of protection" extending in all directions around reproductive health facilities in the city.

Planned Parenthood supporters said protests have been a bigger problem since the regional headquarters for the women's health clinics moved from Mansfield Avenue to a downtown location.

Anti-abortion activists insist that the protests are not obstructive. They say they want to pray, grieve and offer a different choice.

Weinberger calls the Public Forum period, which often covers a range of topics, "democracy in action." In this case, however, he didn't need more input before taking a stand.

"I took a public position early in favor of the ordinance," he noted, and he agrees with the basic findings as explained in the draft: "the exercise of a person's right to protest or counsel against certain medical procedures is a First Amendment activity that must be balanced against another person's right to obtain medical counseling and treatment in an unobstructed manner."

During the forum several speakers criticized what they described as limitations on speech rights and preferential treatment. Comparisons were drawn with the Occupy encampment that was briefly permitted in City Hall Park last fall, and more recent picketing outside the door of the Citizens Bank.

Paul Decelles, a Republican councilor who has emerged as a major critic of liberal stances since the departure of his counterpart Kurt Wright, took up the comparison and ran with it. "What would we do if banks felt intimidated and wanted a buffer zone?"

He called the proposal a form of unnecessary "spot zoning." Democrat Norm Blais objected to the comparison.

In an April 29, 2012 statement Occupy Burlington announced plans to develop a permanent picket line outside the Citizens Bank until it closes and leaves. Since then activists with signs and handouts have gathered each weekend to talk with bank patrons and get the word out.

"Ultimately, our goal is for there to never be a time when someone can bank at Citizens Bank without first crossing a picket line," says the groups' "Resolution for the Ejection of Citizens Bank from Burlington, Vermont."

Bram Kranichfeld argued that existing legal tools – mainly trespass and disorderly conduct statutes – are not adequate to deal with the main problem. Anti-abortion protests he said could have a "chilling effect" on people facing difficult life choices.

Progressives Rachel Siegel and Max Tracy support the buffer zone. Vince Brennan, the third progressive, looked for a way to reconcile his belief that "protest is positive" with an equally strong sense that health care is a human right.

"I'm not an anarchist," Brennan said, "but we need a place where that voice can be heard."

Occupy movement wants new encampment

The Occupy Burlington movement is also looking to expand its protests. In addition to picketing outside the Citizens Bank the Occupy movement wants to establish a new encampment this year. An attempt in early May to set up tents at Pomeroy Park in the Old North End was interrupted by the police. The group continues to hold General Assemblies, and uses social networks to organize events and show solidarity. Members of Occupy, often with signs, have been present recently whenever people gather to address officials.

"Even though I have sympathy toward goals of the Occupy movement, the events of last fall brought it home that that we as a community need to be clear," Weinberger explained. Although he expressed support for free speech and free assembly, "and those rights need to be respected, I intend to enforce regulations for all groups." That means an encampment will not be allowed in City Hall Park or other public locations where overnight camping is prohibited.

However, Weinberger also mentioned that the rules and ordinances on camping are not uniform throughout the city. Asked whether there are circumstances or places under which a permanent presence might be legally possible, he suggested that interested parties consult the statutes.

So far, however, Weinberger said "no one has come to me about camping on public lands."

By all accounts, Vermont Strong sales gaffe was "miscommunication"

BY ANNE GALLOWAY

Sometimes a story comes down to a single word.

"Inhale" is one that comes to mind, a la Bill Clinton.

In this case, the word in question is "sold" vs. "distributed," "produced" or "manufactured."

Last week Peter Hirschfeld of the Vermont Press Bureau reported that Gov. Peter Shumlin erroneously claimed the state had sold 25,000 Vermont Strong license plates at a press conference last month. (Governor's office press release.)

What's in 25,000 plates? For the Shumlin administration a potential credibility gap with the public — and for his political enemies a stick to beat him with in the upcoming campaign season.

Not to mention the potential sully of a good cause.

The WCAX account made it appear that Shumlin was overstating the case and grabbing headlines.

Previous gaffes helped to make the story stick. Shumlin once mistakenly claimed that 30 percent of Germany's energy came from solar power (it's actually 1 percent), and he said in his 2012 state budget address that the job growth rate in Vermont grew by 62 percent over the prior year. The figure Shumlin used actually referred to the percentage increase in job openings.

But was Shumlin engaging in hyperbolic politispeak in this instance? Sources say there could be a political undercurrent at work here — since the story was shopped around to at least three reporters.

Let's recap.

The April 5 announcement was part of a dog and pony show, in which Rob Ide, the commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, handed Shumlin the 25,000th plate. The governor duly purchased and donated the Vermont Strong plate to a Barre firefighter.

Trouble was, 25,000 plates hadn't actually been sold. And since this is a story about parsing the parsing, let's just say that money had not yet changed hands.

Thousands of plates had been distributed to area grocery stores, Vermont Life and Department of Motor Vehicle outlets around the state, and in some cases bills had been issued, but the fact was money wasn't exactly pouring in to benefit the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund and the Vermont Foodbank.

The bottom line? Money had been collected for 7,832 plates as of May 15, according to Glen Button, deputy commissioner of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund had received \$140,976 and the food bank \$15,664. The objective is to sell 50,000 plates in all for a total of \$1.25 million — \$1 million of which would go to Irene victims. So far, about 28,000 have been manufactured.

On May 7, a week before the Vermont Press Bureau story broke, Ide told VTDigger that as far as he was concerned the plates were as good as sold. The department had distributed 9,990 plates to large vendors like Shaw's, Price Chopper and Hannafords. At that point, he said, the department had billed out \$327,500 to vendors.

"If we give them an invoice," Ide said. "In my book I've sold them."

A week later, Ide, who helped to plan the celebratory presser with Shumlin's press secretary Sue Allen, said "we miscommunicated." Ide meant to say that 25,000 had been manufactured and put into the distribution stream — not sold.

Email, he said, is not his best form of communication. Ide apparently didn't interpret the email from Allen with the subject line "Any chance we could sell the 25,000 license plate on Thursday?" the same way she did. But in a previous email he named a date and exact time for when the 25,000th plate would be sold: 11:18 a.m. on April 4.

"It is what it is," Ide said. "It was clearly a miscommunication, and I'm very apologetic about that."

Who is at fault here? No one, according to Allen. In an interview, she called it "an honest mistake."

"The governor's been very candid," Allen said. "When things go right, he gets all credit. When things go wrong he gets blame. It was a mistake and we're sorry."

Ditto, Alex MacLean, Shumlin's campaign manager and secretary of Civil and Military Affairs: "I'm not going to point fingers."

Chris Graff, an executive with National Life Insurance Group and a member of the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund board, says the story was a tempest in a teapot. What really matters is ensuring that the state continues to sell as many plates as possible for Irene victims.

"We were disappointed to see we hadn't sold 25,000 plates, but I know that the event itself was done in good faith that the governor and everyone in the office truly thought the 25,000th plate was being sold because they contacted us," Graff said.

Graff said it was an embarrassment for the administration and "it's on something you don't want to really affect."

"We need to do everything possible to raise money for Irene survivors and the administration feels that sharply," Graff said. "They have been incredibly apologetic for this mistake."

Allen couldn't agree more. "We just want people to go out and buy the plates," she said. "They don't just mean financial assistance for Irene victims, they are a reminder to people who are still trying to recover."

Meanwhile, the Department of Motor Vehicles is waiting for sales to catch up with inventory. Ide says the manufacture of new Vermont Strong plates has been put on hold until the state moves more of the roughly 20,000 plates it has on hand.

Fay: Affordable Care Act credits can help small businesses

Editor's note: This op-ed is by Donna Sutton Fay, the policy director for the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security Education Fund.

Vermont small businesses may be missing out on \$45.64 million annually in health care tax credits available under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), according to a new report released by Families USA and the Small Business Majority.

The ACA provides for federal tax credits for small businesses with fewer than 25 full-time employees and average annual wages of less than \$50,000. The report estimates that in 2011 Vermont had approximately 10,350 small businesses eligible for the credit, employing 47,200 workers. The average credit per worker is estimated to be \$966 annually.

Despite what some groups have been saying, the Affordable Care Act is good for small businesses. This tax credit offers real money to small businesses struggling to provide health insurance for their employees."

Despite what some groups have been saying, the Affordable Care Act is good for small businesses. This tax credit offers real money to small businesses struggling to provide health insurance for their employees. We hear from small businesses all the time who want to provide health insurance to their employees but who are not able to do so. This tax

credit could really help them. It also could free up money that small business owners could use to reinvest in their business.

To qualify for the tax credit, the small business must pay for at least 50 percent of the employee's health insurance premiums. The tax credit is worth up to 35 percent of the cost of the health insurance, increasing to 50 percent in 2014 when the health insurance exchange is up and running.

The tax credit is one tool the ACA offers small employers to make it easier to provide insurance. However, if they are not able to or chose not to, their employees will be able to buy insurance through the exchange. Small businesses do not have to pay a penalty if they do not offer insurance. Premium tax credits are available for income up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and cost-sharing subsidies are available up to 250 percent. Four hundred percent FPL is approximately \$92,000/year for a family of four and \$45,000 for an individual.

PRESS RELEASE:

Risks to public health from biomass burning — American Lung Association speaks

Tuesday, May 22nd at 7 PM – Unitarian Universalist Church

21 Fairground Road – Springfield, Vermont

Special Guest Speaker – Theodore Marcy MD, MPH

Vermont Lung Center UVM – American Lung Association.

The North Springfield Action (NoSag) group is pleased to have a special guest speaker at our May Public Event. We invite our members, the public and our town's leadership who are concerned for our health and the health of our community, our families and neighbors to join us. Dr. Theodore Marcy will be discussing the importance of keeping our air clean and how particulates can affect us. Issues related to Respiratory Health from Backyard Burning will be presented. Those particulates include the emissions from woody biomass for electricity production and the fact it is harmful to us all.

This battle to save our community has just begun. It begins with its concerned citizens and the force of us all working together to protect the air quality, water rights, and our costs attached to the upkeep of our roads from heavy truck traffic and our property values.

North Springfield Action Group

"Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not to originate with environmental leaders. Our role is to hold fast to what we believe is right, to fight for it, to find allies, and to adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or our friends to win, then let someone else propose the compromise, which we must then work hard to coax our way. We thus become a nucleus around which activists can build and function." – David Brower

Governor Shumlin to praise Outright Vermont Wednesday

Burlington, VT – This Wednesday, May 23rd, from 2:45pm-3:15pm, Governor Peter Shumlin will visit the Outright Vermont queer youth space at 241 N. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT to thank the youth, staff, board, and volunteers for their work to advocate for stronger anti-harassment legislation this year.

Bill H412, which allows individuals to sue schools for not stopping harassment, and H771, which requires schools to adopt harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention policies, both passed both the Vermont House and Senate by the end of the session in early May. Outright Vermont, along with the Vermont Human Rights' Commission and the RU12?

Community Center, advocated with lawmakers for weeks to ensure that the two bills would pass to strengthen the current anti-harassment laws that protect all Vermont youth in schools.

"Governor Shumlin has demonstrated his support of the queer community in many ways over the years, but it is his unwavering support for the safety and celebration of queer youth that really makes him stand out," said Melissa Murray, Outright Vermont's Executive Director. "We are proud and excited to have him come to our queer youth space in Burlington on Wednesday!"

Members of the press invited to attend this brief event!

For more info, call 802.865.9677 or email Llu Mulvaney-Stanak at llu@outrightvt.org

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 23:

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Sen. Hartwell backs AG Sorrell's bid BY NEAL GOSWAMI

BENNINGTON -- Bennington County Sen. Robert Hartwell has endorsed Attorney General William Sorrell in his re-election bid, splitting the county's Senate delegation in the Democratic primary.

Sorrell, who was first appointed to the position by former Gov. Howard Dean in 1997, has won re-election every two years since, is facing a primary challenge from Chittenden County State's Attorney TJ Donovan. On Monday, Donovan received the backing of Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sorrell announced his own endorsement Monday by four state senators, including Hartwell, a Democrat who has served since 2007. Hartwell, who is chairman of the Senate Institutions Committee, focused on Sorrell's work on civil cases. He said Sorrell has successfully defended Vermont's auto emissions standards against challenges, helping to set a national precedent and protecting the state's environment.

Civil cases

"That is a very important case," Hartwell said. "I think that was very significant and a big win."

Hartwell said Sorrell's work on civil cases has brought in millions of dollars in revenue for the state that has helped to support important programs.

"I think my feeling is that I haven't seen a reason to replace Bill Sorrell," he said. "There are a lot of pieces of litigation that an attorney general's office works on, and this one has been no exception. They are bringing a lot of revenue into the state."

Sorrell has also lost some cases, including a case concerning the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. A federal judge ruled that legislation passed in Vermont could not prevent plant owner Entergy from seeking a decision from the state's Public Service Board about continuing operations.

Hartwell said lawmakers are more at fault because many discussed safety issues during the debate of the legislation, which is the purview of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"The Vermont Yankee part didn't turn out very well, but I think one has to remember that the attorney general's office, and the attorney general, has to deal with what they are given. They weren't given a very good hand there," he said. "I thought that they did the best they could with a bad set of circumstances."

Franklin County Sen. Sara Kittell and Addison County Sens. Claire Ayer and Harold Giard also endorsed Sorrell on Monday. Ayer also touted Sorrell's civil case successes in a statement released by the campaign.

"As Attorney General, Bill Sorrell has made Vermont a national leader on public health matters. Bill's fight against big tobacco alone has secured more than \$300 million dollars for Vermonters, with an additional \$25 million guaranteed every year. You can't argue with success like that," she said.

Sears' endorsement of Donovan focused on criminal cases, and what the two have said is an epidemic of opiate addiction in the state. Donovan said addressing the opiate problem, which he said is causing an increase in property crimes, will be a major part of his campaign.

Hartwell said he plans to support whichever candidate wins the primary. He said Donovan's experience as Chittenden County's top prosecutor is notable.

"It's no question that it's a valuable, qualifying background," Hartwell said.

Independent school likely to be delayed

BY DAWSON RASPUZZI

NORTH BENNINGTON -- It appears an independent school will not take the place of North Bennington Graded School next school year.

The NBGS Prudential Committee has placed a June 1 deadline on a decision whether to close the public school, and officials say the independent school apparently will not be approved by the state this month.

State board of Education Chairman Stephan Morse said Tuesday that the application for the independent Village School of North Bennington will not prompt a special meeting before June 1 and is not expected to be on the June 19 regular meeting agenda either. The state board does not meet in July, so the topic likely will not be addressed until August at the earliest.

Although Commissioner of Education Armando Vilaseca recommended the board approve the independent school application at last week's state board meeting in Bennington, the board unanimously tabled the discussion indefinitely. Because it was tabled, the board may not put it on an agenda until the board votes to do so, Morse said.

"I would doubt it would be on the June agenda," Morse said. "The motion at the May meeting was it was tabled. Under the parliamentary rules, a board member would have to move to take it off the table." The board would then have to vote favorably to put the discussion on a future agenda, he said.

At the May 15 meeting a motion was made to approve the application, but it was not seconded. A motion was then made to table the application until June, although that motion also failed to receive a second. A motion was then made, seconded and voted in favor to table the discussion without setting a date to address it again. Some board members raised concerns at that meeting that approving the application would set precedent for districts to close public schools and open independent schools in their place. Before doing that, some board members said they wanted to have a larger, philosophical conversation. Other members of the board, including Morse, raised concerns that the intention of the independent school was to offer special education services, but the action before the board was only for general education because an agreement has yet to be reached to contract special education services from Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union.

Had the state board approved the application, the Prudential Committee intended to close the public elementary school and lease the building to the Village School. The public district then would have paid tuition for children to attend the school of their choice.

The Prudential Committee sent a letter to residents May 18, which is also on the school's website, indicating that a decision on whether to close the public school would be made no later than June 1. The Prudential Committee has said it will not close the school without the independent school's approval.

The letter also encourages residents to contact Vilaseca to ask him to encourage the state board to approve the independent school application as soon as possible.

The letter, intended to update people about where the process stands, insinuates that the state board acted inappropriately in not approving the independent school application.

"By Department regulations, they must take action. By state statute, if the applicant meets requirements, they must approve," the letter says. It also says the state board "engaged in public discussion with citizens attending about matters not germane to the application."

Chairman Raymond Mullineaux could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

The state board asked for testimony from the dozens of people in the audience May 15, which resulted in opinions for and against the application. Much of the conversation was around the process the Prudential Committee has taken, not the independent school application itself. The board and commissioner said they wanted to put the application in context to understand the motive for closing the public school.

In March, voters supported articles allowing the Prudential Committee to close the Graded School at the end of the current school year and to lease the building to the Village School.

Another vote would be necessary for the Prudential Committee to close the school after next school year.

The letter sent to residents affirms comments members of the Prudential Committee have made in the past that they will continue working toward affording residents elementary school choice even if it is not next school year.

EDITORIAL: DOWNTOWN EDUCATION

Don't look now, but Bennington's downtown might be in for a lesson in economic development, provided by at least three local institutions of higher learning.

Southern Vermont College announced last week that it will lease 10,000 square feet of the Vermont Mill Properties on Benmont Avenue to house its nursing and radiologic sciences programs. SVC has agreed to a 10-year lease of 5,000 square feet on both the third and fourth floors to centralize the nursing program and help solve space issues the college is seeing as enrollment continues to climb.

The college intends to invest \$300,000 to \$400,000 on renovations to construct classrooms, laboratories and offices beginning in mid-June. The expectation is the renovations will be complete by mid-August in time for the start of the fall semester.

A few days later, Northeastern Baptist College, which has a lease agreement with the Grace Christian School to use two upper floors of the K-12 school on Kocher Drive, announced that the former Paradise Restaurant building will house the new college's library.

"We have secured a lease option on that and we are currently preparing for that to be our library," President Mark Ballard said.

What was once a ballroom on one side of the Paradise on West Main Street will serve as space for the library's main collection. The other side, formerly used as a dining room, will provide space for special collections and offices. Some work has begun, but more construction is expected to take place this summer after permits are obtained. An opening for the school with about 100 students is expected in 2013, but the long-range plan is to enroll about 500 students.

Consider that 500 students would be about the enrollment at SVC today and not far below the undergraduate enrollment at Bennington College, a bit under 700. And there would be a Northeastern Baptist College facility in the downtown, as well as nearby on Kocher Drive.

Now, Vermont Technical College: That institution is exploring options to expand its nursing program in Bennington. Dean of Administration Geoffrey Lindemer said the college has already expanded its nursing program here by adding about 10 spots.

"Because of that expansion, and a desire to expand the program even more, the college is looking for new space in Bennington, he said. In fact, the college is eyeing vacant space at 210 South St., which is owned by Applejack Real Estate.

The college hopes to find space and have it retrofitted for the nursing program to allow it to open in time for classes in the fall.

All of this collegiate activity downtown or near the downtown could provide a major boost to the business community here, which has struggled through the recession, with the effects of development along Northside Drive, and with effects of the Bennington Bypass. This is the kind of good news that might convince a businessperson to open a shop downtown, or expand one, especially one catering to students.

That's an easy lesson to take anytime, especially in the current economy.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 5:44 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 23:

WCAX:

Top story were the gubernatorial poll results (showing Shumlin and Obama with 60 percent of the vote if elections were held today). See yesterday's afternoon clips for specifics.

Sen. Sanders call for Federal Reserve reform

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The JP Morgan financial fiasco is fueling a new push to reform the Federal Reserve.

The big Wall Street bank announced earlier this month it lost at least \$2 Billion in a hedging investment strategy. Then came word that JP Morgan's chief sits on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York -- the regulators watching Wall Street banks. Tuesday - Senator Bernie Sanders joined two others -- proposing a bill to bar bank executives from sitting on fed boards.

"The people quote unquote regulating the banks are the exact same people who are being regulated. If this is not a clear example of the fox guarding the hen house I don't know what is," Sanders said.

It is not clear if the bill will pick up support. There is no similar measure in the House right now. Federal Reserve rules already bar regional directors from taking part in bank regulation. The idea behind having bank executives on boards is to give economic insight to regulators.

Poll: Vermonters approve of Democrat leaders in House and Senate

BURLINGTON, Vt. - A new poll shows Vermonters approve of both Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell and House Speaker Shap Smith.

POLL:

Our pollster, Castleton Polling Institute, asked 607 registered Vermont voters how they would vote.

Here are the results:

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Shap Smith is doing as speaker of the House of Vermont?
PERCENT

APPROVE 50.9%
DISAPPROVE 15.8%
NOT SURE
32.6%

REFUSED .7%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of the job State Senator John Campbell is doing as Senate president pro-tem of Vermont?

PERCENT

APPROVE 32.6%

DISAPPROVE 10.7%

NOT SURE

55.7%

REFUSED 1%

This survey was conducted for WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine by the Castleton Polling Institute at Castleton College. A total of 607 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone between May 7th to May 16th.

Vt. now part of fed's 'Secure Communities' program

BURLINGTON, Vt. - With a roll of a finger law enforcement can lock your prints into a database.

"State law says that when we arrest somebody essentially we have to fingerprint them. We in fact do that and they're sent to the repository," Burlington Deputy Police Chief Andi Higbee said.

That state repository then shares the fingerprints with the FBI. In Vermont that used to be where the process stopped. But Tuesday federal authorities gave the go-ahead for the FBI to automatically send that information to U.S. immigration officials. It's called the Secure Communities Program and it's already operational in most of the country. The feds say it's designed to aid the deportation of illegal immigrants who commit crimes here, with a priority given to the most dangerous criminals.

"We're always afraid, we're always in a corner, we're always in the shadows. We always live in fear," Danilo Lopez said.

Lopez-- a former undocumented dairy worker who's lived in Vermont for four years-- opposes the program. He's part of an advocacy group called Migrant Justice. He and his colleagues say this program will lead to the deportation of many migrant workers convicted of minor offenses, not violent crimes.

"This program is billed and advertised as targeting the most dangerous criminals, but that's absolutely not true," Lopez said. "We feel that this program really criminalizes the immigrant community as a whole and in Vermont it could result in more deportations and really what that means for Vermont is a big impact on the agriculture."

But a spokesperson for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement say Secure Communities is "... the single most valuable tool in allowing the agency to eliminate the ad hoc approach of the past and focus on criminal aliens and repeat immigration law violators."

Over the last three years, ICE has helped deport more than 135,000 convicted criminal aliens; one-third for violent offenses like murder, rape and sexual abuse of children. But advocates in Vermont are outraged that the public was not informed before this federal mandate was rolled out. They say it reverses the progress the state has made in bias-free policing. They also fear it will prevent victims and witnesses of crime from coming forward.

"In the migrant immigrant community word spreads out fast. If Secure Communities comes to place and people end up deported after contact with police, a lot of that trust is compromised," said Natalia Fajardo of Migrant Justice.

"We would hope it wouldn't bar anyone from bringing information forward to help us solve crime," Higbee said.

In Burlington, police say they never fingerprint or question victims or witnesses of crime and S-COMM won't change that.

Vt Strong license plate sales pick up

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Those charity Vermont Strong license plates have seen an uptick in sales following news that the Shumlin administration reported inflated sales numbers.

WCAX News ran a story last Wednesday that the governor had misstated the number of plates sold. He held a press conference declaring the sale of the 25,000th plate, but in reality only 8,000 had been sold.

Tuesday, Vt. Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Rob Ide said that number is close to 12,000. Ide says it's important to point out that each plate the state has been manufactured is stocked somewhere in a store. He says the number of plates sold changes by the hour.

"People need to understand that these numbers are changing daily. We're getting new orders, we're receiving money daily. As a very small example I sold 13 plates at the Montpelier Rotary Club yesterday when I spoke there at lunch. There's constant activity and we're actually seeing increased activity right now," Ide said.

Ide says it often takes a day or so for money to be processed by the state. Currently another 950 plates have been paid for and the state is expected to process them within the next 24 hours.

Deportation threat temporarily lifted for Vt lesbian couple

DUMMERSTON, Vt. - Takako Ueda and Frances Herbert were married in Vermont last year. But Ueda, who is from Japan and no longer has a student VISA, was still at risk of being deported. Because the Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as one man and one woman, the benefits-- like a green card-- granted to noncitizen spouses did not extend to Ueda. The couple is challenging the law in federal court. Tuesday, they found out that while the suit moves forward, Ueda will not be kicked out of the country.

"We are just so grateful that we have all the support and I am just so overwhelmed. Finally, I have legal documents," Ueda said.

The deferred action, as it is called, means for the next two years Ueda is legally allowed to be in this country even though she is technically an illegal immigrant.

"It's a reprieve," said Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vermont. "So while we are waiting, they are legally allowed to be here together and not live with this incredible apprehension about whether two people who have been together, who love each other are going to be separated."

But for these women who have known each other for 30 years, the reprieve is only one step in the process.

"We know for two years that we won't be separated and certainly the end goal is that Takako gets a green card and has permanent residency in the United States," Frances Herbert said.

In order for that to happen, DOMA needs to be overturned by Congress or declared unconstitutional by the courts.

"My hope is that DOMA is overthrown, we should have never passed it," Welch said. "But the federal government, in this case very clearly, defers to the state decision on what defines marriage."

And others, like those who are part of an LGBT advocacy group at Dartmouth College, want to see DOMA disappear as well.

"I think it doesn't make sense to people that this couple can be legally married in Vermont and being perceived and accepted by their neighbors and their community as a married couple, but then not enjoy the federal privileges of being a married couple," said Anna Roth, a peer mentor.

While the couple may have a lot of support in our region, same-sex marriage remains controversial and there continues to be a lot of opposition. In fact, 31 states have passed amendments banning it.

FOX44:

Vt. Now Part of Fed's 'Secure Communities' Program

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The state of Vermont is now a part of a federal program aimed at identifying illegal immigrants arrested and charged with crimes.

The Department of Homeland Security says its Secure Communities program went into effect Tuesday in Vermont.

The program shares the fingerprints of illegal immigrants charged with crimes with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

In Burlington Tuesday, dozens of people protested the new program including outside President Barack Obama's Vermont campaign office.

They say during his presidency more people are being thrown out of the country.

"Obama has earned his title as Deporter-in-Chief," says Natalia Fajardo, from Migrant Justice.

Fajardo says the newest injustice is the president's program, 'Secure Communities.'

"It's a program that reeking havoc everywhere else in the country, tearing families apart, criminalizing immigrants and unfortunately Obama, who campaigned on promises of immigration reform, has actually delivered the opposite," says Fajardo.

Vermont's Public Safety commissioner says this is not about going after people who are pulled over for simple traffic issues. He says this is about going after more serious criminals.

Commissioner Keith Flynn says only if someone is arrested would police send their fingerprints to the feds.

Supporters of the potentially thousands of illegal immigrants in Vermont want the state to fight the program.

Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy wants to go further.

"We need a major change in immigration laws not just in Vermont, not just for Vermont, but for the whole country," says Leahy.

Homeland Security says that since Secure Communities began in 2008, more than 135,000 illegal immigrants with criminal records have been deported after being identified by the program.

Fajardo says the program will break the trust that has been built up in Vermont between immigrants and the police.

WPTZ:

BHS superintendent working on racism plan
Minority population, discrimination increased over past years

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Allegations of racism in Burlington High School have come to a boiling point in recent weeks. Superintendent Jeanne Collins now said she regrets not having done more, but said she is working on a plan. Vermont high school students talk about inequality. A group of immigrant students from two Chittenden County high schools are telling lawmakers they have to deal with racism in school most every day.

It's these recent reports of discrimination that pushed her to start working with experts, talking with other school districts and involving the community in an overdue discussion.

Adega Bulle moved to Burlington almost a decade ago from Somalia. But it wasn't until this year, her first one at Burlington High School, that she started to feel unwelcome.

"'Dirty African, you don't belong here, go back to Africa,'" Bulle said are just some of the words she's heard in the high school's hallways and classrooms. The freshman said that racism and discrimination is exclusive to BHS.

"My best friend goes to school in Essex. She told me that she's always welcome there. She never had that kind of difficulty," said Bulle.

"I wasn't aggressive enough, I wasn't loud enough," said Collins. "Looking back, I could have done more. Looking forward, I have more to do."

In recent months, the refugee students have held a protest outside the school and had numerous meetings with school administrators.

"Little things got better, but not that good," said Bulle.

Now Collins said she's come up with a new plan to make teachers and administrators more responsive to racism complaints.

"My goal is not only that we come out the other end of this with an improved school system for our students, but that we'll actually be able to make a difference in other school districts across the state and across the country," said Collins.

Bulle hopes that plan includes changes to class make-up and cafeteria seating. Her end goal is synonymous with Collins.'

"We just want to make a difference," Bulle said.
Vermont high school students talk about inequality

A group of immigrant students from two Chittenden County high schools are telling lawmakers they have to deal with racism in school most every day.

Collins said she'll reveal more details of her plan next week.