

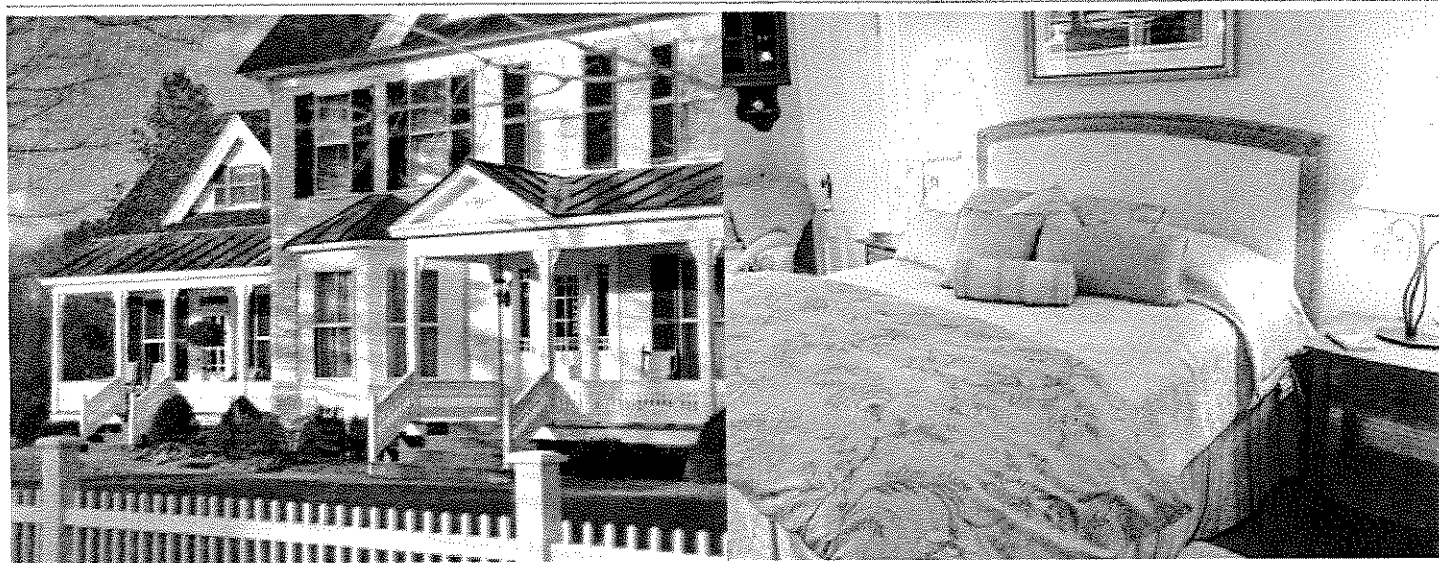
London, Sarah

From: ShackletonThomas <info@shackletonthomas.com>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Receive a Vermont Getaway With Your Bed Purchase



ShackletonThomas

Makers of exquisite handmade furniture & pottery



RECEIVE A VERMONT GETAWAY WITH YOUR BED PURCHASE

Have you been dreaming of being warm and cozy in a beautifully hand-crafted ShackletonThomas bed? Have you been longing to visit Vermont? When you purchase or place an order for a bed, we'll give you a getaway to Vermont!

You will enjoy a two night getaway to a local inn - stay at [The Jackson House Inn](#), [The Kedron Valley Inn](#), [The Woodstocker Inn](#), or [The Woodstock Inn & Resort](#) - with a voucher towards a meal at a local restaurant. For the full terms and conditions, please [visit our website](#).

[Browse our in-stock beds on sale](#), or [view beds that can be made to order](#). If you don't see the perfect bed for you,

our sales and design team would love to work with you to create your perfect new bed.

*** View Our In-Stock Beds ***



www.ShackletonThomas.com

(802) 672-5175

102 Mill Rd

Bridgewater, VT

05034

If you are having trouble viewing the images below, [click here](#) to view as a webpage.
If you wish to unsubscribe, [click here](#), and enter "unsubscribe" in the message field.

You are subscribed as <BILL.LOFY@state.vt.us>. Click [here](#) to manage your email subscription preferences.

Click [here](#) or reply to this email with 'unsubscribe' in the subject to unsubscribe from this list or if you feel you have received this message in error.

This message was sent from Shackleton Thomas The Mill, Route 4 Post Office Box 48 Bridgewater VT 05034 Telephone: 802.672.5175; fax 802.672.5177.

Click [here](#) to report email abuse.

From: HHS IEA (OS/IEA) <HHSIEA@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 3:05 PM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: Weekly ACA Bulletin 01_11_2013
Attachments: Weekly ACA Bulletin 01_11_2013.doc

HealthCare.gov HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News

Bulletin: Friday, January 11th, 2013

Visit HealthCare.Gov and CuidadodeSalud.Gov, two consumer-focused health care websites to: [find insurance options](#), [learn about prevention](#), [compare care quality](#), and [learn about the law](#). How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

Secretary's Corner

➤ **January 10, 2013**

Doctors and health care providers have formed 106 new Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) in Medicare, ensuring as many as 4 million Medicare beneficiaries now have access to high-quality, coordinated care across the United States, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced today. View the full release [here](#).

Affordable Care Act News

➤ **January 7, 2013**

Analysts in the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported their findings from the 2011 national health expenditure data. View the abstract [here](#).

➤ **January 7, 2013**

The Department of Health and Human Services announced a new FOA. The Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment (Cycle III) was posted as of January 7, 2013. View the grant announcement [here](#).

Healthcare.gov Blog

➤ **January 10, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog to announce more good news on Medicare. "...A new analysis shows the growth in Medicare spending per beneficiary has continued at a historically slow pace. This report follows news earlier this week that overall Medicare spending, as well as total U.S. health care spending, has been growing at a lower rate than it has been in the past. View the full blog [here](#).

➤ **January 7, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog to discuss how the growth of health care spending remains at a historic low. "Today, we got some very good news when the official numbers for health care spending were released. New statistics from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services show that the overall growth in health spending was at a historic low for the third year in a row. According to the annual Report of National Health Expenditures, total U.S. health spending grew 3.9 percent in 2011. That's the same rate of growth as in 2009 and 2010, and in all three years spending grew more slowly than in any other year in the 51 year history of the report." View the full blog [here](#).

Brochures & Educational Materials

Below you'll find brochures and materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For other brochures and resources visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/brochures/index.html>.

- [ACA Educational PowerPoints](#)

The Top Five Things You Need to Know

- Families with Children (PDF – [English 7.27 MB](#), [Spanish 1.23 MB](#))
- Health Care Providers (PDF – [English 2.71 MB](#), [Spanish 517 KB](#))
- People with Disabilities (PDF – [English 2.56 MB](#), [Spanish 930 KB](#))
- Seniors (PDF – [English 11.3 MB](#), [Spanish 1.54 MB](#))
- Small Business Owners (PDF – [English 4.22 MB](#), [Spanish 646 KB](#))
- Young Adults (PDF – [English 6.56 MB](#), [Spanish 919 KB](#))

Information for Consumers and Small Businesses

- [The Health Care Law & You](#) (PDF – 8.99 MB)
- [Information for Small Businesses](#) (PDF – 763 KB)

MyCare: Videos and Stories

Find videos and stories related to how the Affordable Care Act has helped individuals across the country.
<http://www.healthcare.gov/mycare/stories.html>

The Affordable Care Act at Two Years

- [The Affordable Care Act and Women](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Gives American Families Greater Control Over Their Own Health Care](#)
- [The Affordable care Act Gives Parents Greater Control Over Their Children's Health Care](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Young Adults](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Seniors](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps African Americans](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Latinos](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Rural America](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Women](#)

- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Small Businesses](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps Americans with Disabilities](#)
- [The Affordable Care Act Helps LGBT Americans](#)
- [Health Reform for American Veterans and Military Personnel](#)

State by State Fact Sheets

Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

- [State By State Fact Sheets](#)
- [Learn the facts and statistics about how the Affordable Care Act will benefit each state.](#)

Regulations and Guidance

Regulations and guidance are used to implement many of the Affordable Care Act provisions that address both private and public health insurance.

- [Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment](#)
- [Eligibility Changes under Affordable Care Act](#)
- [Certain Preventive Services under Affordable Care Act](#)
- [Student Health Insurance Coverage](#)

Grants

The Affordable Care Act creates a number of new grant opportunities. Below, you will find links to the grant centers for the agencies administering these grants. There, and at [Grants.gov](#), you can search for relevant grant opportunities.

- [CDC National Public Health Improvement Initiative \(NPHII\) Grants](#)
- [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight Grants](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families Grants](#)
- [Administration on Aging Grants](#)
- [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#)
- [Health Resources and Services Administration Grants](#)
- [Indian Health Service Grants](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Grants](#)

- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants](#)

Special Programs

Several new programs across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services support the work of the Affordable Care Act. You will find information about these programs on this page.

- [Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs](#)

Councils & Groups

The Affordable Care Act establishes a number of councils and groups to carry out provisions in the law. To learn more about the organizations, click on a link below:

- [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight \(CCIIO\)](#)
- [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#)
- [Interagency Working Group on Health Care Quality](#)
- [National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council](#)

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 2:12 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN 11 (1)

WCAX:

Sheffield man pleads guilty in child sexting case

A Vermont man has pleaded guilty to persuading a 12-year-old girl to take nude photos of herself and send the images to his cellphone.

The U.S. Attorney's office says Richard Fletcher, 26, of Sheffield, pleaded guilty to producing, receiving and possessing child pornography in federal court Wednesday.

Fletcher admitted that in 2011 he persuaded the girl in Utah to take the photos and send him the images.

Fletcher and the girl never met face-to-face. Prosecutors said he met her on a social media website, obtained her cellphone number, and began calling and texting her. They said he pressed for the photos after persuading the girl that he loved her and wanted her to be his girlfriend.

Fletcher is scheduled to be sentenced on April 22.

Vt. gets disaster online resource funding

Sen. Patrick Leahy says expanding Vermont's digital world will help when real-life disaster strikes.

Leahy led Vermont's delegation in securing a \$1.8 million grant to improve access to online resources and broadband internet to assist in economic recovery. The Vermont Council on Rural Development will deploy those funds to expand internet access and town-based social networks in 25 of the communities hit hardest by Tropical Storm Irene.

Leahy says areas with strong online connections are recovering faster than others.

"Vermont Council on Rural Development is going to help strengthen our already well-connected physical communities by making them well-connected virtual communities. The key to success is to make sure people can not only get online, but once they're online they know where the resources are," said Leahy, D-Vermont.

The rollout is scheduled to take place over the next 18 months. Efforts will range from expansion of locally based online communities such as Front Porch Forum, to partnering with IBM to create three Microsoft academies in Vermont. VCRD spokespeople say about 25 communities will receive extensive upgrades.

CDC: Flu reaches epidemic levels

The flu outbreak across the country is officially an epidemic, that's according to the Centers for Disease Control which now reports flu activity is widespread in 47 states, including Vermont.

Three people have died in Vermont so far this flu season. All three were adults, two of them elderly and all three had serious underlying medical conditions.

Vermont health officials are reporting big jumps in influenza statewide, but doctors are not required to report flu cases to the state and not everyone gets tested, so it's difficult to give an exact number of sick people.

Doctors say vaccination is the best prevention, but if you do get sick, they offer this advice:

"If you don't have other problems, if you're not having difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, getting dehydrated and you're not in those high-risk categories-- you should stay home. Don't go to work; don't go to school. Stay home," said Dr. Stephen Leffler of Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Leffler urges people who have not yet been vaccinated to go get a flu shot now. The Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle counties will be holding a walk-in flu clinic Friday from 1-3 p.m. at its Prim Road location in Colchester.

Fox 44:

Vermont Yankee Showdown Nears

Attorneys for the State of Vermont and Entergy, owner of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, are preparing for a major showdown on Monday.

That's when a hearing is scheduled in a lawsuit before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City.

"Monday's argument is very important," says Cheryl Hanna, Vermont Law School professor.

Hanna says the State of Vermont has a tough job ahead. That's because a year ago, a federal judge, Garvan Murtha, ruled Vermont could not shut the Vernon, Vt. plant down.

"And the second circuit will decide if Judge Murtha got the law right essentially," says Hanna.

At issue, a Vermont law that required Yankee to get the okay from the legislature to keep running.

Entergy argues that was really about safety concerns, which is the role of the federal government. The state disagrees.

Now it's up to federal judges to decide who is right.

"It's going to signal whether or not the federal courts are willing to allow a state to shut down a federally regulated nuclear power plant or not," says Hanna.

For this round, Hanna says both sides have hired expensive attorneys who are used to big time cases. Though she says that might not be enough for Vermont to win.

"I do think that federal law has always favored Entergy in the this case," says Hanna.

Legal experts don't expect any resolution in the federal courts anytime soon. A decision from the second circuit which could take a year could be appealed.

Eventually the case could end up at the Supreme Court.

Starting Salaries for 2012 Grads A Little Higher Than Years Past

Starting salaries for the class of 2012 were a little higher than in years past. However, that's only if they found a job.

A new survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers showed the average salary of new grads at a little more than \$44,000.

That's the best year-over-year rise since the class of 2008.

A separate survey of 2012 grads showed that fewer than 30% of students polled had a job offer ahead of graduation.

Forecasters Expect Gas Prices to Fall in 2013

If your New Year's resolution was to pay less for gas, you might have an easier time keeping it.

That's because while the price of meat, healthcare and taxes are all set to take a bigger bite out of your budget this year, it looks like our gas bills are expected to drop for the first time in 4 years.

So what's causing the drop?

Forecasters say the supply of oil is up and the demand in the United States is surprisingly weak right now.

The average price for a gallon of gas will fall 5% to \$3.44. Although that would still be the third-highest average price ever, it won't compare to last year's record.

VPR:

Dean On 2016 Run: 'Probably Not, But We'll See'

Will Howard Dean make another run for the presidency in 2016? He says "probably not, but we'll see."

Dean tells The Associated Press he isn't ruling out the possibility of seeking the Democratic nomination, which he tried for and didn't get in 2004.

When asked about a possible 2016 run, the former Vermont governor laughed and said he'd have to see a psychiatrist first.

He says in a second run, a candidate knows what he or she is getting into.

Dean's 2004 campaign fizzled after a poor finish in the Iowa primary.

But he's still regarded as a pioneer in using the Internet and grassroots fundraising as political tools.

London, Sarah

From: Desilets, Jane <jdesilets@iso-ne.com>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 1:07 PM
To: Connecticut Public Regulatory Authority; Luysterborghs, Robert; Honorable Dannel P. Malloy; Honorable Dannel P. Malloy; Honorable Dannel P. Malloy; Honorable John H. Lynch; Honorable Lincoln Chafee; Honorable Paul LePage; Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Maine PUC; Keene, John J.; NECPUC Counsel; New England Conference of Public Utilities; New England Conference of Public Utilities; New England Governors, State Utility ; Hunt, Heather; NH PUC; Rhode Island PUC; Ucci, Nick; Rhode Island PUC; Rhode Island PUC; Jordan, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Stonier, Pam
Subject: Filing of Revisions to ISO New England Information Policy to Permit Info Sharing with other ISOs and Market Monitors
Attachments: er13-750-000_info_sharing_1-11-2013.pdf

Today, ISO New England Inc., joined by the New England Power Pool, filed revisions to the ISO New England Information Policy to permit the sharing of confidential information with other ISO/RTOs and their market monitors, when doing so is necessary to aid in an investigation into potential market violations, market design issues, or the assertion of market power. As explained in the filing, the sharing of confidential information is permitted only if adequate assurance is provided that the confidentiality of the information will be maintained and protected in the hands of the receiving ISO/RTO or market monitor.

The document is attached for your review.

Jane Desilets
Legal Department
ISO New England Inc.
One Sullivan Road
Holyoke, MA 01040

4
jdesilets@iso-ne.com

London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Dana Thompson -GOV-
<dana.thompson@maryland.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 12:43 PM
Subject: #1 Schools...again!

FYI:

[View in Browser](#)



Our Public Schools are #1 in America for 5 years in a row!



A Message from the Governor

For the fifth year in a row now, Education Week magazine has named Maryland's Public School system #1 in the country. We are #1 because of you: because of our students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, advocates and elected officials.

This hasn't been easy. We've worked together to make the tough choices that were necessary to tackle the nearly \$2 billion structural deficit we inherited in 2007. Now, that deficit is almost totally eliminated, and we've protected our AAA bond rating. But even as we've made more cuts to state government than any administration in the history of Maryland, we've remained focused on key priorities, like investing in schools and growing jobs for middle class families.

All Marylanders should be proud. Even during tough times, and even while other states were scaling back their commitment to schools -- we've chosen to make record investments in public education. Now, because of better choices and strategic investments, we can say again: "Maryland is #1."

Thank you,
Governor O'Malley

What's Happening?



Investing in our Schools



January 2013



Baltimore County Restaurant Week

Jan. 11-27 at 40 restaurants
Lunches and dinners range
from \$10.13 - \$35.13.

The Mousetrap at Vagabond Players

Fridays, Saturdays and
Sundays through Feb. 3 in
Fells Point
In the dead of winter, a
suspicious group of travelers
is stranded in a remote guest
house. A play by Agatha
Christie.

28th Annual Nautical & Wildlife Art Festival

January 19-20 in Ocean City
The Shore's premier
presentation of nautical &
wildlife artists in residence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Jan. 21 in Wye Mills
This family-friendly event at
Chesapeake College will
feature singing groups,
speakers and praise
dancers.

Paper Americana Show

Jan. 26 in Elkton

Earlier this week, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown visited Overlea High School in Baltimore County and announced \$336 million in school construction funding and upgrades for Maryland's public schools in the proposed FY2014 budget.

This funding continues the O'Malley-Brown Administration's commitment to modernizing and rebuilding Maryland's public schools. In addition, the funding will create, support and leverage an estimated 8,199 jobs. \$25 million in the proposal is dedicated to improving air conditioning in schools. [Read more about our commitment to schools.](#)



Best Value Colleges

According to [College Board](#), we've done more to hold down the rising cost of tuition than any other state in the nation. [Kiplinger Magazine's](#) recent report on Best Value Colleges is yet another indicator of Maryland's commitment to making college more affordable for more of our families.



Five Maryland colleges made Kiplinger's Top 100 Best Value Colleges. [Find out which schools made the list.](#)



Marylander on the Move: Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship

Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship is the Maryland Teacher of the Year. As an English Teacher at Rising Sun High School in Cecil County, Rhonda inspires 10th and 11th grade students every day. She's also a member of the School Improvement Team, participates in professional learning communities, facilitates school and county professional development, and mentors student teachers.



Rhonda wasn't always interested in education. In fact, she even considered dropping out of school. But she credits several of her teachers for inspiring her and helping her become the first member of her family to attend college. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Towson University in 1995, and now works to inspire our next generation of leaders.



Innovation Maryland: Google Plus' Hangout

Governor O'Malley recently received a letter from the University System of Maryland's Student Government President requesting a meeting to discuss higher education and Maryland's continued commitment to affordable college. Instead of a traditional in-person meeting, we decided to expand the conversation to more students by hosting both a meeting both in-person and online.



Featuring books, postcards, photographs, advertising, ephemera, \$3 admission, under 12 years free. Food for sale on premises.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.



Cast your vote in the #MDForward Contest!



MARYLAND TWEETS



Follow us on Twitter!

[@GovernorOMalley](#): From the earliest days of our Admin. job creation & it's primary ingredient, education - have topped our agenda

[@LtGovBrown](#): Happy to announce [we're committing \\$25M](#) to provide air conditioning in Maryland's schools currently going without.

[@WhipHoyer](#): Thanks to [@GovernorOMalley](#) & Superintendent Lowery for their commitment to ed. MD schools are #1 in the nation <http://1.usa.gov/WvkFH7>

[@MSEAeducators](#): MSEA President Betty Weller and [@GovernorOMalley](#) congratulate MD educators & celebrate #1 ranking from Education Week <http://bit.ly/URat1e>

[@StateMaryland](#): Our Maryland schools were once again ranked #1 by [@educationweek](#) and [here is how we continue to succeed](#) #Video

Through Google Plus' Hangout feature we were able to stream a portion of the event and take questions from students at their colleges around Maryland. [Watch a recap of the hangout.](#)

Hashtag of the Month: This month, use #MDSchools to celebrate another year of Maryland's Public Schools being ranked #1 in the nation. Thank an educator or share a story.

Maryland's Office of the Governor
Office of The Governor - 100 State Circle - Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925
[410-974-3901](tel:410-974-3901)

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[Forward Email](#) - [Unsubscribe Me](#)

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*** NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: Dana.Thompson@maryland.gov ***

Dana J. Thompson • Director, Federal Relations • Office of Gov. Martin O'Malley • State of Maryland • 202.624.1430 (o) • 202.783.3061 (f) • 443.336.2920 (c) • **Sign Up for Governor O'Malley's E-Newsletter** • *This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.*

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London, Sarah

From: David Gunn <dgunn@vlct.org>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 12:03 PM
To: Info
Subject: Link to 2013 VLCT Weekly Legislative Report No. 2

The January 11, 2013, issue of the VLCT Weekly Legislative Report is now archived at www.vlct.org/advocacy/weekly-legislative-reports, where we'll post all other issues during the 2013-2014 legislative biennium. If you cannot link to the VLCT website directly from this email, try copying and pasting the link into your web browser.

Subscription Information

1. If you do not wish to receive the Report via email, send an email message to wlr@vlct.org with "unsubscribe email" in the Subject line. Please include your name, municipality or organization, municipal position or title, and email address.
2. If you change your email address and wish to continue receiving the Report, send an email to wlr@vlct.org and include your name, municipality or organization, municipal position or title, and both your old and new email addresses.
3. If you are a municipal official and did not receive this message directly but would like to receive the Report via email, send an email to wlr@vlct.org with "subscribe email" in the Subject line. Include your name, municipality or organization, municipal position or title, and email address.

Note: All VLCT mailing lists, including email addresses, are public records. To view a copy of the Statement of VLCT Communications as Public Records, please go to www.vlct.org/assets/About-VLCT/VLCT_communications_statement_02-11.pdf.

Best regards,

David Gunn
Editor, Weekly Legislative Report
VLCT
89 Main Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Dana Thompson -GOV-
<dana.thompson@maryland.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 11:15 AM
To: Bloom, Michael
Cc: Caucus_list_policy Caucus
Subject: SOTU
Attachments: image005.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image004.jpg; image003.jpg

Thanks very much Michael. Just copying our group to make them aware as well.

On Fri, Jan 11, 2013 at 11:07 AM, Bloom, Michael <Michael.Bloom@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Speaker Boehner invites Pres Obama to deliver State of the Union Address to Joint Session of Congress on February 12.

Michael Tobias Bloom

Office of the Democratic Leader Honorable Nancy Pelosi

H-204 United States Capitol

Washington, D.C. 20515

p. [202-225-0100](tel:202-225-0100) f. [202-226-0938](tel:202-226-0938)

www.DemocraticLeader.gov



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* NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: Dana.Thompson@maryland.gov *

Dana J. Thompson • Director, Federal Relations • Office of Gov. Martin O'Malley • State of Maryland • 202.624.1430 (o) • 202.783.3061 (f) • (c) • **Sign Up for Governor O'Malley's E-Newsletter** • *This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.*

--

London, Sarah

From: Weather alerts from EMHS <WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Bosma, Mark <Mark.Bosma@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 11:02 AM
To: WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US
Subject: [WXALERTS] FW: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 11 January 2013
Attachments: ice_accum.jpg

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Stephen DiRienzo - NOAA Federal [mailto:stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 10:28 AM
To: _NWS ER ALY NY EMs; _NWS ER ALY VT EMs; _NWS ER ALY MA EMs; _NWS ER ALY CT EMs
Subject: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 11 January 2013

Dear Emergency Manager:

We are still forecasting some freezing rain today and tonight across the higher terrain of the Catskills, Adirondacks, Southern Green Mountains of Vermont and Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Freezing rain advisories have been issued for these areas.

I've attached a graphic showing total forecast ice accumulation.

We are expecting around two tenths of an inch of glaze or less in these areas. There is a low chance of isolated to scattered power outages due to fallen tree limbs and power lines. Main impact will be slippery roads and sidewalks today and tonight before temperatures rise above freezing on Saturday.


One other note:

Warmer weather is expected this weekend and with it some snow melt and light rain. Rivers over the southern half of the Albany forecast area will likely be running high by Monday, but no flooding is expected at this time.

If you have any questions you can always call 1-800-239-2123.

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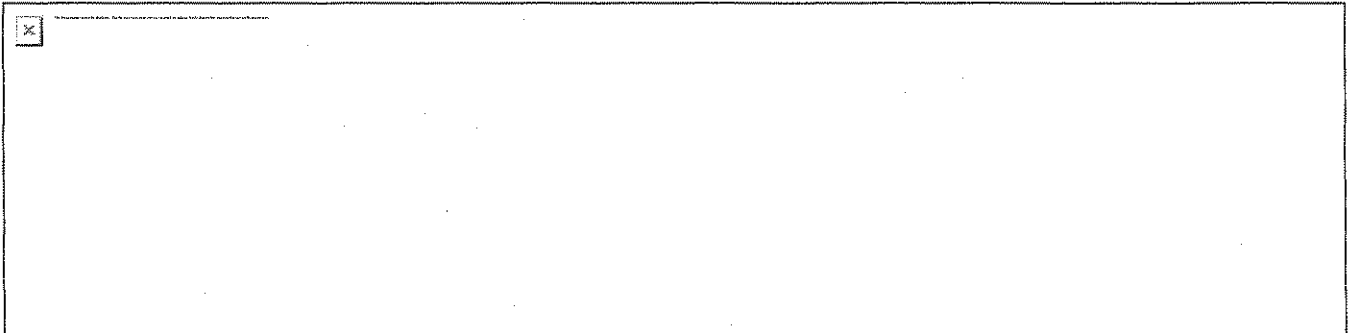
Steve DiRienzo
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Forecast Office
251 Fuller Rd, Suite B-300
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 435-9571 x223
www.weather.gov/aly



To unsubscribe from the WXALERTS list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.dps.state.vt.us/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WXALERTS&A=1>

London, Sarah

From: The White House - Office of National Drug Control Policy <OIPL@ONDCP.EOP.GOV>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 11:02 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Proposed Disposal Rule, Applying for a DFC grant, and more



Welcome to the *White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) E-Newsletter Update*. In this issue, learn about:

- Proposed new rule for the safe and effective disposal of prescription drugs;
- SAMHSA Report: *Prescription Drug Misuse Remains a Top Public Health Concern*;
- This month's featured *Advocate for Action*, Devin Fox;
- How to join President Obama in a National Day of Service;
- Workshops for Coalitions Applying for Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFC) grants;
- The 2012 National HIDTA Conference in Washington, D.C.

For more information on efforts to reduce substance abuse and its consequences, visit the ONDCP [website](#).

New Rule Proposed for Safe and Effective Disposal of Prescription Drugs

The Obama Administration led efforts to secure bi-partisan passage of prescription drug disposal legislation (the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010), signed by President Obama in October 2010. Last month, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published proposed regulations for implementing the Act in the Federal Register for public comment. The new rule, once finalized, will be a critical step toward expanding the safe and effective disposal of prescription drugs nationwide.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the proposed rule:

- Offers requirements to govern the secure disposal of controlled substance medications.
- Recommends regulations to expand the options available to dispose of medications, to include take-back events, mail-back programs, and collection box locations. The proposed regulations contain specific provisions that:
 - Continue to allow law enforcement agencies to voluntarily conduct take-back events, administer mail-back programs, and maintain collection boxes;

- Allow authorized manufacturers, distributors, reverse distributors, and retail pharmacies to voluntarily administer mail-back programs and maintain collection boxes; and
- Allow authorized retail pharmacies to voluntarily maintain collection boxes at long-term care facilities.
- The public has until February 19, 2013, to submit comments.

Read about the proposed regulations in the [Federal Register](#). Public comments on the proposed rule can be submitted via the Federal website [regulations.gov](#).

Sixth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Planned for April 27

DEA's sixth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013. DEA's first five Take-Back events resulted in the removal from circulation of more than 2 million pounds (over 1,000 tons) of prescription drugs.

SAMHSA Report: Prescription Drug Misuse Remains a Top Public Health Concern

Prescription drug misuse is second only to marijuana use as the Nation's most prevalent illicit drug problem, with approximately 22 million persons nationwide initiating nonmedical pain reliever use since 2002, according to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The report, entitled *State Estimates of Nonmedical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers*, also shows use by state, with combined 2010 and 2011 data indicating that rates of past year misuse among those aged 12 or older ranged from 3.6 percent in Iowa to 6.4 percent in Oregon.

Click [here](#) to view or download the NSDUH report.

For Devin Fox, the 'Cause' of Recovery has Become a Personal Mission

In a [blog](#) on the ONDCP website, Devin Fox writes about his life in long-term recovery and how he strives each day to achieve his full potential and spread a message of hope to others in recovery from substance use disorders. For his tireless efforts through social media and personal outreach to engage young people in recovery, ONDCP recognizes Devin Fox as January's *Advocate for Action*.

Join President Obama in a National Day of Service

On January 21, 2013, our Nation will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (MLK Day), a national holiday during which we honor the legacy of the civil rights leader Dr. King through a day of service and volunteering.

This year, MLK Day commemorations will coincide with the Presidential Inauguration, so the President is asking all citizens to join him in participating in a [National Day of Service](#) on Saturday, January 19. Recently, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced it will host a wide range of volunteering events in Washington, D.C., and around the country. Additionally, the Committee is encouraging people to [pledge a commitment](#) to serve after MLK Day throughout 2013.

To learn more about opportunities to join the hundreds of thousands of people who serve on MLK Day (and throughout the year), visit the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) website.

Drug-Free Communities Support Program to Host Workshops for New Applicants

The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program will host three workshops in the coming weeks to assist interested coalitions in applying for DFC funding. The workshops will focus solely on the FY 2013 DFC Request for Applications (RFA), which will be posted in mid-January. Each workshop will be followed by an hour-long Native American Support Session for coalitions serving tribal communities.

Locations and Dates for DFC New Applicant Workshops

- Tuesday, January 29, 2013: Phoenix, AZ
- Thursday, January 31, 2013: Little Rock, AR
- Friday, February 8, 2013: National Harbor, MD

To register for a workshop, click [here](#).

The DFC RFA will be published at [SAMHSA](#), [Grants.Gov](#), and on the [ONDCP website](#) in mid-January.

Information about applying for DFC funding, including eligibility requirements, can be found [here](#).

Hundreds Gather in Washington, D.C., for 2012 HIDTA Conference

More than 500 leaders from the law enforcement, prevention, and treatment communities gathered in Washington, D.C., last month for the 2012 National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Conference. For two days, a diverse group of speakers addressed the conference on topics ranging from the effects of marijuana use on the brain and the importance of intelligence-led policing to the need for the prevention and enforcement communities to further their already strong partnership.

Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske delivered remarks at the annual HIDTA Awards Banquet on December 13. In all, 21 task forces and 10 individuals were recognized for their outstanding performance in the effort to reduce drug production and trafficking in the United States. The Washington-Baltimore HIDTA, under the leadership of Director Tom Carr, took home the prize for HIDTA of the Year.

For information about the HIDTA program, click [here](#).

Get Updates

For more information, please visit the ONDCP [website](#) and sign up for additional opportunities.

If you know other elected officials or interested stakeholders who would like to receive our updates, please encourage them to sign up on our [contact page](#).

Katie Greene
Associate Director
202-395-6652
kgreene@ondcp.eop.gov

Quinn Staudt
Deputy Associate Director for
Stakeholder Outreach
202-395-7453
qstaudt@ondcp.eop.gov

Jacqueline Hackett
Deputy Associate Director for
Policy
202-395-6675
jhackett@ondcp.eop.gov

To unsubscribe from all ONDCP emails, please click [here](#).

London, Sarah

From: Morgan Wilson <mwilson@nga.org>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 10:32 AM
To: NGA Daily E-Mail
Subject: NGA Daily E-mail



Daily E-mail

Friday, January 11, 2013

In this issue:

1. [This Just In](#)
2. [Front and Center \(Center Weekly Report to State Policymakers\)](#)
3. [Center Application and Event Opportunities](#)
4. [NGA Calendar](#)
5. [2013 Winter Meeting Information](#)

Contact:

[Erin Cohan](#)
202-624-5300

This Just In

This Just In headlines:

1. **GAO Releases Report on Veterans' Employment and Training Programs**

GAO Releases Report on Veterans' Employment and Training Programs

Yesterday the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled *Veterans' Employment and Training: Better Targeting, Coordinating, and Reporting Needed to Enhance Program Effectiveness*, which analyzed the six employment and training programs administered to veterans by the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Veterans Affairs (VA). Among these programs, GAO found that the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) administered by the DOL has the most potential for overlap due to inadequate guidance from the department to states, which administer the program. Under the law, DVOPs are required to provide intensive employment and training services to economically and educationally disadvantaged veterans. However, GAO found that the guidance provided by the DOL did not define "economically disadvantaged" or "educationally disadvantaged" veterans. In addition, the report found that while the Department of Defense has increased employment initiatives, these initiatives are not being coordinated among the programs administered by the DOL and VA. As a result of the study, GAO provided several recommendations to the federal government, including increased coordination among federal agencies that provide employment services to veterans and enhanced performance measurements and reporting requirements. For more information, the full report can be found [here](#).

NGA Contacts: Heather Hogsett, 202-624-5360; Joan Wodiska, 202-624-5361; Mike Obrock, 202-624-5390

For past editions of This Just In, visit: <http://www.nga.org/cms/tji>

NGA Calendar

To view the NGA calendar, go to: www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/MONTH.pdf

Front and Center

"Front and Center" delivers weekly information on Center projects and events, state best practices, federal policies affecting states, links to respected research, and quick analysis on hot topics. This week's highlights: **Compounding Pharmacies; Teacher Prep; Privacy Policy; Work Shares**

<http://www.nga.org/cms/home/nga-center-for-best-practices/front--center-newsletters.html>

Center Application and Event Opportunities

1. Policy Forum: Connecting Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

State teams are invited to participate in a policy forum focused on measures of effective teaching, school leadership issues, and the connection between these two important aspects of school and student success.

The teams will spend the first day hearing from experts from the Gates' Measures of Effective Teaching project about their latest study results and its implications for state policymaking. This half-day session will be followed by a two-day policy forum focused on state strategies for preparing and continuously training school leaders to evaluate and support teacher effectiveness. Other presenters will include research, policy, and practice experts at the local, state, and national levels. Participants will have opportunities to ask questions of presenters, engage in facilitated discussion, and most importantly, work with team members to talk about what they are learning and develop action plans for future work. This forum is open to state teams of four individuals for up to sixteen states.

January 14 – 16, 2012; Raleigh, NC

Contact: Cortney Rowland, 202-624-7801 (agenda); Simone Alexander, 202-624-7801 (registration)

2. Webinar: Provider Perspectives on Health System Changes

As state and federal governments, along with private payers, seek to transform the health care system to improve care and reduce costs through a variety of strategies such as multipayer medical homes, payment reform, accountable care and investments in health information technology, hospitals and health systems are adapting to the changes. This webinar seeks to provide state officials with a macro view of provider perspectives on the health system changes and an in-

depth look at a large multipayer medical home initiative in upstate New York. Other topics will include payer strategies to derive value, a view of provider economics in a changing system, broad provider strategies to generate value and provider case studies.

Chas Roades, Chief Research Officer, and Dr. Dennis Weaver, Chief Medical Officer, both with the Advisory Board Company, will present.

Thursday, January 17, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST

Contact: Jason Hsieh, 202-624-7803

3. Governor's Homeland Security Advisors Council Winter Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to bring all homeland security advisors (HSAs) together to discuss relevant homeland security issues, share lessons learned, work in committees to further develop policies and share information, and to identify several priority items for the Executive Committee's consideration. Specifically, the meeting will focus on topics that include: homeland security grant reform, preparing for public safety broadband, fusion centers, and the homeland security advisors perspective of high-profile events such as the Aurora movie theater shooting, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, and breach of cyber networks. The meeting is open to GHSAC members only and is closed to press. Prior to the start of the meeting, NGA will host a seminar for new homeland security advisors in partnership with the Naval Postgraduate School.

January 30-31; Washington, DC

Contact: Alicia Powell, 202-624-3598

2013 Winter Meeting Information

2013 NGA Winter Meeting Information

The registration and housing websites are now available for the 2013 NGA Winter Meeting, which will be held in Washington, D.C., Friday-Monday, February 22-25.

Registration and housing arrangements for governors, their spouses and other family members, staff and security can be made on <http://meetings.nga.org/cms/home/wm13/gov/72p/index.html>.

Arrangements for other attendees from state, federal, foreign and local government offices; governors associations; business; nonprofits; media; and family members of any of these attendees can be made on <http://meetings.nga.org/cms/home/wm13/gen/4gr/index.html>.

Program Information

The websites contain information on the business agenda for the meeting. Be sure to check again during the coming weeks for program updates.

Housing Information

Special reduced rates are available through the NGA housing block at the JW Marriott Hotel. Attendees are encouraged to book their hotel rooms online through the NGA websites. By using the Marriott room block reserved for NGA attendees, you are helping the association better manage meeting costs.

NGA is unable to assist attendees who contact the hotel directly and make reservations outside the NGA room block.

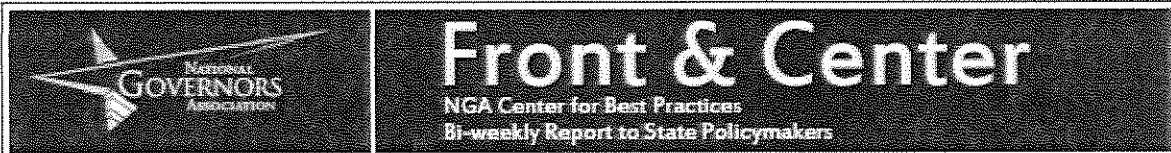
Special Registration and Security Notice

Each meeting attendee must present two forms of identification, including a current, government issued photo id (driver's license or passport), to have photo ID credentials made and receive meeting materials. The second form of identification must confirm the individual's business affiliation (business card or organizational ID); personal credit cards are not a valid form of identification. Security personnel will be stationed throughout the meeting facility, and NGA meeting credentials will be required to access the meeting room floors. **No exceptions will be made.**

For questions about meeting logistics, contact Susan Dotchin at sdotchin@nga.org or 202-624-5327.

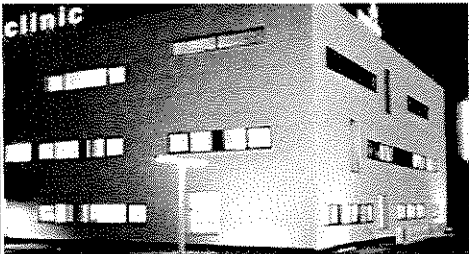
London, Sarah

From: David Moore <dmoore@nga.org>
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 10:14 AM
To: NGA Front & Center
Subject: Correction: Front & Center: Compounding Pharmacies; Teacher Prep; Privacy Policy; Work Shares



[Front & Center](#) | [January 11, 2013](#) | [Full Index of this Week's Stories](#)

State News



[Massachusetts Governor Proposes Regulations for Compounding Pharmacies](#) -- Legislation recently filed by **Massachusetts** Governor Deval Patrick will reform the state's Board of Pharmacy and improve oversight of the compounding pharmacy industry.

[Pennsylvania Innovation Office Announces Increased Efficiencies](#) -- Since its launch nine months ago, the Governor's Innovation Office in **Pennsylvania** has worked with state agencies to achieve more than \$84 million in cost savings and productivity gains.

[New York Commission Releases Education Reform Recommendations](#) -- The **New York** Education Reform Commission, convened by Governor Andrew Cuomo, released a report outlining recommendations that will inform the governor's education agenda for the year.

[Missouri Approves New Teacher Preparation Program Standards](#) -- The **Missouri** Standards for Professional Educators (MoSPE), which outline the requirements programs must follow and criteria educators must meet to become certified, were adopted by the State Board of Education and will take effect this March.

[Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund Closes Skills Gap](#) -- **Massachusetts** Governor Deval Patrick awarded Workforce Training Fund grants to close the skills gap and build a more effective workforce in the state.

[Maryland Takes Action to Protect State Infrastructure from Future Flooding Risk](#) -- **Maryland** Governor Martin O'Malley issued an executive order to better protect state buildings and infrastructure against storm surges and flooding.

[New Mexico Uses 3-D Planning Tool to Improve Transportation Construction](#) -- The **New Mexico** Department of Transportation (DOT) is rolling out new modeling software to help

decrease road construction times.

Connecticut Establishes Sandy Hook Advisory Commission -- **Connecticut** Governor Dan Malloy established the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, an expert panel tasked to evaluate the state's current policies regarding school safety, mental health, and gun violence prevention.

Michigan Protects Citizens' Internet Privacy Rights -- **Michigan** Governor Rick Snyder has signed a bill into law that enhances privacy rights for students, employees, and prospective applicants.

Kentucky Creates Colon Cancer Screening Program -- **Kentucky** Governor Steve Beshear recently announced that 10 local health departments will be given grants over the next two years to help screen low-income and uninsured residents for colon cancer.

Other News

Report Suggests Effective Implementation of Work Sharing Could Reduce Unemployment -- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the National Employment Law Project (NELP) have issued a guide for states seeking to implement work sharing programs, which are a form of Unemployment Insurance (UI) that allows employers to reduce the hours worked by their employees, who then receive partial UI benefits to offset lost wages.

Guide Provides Strategies for Adopting Mileage-Based Transportation Fees -- A report from the RAND Corporation provides state and local policymakers with the advantages, concerns, and potential design strategies for using mileage fees to fund transportation projects.

Analysis Finds Economic Benefits of Postsecondary Degrees -- The State Higher Education Executive Officers' new report, *The Economic Benefit of Postsecondary Degrees: A State and National Level Analysis*, finds that the future earnings potential of individuals, on average, increases with each successive level of higher educational attainment.

Medical Home Models for Developmentally Delayed Children Should Incorporate Families, Schools as Partners -- A recent report from the National Academy for State Health Policy discusses lessons learned about pediatric medical homes.

What's New

Webinars

Pre-Release Briefing on *Quality Counts 2013* Report

Education Week will release, *Quality Counts 2013* on January 10, 2013. The 17th edition focuses on the impact of a school's social and disciplinary environment on students' ability to learn and on the teachers and administrators tasked with guiding them. The

report includes survey data from more than 1,300 educators who were questioned about their opinions on school climate and discipline in their schools. It also provides a 50-state update on critical areas of education policy and performance.

The NGA Center will host a pre-release briefing webinar for education policy advisors, Washington Representatives, and other staff on Tuesday, January 8. Please RSVP by Friday, January 4 to receive more information on the webinar and instructions for calling in.

January 8, 2013; 1:30 p.m. EST

Contact: Kate Nielson, 202-624-5319

Provider Perspectives on Health System Changes

As state and federal governments, along with private payers, seek to transform the health care system to improve care and reduce costs through a variety strategies such as multipayer medical homes, payment reform, accountable care and investments in health information technology, hospitals and health systems are adapting to the changes. This webinar seeks to provide state officials with a macro view of provider perspectives on the health system changes and an in-depth look at a large multipayer medical home initiative in upstate New York. Other topics will include payer strategies to derive value, a view of provider economics in a changing system, broad provider strategies to generate value and provider case studies.

Chas Roades, Chief Research Officer, and Dr. Dennis Weaver, Chief Medical Officer, both with the Advisory Board Company, will present.

Thursday, January 17, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST

Contact: Jason Hsieh, 202-624-7803

Meetings

Policy Forum: Connecting Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

State teams are invited to participate in a policy forum focused on measures of effective teaching, school leadership issues, and the connection between these two important aspects of school and student success. The teams will spend the first day hearing from experts from the Gates' Measures of Effective Teaching project about their latest study results and its implications for state policymaking. This half-day session will be followed by a two-day policy forum focused on state strategies for preparing and continuously training school leaders to evaluate and support teacher effectiveness. Other presenters will include research, policy, and practice experts at the local, state, and national levels.

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January 14 – 16, 2013; Raleigh, NC

Contact: Cortney Rowland, 202-624-7801 (agenda); Simone Alexander, 202-624-7801 (registration)

Calendar

Policy Forum: Connecting Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

January 14 – 16; Raleigh, NC

Contact: [Cortney Rowland](#), 202-624-7857

Provider Perspectives on Health System Changes

January 17; 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Contact: Jason Hsieh, 202-624-7803

Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council – Winter Meeting

January 30-31; Washington, DC

Contact: Alisha Powell, 202-624-598

About the Center

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices develops innovative solutions to today's most pressing public policy challenges and is the nation's only research and development firm that directly serves the nation's governors.

[More About the Center](#)

[Center Home](#)

[Publications](#)

Comments or Story Ideas?

Contact: [Amanda Dunker](#)

You are currently subscribed to [fc] as Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218296-150973.54b07647dcd2db4dff898ac884b7a7fd@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 9:01 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Eat & Drink Into a 2nd Term!

Maybe on Monday we could met (Bill via phone) to talk about the entire schd for Obama Inaug?

From: Narric Rome [mailto:narric@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 9:23 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Fwd: Eat & Drink Into a 2nd Term!

Hi Shana,

I'm hopeful you've seen details on this DC inaugural event for the Governor by now, but I wanted to make sure. I understand that there is a DGA event the same evening (Sunday, 1/20) but we'll have many Vermonters and friends of Vermont hoping to see Peter at the Vermont State Society reception.

Please let me know if you'd like to talk further about timing - I really want to ensure that he's there to make remarks.

Thanks!

Narric Rome
President
Vermont State Society
narric@gmail.com
802-233-7518
www.vtss.org

----- Forwarded message -----
From: VT State Society <info@vtss.org>
Date: Wed, Jan 9, 2013 at 8:30 AM
Subject: Eat & Drink Into a 2nd Term!
To: narric@gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

DELICIOUS VERMONT FOOD & BEVERAGES TO BE SERVED

We are pleased to announce some wonderful additions to the Vermont State Society Inaugural Reception being held on **Sunday, January 20th 8pm-11pm - tickets online [here](#)**. So far, the following Vermont companies are donating food and beverages to the party:

**** Ben and Jerry's * Boves * Cabot Cheese * Champlain Orchards * Honora Winery * Olivia's Croutons * Long Trail Brewery * Magic Hat Brewery * Misty Knoll Farm * Trapp Lodge Brewery * Citizen Cider * VT Smoke & Cure * Ma Beans Apple Pies * Liz's Lovely Cookies * Gringo Jacks * Screaming Ridge Farm * WhistlePig Distillery * Snow Farm Vineyard * Vermont Salumi ****

The reception will be held on Sunday, January 20, from 8-11pm, at 101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Tickets are now on sale and provide for an open bar, a light buffet and live music. All Vermonters and friends of Vermont are warmly welcomed!

Corporate sponsorships are welcome and contributions may be tax deductible. Please contact VTSS Vice President Julia Drost (julia.drost@gmail.com) if you are interested in donating a product or service that can be served at the event or included in a raffle.

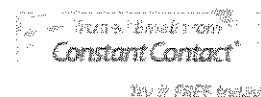
Thank you for sharing with friends who might be interested in attending the VT State Society Inaugural Reception.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

www.vtss.org

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This email was sent to narric@gmail.com by info@vtss.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Vermont State Society | 5912 Conway Road | Bethesda | MD | 20817

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 8:16 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: note

Bill – thank you for such a sweet note. You will be missed as well. Thanks for helping give me the opportunity to be part of the administration!

Best of luck to you.

Harriet

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 8:48 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: Re: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 10 January 2013

Think I will!

On Jan 10, 2013, at 7:48 PM, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us> wrote:

Ski tomorrow!

From: Weather alerts from EMHS [<mailto:WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US>] **On Behalf Of** Bosma, Mark
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 3:16 PM
To: WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US
Subject: [WXALERTS] FW: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 10 January 2013

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Stephen DiRienzo - NOAA Federal [<mailto:stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:55 PM
To: _NWS ER ALY NY EMs; _NWS ER ALY VT EMs; _NWS ER ALY MA EMs
Subject: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 10 January 2013

Dear Emergency Manager:

There is a possibility of freezing rain tomorrow afternoon and evening across the higher terrain of the Catskills, Adirondacks, Southern Green Mountains of Vermont and Berkshires of western Massachusetts.

I've attached a probability graphic showing where the possibility for freezing rain exists.

We are expecting around a tenth of an inch of glaze or less in these areas. Main impact will be slippery roads and sidewalks for a 6 to 12 hour period before temperatures rise above freezing.

If you have any questions you can always call 1-800-239-2123.

We will send an update tomorrow morning by 11 AM.

--

Steve DiRienzo
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

National Weather Service Forecast Office
251 Fuller Rd, Suite B-300
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 435-9571 x223
www.weather.gov/alb

<image001.jpg>

To unsubscribe from the WXALERTS list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.dps.state.vt.us/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WXALERTS&A=1>

<SREF_011015Zb.png>

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
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Attachments: SREF_011015Zb.png

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Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Stephen DiRienzo - NOAA Federal [mailto:stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:55 PM
To: _NWS ER ALY NY EMs; _NWS ER ALY VT EMs; _NWS ER ALY MA EMs
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Steve DiRienzo
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Forecast Office
251 Fuller Rd, Suite B-300
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 435-9571 x223
www.weather.gov/aly



To unsubscribe from the WXALERTS list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.dps.state.vt.us/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WXALERTS&A=1>

London, Sarah

From: Guilford, Nikki <NGuilford@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:50 PM
To: Governors Chiefs of Staff
Cc: chiefs-deputy@talk.nga.org; chiefs-assists@talk.nga.org; micah.hines@state.mn.us
Subject: FW: 2013 NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING - PLEASE REGISTER
Attachments: 2013WMPProgram.pdf

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING
February 22-25, 2013
Washington D.C.

Governors' Chiefs of Staff (cc: Deputy Chiefs and Chiefs' Assistants):

I would like to extend a special invitation for you to attend the 2013 NGA Winter Meeting to be held Friday, February 22 through Monday, February 25 in Washington, D.C. at the J.W. Marriott.

REGISTER

Please visit the registration website to register online for the Winter Meeting: <http://meetings.nga.org/cms/home/wm13/gov/72p/index.html>

Governors' staff should use this site to register and obtain hotel accommodations. The registration website contains business programs for governors, governors' spouses, and governors' chiefs of staff as well as general information about registration fees, policies and procedures, and hotel accommodations. (Your governor's scheduler also received this information). Of note, a registration fee will not be required for the governor, governor's spouse, other family members and security. **In addition, each state will receive one complimentary registration for a senior staff member.**

CHIEFS OF STAFF PROGRAM

NGA is planning to host a welcome reception along with three business sessions exclusively for governors' chiefs of staff. Highlights from the Chiefs of Staff program are below (and the overall meeting agenda is attached):

Friday, February 22

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception for Governors' Chiefs of Staff and NGA Corporate Fellows

2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the NGA Corporate Fellows Program (<http://www.nga.org/cms/cf>). Please join NGA and your fellow chiefs to celebrate and recognize our corporate partners as well as take advantage of an informal opportunity to meet new colleagues and renew your relationships with veteran chiefs.

Saturday, February 23

12:45 – 2:45 p.m. – Chiefs of Staff Lunch and Business Session

Many Roles of the Governors' Chiefs of Staff

During this first session we will welcome new chiefs of staff in attendance. In addition to 7 new chiefs serving new governors, there have been 9 new chiefs of veteran governors appointed since July 2012. This session will focus on some of the challenges faced by chiefs of staff:

- We will begin with a presentation from a former chief of staff who will share best practices and advice on how to effectively serve your governor.
- Next we will discuss the increasing role that chiefs of staff play in the day-to-day responsibility of ensuring that state agencies and operations are functioning effectively and efficiently.
- Finally, given the number of governors who will be facing reelection in 2014, we will conclude with a chief's presentation on best practices on governing while running for reelection.

Sunday, February 24

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Chiefs of Staff Breakfast and Business Session

2013 NGA Opportunities for Governors, Their Staffs and Administrations

Given the limited timeframe of this business session, NGA staff will provide updates to chiefs on federal legislative issues along with NGA meetings, grants, consulting and training available to you and your staff members in 2013. The balance of the session will allow for roundtable open discussion among the chiefs.

Monday, February 25

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Chiefs of Staff Business Session

Responding to the Unexpected: Lessons Learned

This session will continue the work we began during the 2012 Seminar for New Governors regarding managing the unexpected – preparing, responding and recovering from emergencies. More details will follow as we move closer to the meeting.

As always, the agenda is fluid, so I welcome your comments and suggestions as we finalize the chiefs' program.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2013 NGA Winter Meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Nikki Guilford
 Director, Office of Management Consulting and Training
 National Governors Association
 444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
 Washington D.C. 20001
 202-624-5422 (office)
 202-213-0145 (mobile)

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NGA Office of Management Consulting & Training (OMCT)
 Listserv for Governors' Chiefs of Staff

To post questions/comments to subscribed members, email: chiefs@talk.nga.org

(This listserv is moderated; submitted messages are first received by the NGA moderator and then posted to the full list.)

For more information on OMCT resources: www.nga.org/omct

You are currently subscribed to [chiefs] as bill.lofy@state.vt.us.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to [leave-218285-](mailto:leave-218285-151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org)

151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Ellen Dube <vcc@vtchamber.ccsend.com> on behalf of Ellen Dube
<edube@vtchamber.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 5:08 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: BOOTH REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for Vermont Chamber EXPO 2013

EXPO 2013 Booth Registration <https://www.vtexpo.com/reservations/>

VERMONT CHAMBER BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
EXPO2013
MAY 22-23, 2013

BOOTH REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Space is limited, reserve your booth today!

Catch the Momentum in 2013 at the

Vermont Chamber Business & Industry EXPO, May 22-23!

Booth registration is open and space is filling quickly. Visit www.vtexpo.com to view the interactive [floor plan](#) with two floors of booth space. Find out who's already registered and reserve your booth today!

Now in its 29th year, the largest business-to-business trade show in Northern New England will provide practical ways to build business momentum. EXPO also features a wide variety of special events and seminars, providing attendees valuable networking and educational opportunities in three tracks: ***Connect, Learn, and Grow.***

New in 2013! Exhibitors will perform live presentations right on the trade show floor. Invigorating, positive, and fresh, it's time to reach out and catch the momentum!

- Over 3,000 business leaders ready to make new connections
- Largest B2B Networking EXPO in Northern New England
- Innovative seminars to help build business strategies
- 200 exhibitors
- Deane C. Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award
- State-wide exposure and positive brand promotion
- Booth savings for Vermont Chamber members (Not a member? Click [here](#) for benefits and rates)



VERMONT CHAMBER BUSINESS & INDUSTRY EXPO 2013

Catch the Momentum! Connect - Learn - Grow

Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference

May 22-23

Sponsored by:

FairPoint
communications

VBM
VERMONT BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Presented by:

VERMONT
Chamber of Commerce

Build your presence at EXPO 2013

Contact the Vermont Chamber of Commerce to learn about the levels and benefits of sponsoring the largest B2B trade show in northern New England. Sponsorship packages can be tailored to meet any company's marketing goals. Now is the time to use your marketing dollars wisely and target the Vermont business community.

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Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to bill.loy@state.vt.us by edube@vtchamber.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Vermont Chamber of Commerce | PO Box 37 | Montpelier | VT | 05601

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 5:01 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Berry, Patrick; Boes, Richard; Borie, Lou; Bothfeld, Diane; Candon, Tom; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Clasen, Michael; Cohen, Jeff; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Donegan, Susan; Duffy, Kate; Fischer, John; Flynn, Keith; Henry, Dixie; Hetzel, Christine; Hogan, Mike; Hollar, Jennifer; Ide, Robert; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; Lunge, Robin; Mackay, Noelle; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb; Mears, David; Menard, Lisa; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Murphy, Reeva; Noonan, Annie; Obuchowski, Mike; Pallito, Andy; Peterson, Mary; Porter, Louis; Provost, David; Racine, Doug; Reardon, Jim; Recchia, Chris; Reid, Martha; Richards, Alyson; Ross, Chuck; Royar, Kim; Searles, Brian; Shems, Ron; Smith, Gregory; Smith, Megan; Snyder, Michael; Spaulding, Jeb; Spaulding, Susan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Vilaseca, Armando; Volz, James; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wood, John; Yacovone, Dave; Zeller, Susan
Subject: FW: Letter from Sen. Kitchel and Rep. Heath on Budget Testimony
Attachments: FY14 Budget Chairs Letter.pdf; Attachment -Program list.xlsx

Folks,

Please read the attached memo and attachment carefully, and be sure to share it with your budget team. The appropriations committees are changing their expectations for our budget presentations somewhat. For example, they are most interested in learning the results generated by your agency/department and they are attempting to go paperless.

Thanks for your attention.

Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont
Pavilion Office Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

People are our greatest asset

From: Stephanie Barrett [mailto:SBARRETT@leg.state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Johnson, Harriet; Spaulding, Jeb
Cc: Maria Belliveau; Lavery, Nathan; Buck, Rebecca; Steve Klein; Utton, Theresa L.; Reardon, Jim; Riven, Matt; Zeller, Susan
Subject: Letter from Sen. Kitchel and Rep. Heath on Budget Testimony

Jeb,

Attached is the letter (w/ attachment) from the committee chairs to all the agencies and departments etc. regarding what and how both House Appropriations and Senate Appropriations would like budget information submitted as part of budget testimony. As you have in the past, we ask you to forward these instructions to all Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors and Financial staff that will be providing documentation in support of the Governor's Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal.

This year we continue the focus on program performance, both committees are seeking more baseline data on caseload characteristics and program cost drivers especially from the Agency of Human Services.

We hope to greatly reduce the need for submissions on paper and are seeking to have all budget related documents submitted electronically prior to testimony. (FYI - The one exception is DVHA where the submission of the annual budget binder is still anticipated. We will contact DVHA directly with this request.)

Thank you

Stephanie and Maria

Stephanie Barrett
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office
1 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633
Tel. 802-828-5973
Fax 802-828-2483

London, Sarah

From: Gov. Peter Shumlin <no_reply@state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 4:43 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: State of the State



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Friend—

Today, I was sworn into my second term of office as Vermont's governor. It's an incredible privilege to serve as governor, and I'm grateful for this opportunity that Vermonters have given me.

My inaugural address ([which you can read by clicking here](#)) focused on creating an education system that grows Vermont's prosperity. I want you to hear about the initiatives I discussed today. My goal – and the single objective of my administration – remains to grow jobs and expand incomes. I believe that our education system, from pre-kindergarten to higher education, is the state's single greatest economic development tool, and today I outlined proposals in four areas critical to our jobs future.

My plan starts with the largest single investment the state has ever made to early childhood education. Second, we invest in school lunches for all low-income students; our kids can't learn when they are hungry, and we can ensure they come to school nourished and ready to learn. Third, we take significant steps to make higher education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters. And fourth, we place particular emphasis - from grade school through college - on career readiness.

I hope you will take a moment to review my proposals, [watch the video of the speech](#), and share your feedback. It's a great honor to serve as your governor, and I look forward to the next two years of progress and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Gov. Peter Shumlin

Please do not reply to this email. Contact the Executive Office of the Governor

To unsubscribe from Governor Shumlin's email list click [Here](#)

Executive Office of the Governor • 109 State Street, Pavilion • Montpelier, Vermont 05609 • 802-828-3333

London, Sarah

From: Louis Porter <Louis_porter [REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 4:07 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Senate 2
Attachments: photo.JPG

London, Sarah

From: Porter, Louis
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 4:06 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Allen, Susan
Subject: Senate 1
Attachments: photo.JPG

London, Sarah

From: Weather alerts from EMHS <WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Bosma, Mark <Mark.Bosma@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 3:16 PM
To: WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US
Subject: [WXALERTS] FW: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 10 January 2013
Attachments: SREF_011015Zb.png

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Stephen DiRienzo - NOAA Federal [mailto:stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:55 PM
To: _NWS ER ALY NY EMs; _NWS ER ALY VT EMs; _NWS ER ALY MA EMs
Subject: NWS Albany - Weather Update - 10 January 2013

Dear Emergency Manager:

There is a possibility of freezing rain tomorrow afternoon and evening across the higher terrain of the Catskills, Adirondacks, Southern Green Mountains of Vermont and Berkshires of western Massachusetts.

I've attached a probability graphic showing where the possibility for freezing rain exists.

We are expecting around a tenth of an inch of glaze or less in these areas. Main impact will be slippery roads and sidewalks for a 6 to 12 hour period before temperatures rise above freezing.

If you have any questions you can always call 1-800-239-2123.

We will send an update tomorrow morning by 11 AM.

--

Steve DiRienzo
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Forecast Office
251 Fuller Rd, Suite B-300
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 435-9571 x223
www.weather.gov/aly



To unsubscribe from the WXALERTS list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.dps.state.vt.us/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WXALERTS&A=1>

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:15 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson; Appleby, Leigh; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: final!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2013, at 11:13 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Yep yep yep yep yep yep yep!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2013, at 10:52 AM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

A BIG, HUGE, FREAKING CONGRATULATIONS
LOFY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

On Jan 10, 2013, at 10:34 AM, Lofy, Bill wrote:

<Shumlin second inaugural address - FINAL.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Weather alerts from EMHS <WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Bosma, Mark <Mark.Bosma@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:10 PM
To: WXALERTS@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US
Subject: [WXALERTS] FW: NWS Burlington - Scheduled Winter/Spring Flood Outlook

Mark Bosma
Public Information Officer
Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(800) 347-0488
<http://vem.vermont.gov>

From: Greg Hanson - NWS Federal [mailto:gregory.hanson@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:10 PM **Subject:** NWS Burlington - Scheduled Winter/Spring Flood Outlook

Hello,

The NWS in Burlington has issued its first scheduled Winter/Spring Flood Outlook of the 2013 season. These flood outlooks are issued every two weeks through spring to summarize the spring snowmelt and ice jam threat.

We have a risk for ice breakup and jamming late this weekend into early next week with the warm forecast temperatures. The good news is very little rainfall is expected, but we could get enough snowmelt into the rivers to cause them to rise and break up ice in a few spots.

Beyond that, snowpack and river ice conditions warrant a normal spring flood threat. Keep in mind we need the combination of snowmelt plus warm temperatures and moderate to heavy rainfall to get a good spring flood event going.

The full text is available [here](#). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, I'm in the office through 4:30 today and all day Friday.

Best Regards,

Greg

Greg Hanson
Service Hydrologist
NOAA/NWS Burlington VT

gregory.hanson@noaa.gov
802.922.9139
<http://www.weather.gov/burlington>



To unsubscribe from the WXALERTS list, click the following link:
<http://listserv.dps.state.vt.us/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WXALERTS&A=1>

London, Sarah

From: HHS IEA (OS/IEA) <HHSIEA@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 12:46 PM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: Reminder: Affordable Care Call: Today, Thursday, January 10th @ 4pm ET

Good Afternoon,

Please join senior officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **TODAY, January 10th at 4:00pm ET** for a conference call to discuss important announcements relating to the Affordable Care Act.

WHO: State Government Implementers of the Affordable Care Act

WHEN: TODAY, January 10, 2012 @ 4:00pm ET

AGENDA:

1. CMS announces 106 new Accountable Care Organizations- Tricia Rodgers, Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
2. Questions from states on any topic.

CALL-IN: 800-857-5248

Participant Passcode: 4021292

Questions or Concerns on HHS issues? Email HHSIEA@hhs.gov

London, Sarah

From: Market & Credit Risk Department <creditdepartment@iso-ne.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 11:13 AM
To: Market & Credit Risk Department
Cc: Gerity, Patrick; Montalvo, Marc; Ludlow, Robert; George, Anne; Johnson, Eric
Subject: Confidential - All Participants Notice 01/10/13
Attachments: AllParticipantNotice_Financial Assurance_01.10.13.doc

Sensitivity: Confidential

Market & Credit Risk Dept.
ISO New England Inc.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 11:14 AM
To: MacLean, Alex
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson; Appleby, Leigh; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: final!

Yep yep yep yep yep yep yep!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2013, at 10:52 AM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

A BIG, HUGE, FREAKING CONGRATULATIONS LOFY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

On Jan 10, 2013, at 10:34 AM, Lofy, Bill wrote:

<Shumlin second inaugural address - FINAL.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: final!

And boy does it feel good!

Thanks!

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Richards, Alyson; MacLean, Alex; Appleby, Leigh; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: final!

London, Sarah

From: All Participant Notice <allpartnotice@iso-ne.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:33 AM
Cc: Ludlow, Robert; Arnold, Cheryl; Reyngold, Kelly; Radner, Kendra; Leary, Trisha; Market & Credit Risk Department; Woodruff, Kathleen; Abashina, Elena
Subject: Confidential - All Participant Notice 1-10-13
Attachments: Confidential- All Participant Notice 1-10-13 .pdf
Sensitivity: Confidential

has cured their payment default.

London, Sarah

From: Morgan Wilson <mwilson@nga.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:11 AM
To: NGA Daily E-Mail
Subject: NGA Daily E-mail



Thursday, January 10, 2013

In this issue:

1. [This Just In](#)
2. [Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar](#)
3. [NGA News Releases](#)

Contact:

[Erin Cohan](#)
202-624-5300

This Just In

This Just In headlines:

1. **Department of Transportation Publishes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program**

For past editions of This Just In, visit: <http://www.nga.org/cms/tji>

Department of Transportation Publishes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program

Yesterday, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a final rule in the Federal Register for the New Starts/Small Starts program to accelerate project delivery and reduce regulations for federal funds. The final rule was the subject of a January 2010 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and puts into place the regulatory structure proposed in a January 2012 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as well as the New and Small Starts evaluation criteria and rating process defined in MAP-21. FTA announced four key changes to the program: a simpler approach to measuring a project's cost-effectiveness, based on project cost and passengers served; an expanded range of environmental benefits used in project evaluation, including the dollar value of the anticipated benefits to human health, energy use, air quality and safety; an addition of new economic development factors in the rating process, such as whether plans would maintain or increase affordable housing; and a reduction of red tape by withdrawing requirements for certain benefit analyses. Subsequent rulemaking will cover other aspects of MAP-21 changes to the New Starts/Small Starts program that have not yet been addressed. The final rule will become effective on April 9, 2013 and can be found [here](#).

NGA Contacts: [David Parkhurst](#), 202-624-5328; [Elizabeth Bennett](#), 202-624-5376

Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar

Thursday, January 10

1. Meeting of the Natural Resources Reps, 1:00pm, Washington, DC, NGA Governors Conference Room, Conference Call 1-877-261-8991; Passcode: 5057912#

To view the NGA calendar, go to: www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/MONTH.pdf

NGA News Releases

1. [National Governors Association Leadership Deliver State of the States Address](#)

London, Sarah

From: All Participant Notice <allpartnotice@iso-ne.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:01 AM
Cc: Ludlow, Robert; Arnold, Cheryl; Reyngold, Kelly; Radner, Kendra; Leary, Trisha; Market & Credit Risk Department; Woodruff, Kathleen; Nosack, Andrew; Abashina, Elena
Subject: Confidential - All Participant Notice 1-10-13
Attachments: Confidential- All Participant Notice 1-10-13 .pdf
Sensitivity: Confidential

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 9:15 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

I made a couple very small changes and expect to make a few more when we go over the speech this morning.

From: <Allen>, Susan <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Thursday, January 10, 2013 9:14 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

Any further changes or can I print the copy you sent last night?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2013, at 8:10 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

another thing for the list is to make sure we print up two hard copies of the speech (one for him, one for you, Leigh) in large font in case the teleprompter dies. One of you should be following along on the large font copy – he won't be turning pages, so if the prompter dies he'll need one of you to hand him the speech on the correct page.

From: <Appleby>, Leigh <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2013 7:30 PM
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Cc: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

I will have everything lined up in 'draft' form. Carolyn will be sitting next to me and reading along with the speech. As he gets to the tweets she will press send.

Leigh Appleby
Office of the Governor
(802)279-6825

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2013, at 7:17 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Who will tweet these?

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:58 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Inauguration Day Media Plan

Twitter – January 10, 2013

7:00 am #vtgov staff will be live-tweeting today's #VTSOTS address.

12:00 pm Photo: Gov. Shumlin meets with former #VT governors. #vtgov
#VTSOTS

2:00 pm Gov. Shumlin has been sworn in for his 2nd term as #VT's 81st governor.
#VTSOTS #vtgov

In real time:

Honored to have the best congressional delegation in the country - @SenatorLeahy
@SenSanders & @RepPeterWelch at the State House. #vtsots

The state of our state is healthy, resilient, and strong. #vtsots

#vtsots will focus on 1 theme: an education system that grows VT's prosperity.

My goal – and the single objective of my administration – remains to grow jobs and
incomes for working VTers. #vtsots

Employers across the state, who just two years ago might have been contemplating
another layoff, are looking for well-trained and skilled workers #vtsots

The seventh lowest unemployment rate, when you are struggling to find a job, is not
low enough. #vtsots

Our employers, from border to border, are eager to find workers with the right
educational skills, and they have good money to pay. #vtsots

To ensure our success we must embrace change in the way we view and deliver
education. #vtsots

62% of job openings in the next decade will require a post-secondary degree, yet only
45% of VTers who begin ninth grade continue past HS. #vtsots

Even w the vast amt of money that we spend per pupil in VT, we are not moving enough
low-income VT kids beyond HS. #vtsots

Let's build an integrated education system that uses the technology of our time &
prepares all VTers for an innovative & bright jobs future. #vtsots

It is long past time for us to strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood
education. #vtsots

Every dollar we invest in early childhood education saves taxpayers \$7 in the future.
#vtsots

Today, I propose the largest investment in early childhood education in Vermont's
history. #vtsots

AHS will implement an integrated plan for health promotion and prevention to ensure
that all children reach their full potential. #vtsots

I propose that VT covers the shortfall left by the federal government, and makes free lunch available for all low-income students. #vtsots

We must make education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters. #vtsots

To help move more poor kids beyond high school, I ask you to pass 2 provisions: dual enrollment & early college. #vtsots

The level of college debt being amassed by VT's students and their families is oppressive. #vtsots

To the graduating class of 2013: if you make a commitment to our state, then our state will make a commitment to you. #vtsots

I propose the #VTStrong Scholars Program to help #STEM grads stay and work in VT by paying back, over the course of 5 years, the final year of tuition. #vtsots

I propose to increase the state's appropriation for @VSC_edu & @uvmvermont by 3% for financial aid & scholarships for VTers. #vtsots

We can do a better job of personalizing education & integrating technology, career training & internships w traditional classroom ed. #vtsots

I propose using career & tech centers as the foundation for Vermont Innovation Zones throughout the state. #vtsots

VT Innovation Zones will focus on areas of education and professional opportunity that fit the needs of their region. #vtsots

I pledge to work w you to ensure our shared goal: that everyone has access to education regardless of who they are or how much \$ they make. #vtsots

Facebook – January 10, 2013

8:30 pm Photo of the day: Governor Shumlin is sworn in for his second term as Vermont's 81st governor.

Email list – January 10, 2013

4:45 pm:

Friend—

Today, I broke from tradition and focused my State of the State address on one theme: an education system that grows Vermont's prosperity. My goal – and the single objective of my administration – remains to grow jobs and expand incomes. It is my steadfast belief that our education system, from pre-kindergarten to higher education, is the state's single greatest economic development tool.

We have a great education system, and the I have identified four specific policies to make that system even greater. My proposals would:

- 1. Buy lunch for all low-income students, including those who are currently eligible for reduced-price lunches. Students can't learn when they are hungry, and too often, we expect hungry kids to learn.**

2. **Strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood education.** I proposed to make the largest single investment in early childhood education in Vermont's history. We will redirect \$17 million from the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to make high quality childcare affordable to hardworking low-income Vermonters.
3. **Make higher education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters by:**
 - a. Implementing the Vermont Strong STEM Scholars Program, which will give graduates of Vermont's public institutions of higher education a helping hand to stay and work in Vermont by paying back their final year of tuition over the course of five years, and
 - b. Increasing the state's appropriation for the Vermont State Colleges and UVM by three percent, to be used entirely for financial aid and scholarships for Vermonters.
4. **Refocus education of our children - from grade school through college - on career readiness.**

[See a transcript of my whole State of the State Address here: \(will link to speech text\)](#)

Vermont will once again show the nation what it takes to innovate, create new opportunities to grow, and lead. And with your help, we can achieve our shared goal: that everyone has access to education, throughout their life, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money their family makes, and that they can keep learning and keep developing their skills for the economy of Vermont's future. Let's do this together.

Sincerely,
Peter Shumlin
Governor

Leigh Appleby
Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609
Office: (802)828-3333
Fax: (802)828-3339
Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 9:14 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

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To ensure our success we must embrace change in the way we view and deliver
education. #vtsots

62% of job openings in the next decade will require a post-secondary degree, yet only
45% of VTers who begin ninth grade continue past HS. #vtsots

Even w the vast amt of money that we spend per pupil in VT, we are not moving enough
low-income VT kids beyond HS. #vtsots

Let's build an integrated education system that uses the technology of our time &
prepares all VTers for an innovative & bright jobs future. #vtsots

It is long past time for us to strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood
education. #vtsots

Every dollar we invest in early childhood education saves taxpayers \$7 in the future.
#vtsots

Today, I propose the largest investment in early childhood education in Vermont's
history. #vtsots

AHS will implement an integrated plan for health promotion and prevention to ensure
that all children reach their full potential. #vtsots

I propose that VT covers the shortfall left by the federal government, and makes free
lunch available for all low-income students. #vtsots

We must make education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters. #vtsots

To help move more poor kids beyond high school, I ask you to pass 2 provisions: dual enrollment & early college. #vtsots

The level of college debt being amassed by VT's students and their families is oppressive. #vtsots

To the graduating class of 2013: if you make a commitment to our state, then our state will make a commitment to you. #vtsots

I propose the #VTStrong Scholars Program to help #STEM grads stay and work in VT by paying back, over the course of 5 years, the final year of tuition. #vtsots

I propose to increase the state's appropriation for @VSC_edu & @uvmvermont by 3% for financial aid & scholarships for VTers. #vtsots

We can do a better job of personalizing education & integrating technology, career training & internships w traditional classroom ed. #vtsots

I propose using career & tech centers as the foundation for Vermont Innovation Zones throughout the state. #vtsots

VT Innovation Zones will focus on areas of education and professional opportunity that fit the needs of their region. #vtsots

I pledge to work w you to ensure our shared goal: that everyone has access to education regardless of who they are or how much \$ they make. #vtsots

Facebook – January 10, 2013

8:30 pm Photo of the day: Governor Shumlin is sworn in for his second term as Vermont's 81st governor.

Email list – January 10, 2013

4:45 pm:

Friend—

Today, I broke from tradition and focused my State of the State address on one theme: an education system that grows Vermont's prosperity. My goal – and the single objective of my administration – remains to grow jobs and expand incomes. It is my steadfast belief that our education system, from pre-kindergarten to higher education, is the state's single greatest economic development tool.

We have a great education system, and the I have identified four specific policies to make that system even greater. My proposals would:

- 1. Buy lunch for all low-income students, including those who are currently eligible for reduced-price lunches. Students can't learn when they are hungry, and too often, we expect hungry kids to learn.**
- 2. Strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood education. I proposed to make the largest single investment in early childhood education in Vermont's history. We will redirect \$17 million from the state's Earned**

Income Tax Credit to make high quality childcare affordable to hardworking low-income Vermonters.

3. Make higher education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters by:

- a. Implementing the Vermont Strong STEM Scholars Program, which will give graduates of Vermont's public institutions of higher education a helping hand to stay and work in Vermont by paying back their final year of tuition over the course of five years, and
- b. Increasing the state's appropriation for the Vermont State Colleges and UVM by three percent, to be used entirely for financial aid and scholarships for Vermonters.

4. Refocus education of our children - from grade school through college - on career readiness.

See a transcript of my whole State of the State Address here: (will link to speech text)

Vermont will once again show the nation what it takes to innovate, create new opportunities to grow, and lead. And with your help, we can achieve our shared goal: that everyone has access to education, throughout their life, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money their family makes, and that they can keep learning and keep developing their skills for the economy of Vermont's future. Let's do this together.

Sincerely,
Peter Shumlin
Governor

Leigh Appleby
Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609
Office: (802)828-3333
Fax: (802)828-3339
Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Obuchowski, Mike
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 7:21 AM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Racine, Doug
Subject: FW: NY Times article the Gov. may be interetsed in re quick Criminal Drug Rehab in VT

From: McArdle, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:04 PM
To: Obuchowski, Mike
Subject: NY Times article the Gov. may be interetsed in re quick Criminal Drug Rehab in VT

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/08/for-drug-users-hope-in-a-swift-response/?ref=opinion>

This exciting article was on the back pages of the NY Times and may have been missed ?

Its about Vermont's quick (and successfull) response program with effective rehab for drug offenders.

Nor only very cost effective but compassionate to boot

Could be/ Shd be the model for a national program

Pass it along as you see fit

Mike

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:31 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

Vermont Tech wants to be part of state's economic revival

As the governor pushes for a more high-tech economy, Vermont Technical College says its ready to mold tomorrow's work force

TIM JOHNSON

When Gov. Shumlin talks about educating Vermonters to fill higher-skilled jobs, he's preaching to the choir at Vermont Technical College.

That's because Vermont Tech focuses on applied education. Roughly 40 percent of the college's students are in STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — the disciplines that Shumlin insists will have to turn out more graduates to nourish the high-tech economy of the future. The governor is expected to invoke that theme in his state-of-the-state address today. Thursday 1/10

"We take the basic knowledge that students learn in high school and transfer that to programs that serve the workforce here in Vermont," said Vermont Tech President Philip Conroy Monday, in a visit to the Free Press editorial board. According to Vermont Tech data, about 90 percent of its graduates are employed or enrolled in post-secondary programs within six months of leaving school, and a large majority of those employees stay in Vermont, Conroy said. He highlighted two initiatives that dovetail with primary economic needs — an Institute for Applied Agriculture, supported by a \$3.4 million federal grant, which will train students in dairy farming and specialty food production; and an apprenticeship program in advanced manufacturing, which enlists STEM students to use their various skills in production technologies that include robotics. Both programs involve collaborations with various Vermont businesses.

"I think that most employers would agree that there's a certain level of skills needed in order for that worker to be specifically trained in whatever that product is. That's what Vermont Tech does," Conroy said, adding: "We have programs all over the state where we collaborate with specific companies so that we can meet their specific needs." Vermont Tech's fall enrollment has hovered between 1,600 and 1,700 for the last several years. An enrollment-management consultant has recommended increasing that to 2,500; Conroy said various enrollment-growth scenarios are under consideration, but cautioned that increases would have to be gradual, perhaps over a decade. Even now, though, the Randolph campus has 100 empty beds.

(Page 2 of 3)

Plans call for a marketing campaign to draw more students from out of state and overseas, including China and the Middle East. Vermont's annual cohort of graduating high school students is in decline.

Conroy acknowledged that tuition at Vermont public institutions are among the highest in the country. "A lot of folks cannot afford to look at our tuition rates," he said. Vermont Tech's in-state tuition and fees this year amount to \$12,024. Vermont Tech can't count on a big new infusion of state support to offset that sticker price. The appropriation for Vermont State Colleges — among the lowest in the country, per student — has been flat for the last few years, and trustees have asked this year for a modest increase of 3 percent. Tuition and fees are the major source of revenue for Vermont Tech and the four other schools — Castleton, Johnson and Lyndon state colleges and Community College of Vermont.

Since he assumed the presidency 18 months ago, Conroy said, he has noticed a heightened awareness of a need for "STEM-based education programs." Advanced or specialty manufacturing, relying on highly skilled labor, is the way of the future, he believes.

"There's finally a realization that if we're going to improve the economy in this country, not just this state, that we are going to have to get back into building some basic businesses, and that includes manufacturing," he said. "And it's not

going to be the same type of manufacturing that we have historically done. It's going to be specialty manufacturing, it's going to be advanced manufacturing. It's going to be the areas of manufacturing that can support a highly trained and dedicated workforce, and frankly one that's more expensive than what can be done in the rest of the world.

"I think that's the specialty we'll see going forward, and that's definitely the specialty we have here in Vermont. You travel to virtually any part of the state, and you'll find specialty manufacturers that are producing products that are important to the world marketplace, but they're small part of it, but they tend to be high-end."

(Page 3 of 3)

He cited an example of airplane parts manufactured in Vermont finding their way into jet engines going into Airbus frames in France.

Conroy envisions a niche for Vermont in the high-tech manufacturing future.

"As a small state, we're going to have very specific things that we do extraordinarily well, and better than others," he said. Producing those products will require skilled workers of the sort that he hopes will be coming out of Vermont Tech. "I'm optimistic about the governor's agenda," he said. "I'm looking forward to participating."

Vt Tech's applied education... The nature of our business is applied education. Our understanding is that the governor's message at the end of the week is going to dovetail a lot with what we do at Vermont Tech, especially around STEM program -- science technology engineering and math. Those are critical areas for us. We take the basic knowledge that students learn in high school and transfer that to programs that serve the workforce here in Vermont, primarily.

(highlights two areas, agriculture and food systems and adv. mfg)

Lot of higher ed inst interested in it... I think there's room at the table for each of us to do our specialty. VT tech's is applied, which means we teach people how to do ... we have the farms, we ... \$3.4 million usda grant for agriculture. going to be used to and retrain incumbent workers in ag industries, specifically around specialty foods. Part of the grant to construct an incubator plant in Randolph... dairy incubator train people how to grow/raise dairy cattle and convert that product to value added product... partnering with Vermont farmstead cheese company, Vermont Creamery, Commonwealth Dairy, all of which need workers. At same time training next generation of workers in those areas... food venture center in Hardwick... emphasis is on collaboration as much as what we do.

UVM has food systems spire, research based. We need good research. Part of our institute will be on waste to energy, taking organics... we need researchers at UVM to help us determine what the best menu is... take that knowledge and train the next generation of technicians... there's also an inst of food systems at VT law school ... we need that inst. to help policy and regulation side because these tech we're developing are new..... So the whole areas of ag and food systems is very large in the state and the things we're doing at VT tech are very much on the cutting edge...

Deeghan set to change his plea

MIKE DONOGHUE

Former Vermont State Police Sgt. Jim Deeghan, who was charged in a time-sheet-fraud scandal in July, is scheduled to withdraw his not-guilty pleas Monday in Burlington.

The plea agreement came to light Wednesday afternoon following the second of two secret meetings in eight days in the Burlington courthouse office of Judge Brian J. Grearson. The meetings, in which transcripts or recordings were not kept, included defense attorney James Murdoch and two prosecutors.

By withdrawing his not-guilty pleas, Deeghan could plead either guilty or no contest. Details of the agreement, including any kind of restitution order to taxpayers, were not made public Wednesday.

Deeghan, who was not at the hearing, is accused of padding his time sheets by more than \$3,000 in the month of June. A proceeding called a change-of-plea hearing is set for Monday morning in Vermont Superior Court. News of the plea change was first reported by the Burlington Free Press online Wednesday.

Any plea bargain would not be final until the judge has a chance to question Deeghan during the hearing — presumably in open court.

Attempts to reach Deeghan, 49, of Colchester for comment were unsuccessful; he has been free on conditions since his arraignment.

Murdoch has declined comment throughout the case and remained mum, except to acknowledge the Monday hearing. Deeghan collected \$136,575 in his state paychecks for 2011-12, making him the sixth-highest-paid state employee, according to records obtained last summer by the Burlington Free Press shortly before his forced resignation. The

money included \$58,325 in overtime and supplemental income. He claimed 1,164 overtime hours — more than 22 hours a week for the entire year.

Deeghan resigned July 10 amid reports of a start of a criminal investigation. Three days later he was charged with two felony counts of false claims dealing with his two time sheets filed in June. The 22-year police veteran pleaded not guilty to both counts that alleged he collected an extra \$3,023 for overtime hours he claimed, but never worked.

(Page 2 of 3)

State police later stated in court papers that Deeghan bilked taxpayers out of nearly \$140,000 from December 2008 to July 2012 through his time-sheet filings, but prosecutors never filed additional charges.

Court records show Gearson conducted a conference in his office that was not recorded Jan. 2, two days after a paperwork deadline in the case.

At the courthouse Wednesday, the Burlington Free Press sent a note to Gearson during the noon hour asking to meet with him before the scheduled 1 p.m. Deeghan case meeting in the judge's chambers.

Murdoch, Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan and his deputy Mary Morrissey began meeting behind closed doors near the Court Clerk's Office at about 1:05 p.m. They talked for 15 minutes before being led through a side door into a locked courtroom and later into Gearson's office.

When the Free Press reminded the Clerk's Office of the pending request to Gearson to be heard before the planned secret session, Clerk Chris Brock said, "He's thinking about it."

The closed-door meeting, which lasted about eight minutes, was listed on the public court calendar.

After the meeting, Donovan confirmed the Free Press request was considered, but he offered no further details.

"We discussed it," Donovan said.

Donovan turned to a court clerk and asked her to schedule the change-of-plea hearing for Monday.

Gearson, who resumed hearings in the courtroom at 2:20 p.m., never publicly addressed the access issue and did not respond to a second note from the Free Press seeking an interview.

Gov. Peter Shumlin, Donovan and other state leaders have promised transparency for the Deeghan case, citing the serious nature of the charges and the overriding public interest.

The judiciary, a separate branch of government, is not required to follow Shumlin's directive, though usually court hearings take place in full view of the public and with a recording system to keep a record of what participants say.

Vermont State Police Director Col. Tom L'Esperance, after Deeghan's resignation in July, called the case "a betrayal of trust." The case is one of the largest scandals in the 65-year history of the state police.

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The Deeghan case exposed a lack of proper oversight on state-police time sheets and other management. Investigation revealed that Deeghan filed separate timesheets — that did not match — with the state police and with payroll.

Authorities also say Deeghan wrote 973 bogus traffic tickets, but there was no management of the system to uncover them or to tell the state why it was not receiving money for tickets that were never served on motorists. The bogus tickets went undetected for more than 12 years.

Murdoch, as Deeghan's lawyer, blocked state police from sending a letter to the 973 motorists that were written tickets, but never received, Donovan said last month. Their names and violations were entered into a state police computer and available for access by other police agencies.

Shumlin, prosecutor Donovan and Keith Flynn, the state's public safety commissioner, had all said they wanted the names released under a public records request by the Free Press.

The Deeghan case also has caused Shumlin, Flynn, the state treasurer, the attorney general, legislators and officials from unions and pension boards to propose legislation to force the seizure of public pensions for any government employee convicted of embezzlement, theft, fraud, bribery or other work-related crimes.

Voice of the Free Press: Sustain push for transparency

Gov. Peter Shumlin's call to increase public access to criminal investigations is an important step in what must be a comprehensive and sustained push for more a more open government.

The real test for the governor will come in how vigorously and persistently the governor will push for the change should -- more likely when -- the bills run into resistance in the Legislature.

Current law allows law enforcement and prosecutors to keep criminal investigative files secret citing on broad generalities, even after the case is closed.

The governor's proposal is to adopt federal guidelines, also used in 21 states and Washington, D.C.. Those guidelines presumes investigative files are open, and requires identifying a specific harm to the investigation, safety or privacy before the information could be withheld.

The exemption allowing the files to be withheld must be limited and clear, and require permission by the court.

A presumption of openness means that law enforcement must make the case for denying public access, rather than forcing the people to go to court to exercise their right to public documents -- too often the case today.

Public access to criminal investigative files became an issue when law enforcement and Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan sought to withhold information about evidence collected through search warrants in the disappearance of an Essex couple.

Law enforcement sought to keep the information from the public based on the vague assertion about on-going investigation which could have applied to any case.

The information, once filed with the court, has long been held to be a public record.

A November ruling by the state Supreme Court overturning lower court decisions in favor of releasing the information exposed the woeful state of Vermont laws protecting access even to public records, to police files, underscoring the need for legislative action.

The court ruled police and prosecutors could withhold evidence collected through search warrants without providing a specific reason.

In a dissenting opinion, Associate Justice John Dooley wrote, "Before today, the presumption was against confidentiality. ... The majority opinion replaces this practice with a presumption of confidentiality."

Donovan said at the time that the ruling clarifies the rules for releasing information and that "the divided decision doesn't go unnoticed."

In the Democratic primary for state attorney general, Donovan had taken an aggressive stance on transparency by advocating Vermont adopt the same federal rules now proposed by Shumlin. This time, Donovan was right.

When the state's highest court interprets the law for maximum government secrecy, the best remedy is for the Legislature to make clear maximum transparency is the standard. If there's a legitimate reason to keep the information from the public, a convincing case must be made before a judge.

Making sure the people retain the tools to keep government accountable is an initiative the governor and lawmakers must see through to the end.

My Turn: State bank put Vermonters first

ANDERS CHRISTIANSEN

Despite Vermont's image of being local, and supporting the 99 percent, Vermont's taxes and revenues go straight to Wall Street. Vermont's funds should be reinvested in the state instead of supporting big banks and big companies.

In 2008 the country was plunged into crisis because of banks that were, and still are, "too big to fail." To avoid the next crisis, 19 states have introduced bills to study or form a state-owned bank. North Dakota, also a rural agricultural state with a little over half a million people, has fared better than any other state at weathering the economic crisis and has a large budget surplus.

Census data shows North Dakota has the lowest unemployment rate in the country. What makes North Dakota different? Unlike the other 49 states, North Dakota has a public state-owned bank. While the vast amount of Vermont's taxes and revenue goes to TD Bank, North Dakota's funds are put in a public bank and re-invested in the community. Instead of maximizing shareholder value, the public bank's mission is: "To deliver quality, sound financial services that promote agriculture, commerce and industry in North Dakota." The bank has many programs to promote economic development and make loans that offer societal benefit.

Because the bank serves the public instead of shareholders, it accepts lower returns on loans for job creation, starting a business, disaster relief and student loans. As a result, money is funneled toward those who need it and not into unsustainable speculative bubbles like those that caused the global financial crisis. Despite foregone profit from

expanding credit and lowering the cost of loans, the banks return on equity has been well above the country's median. The bank also returned \$30 million of their profit to the state in 2009.

Some believe a state bank would compete with other banks, yet North Dakota has three times the national average of community bank lending per capita. By creating partnerships through sharing and insuring loans, the state bank functions synergistically with other banks in the state.

(Page 2 of 2)

Despite the fact that part of North Dakota's success is due to oil and gas revenues, it still had the lowest unemployment rate in the country in 2001 before its oil production skyrocketed. The state bank provided nearly as much revenue to the state as oil and gas did. These numbers suggest there is more behind North Dakota's success than resource wealth.

As to whether a state bank would work in Vermont, Cairn Cross, a former banker and founder of venture capital firm Fresh Tracks, believed so in his testimony to the Vermont Legislature. He found that consolidating existing lending programs into a state bank could, "create an entity that operates far less expensively and at a profit and therefore is able to pay a dividend to the state each year rather than the reverse whereby the state needs to appropriate funds for these organizations on a regular ongoing basis."

If there is an option for a more independent, prosperous Vermont, it should be embraced and not feared. Our tax money should support our children's education and local economies, not bankers with only their own interests in mind. Anders Christiansen of East Montpelier is a student at University of Vermont.

The more things change...

Amid CEO shift, Dealer.com culture remains stable

DAN D'AMBROSIO

On Jan. 1, Dealer.com — everybody's favorite poster child for Vermont's new digital economy — got its second chief executive officer in the 14-year history of the company. Rick Gibbs replaced Mark Bonfigli, the first and only previous CEO.

But don't call it a watershed event.

"I wouldn't really call it a watershed event, more an evolution of what we were doing," Gibbs said last week in an interview with the Burlington Free Press. "I've been running the company for the past three years. Mark is focused on the people and the culture here. We thought it would be good to make sure the titles aligned with what we were doing." Gibbs said he and Bonfigli have shared an "amazing partnership" for the past 14 years, and that this latest title change simply helped to clarify their roles.

Bonfigli echoed Gibbs' remarks in an earlier interview, saying, "Rick has been running a lot of the day-to-day for a couple of years now. I have tried to focus on the culture and the people to make sure our people are unified and inspired and have everything they need."

In his new role as "Chief Earthling" — a play on the company's origins with Earthycars in Williston — Bonfigli will remain focused on the culture of the company and the workplace, and on Dealer.com's involvement in the community.

Gibbs and Bonfigli are two of the five co-founders of the company, all of whom still work there. Mike Lane is chief operating officer. Ryan Dunn, creative director of the digital experience and strategy team, is in charge of "usability," making sure consumers get the most out of Dealer.com websites. Jamie LaScolea, chief interface officer, heads up the mobile development team.

"We actually still enjoy each other's company," Gibbs said. "We're still friends today. That's probably the biggest accomplishment we have after 14 years."

In 14 years, Dealer.com has grown to nearly 700 employees, with about 600 of them working at the company's Google-like headquarters on South Pine Street, where boldly colored dividing walls break up the huge open spaces beneath an industrial-height ceiling, and the Dot Calm Cafe serves up lunch from a fully equipped kitchen. Groups of employees can be seen lifting weights, playing tennis, or spinning on stationary bikes that generate electricity in an exercise room with a retractable roof.

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Then there's the 15-minute chair massage you can sign up for once a week.

"It fills up fast," says Alison von Puschendorf, director of corporate communications, of the massage schedule. "I have a colleague who's on the website Sunday as soon as it opens up. This is hugely important to our culture, and keeping things well-rounded for employees. It's a priority for us."

Employees decide on their own when they have time for weight training or spinning or a massage, as long as the work gets done.

"We have what we like to think is a mature, professional, responsible organization," von Puschendorf said. "You fit it in when you can."

Not just a website company Dealer.com has more than 7,000 dealers as customers in the United States — out of a total of about 18,000 dealers nationwide — and about 4,000 of the 8,500 dealers in Canada. The company builds websites for its customers, including all Subaru and Chrysler dealers, where it has contracts with the manufacturers themselves.

Gibbs stresses that websites are only one part of what Dealer.com offers its customers. The company also has inventory management software that helps them sell cars online, and an advertising component that hooks them up with digital ads on Google, Yahoo, and Facebook.

The fourth and final piece of Dealer.com's offering is a customer relationship management system, or CRM, which gives dealers a range of tools to streamline their operations, from negotiating with buyers to tracking their dealership's results, even from their smartphones.

By his estimation, Gibbs says about 35 million people are looking at a Dealer.com property online every month across North America.

"The enormity of what we're doing is unbelievable," he said. "The amount of effect we have on the auto industry is massive."

Despite its success, Gibbs is frustrated that lots of Vermonters still don't seem to understand what is going on inside those gilded walls on Pine Street.

"A lot of people still believe we sell cars online, or we're just a website company," he said. "We built a platform that's powering 40 percent of the auto industry right now."

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Couch surfing to success All of the founders, except Bonfigli, met as software engineering students at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. After graduation, Gibbs, Lane, Dunn and LaScolea all ended up working in the Boston area. Gibbs and LaScolea worked for a consulting company with Fortune 500 clients, doing web development. Lane was also a consultant. Dunn was a graphic artist.

"Three of us lived together and Ryan crashed on the couch," Gibbs said. "We wanted to build something ourselves and do it our way. There's a certain freedom you have doing it yourself at 23 years old. You have no responsibilities whatsoever. We packed everything we had in one U-Haul and drove to Vermont."

The four Musketeers ended up in a rented house on South Winooski Avenue near Maple Street. Gibbs was building the core software structure of what would become Dealer.com, the behind-the-scenes coding. LaScolea was building the actual tools dealers would use, the interface. Dunn was overseeing usability, just as he is today. Lane was working on front end web design and support, as well as dealing with HR and production.

Then came a fateful meeting between Mike Lane, a Vermont native, and Mark Bonfigli, who had a used car dealership on Williston Avenue, together with his brother Andrew, called Earthcars (now Earthycars). Lane needed a car, and went to Earthcars by chance, but was quickly impressed by Bonfigli's embrace of the Internet at a time, in the late 1990s, when that was "pretty revolutionary," according to Gibbs.

"He was taking requests off his website for cars," Gibbs said. "When a car would come into inventory he would automatically email people who just came in looking for a car."

Lane and Bonfigli ended up talking for hours, according to Gibbs, about the car business and the web. Lane took back what he had learned to the other founders. Bonfigli became their prototype.

"When we met him we said, 'We can replicate this for many dealers not just yours,'" Gibbs remembered.

Bonfigli soon joined the four Clarkson graduates in their new company, becoming Dealer.com's top salesman.

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"He would go visit dealers and sell them on the vision of what we were doing," Gibbs said. "We slowly built the business one client at a time."

From Greensboro to San Francisco One of the first dealers Bonfigli visited was Greensboro Garage, in Greensboro, Vt., still owned today by Stephen Ferber, who opened the business in 1971, specializing in used Subarus, Volvos and Toyotas.

Ferber, an old school car technician turned salesman, said he prides himself on treating customers like friends.

"We're not telling them what they should buy or what they should do," he said. "They ask us questions and we give a direct answer about the car and how we think it would last over another car."

Ferber admits he was "sandbagging" on the question of computers in the office. He wrote up every sale by hand, and it was only when customers began coming into his showroom and telling him more about the price structure of his cars than he knew, that he realized he needed to be on the Internet.

Dealer.com to the rescue.

"They drove all the way out here from Burlington and said, 'Hey, we can make you a website, you'll be off and running,'" Ferber said. "They made a very nice website. We liked it very much. We still like it. That gave us a real early presence on the car-selling scene, before even Cars.com, Autotrader, and Carfax."

Although he's still using the website Dealer.com created for him, Ferber has not added the other online marketing solutions the company offers to his mix.

"Here again we're coming back to my basic mule-like nature," he said. "I got to be tugged along. I'm using the basic website still."

Ferber has noticed Dealer.com's ads in national trade magazines, and did visit the Burlington headquarters.

"I thought I was in San Francisco or something," he says. "More power to them."

The competition Ralph Paglia, president of Automotive Media Partners, LLC, in Gilbert, Ariz., has been watching Dealer.com develop over the years as well, most of the time as an employee for two of its top competitors — Reynolds and Reynolds, based in College Station, Texas; and ADP, with offices across the nation.

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ADP is the same company that handles payroll for 40 percent of the workers in the country, according to Paglia. Before leaving to start his own company last year, Paglia was director of digital marketing at ADP, a \$9 billion public company, competing head-to-head with Dealer.com.

He remembers a losing battle for business from Toyota, which was looking for someone to handle data collection and analysis for a national digital marketing strategy. Paglia says ADP lost that bid thanks to Dealer.com's reputation for being a fun, innovative place to work, with a corporate culture that is "legendary" in the auto business.

"We were the epitome of the multinational corporate behemoth," Paglia said. "Our play with Toyota was we were big, we had resources, and we would apply whatever resources were necessary."

On the Dealer.com side of the equation, Paglia said, was a company Toyota saw as staffed by creative problem solvers who came up with unique solutions. Toyota went with fun guys, because their perception was that "the most creative people were there, and wanted to stay there," Paglia said.

Just the way Mark Bonfigli planned it.

"Our company is filled with really smart people who know how to pioneer solutions," he told the Free Press. "We're constantly looking at problems that have to do with the complexity of running a company on the Internet."

Maybe so, Paglia says, but Bonfigli's real genius is the branding of his company as a fun, creative place to work.

"To be honest with you, there's nothing Dealer.com has developed that hasn't already been developed by a competitor or later copied," Paglia said.

In the car business, innovation as a competitive advantage is "soon lost," but a corporate culture is forever, according to Paglia.

"An advantage based on perception of a corporate culture is very tough to overcome," he said. "It's not perceived by clients as something at risk of being lost."

A company without legs? When Dealer.com first came on the scene a little over a decade ago, skepticism abounded in the hidebound auto industry, according to Paglia.

(Page 6 of 6)

"Many of us would say about Dealer.com, 'That company has no legs.' It lacked the depth of seriousness to survive for the long term," Paglia said. "Here it is 10 years later, and the people who said that were employed by companies that are no longer around, and Dealer.com is."

As it turns out, Chrysler, Subaru, and others weren't looking for company where software engineers were at their desks, heads bent over, in a high-tech sweat shop, Paglia says. They were looking for something closer to another company famous for its indulgent corporate culture, and resulting innovation and creativity.

"If Mark Bonfigli has accomplished something, it's being mentioned in the same sentence as Google," Paglia said. "That has a very tangible value."

Within the auto industry, Paglia says, Dealer.com has done the best job of turning its corporate culture into a marketing asset.

Dealer.com will top \$200 million in revenue in 2013, according to its "new" CEO, Rick Gibbs. That's a long way from 1999, when the company was experiencing the typical throes of a start-up.

"We were a start-up that didn't take in a lot of venture capital," Gibbs said. "We were funding it ourselves, cashing in 401k's, using credit cards, that kind of thing."

At one point, Gibbs went without a paycheck for six months, Bonfigli for a year, according to Gibbs.

"Every once in a while we would pay payroll on a credit card," Gibbs said. "All the stories you hear about the quintessential start-up, we went through them."

Dealer.com has been profitable since 2001, however, and two global private equity firms, Apax Partners and Accel Partners, have invested in the company. Apax has a 30 percent stake, and Accel, one of the backers of Facebook, has an 8 percent stake. The remaining ownership is divided among the founders and their friends and family, board members, and certain employees.

Gibbs has big plans for the future; he aspires to sell something to the remaining 11,000 or so car dealers in the country who don't work with his company.

"We believe every dealer in the United States will be on Dealer.com at some point," he says.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:24 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10:

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Renaud Brothers plans expansion, solar panels

By MIKE FAHER

VERNON — A significant expansion and a 6,000-squarefoot solar project are in the works at Renaud Brothers Inc.'s Vernon headquarters.

The well-known contractor has been consulting with town officials on both projects. And both are expected to happen this year, with the solar panels coming first.

"The planning commission is behind us, and we're moving forward," Mike Renaud, vice president and owner of the company, said of the photovoltaic installation.

Plans call for a 75-kilowatt solar-power project at Renaud's Fort Bridgman Road property. The panels, stretching over 6,000 square feet, would be tied to the electrical grid.

"We should be able to produce (power) in excess of the electricity we use on this site," Renaud said.

The company also has received a certificate of public good for the solar project from the Vermont Public Service Board, and construction will begin soon.

"I believe we're supposed to have it done by March," Renaud said.

Separately, Renaud also is planning an expansion of his metal fabrication business. The company makes structural steel and performs custom fabrication, Renaud said.

"In recent years, that part of the construction company has been growing," he said, adding that he's been contemplating an expansion for some time.

Plans call for a 3,000-squarefoot addition to a 5,000-square foot building. That will allow steel storage and prefabrication — much of which currently happens outdoors — to take place under roof.

"It'll help us expand our capabilities," Renaud said. "We could probably take on bigger jobs."

The project is at an early stage: Renaud must get permission from the state to amend the company's Act 250 permit before any construction can happen.

This week, the Vernon Selectboard signed off on the project. Board members expressed no objections after hearing a short presentation.

"They just gave us their support," Renaud said. "We wanted to give them an opportunity to hear about what we're doing and to let them have input."

If the permitting process goes smoothly, Renaud said he hopes to have the metal-fabrication project finished sometime this year.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Thumbs up, thumbs down, and a poke in the eye

by: jvwalt

Belated posting with my apologies. Vaguely Disturbing Cartoon Edition.

THUMBS UP: Governor Peter Shumlin, for grabbing Vermont politics and government by the scruff in a New Year's blitz of announcements and initiatives. And just to top it all off, the guy schedules an outdoor event for early January and comes up with a warm, sunny day. What, did he appoint The Man Upstairs as his new Secretary of Meteorological Arrangements?

He began his 2013 offensive by addressing one of 2012's biggest scandals (the Jim Deeghan case). He called for a new law that would let government claw back a public sector employee's pension benefits if they were gained through fraudulent activity. Then came a series of personnel shuffles plus a hint of major education reform initiatives to be announced this week.

After that came new transparency measures, allowing everyone to get more information about state government online, not to mention a proposal for greater public access to records of criminal cases and investigations.

Monday brought some well-conceived measures to reduce recidivism, and Tuesday was the dedication of the new mental health care facility to be built in Berlin, plus the news that its funding is pretty much taken care of through a combination of FEMA funds, insurance payments, and money already set aside in last year's budget.

The Gov has certainly hit the ground running. What's especially noteworthy is that most of these efforts are not the stuff of sexy headlines -- they're a matter of honestly trying to make government work better and more efficiently. Good stuff.

With one exception...

THUMBS DOWN: Governor Peter Shumlin, for persistently ducking and evading any sort of a stand on gun control. And for not making a whole lot of sense when he did say something.

There is some merit in his advocacy of a 50-state solution, but it's hard to accept that there is no role whatsoever for states or governors, especially those who pride themselves on their leadership. Couldn't we at least tighten our incredibly lax gun laws to match those of nearby states? Do we really need, for instance, to allow 16-year-olds to buy guns and carry concealed weapons?

Beyond that, there is absolutely no merit in Shumlin's call for some kind of measure to keep dangerous weapons away from the mentally ill. The American Psychiatric Association says that "The vast majority of violence in our society is not perpetrated by persons with serious mental disorders." Just look at the recent Bennington case of a respected schoolteacher who suddenly started posting threatening messages online, and was seen loading his Bushmaster into the trunk of his car on a Sunday evening. If he intended harm to students or staff, no amount of mental health screening would have prevented him from (a) owning a weapon of war -- he'd bought it a few years earlier -- or (b) snapping without any prior warning or diagnosis.

And although Shumlin has said he would support "sensible" gun legislation on a national level, one has to question exactly how he would define "sensible." The only restriction he's called for is the unattainable "keep guns away from

crazy people." Hell, he's refused to say whether the Bushmaster qualifies as a weapon of war. And given his high ratings by the NRA, I'm left to wonder if he shares that organization's definition of "sensible."

THUMBS UP: State Senator Phil Baruth, Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, and (we hope) the people of Vermont, for what appears to be some real change for the better in the Senate. In the 2012 session, Campbell repeatedly slammed the less senior Senators (including Baruth) while running an often-dysfunctional chamber. When he had to run for re-election as Pro Tem, he promised better organization and communication.

The ascension of Baruth to the position of Majority Leader is a concrete sign that Campbell will let some fresh air into the musty chamber. Our best to Phil on his new post, even though we fear his new responsibilities will make it even harder for him to keep up his renowned blog, Vermont Daily Briefing (last updated November 2). But if we must, we will happily trade an incisive, well-written political blog for a more open and productive Senate.

Vermont's toothless laws against operating unlicensed hunting preserves. Last week, two Fairlee residents were accused of operating a private hunting ground. They charged customers as much as \$6,000 for the chance to bag a moose, boar, buffalo, or other animal.

THUMBS DOWN: Steven Hill, 51, and Chiaki Ito, 21, both of Fairlee, were accused Friday of seven counts of operating an unlicensed captive hunting facility. They face up to \$1,000 in fines for each count and could lose hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for up to three years.

And there's the rub: these guys were raking in the dough for illegal hunting, and the maximum penalty is \$7,000 in fines. That's not much of a deterrent. The state no longer issues new permits for hunting facilities because they can harbor dangerous diseases. If Vermont has a real interest in limiting private hunting grounds, it needs to stiffen the penalties for offenders.

THUMBS UP: The Vermont Democratic Party, not rebuilding but reloading. After a dominant performance in 2012, the VDP has made a couple of behind-the-scenes hires aimed at cementing its hegemony. The party is hiring Ryan Emerson as communications director and field director, and Nick Charyk as political director. Both men came to prominence in last year's campaign. Emerson brought TJ Donovan within a \$200,000 SuperPAC injection of upsetting Attorney General Bill Sorrell and then spearheaded Treasurer Beth Pearce's lopsided win over Lenore Broughton's checkbook -- er, I mean Wendy Wilton. Charyk was director of the Vermont Democratic House Campaign, which overcame Lenore Broughton's checkbook and added to the Democratic majority in the House.

The hires provide steady employment for a pair of up-and-coming political minds and add to the Democrats' organizational power, at a time when the Vermont Republicans still don't have any paid staff and are counting on Reagan-era retread "Angry Jack" Lindley to create a youth movement in the VTGOP. Lookin' good for 2014, folks.

THUMBS DOWN: Processed food giant ConAgra Foods, for stealing Bo Muller-Moore's "Eat More Kale" slogan. A new ad for its Healthy Choice frozen yogurt features a woman who claims to be a recovering kale-aholic. Early in the commercial, she is shown wearing a fake "Eat More Kale" T-shirt -- with a different design than Bo's, but definitely the same slogan. (The cherry on top of this shit sundae: the amply-proportioned woman is shown jumping and shaking in slow-motion so we can all be mesmerized by her bouncing bosom.)

It's bad enough that one giant purveyor of industrial food, Chick-Fil-A, is trying to stop Bo from using his slogan. Now we've got another one attacking from the other side.

I can only hope, for the sake of cosmic justice, that ConAgra will be sued by Chick-Fil-A for trademark infringement.

POKE IN THE EYE: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, for once again having to settle lawsuits over its failure to prevent child sexual abuse by priests. The latest development is just one small step in a long, painful journey toward truth and reconciliation -- a journey that the Church has actively resisted in every possible way. There are many noxious elements to this sad story, but I'll tick off a few that really tick me off:

-- The Church put the interests of itself and its priests above all else, sweeping allegations under the rug, refusing to share information with law enforcement, and constantly shuttling accused priests from church to church and diocese to diocese.

-- Even while evading its responsibility, it has continued to claim absolute moral authority. We've been told that sexual abuse in the priesthood is rarer than in other professions. Well, it should be rarer. It should be NONEXISTENT, no? And the fact that it's relatively rare doesn't excuse the Church's decades (probably centuries) of negligence. At the same time, they're denying the Eucharist to pro-choice politicians, urging their parishioners to vote Republican, and making vast and arrogant claims of religious privilege.

-- Its internal structure has made a mockery of the civil justice system. For doctrinal purposes the Church is a single entity directed by the Vatican; but financially, each diocese is a separate entity. That means the pasty old men in the pointy hats never have to fear selling off their treasures, even though they clearly allowed a corrupt system to continue. Whatever the Burlington Diocese is paying out -- and they won't tell you how much that is -- we know one thing for sure: not a penny is coming from Rome.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Day One: Vermont legislators outline 2013 priority issues, hear from advocates

Legislators vow greater collaboration in Day One of new session, constituents push agendas from Lake Champlain cleanup to an assault weapons ban

NANCY REMSEN AND TERRI HALLENBECK

MONTPELIER — The Statehouse teemed with people Wednesday, and not just the friends and families on hand to watch lawmakers take the oath of office and their seats for a new legislative session.

Before the gavels fell in either the House or Senate, a coalition gathered in the Cedar Creek Room just down the hall from the two chambers to call on lawmakers to invest in clean water.

In the cafeteria, where many lawmakers stopped to get a cup of coffee and greet colleagues, a group appealed to the politicians to ban assault weapons.

At noon, participants in a rally organized by a dozen groups, many sporting bright T-shirts, clogged the main hall and stood should-to-shoulder in a nearby meeting room, chanting, "Put People First."

A diverse cross-section of Vermonters wanted to make sure from Day One that their elected representatives knew the issues on which their constituents wanted action.

"This is the way to open a session of the Vermont Legislature," noted newly elected Senate Democratic Leader Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, when he spoke at the Put People First rally.

For lawmakers, the first day was mostly formalities — electing a speaker of the House and a Senate president pro tempore, taking their oaths of office, and learning committee assignments.

The challenges to the incumbent House and Senate leadership had melted away by Wednesday, eliminating the political drama that occurs some years.

House

The 150-member House opened with a somber moment of silence to acknowledge the death on Nov. 30 of Rep. Greg Clark, R-Vergennes.

Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, after being elected to the top House position by unanimous voice vote, began his acceptance speech with recollections about Clark.

"We will miss him a great deal," Smith said. His death in a car accident "was a huge loss for our family." By family, he meant the Legislature.

Smith reminded the House that lawmakers and Vermonters have a tradition of working together that he hoped would continue in this session. "In the past four years, in the wake of great economic and political stress and in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, Vermonters have united both within this body and across the state to face our challenges, see within them possibility, and chart a course for a better future," Smith said.

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Smith listed the usual challenges — improving educational outcomes, reducing costs in health care while assuring universal access, figuring out how to pay to maintain roads and bridges and tackling drug addictions.

To that list he added a special focus for two House committees — the effects of climate change.

“During the coming session, the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy will work with the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to take testimony from the businesses and people of the state to learn the details of the effects of climate change, to learn what measures are being taken to adapt to this change and how we can lead the charge to prevent future degradation of our environment by moving toward reducing and eliminating carbon-dependent energy use.”

Rep. Christopher Pearson, P-Burlington, welcomed the spotlight on climate change as co-chairman of the House Climate Change Caucus that will hold its first meeting at noon Thursday.

Smith read off the committee assignments for House members, which both Progressives and Republicans said seemed fair.

House Republican Leader Don Turner of Milton said Republicans who requested committee changes all got what they wanted. He will take a seat on the Education Committee where he said he hoped to work on how schools can deliver more for the money invested.

House Republicans waded through the Put People First crowd for a short lunchtime organizational caucus. Turner urged members to help communicate with each other about bills under consideration in committees.

“We just have to work together as a team,” Turner said. “That is the only way we will get anything done.”

Turner also reported that the process to fill Clark’s House seat was underway, but the local Republican committee had yet to send names to the governor. By law, Gov. Peter Shumlin appoints Clark’s replacement.

Despite members’ hue and cry over the way the Senate was run last session, all opposition to Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell’s, D-Windsor, re-election as the Senate leader fell by the wayside by Wednesday morning.

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Sen. Diane Snelling, R-Chittenden, who had said she would challenge Campbell for the position, stood up and nominated him for the position instead. “This may seem surprising to some,” she said, but there were enough indications that changes were in place to make the Senate run more smoothly this year.

When the full Senate voted, Campbell won unanimous re-election to the position that holds much of the power for setting Senate priorities. In an earlier vote among Senate Democrats, Campbell held off a challenge from Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington.

When asked how he won his critics over, he said, “I sit down with people and I talk to them.”

Snelling said she especially wanted bills to proceed in an orderly way. Last year, many bills were delayed on the Senate floor, creating mystery over when and whether they would ever be heard.

Campbell said he would expect committees to routinely be ready to present a bill when it reaches the Senate calendar. As a signal of his new conciliatory tone, Campbell distributed white roses to the members — full stems for the women and boutonniere for the men. The gesture went over well, except that water in the vases had to be dumped because liquids aren’t allowed in the Senate chamber.

Campbell gave a short, 2.5-minute speech to members after his election, steering clear of specific policy that might come up this session and focusing instead on collaboration.

“When we do our work, we do it without concern for what party you’re in,” Campbell said. “What matters is we do something that is right for Vermonters. And we have to look out for the most vulnerable of our population. The elderly, the disabled and children.”

The first day’s session, in which the 30 members — including five new members — were sworn in, lasted just an hour. Sen. Bill Carris, D-Rutland, took the oath of office, but has already announced he is resigning his seat because of health problems. Shumlin is expected to interview three nominees for the seat next week.

The Senate returns Thursday morning for the swearing-in of Lt. Gov. Phil Scott at 11:30 a.m. Committee assignments could also be announced Thursday, said Sen. Richard Mazza, D-Chittenden/Grand Isle, a member of the Committee on Committees that makes the assignments. Several committee chairmanships are in flux.

(Page 4 of 5)

One new senator, David Zuckerman, P/D -Chittenden, will miss his second day in the Senate because he and his wife were flying to Washington, D.C., late Wednesday for a Thursday hearing on an appeal of a lawsuit that pits small farms against Monsanto, which has a patent on genetically modified seeds for certain crops.

At 9 a.m., an hour before the gavels were to fall in the House and Senate, a group gathered in the Cedar Creek Room of the Statehouse to urge legislators to invest in cleaning up Vermont's waterways. Among problems cited were algae blooms and farm runoff that clog Lake Champlain.

There's long been a lack of political will to make the investments, but the coalition is an indication that the tide is shifting, said James Ehlers of Lake Champlain International. "Today is different," he said.

He had amassed 32 signatures on a resolution urging state leaders to acknowledge the value of clean water. The group includes businesses, environmental groups and sportsmen's groups.

He said an estimated \$156 million a year is needed to clean up waterways.

Lori Fisher of the Lake Champlain Committee said \$395 million is needed over the next 20 years to repair pipes and systems to maintain clean drinking water.

They are hefty price tags, but Rep. David Deen, D-Westminster, chairman of the House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee said, "I am ready to move forward."

The Agency of Natural Resources will soon issue a report detailing possible funding sources for water improvements, a document that legislators asked for last year.

Lawmakers passing through the Statehouse cafeteria Wednesday morning also came upon a small group seeking support for an assault weapons ban in Vermont and nationally.

Laurie Levin of Norwich said she was gathering signatures for petitions in hopes of getting Vermonters to vote on Town Meeting Day in March to call for the ban and to require criminal background checks for every gun sold.

"We will take all the votes to the Legislature and say, 'Pay attention'," Levin said. "Our goal is to say 'this is a sea change.'"

(Page 5 of 5)

Levin said her group, Communities Against Assault Weapons, started shortly after the Connecticut shootings last month and has been spreading.

At noon, a crowd of disability clients and advocates, migrant farm workers, members of several labor unions and environmentalists filled the first floor of the Statehouse with noise and energy.

"So many organizations have come together to let our elected representatives know what our agenda is," declared Mary Gerisch of Bennington, president of the Vermont Workers Center. "Today we join in a movement that believes Vermont can and must do better."

The coalition of a dozen groups delivered thousands of postcards to lawmakers detailing what actions they should take to promote human rights. The coalition wants lawmakers to keep the state moving to a single-pay health care system, support childcare workers' right to form a union, allow migrant farm workers to get drivers licenses, adequately fund disability services, ban tar sands oil from moving through Vermont, fund weatherization, and create a budget process that puts people first.

Senate Democratic Leader Baruth and Speaker Smith welcomed the crowd to the "people's house."

Smith noted that he had spoken to lawmakers earlier about the intimacy of democracy in Vermont. He had the same message for the crowd.

"We are neighbors," he said. "We are sometimes adversaries" on issues, but he added, "we are a community."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:12 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10:

PRESS RELEASES:

VDP Executive Director Barnes announces staff changes

Montpelier, Vt. – This week Vermont Democratic Party Executive Director Julia Barnes announced the hiring of two new staffers. The VDP has hired Nick Charyk as Political Director and Ryan Emerson as Party Outreach and Communications Director. During the 2012 cycle, Charyk headed the Vermont Democratic House Campaign Committee and Emerson managed State Treasurer Beth Pearce's successful campaign.

"We're happy to announce the hiring of two new members of the Vermont Democratic Party team. Both Nick and Ryan have extensive experience working on campaigns in Vermont and we expect them to contribute to our success moving forward. The VDP is pleased to continue its operations into this off-election year with a robust staff of professionals who will lay the foundation for continued success in 2014 and beyond," said Barnes.

Health Department voices strong support for dental sealants

BURLINGTON – The Vermont Department of Health strongly supports the use of dental sealants to help prevent tooth decay, despite a Pew Center on the States' Children's Dental Campaign study "Falling Short: Most States Lag on Dental Sealants," released today.

The report gives Vermont a "C" grade for its sealant program in 2012, despite the state being among the best in the nation for children with dental sealants. Sixty-four percent of third graders in Vermont had dental sealants in 2009-2010. The survey data was unavailable to Pew in time to be included in this report.

"The study didn't take into account our most recent survey data, which shows Vermont far exceeds the national average in the number of third graders who have at least one sealant," said Steve Arthur, DDS, director of the Office of Oral Health. "With the more recent data, I believe we would have a much higher rating."

Vermont promotes and supports the use of sealants through the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program. The program links school children who have not accessed dental care in the past year with local dental offices where they can receive comprehensive dental care, including sealants.

"We thank the dentists and hygienists around the state for their strong support of this important public health measure," said Dr. Arthur. "By continuing to promote and expand the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program, updating the data we report on sealants, and providing incentives for increased use of all preventive measures, we will continue to improve oral health for Vermont kids."

VPR:

2013 Legislative Session Convenes

BOB KINZEL

The 2013 Legislative session opened today at the Statehouse.

Just after ten o'clock in the morning, Secretary of State Jim Condos brought the gavel down on the new session and the first order of business was the election of a House Speaker.

Two term Speaker Shap Smith faced no opposition and was unanimously elected to a third term in office.

Smith told his colleagues that he believes the nation's political process in Congress has become too polarized and dysfunctional, and he says Vermont's Legislature has the opportunity to set a better example:

"In the past four years in the wake of great economic and political stress and in the wake of tropical storm Irene," said Smith, "Vermonters have united both within this body and across the state to face our challenges, see within them possibility, and chart a course for a better future."

And Smith wants the House Natural Resources committee and the Commerce committee to work on efforts to help businesses cope with the effects of climate change.

"To take testimony from businesses and the people of the state of Vermont to learn the details of the effects of climate change, to learn what measures are being taken to adapt to this change and how we can lead the charge to prevent future degradation of our environment."

Meanwhile, House Minority leader Don Turner listed the implementation of a statewide teachers' contract as one of the best ways to control education costs in the future.

"Because what happens today is one district ratchets up the cost of the next and the next and the next," said Turner. "So I envision a statewide contract that's implemented maybe over a 5 year period not taking away anything they have but negotiating as a bigger group as we go forward."

Windsor senator John Campbell was elected to a second term as Senate President Pro Tem. He wants to create new higher education opportunities for Vermont's high school students.

"Some of them just don't want to really go into that 4 year program and they're looming and going "oh my god I really didn't like school that much the thought of having to go for 4 more years," said Campbell. "So I'd like to see the development of more two year programs and specifically tailor those to industries that we know are looking for people."

Governor Peter Shumlin will deliver his Inaugural Address on Thursday afternoon and then lawmakers will begin to review the hundreds of bills that will be introduced this year.

Activists Press For Their Issues To Be Heard**JOHN DILLON**

As lawmakers gathered for their opening day, they were greeted by hundreds of activists who wanted to make sure their issues aren't overlooked.

The groups pushed issues ranging from universal health care, to union rights, to more money to clean up Lake Champlain.

The biggest rally took place inside and outside a large Statehouse hearing room where hundreds of people stood shoulder-to-shoulder.

Ed Paquin, the executive director of Disability Rights Vermont, uses a wheelchair to get around. So he couldn't get inside the room because it was so crowded. He explained that the event was organized under the slogan "Put People First."

Paquin says the budget process has been turned upside down in recent years as lawmakers faced tight budgets and a political skittishness about raising taxes.

"We definitely in the last few years worked from the assumption that 'here's the tax structure that we have and so let's look at the revenue that raises,'" he says. "And so we don't think outside ... of that as a boundary for budget considerations."

Earlier in the day, a coalition of environmentalists and business-people also issued an urgent plea for lawmakers to spend more money to protect clean water.

Calling themselves the Blue Coalition, the members talked about the fish kills and nutrient pollution that plague Lake Champlain and other waterways.

The group wants new and sustained public investment in water pollution prevention and clean-up. James Ehlers, the executive director of Lake Champlain International, pointed out that a recent report from the Department of Environmental Conservation pegged the cost of Lake Champlain clean up at \$156 million a year.

"But that number is hopefully open to spirited debate. And that is the purpose of this coalition is people being willing to have that discussion," he says. "Previously we weren't even having that discussion. There was a lot of back and forth as to whether there was even a problem to begin with."

The activists said an investment in environmental protection would pay dividends for the tourism industry and for the state's quality of life. Christopher Kilian, the Vermont director of the Conservation Law Foundation, characterizes Lake Champlain's crisis as a "death spiral" of environmental degradation unless government does more.

"So this from our perspective is a call to action to the governor, to the Legislature, to make real investment in clean water for our future and for the future of our economy," he says.

The goal of all the activists was to bring a face and a voice to the issues that they care about. Anna Gebhardt works in early childhood education, and is seeking the right to organize a union.

"Ultimately, the big picture is that Vermonters are no longer going to fight over crumbs. We're coming together in solidarity, many different organizations here today to say that all of our issues are important and we're willing to stand together," she says.

The groups promised to return throughout the session to lobby lawmakers on their issues.

Judge Refuses To Block Vermont Yankee Case

John Dillon

A federal court judge has refused to block a state court proceeding that activists hope could force the shutdown of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

The New England Coalition has gone to the Vermont Supreme Court seeking a court order to close Yankee because it's operating without a valid state license to operate, called a certificate of public good.

Entergy, the company that owns the nuclear plant, then went to federal court to block the coalition's legal maneuver.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Garvan Murtha refused to grant the injunction.

The judge ruled last year in favor of Entergy in a case that challenged two state laws that gave the Legislature oversight of the plant.

But Murtha ruled this week that the New England Coalition was not part of that case. And Murtha said Congress was reluctant to have federal courts interfere with actions in state court.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

State terminates contract with Baybutt

Renovation of state building in Brattleboro hits a snag

By DOMENIC POLI

BRATTLEBORO — Several sub-contractors will not continue their work on the renovation of a state building downtown until they are paid by general contractor Baybutt Construction for the work they have done.

Bob Rea, the Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services' director of facilities for the eastern region, said he began getting phone calls from sub-contractors and vendors who said they have not been financially compensated by the Keene, N.H.-based company the state hired to fix up the building.

Baybutt is going through financial hardship: Three of its buildings in New Hampshire are set to be part of a foreclosure sale on Friday, Feb. 1. The business is also in the middle of a quagmire in Rockingham, where sub-contractors who insist they have not been paid are refusing to continue their work on the town's public library.

Rea told the *Reformer* he has been working on the matter for the past two-and-a-half months, after he started hearing concerns about the lack of progress being made on the project. He learned the stalled progress came from a lack of staffing caused by sub-contractors and vendors refusing to continue their work until they get paid.

As a result, he said, the state decided to terminate Baybutt's contract.

The state building, at 232 Main St., is expected to open in April despite the halt in construction.

Rea said the state was in the process of issuing a lien waiver — a document stating a contractor or sub-contractor has been paid in full and therefore waives any future lien rights to the property — from Baybutt in late October. But before the waiver could be issued, the state learned the company did not submit in a timely manner its September request for payment to the state. That meant subs and vendors were not paid until at least November and Rea does not think any of them were paid in full.

According to Rea, Baybutt had its own lien waiver form, which it sent to sub-contractors with a photocopy of a check attached to it. He said the subs signed the waiver and assumed the photocopy was an image of the check they would later receive. He said subs got, at best, a small portion of their money and the state then sent Baybutt a new lien waiver form and told the company to use that one in the future.

Rea said as a result of Baybutt's November request for payment, three sub-contractors in December received 75 percent of what they were owed via dual party checks from the project manager. But the state then got a letter from the bonding company, Merchants Bonding Company, forbidding the state from making any further payments to Baybutt without prior approval. The state then sent Baybutt a letter stating it was considering its option to declare the company in default due to lack of payments to the sub-contractors.

Vermont, according to Rea, sent Baybutt a letter on Jan. 9 saying the company is in default and that the state decided to

terminate its contract. Both Rea and Mike Obuchowski, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Buildings & Grounds, also believe about \$300,000 has been re-allocated from the Brattleboro project to other projects Baybutt is managing.

Rea said the contract requires the state to give Baybutt seven days' notice to rectify the situation, pay the subs and continue the project. But he said he feels that is unlikely to happen.

He said 39 percent of the \$2.6 million project had been completed by the end of November. The project, Rea said, is now about 45 percent done.

He said right now there are about five people working when there should be about 30, but he said he does not believe there will be a delay in the opening of the building.

"I think we caught it early enough," he said, adding that it should be ready by the end of April. He did not say who might finish the project. "It's not a complicated project. It's pretty

straightforward." If it does not open by the end of April, the bonding company is liable for \$36,000 a month in penalties.

"That puts some urgency into this," Rea said.

Rea said Baybutt has a payment bond, performance bond and warranty bond. He said the warranty bond protects the state if anything goes wrong with the building in the first year after it opens and also ensures the subs are paid. Rea said the lease space was appropriated in the project budget for about \$400,000.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:05 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10:

VTDIGGER:

Behind the pomp on opening day, theatrics and a little intrigue

JON MARGOLIS

Don't think it was all fun and games, this first day of the 2013 Legislature. By mid-day, 17 bills had already been filed in the Senate and seven in House of Representatives, on subjects ranging from criminal sentencing guidelines to just how clerks of the superior courts should keep their records.

But if it was not exactly fun and games, it was surely pomp and ceremony, some combination of a class reunion and political theater. "It's like the first day of high school," said one Statehouse regular, as all around her lawmakers, legislative staff, lobbyists, and reporters who had not seen one another since last spring renewed acquaintance and wished each other a happy new year.

Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell and House Speaker Shap Smith provided the ceremony as they delivered welcoming addresses to their respective houses that were upbeat, positive, and while not exactly platitudinous, could not possibly be described as bold.

"When we do our work, we do it without concern for what party you're in," said Campbell, which might possibly have been true Wednesday, but won't stay that way for long.

The theatrics were courtesy of a few hundred mostly young advocates with the Vermont Workers Center clad in red, green, or black t-shirts proclaiming their support for social programs benefitting the poor and disabled and for giving child care workers and some home health care workers the right to bargain collectively with the state for their pay and benefits.

Thanks to their numbers and their identifiable garb, these lobbyists for the downtrodden dominated the scene. But the lobbyists for the privileged, blander in their suits and dresses, were also out in force, posting themselves in the hallway outside the two chambers greeting legislators going in and out.

Adding to the high school reunion aspect of the day was a certain amount of score-settling between rival cliques. Especially in the Senate, last year's quarrels seem not to have been entirely forgotten.

So Sen. Ann Cummings of Montpelier, will not return as chair of the pivotal Finance Committee, or even as a committee member. And Sen. Virginia Lyons of Williston is not sure she'll return as chair of the Natural Resources Committee.

Cummings said it was her decision to relinquish her powerful chairmanship.

"I'm burned out," she said. "The last two years have been very hard. I haven't had any support from leadership and my staff was taken away."

Cummings acknowledged that she and Campbell have been at odds for some time, a relationship another senator described as "a Hatfield-McCoy" situation. Cummings challenged Campbell for re-election to his leadership position, but the Democratic caucus voted last month to give Campbell another term. Had Cummings not voluntarily stepped down as

Finance Chair, Campbell might well have removed her anyway. In most legislative bodies, there are consequences for challenging the ruler and losing.

"I yelled at him once because everybody yells at the pro tem now and then but that's not allowed with John," Cummings said. But the situation became much worse last year, she said, when, in a cost-saving move, the new director of the Legislative Council's office effectively forced the resignation of the committee's veteran, full-time staff director, Rachel Levin. Cummings said Levin was told she would have to add a second committee to her schedule. She quit instead.

Campbell, she said, did not instigate the change, but did nothing to stop it.

"A third of the legislation goes through the Finance Committee," Cummings said, "and it's the broadest range of responsibilities, through some technical areas that are not exactly related. Insurance and utility regulation, for instance, and it all comes generally in the last month."

The committee, she said, really needs the kind of expertise that was provided by that experienced, full-time, specialist on staff. Another full-time staffer was appointed, she said, but lacked Levin's expertise. This year, she said, she understands the committee will get only part-time staff.

Cummings said she did not know who might replace her as Finance Committee Chair. Other Senate sources suggested that Sen. Tim Ashe of Burlington was under consideration, but one said Gov. Peter Shumlin may have voiced objection to Ashe, fearing the Progressive/Democrat might not be as firmly opposed to tax increases as the governor wants lawmakers to be.

If Lyons is deposed as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee after ten years, it will not be at all voluntary.

"There are some people who would like to get rid of me, and I'm told that's a strong possibility," she said. "I don't think there's a legitimate reason, and I think it would be a loss for the senate because of my experience and leadership skills and understanding of the issues."

But there are those in and out of the Senate who think Lyons is too partial to environmental regulation, not sympathetic enough to business development.

All that Senate intrigue, though, was happening behind the scenes. Out in the open, harmony prevailed, even as advocates of various causes prepared for weeks of disputation.

Predicting what legislative bodies will do is more dangerous than predicting the World Series winner on the first day of Spring Training. In that latter situation, one can at least be confident that, say, it will not be the Kansas City Royals.

But the conventional wisdom – which, despite its bad reputation, is right more than wrong (otherwise it would not become conventional) – is that most of the specific causes – decriminalizing marijuana, legalizing physician-assisted suicide, opening more records to the public, getting more homes "weatherized" so they use less fuel, a two-year moratorium on new wind power projects – may well fall victim to the Legislature's inevitable preoccupation with the budget, which appears to face a \$50 million gap between expected revenue and obligated expenses.

Shumlin and (to only a slightly smaller extent) the leaders of both houses want to bridge that gap without raising taxes, or at least "broad-based" (income, sales, property) taxes. But with a politically difficult school property tax increase likely unless they can find a way to shift more money into the state's Education Fund, that could prove tricky.

Or at least it might prove unpalatable to many lawmakers, roughly two-thirds of whom are Democrats whose views are generally left of center and who have close ties to advocates of generous services to the poor, the disabled, and the environment.

Those were the amateur lobbyists flooding the Capitol Building on opening day. The largest contingent, the ones in red shirts, want to “put people first” by spending as much as needed to fund social programs fully, rather than just spending as much as today’s taxes bring in.

Politically, that’s a very tough sell. To make it a little less tough, the organizers are trying to find among their troops some lobbyists who can become less amateur. After parading around the Statehouse for a few hours, more than 100 of the activists met in an auditorium next door to encourage each other and to teach lobbying skills.

That same conventional wisdom teaches that this effort will end in failure, that even with some newly acquired skills, the volunteer lobbyists will be outgunned by the professionals in suits and dresses, not to mention the eternal political disinclination to raise taxes.

But stranger things have happened. Two years ago, full-time volunteer lobbyists from the “health care is a human right” movement attended committee meetings, testified before those committees, and buttonholed lawmakers as part of the successful effort to pass Shumlin’s health care package.

But that was Shumlin’s package. Passing laws the governor opposes is a lot harder.

House GOP to push for statewide teacher contract, eliminating education property tax for seniors

ALICIA FREESE

On the opening day of the 2013 legislative session, House Speaker Shap Smith urged the assembled representatives to be “brave enough to chart new courses” in education, health care, and climate change. House Republicans are “excited” about addressing the first two, House Minority Leader Don Turner said, but cool to the latter.

Education will be a major focus for Republicans, Turner said, but they plan to take a different tack than in years past. The Milton representative solicited, and secured, a spot on the House Education Committee to make sure his party has opportunity for input in the early stages of drafting legislation.

“For years we’ve talked about the funding mechanism ... but that doesn’t seem to resonate and people really don’t seem to care about that,” he said. Republicans are still concerned about the rising cost of education in Vermont, Turner said, but this session they will turn their attention from saving dollars to “getting bigger bang for our buck.”

Dual enrollment programs in which high school students take and earn credit for college courses, expanded pre-K, a statewide teacher contract, and lowering the threshold for income adjustment to the education property tax are key to bringing that “bigger bang” to fruition, Turner said.

The GOP wants to nix the education property tax for senior citizens and make up for the lost revenue by lowering the income level — currently \$97,000 — at which people qualify for an adjustment to their property tax. “I’ve had people come to me and say, ‘I make a lot of money, I’m fine with paying my property taxes. Why do I keep getting this deduction from the state?’” Turner said.

Republicans will also push for a statewide teacher contract. “School districts are leveraging against each other. ... It just keeps ratcheting up the cost of education,” Turner said.

Turner said House Republicans will propose to phase in new state-determined contracts as current contracts expire, over the course of about five years.

While there is bipartisan support for pre-K, Turner said he recognizes it will take more tact to drum up enough support for the other GOP proposals. Introduced alone, dual enrollment and a statewide teacher contract “are never going fly,” Turner said. But if they come as part of a comprehensive education reform plan — “a big packages with a lot of initiatives” — they may breach the opposition, he said.

Republicans will also be paying close attention to two key dates for the state's new health care system: Jan. 24, when the Shumlin administration plans to unveil the financing plan, and March 15, when the pricing for specific health care plans will be revealed. Turner said he has concerns about the affordability of the plans but he was heartened that Smith addressed the issue in his speech. "I'm excited that we are going to keep it in the public."

At one point in his speech, Smith appeared to poke a bit of fun at climate change skeptics, telling lawmakers, "I know that some of us will say, 'It was kind of cold last night ... it was cold last week.'"

But Turner contended that Republicans have serious reservations about making climate change a focus of the 2013 session. "Vermont is already very efficient. We already have very low carbon outputs. I don't see how we can continue to spend lots of money changing Vermont when the problem is really outside Vermont's borders. ... That's one area that I think we would strongly differ on, or oppose spending lots of resources trying to enhance that."

Turner also noted Republicans will prioritize one subject that Smith didn't mention in his speech — the state's \$50 million to \$70 million budget gap.

Wiquist: Green Mountain Club's concerns and recommendations to the Energy Siting Policy Commission

Editor's note: This op-ed is the text of testimony from Will Wiquist, executive director of the Green Mountain Club, before the Energy Siting Policy Commission on Dec. 5, 2012. The GMC was invited to testify before the commission in the context of the club's past involvement in Section 248 (Public Service Board) proceedings. The club helped establish the commission as part of a coalition which called for a review of the state's energy siting policies and procedures.

The Green Mountain Club is the founder and maintainer of the Long Trail. Historically, we have been involved in Vermont public policy discussions when those debates impact the Long Trail and people's experience on it.

To that end, the club was engaged in the Green Mountain Parkway debate in the 1930s and the creation of Act 250 by the Gibb Commission in 1969 — namely its provisions giving special protection to lands over 2,500 feet.

The 10,000 member, 102-year old Green Mountain Club is entrusted by the Vermont General Assembly "with the responsibility for the leadership in the development of policies" relating to the Long Trail. We know that energy policy — especially wind development siting policy — inescapably relates to the Long Trail.

The Legislature also asked that "the club report to the general assembly such action as it deems may be required to insure the preservation, maintenance, and proper use of the Long Trail system and other hiking trails." I believe that is essentially what we are doing by engaging in this debate.

The Green Mountain Club understands the existence of climate change and has sought to do our part with 100 percent on-site renewable energy generation at our Waterbury Center headquarters. We also accept that wind energy is already part of Vermont energy portfolio through wind projects in Searsburg and Sheffield, and soon at Georgia and Lowell. We are not interested in reopening those debates, but we are interested — and believe it's very important to — learn from those choices.

We recently participated in Section 248 proceedings before the Public Service Board regarding the Lowell wind development. The club neither opposed nor supported the project.

Instead, we sought to reduce the impact of the project on the hiking experience on the Long Trail which looks out at the Lowell Range. Specifically, we sought a developer-funded decommissioning plan and radar-activated lighting systems for the proposed towers. The board agreed to both these stipulations — though the lighting system will not be installed until it has FAA approval which we expect by next summer.

The club's experience before the Public Service Board was productive but expensive and complicated. The club spent \$42,000 of its own money to hire counsel and an expert witness. While the club has an excellent staff and dedicated, experienced volunteers, we could not engage in the process without hiring experts. As a volunteer-led organization that built America's first long-distance hiking trail, it runs counter to our nature to have to hire experts – but we did because we felt this was important for the trail.

The club was able to gain party status for the Lowell proceedings. That status however was limited to our concerns about impacts on the Long Trail and a historic Long Trail shelter. We were not allowed to comment on "any generalized impacts of the project." We were also initially prohibited from engaging on a decommissioning plan and fund until we successfully appealed that ruling.

Meanwhile, in Act 250 hearings we have been able to engage and play a role while limiting costs. This more open-door public engagement process has allowed the club to raise concerns with projects that impact Vermont hiking trails while also allowing us to move our own projects forward even when they have fallen under Act 250.

While we were satisfied that the Public Service Board heard and considered the concerns we raised, we do feel that it was very expensive and required a great deal of expertise to appropriately engage in the process. We respectfully support a mechanism to fund interveners.

While we were satisfied that the Public Service Board heard and considered the concerns we raised, we do feel that it was very expensive and required a great deal of expertise to appropriately engage in the process. We respectfully support a mechanism to fund interveners. We understand other states have adopted a similar feature. One criterion for eligibility could be whether an intervener offers public benefits.

Having gone through this process and observed other similar proceedings, the Green Mountain Club felt that there is a great deal that can be improved about Vermont's policies and procedures related to wind energy development – particularly regarding siting questions.

It is with this in mind that we helped establish and lead a coalition of conservation groups which pushed to establish this very commission as a means of reviewing – and hopefully improving – our policies and procedures.

Concerns:

In general, the Public Service Board process under Section 248 as well as the Agency of Natural Resources permitting processes do not adequately consider all of the criteria by which a project should be judged.

- With Act 250 the state of Vermont sought to protect – among other things – lands above 2,500 feet. Our state felt that these were special places for ecological and cultural reasons. Yet, energy projects are uniquely exempted from the stringent requirements that Act 250 places on any other type of development above 2,500 feet. This must largely be because Section 248 did not envision site-dependent, industrial-scale energy projects being built above 2,500 feet. This loophole should be filled.
- Section 248 does not allow for the consideration of the cumulative impacts of multiple projects. If we as a state are to adequately plan our energy future and manage the impacts of development on our environment and our communities, we must understand that projects do not exist in a bubble. For example, you can currently see the Sheffield and Lowell projects from the Long Trail on Mount Mansfield and the Searsburg towers from the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail in the Glastonbury Wilderness. We should have mechanisms in place that allow regulators to understand that seeing two projects along the 272-mile Long Trail has a different impact than seeing a series of many projects all along the trail. Yet, our policies would consider each of these projects purely on their own merit.
- Section 248 does not sufficiently gauge environmental impacts of projects. The Act 250 criteria that is considered by the Public Service Board are not binding. That is, the board can ignore any environmental impacts if they feel the project is in the public good. This uniquely exempts energy projects from key development regulations.

- The club has conserved more than 25,000 acres in Vermont and transferred most of those into state ownership. These lands should be protected for the purposes in keeping with the reasons for which they were conserved. The previous administration's moratorium on wind development on ANR lands appropriately prohibited large-scale development on conserved lands while expressly allowing small-scale energy development like the wind tower on Burke. This sound policy should be codified.
- It is worth noting that no state agency is currently expressly tasked with weighing visual impacts of a project. The Department of Public Service has viewed this as an Agency of Natural Resources area but ANR does not specifically have authority to weigh in on aesthetic impacts on behalf of the public unless the project directly impacts other areas of ANR's statutory authority.
- Lastly, it is worth pointing out that the Public Service Board is not tasked with protecting our environment or our cultural resources and history. The board's goal as it relates to renewable energy projects is to promote renewable energy. While this has been legislative priority, so too has the Legislature sought special protection of land above 2,500 feet.

Recommendations

- Our policies must consider cumulative impacts of multiple projects.
- We should take some places – such as the conserved lands of the Long Trail – off the table in terms of energy development.
- Just as the Department of Public Service can advocate for the best interest of Vermont ratepayers, some entity in the state of Vermont should be tasked with advocating for the state's best interest in terms of aesthetic and other cultural impacts.
- An intervenor fund should be established in each Section 248 case for both quasi-public entities like the Green Mountain Club and for Vermont citizens who qualify as intervenors. This should be funded by the applicant.
- Environmental protections that other developments must go through should be applied to energy projects. Namely energy development above 2,500 feet should not be the only kind of high-elevation development proposal exempted from strict environmental standards. The state chose to give special protections to these lands in 1970 under Act 250 and we should continue that tradition.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 5:52 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 10:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Police: Time to hold lost skiers accountable

JOSH O'GORMAN

KILLINGTON — Police have said enough is enough to skiers who intentionally go off trail and need to be rescued.

Search and rescue groups, from Vermont State Police to local entities, have had their hands full this winter with out-of-state skiers who found themselves over their heads after skiing out of bounds, said state police Capt. Ray Keefe.

"This year has been ridiculous, in terms of numbers, and most of them are coming from Killington," Keefe said Wednesday after the second 911 call in 24 hours from Killington Resort guests who deliberately left a trail and found themselves in the wilderness.

At 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, 911 dispatchers received two calls for help from Trevor Smith and Christopher Feehan, both 21, of New Jersey. Police said the two had decided to seek out untouched snow in the trees adjacent to Killington Resort. The two got lost and then separated, said Keefe, with one of them needing more than just directions back to the ski run.

"He just gave out. He wasn't prepared mentally," Keefe said of Smith, who got wet and began to experience confusion and fatigue, symptoms of hypothermia.

Smith reportedly lost consciousness before being rescued by Killington ski patrol around 10 p.m., more than five hours after the initial call. Both Smith and Feehan were checked out medically and released.

While nobody sustained serious injury, the cost — in terms of dollars and public safety resources — is painful, Keefe said, and it's time to address the issue of people needing rescues due to their own negligence.

"Why should the taxpayers bear the brunt of the cost for someone else's irresponsibility?" Keefe asked rhetorically. "It's time to take a clear, fresh look at this, look at what other states are doing and make people responsible for their actions."

Vermont has a law allowing civil lawsuits for rescue agencies to recover the cost of rescuing someone "who uses the facilities of a ski area to access terrain outside the open and designated ski trails."

Those costs can run into the tens of thousands of dollars, as they did in the case of a Massachusetts teen who intentionally left a marked trail and received a bill for \$25,000 for his rescue in New Hampshire in 2009. Keefe said he would prefer to see a set fine of \$250 or \$500.

The cost to the state is more than just financial, said state police Capt. Donald Patch, who oversees the Rutland barracks.

"It's been a great strain on our resources, because when troopers are responding to these rescue calls, it ties them up and keeps them from other tasks, such as investigating open cases or doing preventative policing elsewhere," Patch said.

You can blame the rash of rescues on the snow itself, which came early and heavy, said Sarah Neith, director of public affairs for the Vermont Ski Areas Association.

"When we get a lot of snow, we tend to see more of this," she said. "They're out hunting for fresh powder."

Neith urged anyone looking for a backcountry experience to go on a guided tour, such as the one offered at Sugarbush Resort in Warren. "Always go with somebody who knows what they're doing."

Killington officials did not respond to repeated requests for an interview for this story.

Legislature gets to work

MONTPELIER — As Vermont lawmakers gathered Wednesday for their 2013 session, hundreds of activists converged on the Statehouse, demanding the state "put people first" and set budget and policies friendly to labor, children, people with disabilities, and the poor.

But leaders of the House and the Senate, where Democrats are the majority, said they face another tough budget year and agree with Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin that they don't want to raise broad-based taxes, such as income and sales taxes.

"We still face a significant fiscal crisis. It's not over by any means," said Sen. John Campbell, D-Windsor, the Senate president pro tem.

His comment came in an interview after members of the House and Senate were sworn in and heard their leaders outline plans for the coming session.

With session-opening ceremonies continuing today, top state officials are to be sworn in, including the governor and the attorney general. Also, Shumlin will give his second inaugural address.

Members of Put People First, a coalition of labor and human rights groups, packed a Statehouse hearing room Wednesday.

"For too long, we have been divided from one another by attempts to make us compete for our rights," the coalition said in a statement. "This year, we have come together with all who struggle in this system that denies our human rights and destroys our planet."

But changes advocates want may not be in the immediate offing, given the sluggish economic recovery and revenues coming in at a slower clip than was forecast in July, the beginning of the current fiscal year. Also, in preparing a state budget for the 2014 fiscal year that begins July 1, 2013, lawmakers face a projection of needs outstripping revenues by \$50 million to \$70 million.

Advocates called for environmental action, demanding that Vermont clean up its rivers and lakes.

House Speaker Shap Smith said he wanted the environment to be a priority, but said the focus should be on studying climate change and what the state could do to address the problem. He called for special sessions of two House committees — Commerce and Natural Resources and Energy — to hear from ski areas, stores that depend on snowmobile traffic and other businesses hurt by last winter's lack of snow.

Barre council hears about non-ban for gun show

By David Delcore

BARRE — The request heard round the world tied up city councilors for the better part of an hour this week as Mayor Thomas Lauzon explained again his justification for asking the Barre Fish & Game Club to consider banning the sale of military-style assault rifles and extended magazines at its 30th annual gun show next month.

Speaking to a room filled with sportsmen, Lauzon lamented the fact that his request — one that club members rejected Monday — turned into a news story that could be read on the streets of San Francisco and has been translated into Spanish by at least one media outlet.

“That’s one of the hazards of the Internet, that things go viral, and gone are the days when we get a newspaper, read an entire article and educate ourselves,” he said. “We read the first two lines and we’re zero to 100 in six seconds.”

Lauzon has been the target of some harsh criticism since making the request that he read aloud Tuesday night. In his letter Lauzon expressed support for the club and its gun show, while predicting some would “overreact” to the ban that he proposed in the wake of last month’s school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

The reactions apparently included Facebook comments by someone — allegedly a Barre man — who posted Lauzon’s home address and suggested it be used as a “practice range.” Lauzon, who has asked police to look into that incident, stressed that the Barre Fish & Game Club’s leadership can’t be blamed.

Tuesday’s meeting was part pep rally for the gun show and part update on discussions aimed at ensuring anyone who buys a weapon at the two-day event first undergoes a criminal background check.

Lauzon said he didn’t have any misgivings about suggesting the ban.

“I don’t regret the statements I made. I stand by them,” he said, crediting club President Rob Borowske with entertaining his request in the spirit in which it was offered and with working with Chief Tim Bombardier to make the show even safer.

Borowske, who was present Tuesday night, said that plan will be finalized when Bombardier meets with the club’s trustees tonight.

“I’m confident that we can work this out,” he said.

Borowske admitted many gun owners are concerned that the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School last month have thrust gun control into the spotlight.

“This is a sensitive issue at a sensitive time,” he said. “Things are going on nationally, and people think that they’re going to be stripped of more rights — more things that they do and enjoy — and they don’t understand why.”

However, Borowske said the local club’s position on the issue couldn’t be simpler.

“Our club supports the legal sale of firearms to people who can legally receive them,” he said.

According to Borowske, the club “politely declined” Lauzon’s suggestion it ban certain weapons and accessories this year, noting those items are on display at local businesses and it is up to vendors what they try to sell at the show.

Borowske said the club has enjoyed a good working relationship with the city and would like to see that continue.

“We would hate to lose the show here in Barre,” he said, expressing a sentiment that was echoed by some residents, one business owner and a member of the council.

Councilor Lucas Herring praised the club for a show that he said annually attracts 3,500 people and 80 vendors to Barre — providing a welcome jolt to the local economy.

“We do support you,” he said.

Some in the audience expressed concern about the coast-to-coast attention Lauzon’s request received. One wondered where the rest of the council stood when it came to the ban, which Lauzon said he proposed after talking to constituents who believed the show should not be held.

The question prompted an admonition from Lauzon, who suggested councilors think before they speak and choose their words wisely.

“I would just warn you that if you’re going to dip your toe in these waters it’s a little like swimming in Huntington Gorge,” he said.

Although some had more to say than others, none of the councilors present ducked the question.

Councilor Anita Chadderton said she supports background checks for prospective gun owners, but she took issue with the ban Lauzon suggested.

“You guys know what you’re doing,” she said.

Councilor Michael Smith said that while he might not have written the letter that Lauzon did, he had read it and believed it was an honest attempt to address concerns expressed by some in the community.

“I don’t think it was unreasonable to present a respectful letter,” he said.

Councilor Michael Boutin played to the crowd.

“I have one problem with the assault rifles,” he said. “They’re too expensive.”

Herring, who confessed the only gun he owns is a Nerf gun, offered an apology for a story that he believed spun out of control to the detriment of a club that was founded in the 1920s.

“It does a big disservice to a group like this that brings a lot of people to our area,” he said.

Farm bill extension stirs mixed reaction

By Eric Blaisdell

BARRE — While many wanted a new five-year farm bill to emerge from the “fiscal cliff” negotiations, a debate is on as to whether the extension of the current farm bill until September that was included in the deal is a good thing.

Annie Cheatham has little doubt about where she stands. She’s the executive director of the New England Farmers Union, a lobbying group, and she called the extension a disaster for farmers in the region.

Under the extension, funding for programs is no longer guaranteed, and how to deal with the fluctuating milk market is an issue.

Cheatham’s main concern is that the new five-year farm bill approved by the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee was not included as part of the fiscal cliff deal and essentially was killed.

She said she was disappointed that nine months of hard work done on a bipartisan level was “ignored” and a new bill will have to be created. She blamed Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Vice President Joe Biden for not including the proposed farm bill in their “fiscal cliff” agreement.

Don Stewart, communications director for McConnell, wrote in an email that both sides agreed on an extension because there was no consensus on the new farm bill.

When asked why the bill wasn’t included since the Senate had already passed it, Stewart wrote: “There were a lot of things that COULD have been put into the bill. That doesn’t mean the bill would have passed with those things in it. Rather than let the programs expire, Republicans and Democrats, Congress and the White House, agreed to do an extension.”

Biden’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Cheatham said the upshot of the extension is that local agricultural programs that previously could count on guaranteed funding will now have to plan on discretionary funding, meaning the money is no longer guaranteed. Those programs include one that provides grants to improve farmers markets and the Rural Energy for America program, which offers incentives for farmers to install new systems and make improvements to their operations to reduce energy use.

As part of the extension, the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) will be continued. The program, which pays farmers for income lost to lower milk prices, had ended in September, when the previous farm bill expired.

Sen. Patrick Leahy said he was able, as a member of the Senate’s senior leadership, to put that program back in place for Vermont’s farmers. He said the program will be retroactive to October so anyone who may have been eligible for the money during the three-month lapse in the program will receive it.

While Leahy said his office has been flooded with calls from Vermont farmers saying, “Thank you for protecting us,” he is disappointed the new farm legislation passed by the Senate did not become law.

He said the leadership in the House refused to even bring the five-year farm bill to the floor for debate, even though the legislation would have saved \$23 billion in federal spending.

As for the prospect of reduced discretionary funding at the local level, Leahy said that as senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, if there’s money to be had for Vermont farmers, he’ll get it.

Leahy said the next step is to try to re-create the farm bill under the new fiscal rules and get it passed. He still expects to face opposition in the Republican-controlled House.

“When you have the tea party in the House — they don’t care what they do to agriculture or anything else — it’s going to be more difficult,” he said.

Clark Hinsdale is president of the Vermont Farm Bureau, a nonprofit trade association of agricultural producers. He called Cheatham’s characterization of the extension as a disaster “ridiculous.”

Hinsdale said that while he is also disappointed the new farm bill was not approved, he is happy to have any programs at all. That might not be the case, he said, had Congress left the extension out of the negotiations, or if it had simply let the country go over the “cliff.”

“No matter how disappointed we may be ... the fact of the matter is we still have a functioning set of agricultural programs here in the Northeast,” he said.

He said the extension is a kind of placeholder so work on a new farm bill can start back up.

Hinsdale was also happy the extension will run only until Aug. 31, because it will force Congress to get the new farm bill enacted and fund some of the programs it would create.

One of the programs, the Dairy Security Act, would replace the MILC program. Hinsdale said the MILC program pays farmers only for their losses due to falling milk prices. The new program instead would address the problem causing the falling prices: surplus milk.

Hinsdale said farmers who sign up for the new program will be compensated just as before, but they will also agree to cut back production of milk if there is a surplus, theoretically bringing the price back up.

Impact statement on F-35s delayed

MONTPELIER — The Vermont National Guard says the United States Air Force has delayed the release of a final environmental impact statement on plans on where to base its next-generation fighter jet, the F-35, until the spring.

The Air Force says it needs to update the document to include 2010 census data for all six locations being considered.

The Vermont National Guard was notified on Wednesday evening. The delay will push back a decision on where the F-35s will be based.

The Air Force says it expects to start basing the F-35s at the first location in 2015.

What to expect from 2013 Legislature

John McClaughry

Gov. Peter Shumlin has a sweeping program of action for Vermont's new General Assembly, and it's a safe bet that he'll get 90 percent of what he wants. Here's a quick snapshot of the leading issues.

The fiscal year 2004 General Fund deficit is currently estimated at \$50-70 million. The governor has told agencies to level-fund and absorb pay increases. The highly touted "Challenge for Change" process (2009-2011) apparently didn't enable the state to live within its revenues, even allowing for the unexpected Tropical Storm Irene costs.

Further, Congress's resolution of the "fiscal cliff" may result in both higher taxes and large reductions in federal spending, for instance, on Medicaid, 30 percent of Vermont's General Fund budget.

Act 48 of 2011 requires the administration to explain by Jan. 15 how it plans to raise as much as \$3 billion a year to fund Green Mountain Care in 2017. Already the administration is hinting that maybe everybody should just wait another year to find out, during which time the machinery of single-payer will rumble forward.

Gov. Shumlin will push hard for more mandates and subsidies to force Vermont toward his arbitrary goal of 90 percent renewable energy by 2050 and greenhouse gas emissions reduced to 50 percent of 1990 levels by the same year. He has never wavered in his peculiar belief that Vermont must show the world how to defeat the "unspeakably horrid" Menace of Global Warming, and "claim our energy independence" — no matter what the cost.

Since driving up the cost of electricity, motor fuel and heating fuel — essential if low-cost energy is to be replaced with high-cost renewable energy — socks the poor and middle class much more than the rich, look for new energy taxes to include a new subsidy scheme for the middle class, to compensate them for being made to pay the higher energy costs required of them to save the planet from Al Gore's Heat Death.

With the state and federal governments pressing hard for more electric vehicles, motor fuel revenues will increasingly take a hit. Will someone propose a new tax on electric vehicles to compensate the Transportation Fund for maintaining

the roads, thereby cancelling out the subsidies that caused the people to buy overpriced electric vehicles in the first place?

The party now in power was put there in large measure by labor unions, and for them it's payback time. Shumlin will push through unionization of day-care workers, raising the costs of day care, and unionization of home-care workers, raising the costs of Medicaid. The unions will pocket all those union dues and use them to underwrite the next big unionization push.

The grand \$100 million Vermont State Hospital proposed in 2007 has faded away, but Shumlin is determined to build a new 25-bed psychiatric care facility in Berlin, whether FEMA will help pay for it or not. Meanwhile he is lauding the distribution of the seriously mentally ill back into "communities." Exactly what this means is not clear, but it directly relates to the homeless population on the streets. State bureaucrats are historically allergic to (lower cost) extramural arrangements that reduce patients' dependence on permanent control by unionized state employees. At the same time, legislatures are allergic to major new spending for mental health patient support.

Shumlin has repeatedly declared his support for public school choice, but his 2011-2012 Legislature failed to act on it. (The bill then under consideration comically allowed a student to switch public schools, but allowed the sending school to keep all the money.) There's not much likelihood that school choice will move forward in 2013, especially since Shumlin has appointed anti-choice, pro-consolidation Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca to be the first secretary of education.

The basic household education property tax rate will almost certainly increase again, from 89 cents to 94 cents of grand list value (increased in each district by a spending multiplier). This is partly because local voters, undeterred by penalties, keep voting higher budgets; partly because grand lists are shrinking; and partly because in 2011 Shumlin snatched \$27.5 million out of the transfer to the Education Fund to fund his other General Fund priorities.

Lurking in the background is the ever growing problem of woefully underfunded obligations to retired state employees and teachers. The two funds have a \$60 million annual contribution shortfall just for retiree health care expenses; the teachers' annual expenses are simply siphoned out of their (underfunded) retirement fund. Overall, the two funds are actuarially \$3 billion in the red. Just who is going to make good on these unfunded promises?

Other issues — like marijuana and assisted suicide — will get lots of media coverage this year, but how the Legislature grapples with the foregoing big ticket issues will strongly influence Vermont's near-term — and perhaps long-term — future.

John McClaughry is vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute (www.ethanallen.org).

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:18 PM
To: Porter, Louis; Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson; Allen, Susan
Subject: 2013 State of the State Highlights
Attachments: 2013 State of the State Highlights.pdf; ATT00001.txt

hey just saw that these may cross with louis - here you go aly and sorry for double comments; if inconsistent use your judgment. This is for giving staff and cabinet key highlights so no worries...liz

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 8:10 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Allen, Susan
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

another thing for the list is to make sure we print up two hard copies of the speech (one for him, one for you, Leigh) in large font in case the teleprompter dies. One of you should be following along on the large font copy – he won't be turning pages, so if the prompter dies he'll need one of you to hand him the speech on the correct page.

From: <Appleby>, Leigh <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>
Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2013 7:30 PM
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Cc: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Inauguration Day Media Plan

I will have everything lined up in 'draft' form. Carolyn will be sitting next to me and reading along with the speech. As he gets to the tweets she will press send.

Leigh Appleby
Office of the Governor
(802)279-6825

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2013, at 7:17 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Who will tweet these?

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:58 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Inauguration Day Media Plan

Twitter – January 10, 2013

7:00 am #vtgov staff will be live-tweeting today's #VTSOTS address.

12:00 pm Photo: Gov. Shumlin meets with former #VT governors. #vtgov #VTSOTS

2:00 pm Gov. Shumlin has been sworn in for his 2nd term as #VT's 81st governor. #VTSOTS #vtgov

In real time:

Honored to have the best congressional delegation in the country - @SenatorLeahy @SenSanders & @RepPeterWelch at the State House. #vtsots

The state of our state is healthy, resilient, and strong. #vtsots

#vtsots will focus on 1 theme: an education system that grows VT's prosperity.

My goal – and the single objective of my administration – remains to grow jobs and incomes for working VTers. #vtsots

Employers across the state, who just two years ago might have been contemplating another layoff, are looking for well-trained and skilled workers #vtsots

The seventh lowest unemployment rate, when you are struggling to find a job, is not low enough. #vtsots

Our employers, from border to border, are eager to find workers with the right educational skills, and they have good money to pay. #vtsots

To ensure our success we must embrace change in the way we view and deliver education. #vtsots

62% of job openings in the next decade will require a post-secondary degree, yet only 45% of VTers who begin ninth grade continue past HS. #vtsots

Even w the vast amt of money that we spend per pupil in VT, we are not moving enough low-income VT kids beyond HS. #vtsots

Let's build an integrated education system that uses the technology of our time & prepares all VTers for an innovative & bright jobs future. #vtsots

It is long past time for us to strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood education. #vtsots

Every dollar we invest in early childhood education saves taxpayers \$7 in the future. #vtsots

Today, I propose the largest investment in early childhood education in Vermont's history. #vtsots

AHS will implement an integrated plan for health promotion and prevention to ensure that all children reach their full potential. #vtsots

I propose that VT covers the shortfall left by the federal government, and makes free lunch available for all low-income students. #vtsots

We must make education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters. #vtsots

To help move more poor kids beyond high school, I ask you to pass 2 provisions: dual enrollment & early college. #vtsots

The level of college debt being amassed by VT's students and their families is oppressive. #vtsots

To the graduating class of 2013: if you make a commitment to our state, then our state will make a commitment to you. #vtsots

I propose the #VTStrong Scholars Program to help #STEM grads stay and work in VT by paying back, over the course of 5 years, the final year of tuition. #vtsots

I propose to increase the state's appropriation for @VSC_edu & @uvmvermont by 3% for financial aid & scholarships for VTers. #vtsots

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I propose using career & tech centers as the foundation for Vermont Innovation Zones throughout the state. #vtsots

VT Innovation Zones will focus on areas of education and professional opportunity that fit the needs of their region. #vtsots

I pledge to work w you to ensure our shared goal: that everyone has access to education regardless of who they are or how much \$ they make. #vtsots

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Email list – January 10, 2013

4:45 pm:

Friend—

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We have a great education system, and the I have identified four specific policies to make that system even greater. My proposals would:

- 1. Buy lunch for all low-income students, including those who are currently eligible for reduced-price lunches. Students can't learn when they are hungry, and too often, we expect hungry kids to learn.**
- 2. Strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood education. I proposed to make the largest single investment in early childhood education in Vermont's history. We will redirect \$17 million from the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to make high quality childcare affordable to hardworking low-income Vermonters.**
- 3. Make higher education more accessible and affordable for all Vermonters by:**
 - a. Implementing the Vermont Strong STEM Scholars Program, which will give graduates of Vermont's public institutions of higher education a helping hand to stay and work in Vermont by paying back their final year of tuition over the course of five years, and
 - b. Increasing the state's appropriation for the Vermont State Colleges and UVM by three percent, to be used entirely for financial aid and scholarships for Vermonters.

4. Refocus education of our children - from grade school through college - on career readiness.

See a transcript of my whole State of the State Address here: (will link to speech text)

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Let's do this together.

Sincerely,
Peter Shumlin
Governor

Leigh Appleby
Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
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Office: (802)828-3333
Fax: (802)828-3339
Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

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leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Frank Cioffi <frank@vermont.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 7:26 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Heads up on 35 EIS delayed

Thanks Sue

Sent from my mobile; please excuse brevity, typos, etc.

On Jan 9, 2013, at 7:16 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Thank you, Frank. We'll see that the Governor is briefed. Sue

From: Frank Cioffi [<mailto:frank@vermont.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 6:06 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Heads up on 35 EIS delayed

Hi Liz, Bill and Sue,
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GBIC requested this of the Air Force as did the opponents.

We see this as a positive step.

See our GBIC - LCRCC reaction below and the media release from the Vt Guard.

Will you please brief the Gov.

Thanks very much !

Best,
Frank

Frank Cioffi
President
GBIC~Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation and Cynosure, Inc.
60 Main Street Burlington, Vermont, USA 05401
Office: 802-862-5726 ext. 12
Cell:

email: frank@vermont.org

Website: www.gbicvt.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Frank Cioffi

President, GBIC

60 Main Street, Suite 100, Burlington, VT 05401

Email: Frank@vermont.org Cell: (802) 238-4535

GBIC - LCRCC Reaction to Air Force F 35 Basing EIS Delay

BURLINGTON, VERMONT, January 9, 2013: Air Force update of EIS is welcome news.

Today, the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the Vermont Air Guard commended the Air Force for updating the EIS study information with more current census data. GBIC and the Chamber asked the Air Force in November to update the EIS study with 2010 census data rather than the 2000 census data they had originally used.

Frank Cioffi, President of GBIC, remarked that "we are pleased that the Air Force valued our recommendation and took an action to update the study. We felt it would increase the accuracy of the report to use the more current data. They responded quickly with the appropriate action we suggested. The update to the 2010 census data gives a more real time analysis of population in the study area. It also shows that the Air Force is committed to listening and answering all concerns raised in the EIS process. We commend the Air Force for taking these additional steps." Cioffi added that "Vermont has decades of a very positive relationship with the Vermont Air National Guard. The men and women of VTANG are a significant part of Vermont's proud heritage and we will do everything possible to support keeping them here as a vital part of our community."

GBIC and the Chamber reiterated that the economic benefits to the area are many. The 400 fulltime jobs and 700 part-time jobs are significant. A payroll of \$53 million annually is important to those who work at the Vermont Air National Guard. Moreover, the economic multiplier becomes a substantial boost to the economy of the region and the State of Vermont as

a whole. In addition, the Vermont Air Guard contributes millions of dollars to the Burlington International Airport with fire and rescue services totaling 2.5 million dollars annually.

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For more information please contact Frank Cioffi, President GBIC at 802-238-4535 cell or Frank@vermont.org.

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The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business advocacy organization in the state. The mission of Chamber of Commerce is to promote commerce and economic growth guided by the principles of community engagement, environmental responsibility, and issue-centric advocacy. To accomplish this goal, the Lake Champlain Chamber provides its nearly 2,500 members with quality services that are responsive to their needs and that will enhance their ability to succeed. To learn more about the Chamber, visit www.vermont.org.

=====

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE 13-01

TAG

WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2013

POC: CPT Christopher Gookin

PHONE: (802) 338-3478

BLACKBERRY: (802) 338-0929

CELL PHONE: (802) 343-4669

AIR FORCE ANNOUNCES DELAY OF RELEASE FOR F35A OPERATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The United States Air Force announced the Final F-35A Operations Environmental Impact Statement has been delayed until Spring 2013 so the Air Force can update the document to include 2010 census data for all six locations being considered to base the first operational F-35As. At the time the Air Force began the EIS process, 2010 census data was not available for all six locations. The Air Force is committed to producing the most accurate EIS possible, so decision makers have the best information available to make an informed decision.

The Vermont National Guard received the notification from Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office on Wednesday, Jan. 09, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

The Air Force will use the additional time available to continue to analyze the data and validate all aspects of the draft EIS.

The Air Force believes a Spring 2013 Record of Decision will allow the Air Force to meet the timelines required to begin basing operational F-35As at the first operational location in 2015 as currently projected.

“We view this announcement as positive and in line with the Air Force's decision process; the process provides a deliberate, repeatable and transparent method in determining current and future basing opportunities,” said Brig. Gen. Steve Cray, Assistant Adjutant General-Air.

For further information, please contact CPT Christopher Gookin at (802)

338-3324.

###

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 7:21 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Subject: Fwd: Heads up on 35 EIS delayed

done!

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: January 9, 2013, 7:16:11 PM EST
To: Frank Cioffi <frank@vermont.org>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
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For further information, please contact CPT Christopher Gookin at (802)

338-3324.

###

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 7:17 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: RE: Inauguration Day Media Plan

Who will tweet these?

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:58 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Inauguration Day Media Plan

Twitter – January 10, 2013

7:00 am #vtgov staff will be live-tweeting today's #VTSOTS address.

12:00 pm Photo: Gov. Shumlin meets with former #VT governors. #vtgov #VTSOTS

2:00 pm Gov. Shumlin has been sworn in for his 2nd term as #VT's 81st governor. #VTSOTS #vtgov

In real time:

Honored to have the best congressional delegation in the country - @SenatorLeahy @SenSanders & @RepPeterWelch at the State House. #vtsots

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8:30 pm Photo of the day: Governor Shumlin is sworn in for his second term as Vermont's 81st governor.

Email list – January 10, 2013

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1. **Buy lunch for all low-income students, including those who are currently eligible for reduced-price lunches.**
Students can't learn when they are hungry, and too often, we expect hungry kids to learn.
2. **Strengthen our commitment to universal early childhood education.** I proposed to make the largest single investment in early childhood education in Vermont's history. We will redirect \$17 million from the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to make high quality childcare affordable to hardworking low-income Vermonters.
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4. **Refocus education of our children - from grade school through college - on career readiness.**

[See a transcript of my whole State of the State Address here: \(will link to speech text\)](#)

Vermont will once again show the nation what it takes to innovate, create new opportunities to grow, and lead. And with your help, we can achieve our shared goal: that everyone has access to education, throughout their life, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money their family makes, and that they can keep learning and keep developing their skills for the economy of Vermont's future.

Let's do this together.

Sincerely,
Peter Shumlin
Governor

Leigh Appleby

Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609
Office: (802)828-3333
Fax: (802)828-3339
Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 7:16 PM
To: Frank Cioffi; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Heads up on 35 EIS delayed

Thank you, Frank. We'll see that the Governor is briefed. Sue

From: Frank Cioffi [mailto:frank@vermont.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 6:06 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Heads up on 35 EIS delayed

Hi Liz, Bill and Sue,
Heads up on this.

The Air Force is delaying their EIS release for the F 35 basing in order to include the 2010 census areas to determine if there was any more affected properties.

GBIC requested this of the Air Force as did the opponents.

We see this as a positive step.

See our GBIC - LCRCC reaction below and the media release from the Vt Guard.

Will you please brief the Gov.

Thanks very much !

Best,
Frank

Frank Cioffi
President
GBIC~Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation and Cynosure, Inc.
60 Main Street Burlington, Vermont, USA 05401
Office: 802-862-5726 ext. 12
Cell:
email: frank@vermont.org
Website: www.gbicvt.org
Promoting Good Jobs in a Clean Environment



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Frank Cioffi

President, GBIC

60 Main Street, Suite 100, Burlington, VT 05401

Email: Frank@vermont.org Cell: (802) 238-4535

GBIC - LCRCC Reaction to Air Force F 35 Basing EIS Delay

BURLINGTON, VERMONT, January 9, 2013: Air Force update of EIS is welcome news.

Today, the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the Vermont Air Guard commended the Air Force for updating the EIS study information with more current census data. GBIC and the Chamber asked the Air Force in November to update the EIS study with 2010 census data rather than the 2000 census data they had originally used.

Frank Cioffi, President of GBIC, remarked that “we are pleased that the Air Force valued our recommendation and took an action to update the study. We felt it would increase the accuracy of the report to use the more current data. They responded quickly with the appropriate action we suggested. The update to the 2010 census data gives a more real time analysis of population in the study area. It also shows that the Air Force is committed to listening and answering all concerns raised in the EIS process. We commend the Air Force for taking these additional steps.” Cioffi added that “Vermont has decades of a very positive relationship with the Vermont Air National Guard. The men and women of VTANG are a significant part of Vermont’s proud heritage and we will do everything possible to support keeping them here as a vital part of our community.”

GBIC and the Chamber reiterated that the economic benefits to the area are many. The 400 fulltime jobs and 700 part-time jobs are significant. A payroll of \$53 million annually is important to those who work at the Vermont Air National Guard. Moreover, the economic multiplier becomes a substantial boost to the economy of the region and the State of Vermont as a whole. In addition, the Vermont Air Guard contributes millions of dollars to the Burlington International Airport with fire and rescue services totaling 2.5 million dollars annually.

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For more information please contact Frank Cioffi, President GBIC at 802-238-4535 cell or Frank@vermont.org.

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The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business advocacy organization in the state. The mission

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environmental responsibility, and issue-centric advocacy. To accomplish this goal, the Lake Champlain Chamber provides its

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=====

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAG RELEASE 13-01

WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2013

POC: CPT Christopher Gookin

PHONE: (802) 338-3478

BLACKBERRY: (802) 338-0929

CELL PHONE: (802) 343-4669

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The United States Air Force announced the Final F-35A Operations Environmental Impact Statement has been delayed until Spring 2013 so the Air Force can update the document to include 2010 census data for all six locations being considered to base the first operational F-35As. At the time the Air Force began the EIS process, 2010 census data was not available for all six locations. The Air Force is committed to producing the most accurate EIS possible, so decision makers have the best information available to make an informed decision.

The Vermont National Guard received the notification from Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office on Wednesday, Jan. 09, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

The Air Force will use the additional time available to continue to analyze the data and validate all aspects of the draft EIS.

The Air Force believes a Spring 2013 Record of Decision will allow the Air Force to meet the timelines required to begin basing operational F-35As at the first operational location in 2015 as currently projected.

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Sincerely,
Peter Shumlin
Governor

Leigh Appleby
Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
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Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:30 PM
To: London, Sarah; EXE
Subject: RE: Mary Moulton contact info

Off Extended Cabinet list – work 828-3866, home . . . , cell

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: London, Sarah
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:27 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Mary Moulton contact info

Anyone have Mary Moulton's phone contact info? Nothing in state employee directory. Thanks.

Sarah London
Counsel to the Governor
802-828-3333
sarah.london@state.vt.us

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Counsel to the Governor
802-828-3333
sarah.london@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Wodiska, Joan <JWodiska@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:18 PM
To: susan.m.howard@nc.gov; lisa.carpenter@state.co.us; alan.salazar@state.co.us; jamie.vanleeuwen@state.co.us; jhoeag@sso.org; vyoung@sso.org; Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson
Cc: DeSimone, Dan (Dan.DeSimone@ct.gov); Hoelscher, Doug [IGOV] (Doug.Hoelscher@iowa.gov)
Subject: RE: Seeking Democratic Governor to Serve on NAGB

Just a friendly reminder. Thank you!

From: Wodiska, Joan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:12 PM
To: 'susan.m.howard@nc.gov'; 'lisa.carpenter@state.co.us'; 'alan.salazar@state.co.us'; 'jamie.vanleeuwen@state.co.us'; 'jhoeag@sso.org'; 'vyoung@sso.org'; 'bill.lofy@state.vt.us'; 'Alyson.richards@state.vt.us'
Cc: DeSimone, Dan (Dan.DeSimone@ct.gov); Hoelscher, Doug [IGOV] (Doug.Hoelscher@iowa.gov)
Subject: NGA: Seeking Democratic Governor to Serve on NAGB

To: Democratic Members of the NGA Education and Workforce Committee
From: Joan Wodiska, National Governors Association

On behalf of the National Governors Association, Education and Workforce Committee Chair and Vice Chair, I'm writing to inquire about your Governor's interest in serving on the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).

NAGB was established by Congress in 1988 as an independent, bipartisan federal board that sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), more commonly known as The Nation's Report Card. The Board consists of 26 members, including governors, state legislators, state and local school officials, educators and researchers, business representatives, and members of the general public. Through quarterly meetings, the Governing Board makes decisions on NAEP by selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing appropriate student achievement levels, designing the methodology of the assessment, etc.

For decades, NAGB has played an influential role in evaluating the status and progress of American education. **At this time, NGA is working to identify a Democratic Governor that would be interested and willing to fill a vacancy on the Board.** Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Your reply is kindly appreciated by Friday, January 11, 2013.

Joan Wodiska, Committee Director
Education and Workforce Committee
National Governors Association
Phone: (202) 624-5361
Email: jwodiska@nga.org

The information contained in this electronic transmission, including any attachments, is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain information that is privileged, proprietary, and/or confidential. If the reader of this transmission is not an intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this message.

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:04 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - January 10th

Thursday, January 10th 2013 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: HHS IEA (OS/IEA) <HHSIEA@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:04 PM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: Affordable Care Call: Tomorrow, Thursday, January 10th @ 4pm ET

Good Afternoon,

Please join senior officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **Thursday, January 10th at 4:00pm ET** for a conference call to discuss important announcements relating to the Affordable Care Act.

WHO: State Government Implementers of the Affordable Care Act

WHEN: Thursday, January 10, 2012 @ 4:00pm ET

CALL-IN: 800-857-5248

Participant Passcode: 4021292

Questions or Concerns on HHS issues? Email HHSIEA@hhs.gov

London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Ian Walton <walton@DGA.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 4:20 PM
To: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com
Subject: FW: U.S. Department of Education - Inauguration Open House

FYI

From: OCO_Intergovernmental [mailto:OCO_Intergovernmental@ed.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 3:43 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: U.S. Department of Education - Inauguration Open House

YOU'RE INVITED!

The U.S. Department of Education is hosting an open house at its Washington, D.C., headquarters on Friday, January 18 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. The open house will feature an open exhibition with Department staff sharing information and answering questions about their work; a short program including policy overviews; and breakout sessions led by senior officials. Secretary Arne Duncan will deliver remarks to attendees.

When: Friday, January 18
10:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Where: U.S. Department of Education
Lyndon Baines Johnson Building
Washington, DC

The Department is located at 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., across Independence Avenue from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Our building is bordered by 4th and 6th Streets, S.W., as well as C Street and Maryland Avenue. Please enter via the entrance on Maryland Avenue, East end. There is some metered parking near the building. The nearest Metro stop is L'Enfant Plaza.

RSVP: <http://www.cvent.com/d/3cq4x5/4W> (requested but not required)

If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Shelton at Betsy.Shelton@ed.gov.

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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9:

VPR:

Tucked Away In Cliff Deal, Millions For Two Small Hospitals

BOB KINZEL

Tucked away in last week's Congressional Fiscal Cliff compromise, is a provision that will provide several million dollars to two Vermont hospitals and consumers could benefit directly from this development.

In 1990, Congress created a program to help small rural hospitals, that have a high percentage of Medicare patients, cope with fluctuating Medicare reimbursement rates. But funding for the program expired on September 30th and there was a lot of doubt about whether Congress would reauthorize it.

Congressman Peter Welch worked with many of his colleagues from rural states to include funds for the program in the Fiscal Cliff compromise."

"Rural America has hospitals that are absolutely vital providing health care to seniors their community but it's low volume but they have fixed costs that are significant as any hospital does," said Welch. "So this legislation continues a program that provides fair reimbursement for those critical access rural hospitals and we have several in Vermont."

Welch says the effort was successful because there was a bipartisan group of House members who wanted to save their local hospitals from going out of business.

"If you bleed them dry so that they don't provide the health care and they lose revenues and close that is going to lead to higher costs elsewhere so we had I think a fact based that was persuasive."

Two Vermont hospitals will benefit from the program. One of them is Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington.

Kevin Robinson is the Communications Director at the hospital. He says the renewal of the program is very good news because there was a lot of money at stake:

"A loss of \$2 million in revenue is a lot for an organization the size of ours that in a given year only has an operating margin of \$3-5 million dollars at the end of the year."

And Robinson says patients at the hospital will benefit from the reauthorization.

"The state said we could increase our rates to make up for the loss so as not to affect services," said Robinson. "Now that the Medicare Dependent Hospital provision has been reauthorized, at least for a year, we'll reduce our rates accordingly."

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital is the second facility in Vermont to benefit from the program. BMH will also receive roughly \$2 million in restored funds in 2013.

OP-ED BY BILL MARES: Assault Weapon Ban

(Host) Ever since the school murders in Connecticut three weeks ago Commentator and Burlington resident Bill Mares has been thinking about assault weapons in our society.

(Mares) It was the last day of hunting season. I sat in a blind on Lake Champlain, my shotgun on my lap, and scanned the skies for birds. But the ducks were few and far between, so I had time to think about other things, like the massacre of twenty-seven children and adults at Newtown, Connecticut the week before.

This foggy morning my thoughts were similar to those I'd had after the mass killings in Columbine high school and the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado... the mall in Portland Oregon... Virginia Tech, Arizona, Wisconsin... and on and on, murder after murder. I couldn't help but wonder what comes next? An attack with assault rifles on a neo-natal clinic?

I've been around guns my entire life, firing one shot at a time at deer and ducks and geese with never a need for assault weapons - guns that weren't designed for civilian target practice, but rather for killing people, in combat. For civilians, I think assault weapons are gun pornography.

And though hunting season is now long gone, I keep thinking about this gun culture of ours - with its toxic mix of high powered weapons, violent video games, a never-ending war on terror and its companion climate of fear, an all-volunteer army with lots of civilians needing an outlet for their aggressions, and a centuries-old love of guns. The New York Times reports that gun makers of weapons like the Bushmaster, used in Newtown and Aurora are paying video game makers to incorporate their weapons in to ever more realistic episodes.

For days after the Newtown shootings, the leading gun advocate, the National Rifle Association, had little to say - beyond the bizarre suggestion that armed guards should be posted to all schools in the land.

But then came a ray of hope.

Burlington city councilor Norm Blais proposed a charter change to ban semi-automatic weapons and multiple-ammo clips in the city of Burlington and to levy a hefty fine on those in possession of such arms. He finally said, "Enough!"

Blais acknowledges that the legislative process is long. All municipal charter changes must get Legislative approval. Moreover, there are some politicians who believe that Vermont cannot seriously influence gun regulation at the national level, despite our leadership on health care, clean energy, nuclear power, and same-sex marriage.

Not Norm Blais.

And not State Senator Philip Baruth, who has requested a bill be drafted to regulate the sale of high-capacity magazines and semi-automatic rifles such as the AR-15.

These are admittedly small steps - but you have to start somewhere. Common sense, public safety and public health all demand for something to be done. And with our national leadership still reluctant to confront the powerful gun lobby, we must consider how to protect our own. How satisfying it was then, on Monday evening, to see after two and a half hours of contentious but civil debate, the Burlington City Council voted 10-3 in favor of Blais' motion. Now it's on to Montpelier.

SEVEN DAYS:

Vermont Senate Pro Tem John Campbell Promises More Order This Session. Can He Deliver?

Fair Game

By Paul Heintz

Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell (D-Windsor) faced a potential insurrection last year for his role in an uncharacteristically dysfunctional session of the Vermont Senate.

After critics complained about his lack of organization and said he used the committee process to bottle up popular bills, several senators privately considered challenging him for the top job in the Senate. In the end, just one Democrat did — Sen. Ann Cummings (D-Washington) — and she lost in a landslide.

In shoring up support for his reelection, Campbell promised to make a change. Instead of sentencing legislation he opposed to die in committee, he said he'd bring a number of hot-button bills to the floor for up-or-down votes — regardless of whether committees of jurisdiction agree.

The tactic was a risk. By doing so, he'll be usurping the authority of his committee chairmen — and, by extension, himself. And the result could be an even more chaotic legislative session than the last one.

Sen. Dick Sears (D-Bennington), the powerful chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a Campbell ally, says that if his committee is expected to release bills it doesn't support, he'll expect the same treatment from others.

"I would hope these folks are willing to bring out other people's bills and not just something they think is right," Sears says. "I hope this isn't just aimed at Dick Sears."

Sears' committee was a choke point last year for two bills now expected to get a floor vote: death with dignity and marijuana decriminalization. But those aren't the only controversial bills likely to see the legislative light of day in the Senate.

Advocates say they've also been promised votes on a childcare unionization bill, a three-year moratorium on ridgeline wind projects, and campaign finance reform.

"You got the sense that [Campbell] was out there saying on these hot-button issues, 'I'm going to step aside and let them move forward without all the rigmarole,'" says one top lobbyist. "It kind of became part of his summer and fall pitch for getting himself back on track, it seems."

Says another lobbyist, "John thought he had to make those deals to keep his position ... But he could have managed the threats without giving away the store."

The manner in which these bills reach the floor will depend, in part, on who's appointed this week to each of the Senate's standing committees. That'll be determined by the redundantly named Committee on Committees with its three moderate insiders: Campbell, Sen. Dick Mazza (D-Grand Isle) and Republican Lt. Gov Phil Scott.

But even if committees and their chairmen are stacked against legislation supported by a majority of the 23-member Democratic caucus, Campbell pledges, "I believe that they should come to the floor."

Just how that would happen was a focus of conversation Saturday during a meeting of Senate Democrats at Montpelier's Capitol Plaza. Huddled around a conference table in the hotel's aptly named Boardroom, caucus members debated the mechanics — and the wisdom — of bypassing Senate committees to ensure that broadly popular bills get an up-or-down vote.

One skeptic was Sen. Bobby Starr (D-Essex/Orleans), a conservative Democrat from the Northeast Kingdom.

"I've been here a long time, and we've always run strong and faithful on the committee process," Starr said. "I don't really think that the caucus should overpower the committee. If the committee has had the time and the opportunity to review legislation, and that committee says it's excellent, it means quite a lot to us."

Surprisingly, Sears — who many blame for helping Campbell gum up the works — argued that letting popular legislation die in committee “is what got us in so much trouble last year.”

He added, “If it’s the will of the caucus and the will of the Senate that these issues get debated on the floor, then the way to do that is to let us know early that these issues are important.”

That way, Sears’ committee could hold hearings and — even if it disapproves of the legislation — send the bill to the floor for an up-or-down vote. Though rarely done, the committee could move the bill forward while giving it a stamp of disapproval.

Referring to the “death with dignity” bill, Campbell told his colleagues at the caucus meeting, “It clearly caused some issues last year because it is deeply personal for a lot of us here. It’s not a partisan issue. It’s one of deeply personal views.”

A Roman Catholic, Campbell opposes letting terminally ill patients end their own lives on religious grounds.

“But I agree that if there’s a majority of people here who want to have a discussion and a debate on it, they should have the opportunity to do that,” he continued. “Then it’s an up-or-down situation.”

Speaking several days after the caucus meeting, one prominent supporter of death with dignity, Sen. Claire Ayer (D-Addison), said she’s encouraged by the change in tone.

“One person can’t hold up the whole Senate,” she said. “When we find there’s a larger group of people that wants to look at something in a different way, we have to discuss it as a caucus.”

Also encouraged, no doubt, is Gov. Peter Shumlin — but not for the reasons you may be thinking.

Sure, he told reporters in November that four of his legislative priorities this session are death with dignity, marijuana decriminalization, unionization of childcare workers and providing driver’s licenses to noncitizens. No doubt he’d be happy to hold signing ceremonies this spring if the House and Senate send those bills his way.

But the real reason Shummy will be glad to watch controversy and chaos reemerge in the Senate is this: It’ll distract legislators from messing with his budget — or getting any ideas about raising broad-based taxes.

The governor often says he prefers to keep several balls in the air. But he likes it even more when legislators are too busy juggling theirs to meddle with his.

Guns Blais-ing

Norm Blais and Thom Lauzon don’t have a lot in common.

An attorney and Democratic member of the Burlington City Council, Blais rarely rides into political battle, preferring to quietly offer advice from the sidelines. Lauzon has earned a reputation as Barre’s hard-charging, outspoken Republican mayor and one of the Granite City’s most prominent developers.

But this week, Blais and Lauzon found themselves doing something most statewide politicians have assiduously avoided in the wake of last month’s shooting massacre at a Connecticut elementary school.

They started conversations about gun violence in their respective cities.

What’d they learn?

"I can tell you that for the politicians that are thinking about testing the waters, it's like Huntington Gorge," Lauzon says. "It's a swift-running current."

Lauzon, a gun owner who considers himself a strong supporter of the right to bear arms, managed to draw the ire of gun advocates with a letter he sent last Thursday to the Barre Fish & Game Club. He urged the outfit, which organizes a gun show each year at the Barre Municipal Auditorium, to "ban the display and sale of military-style assault firearms and high-capacity magazines" at its February show.

The reaction from those on either side of the debate was strong — and mostly missed the point, he says. Rather than seeking some sort of permanent municipal ban on the sale of such weapons, Lauzon says he was simply asking the show's organizers to make a temporary change, out of respect for victims of the Connecticut shooting. And to start a conversation.

"I think, unfortunately, the message was lost," he says.

On Monday, Lauzon met with representatives of the club.

"They were very gracious, but they said, 'Thom, we're not willing to do that,'" he says. "That was the end of the discussion."

Later that evening in Burlington, Blais found himself defending a resolution he introduced calling for a charter-change to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity clips in the Queen City.

Facing him in the audience at City Hall Auditorium were some 100 gun rights advocates — nearly all of them men, many of whom wore camouflage and blaze orange.

"I'm for gun control. I know you don't like that word, but I'm for a different kind of gun control: being able to hit your target," said Bob Green, one of the more colorful advocates to address the council. "It's not really good to pass feel-good legislation. What we really need to look at is mental health."

Blais argued that affirmative vote would simply start a process involving future hearings, a referendum and eventually a vote by the state legislature to approve a charter change. "There's nothing rash or precipitous about this," he said.

In the end, the council voted 10 to 3 in favor of Blais' resolution, after adding language calling on the legislature to address mental health issues, violent video games and other gun laws.

Reached the next morning, Blais said, "I'm encouraged because I think that dialogue President Obama says has to take place will take place in Burlington. How that will ultimately end here is anyone's guess, but at least we'll have the discussion."

Despite drawing the wrath of many gun-rights advocates, Lauzon says he doesn't regret raising the subject — though he was discouraged by the tone of the more extreme advocates on either side of the issue.

One man went so far as to post Lauzon's home address on his Facebook page, calling it the new practice range, Lauzon says.

"This is the kind of crap you have to go through just to start having a conversation," he says. "That's why people don't do it."

Media Notes

On the first day of the legislative session Wednesday, Vermont's political press corps will shed their notebooks to commune with those they cover at a Statehouse reception Seven Days is hosting in honor of the late, great political columnist Peter Freyne.

The Cedar Creek shindig, appropriately titled "Off the Record," falls on the same day Freyne died four years ago. We'll raise a glass in his honor, which he'd surely appreciate.

Wednesday is also the last day on the job for WCAX-TV's Statehouse bureau chief Susie Steimle. Nearly two years after she joined the station, the Kalamazoo native is heading to WJAR-TV, the NBC affiliate in Providence, R.I. Steimle will be replaced in Montpelier by WCAX's Kyle Midura.

"I've had a great time over the past few years in Vermont and I feel like I've learned a lot," Steimle says. "But this offers me a new challenge."

One downside, she says: "I won't be doing so many outdoor, animal fun stories."

Don't worry, Susie. We've got that covered.

OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

As Legislature Convenes, Snelling Drops Pro Tem Bid; Campbell Reelected

Posted by Paul Heintz

In the opening moments of the 2013 legislative session, Sen. Diane Snelling (R-Chittenden) dropped her long-shot bid for Senate President Pro Tem, choosing instead to nominate her would-be opponent: Sen. John Campbell (D-Windsor).

"This may seem surprising to some. However, I have been promised nothing more and nothing less than a fair and normal process, and a focused and productive Senate," Snelling (pictured at right) said from the Senate floor. "Many positive changes are in place to create the predictability that will ensure that. And I'm grateful that we can begin our work today with a clear understanding of our responsibilities."

Snelling's move cleared the way for Campbell, who was first elected president pro tem two years ago, to unanimously win reelection.

In brief remarks to the chamber, he compared Vermont's collegial legislature favorably to the U.S. Congress, arguing that in Montpelier — unlike Washington — elected representatives refuse to let partisanship get in the way.

"What matters is that we do the job — do something that's right for Vermonters," Campbell said. "More importantly, that we keep in mind that we have to look out for our most vulnerable of our population: the elderly, the disabled, the children. And I can say that in my 12 years here we have done that."

In closing, Campbell (pictured at left) joked, "When we leave here in two weeks, I'll [hope to] say we did a good job."

In November, Snelling became the second senator to declare a challenge to Campbell's rule, citing the disorganized manner in which the Senate was run last session. Campbell easily defeated Sen. Ann Cummings (D-Washington) later that month for the Democratic nomination to the post.

Outside the Senate chamber, Snelling said she'd decided only on Tuesday to drop her challenge.

"I never call anyone for a vote. I had a point to make," she said. "I had discussions with every single senator. I had many discussions with Sen. Campbell."

Snelling said the pro tem was receptive to her concerns and assured her he would improve the Senate's day-to-day operation.

"A lot of the dilemmas we've had in the past were simply about not following the rules," Snelling said. "They weren't differences of opinions on significant issues. The whole point of the process is to be able to talk about difficult things in a civil fashion — and to be accountable to the people."

The Senate's non-election capped off an altogether uneventful first day back in the Statehouse for most legislators.

Speaker Shap Smith (D-Morrisville) also won unanimous reelection to lead the Vermont House. Rep. Paul Poirer (I-Barre) last month dropped his challenge to Smith, a bid he said was motivated by a sense that many House members were routinely shut out of debate.

Like Campbell, Smith too invoked the differences between Montpelier and Washington during remarks to a crowded House chamber, saying, "I believe that we can set a better example in Vermont."

Smith made clear that a top priority this session would be to improve Vermont's education system.

"Too few of our high school students seek a college degree," he said. "Many employers tell us how challenging it is to find qualified workers to fill job vacancies. And most alarming is that educational achievement is still lagging behind for those on the lower end of the economic ladder."

While Vermont has laid the groundwork for educational improvements, Smith said, plenty remains to be done.

"Our students should and must be the best prepared in the country," he said. That is the goal that we must work toward."

Some Vermonters Can't Afford to Serve in the "Citizen Legislature"

Local Matters

By Paul Heintz

Mike McCarthy might look like one of the crowd when he's sworn in to the Vermont House of Representatives on Wednesday morning, but a few key differences set the rookie lawmaker apart.

At 28 years old, the St. Albans Democrat is one of the legislature's youngest members. He's also likely to be one of its busiest: Outside of his 120-mile daily commute to and from Montpelier and the legislative work that brings him there, he'll be scrambling to manage a family-owned bakery and take care of his 6-month-old daughter.

"It's an insane thing for someone with the things I have going on in my life to serve," McCarthy says.

He's doing it, he says, to bring the voice of an average citizen to Vermont's so-called "citizen legislature," which he believes fails to reflect the demographic and economic diversity of the state.

"I feel like I don't want to just be represented by a bunch of folks who haven't worked in a long time," McCarthy says.

Like 16 other states too small to demand a year-round, professional legislature, Vermont relies upon the volunteer service of representatives willing to put their work and family lives on hold four to five months each year.

Critics say that's not feasible for most Vermonters. The result, they argue, is an older, wealthier body of representatives comprised mostly of retirees and white-collar professionals.

"I think it looks like a bunch of people my parents' age and older," says Adam Howard, a 39-year-old former House Republican from Cambridge. "You just don't get working family people down there. When you think about who demands the most from [state] services, they're the least represented down there. That says a lot."

Howard is one of several up-and-coming legislators who chose not to run for reelection last year, citing the competing demands of work and home. With two young daughters and a magazine publishing business, Howard says he simply couldn't hack it anymore.

"It's a real thrash," he says. "And it keeps us from serving at the utmost of our capacity."

Oliver Olsen, 36, found himself in a similar position last year when he decided to step down as the Republican representative from Jamaica. He had managed during the legislative session to scale back his hours running a consulting practice for Oracle. But with two young children at the time — his wife recently gave birth to a third — Olsen found it difficult to spend weeknights in Montpelier, two hours away from home.

"It's an interesting dichotomy because on one hand, yes, we have a citizen legislature, and that's a wonderful thing," Olsen says. "It's just, how the legislature is structured paradoxically makes it difficult for citizens to serve. It's a four-month commitment that cuts into people's lives."

By law, businesses are required to grant employees unpaid leaves of absence during the legislative session. And lawmakers earn around \$650 a week while they're serving in Montpelier — plus compensation of \$101 a night for lodging, \$61 per day for meals and 56 cents per mile between their home and the capital.

But the demands of public service don't stop with the end of the session.

"I would say in campaigning alone, I probably gave up \$10,000 to \$15,000 worth of business, which is as much as I'm going to make working down here this year," says Democrat John Rodgers, a stone mason and excavator from Glover, who served eight years in the House and last year won a seat in the Senate.

Vermont's legislative calendar was built to accommodate the state's agrarian founders, who could sneak away from the farm during the slow days of winter. But modern-day seasonal workers like Rodgers can't afford to take off any of the professional hats they wear.

So on snowy days during the session, Rodgers wakes up at 3:30 in the morning to plow 30 driveways before heading down to Montpelier.

"You just basically cram in the hours," he says.

The tension between Vermont's citizen legislature and its demands on officeholders is nothing new. In 1988, then-representative Megan Price lamented to the New York Times that, "the length of the sessions recently is a strain for anyone who is not retired or rich."

In the same story, then-House Speaker Ralph Wright wondered whether Vermont's system of governance by one's peers would survive into the 21st century.

"I'm not optimistic that two decades from now, you're going to find a citizen legislature in Vermont," he said at the time.

Twenty-five years later, it's still in place.

But skeptics like former House majority leader Lucy Leriche, a Democrat from Hardwick, wonder whether it's sustainable. Leriche is particularly worried about the growing disparity between legislative pay and the cost of living.

"I think our citizen legislature is in jeopardy," she says. "It's getting harder and harder for the average Vermonter to serve. I see my colleagues leaving the legislature or deciding not to run at all because they can't forgo the income of a regular job in order to do it."

When Leriche announced she would not seek reelection last May, she was unequivocal about the reason: She needed to make more money. After four terms in the House, she felt she could no longer ask her partner to carry their household's financial weight. So she took a contract with Green Mountain Power and, last week, landed a full-time gig in the Shumlin administration as deputy secretary of the Department of Commerce and Community Development, earning \$92,560.

Leriche believes the solution is "a modest increase" in legislative pay. With the state budget tight and many Vermont families strapped for cash, Leriche acknowledges, "It's a difficult environment to ask for more money, but I think it's going to be necessary at some point to pay legislators a little more."

Rep. Don Turner (R-Milton), the House minority leader, agrees that there's a problem, but he doesn't think increased pay is the solution. Instead, he says, legislators should get their work done faster and limit themselves to debating fewer bills.

"The first week or two, we're going to do not much but ceremonial stuff," he says. "Until the budget comes out, there's not much the committees are doing."

Howard agrees.

"So much of what hits committee and hits the floor is just make-work silliness that keeps 90 percent of the body occupied while the other 10 percent do all the backroom heavy lifting," he says. "If you had a shorter session and took up fewer bills, you'd have more people doing real work."

Another option, says Olsen, might be to schedule some committee meetings at night or over the weekend — or use technology to allow members to meet from afar. Floor action, he says, could be limited to once every week or two.

One former House Republican, Jim Eckhardt of Chittenden, says he thinks the legislative calendar should take into account school vacations. During the single term he served, Eckhardt decided to take his family on out-of-state trips during his children's February and April vacations.

He paid the price for that when, in the closing days of his reelection campaign last November, the Vermont Democratic House Campaign sent postcards to voters criticizing him for missing votes during those weeks.

"For someone who works so hard, to get blasted like that doesn't set well," says Eckhardt, who owns a home security business. "But I wasn't going to put my kids on the back burner — or my wife."

One result of the legislature's family-unfriendly schedule, argues Rep. Sarah Buxton (D-Tunbridge), is a paucity of mothers with school-age children.

"We still have a gender divide in the Statehouse that isn't men and women, but it's mothers with children versus everybody else," she says. "Those are voices we could and should have more of."

Like McCarthy, Buxton is one of seven House members under the age of 35. She says her hectic legislative lifestyle has impacted her own decisions about whether to start a family. So far, she has not.

"Who's the man who would be willing to let me continue to spend three nights a week away from home and care for an infant? That's a pretty big question mark," she says. "I do think that has influenced my decisions over the past several years about settling down and making family choices."

House Speaker Shap Smith (D-Morrisville) agrees that it's tough for legislators to balance work, home and political life. But, he contends, "It's a problem that's not unique to the legislature. It's a problem that exists throughout our society."

Smith knows a thing or two about juggling responsibilities. His wife is a doctor and he's an attorney; they have two children in elementary school.

"I think if we didn't have a lot of family around, we wouldn't be able to do it," he says. "For the last four years, I have frequently wondered whether I would run again because of the pressures I put not only on my wife, but on my kids."

Nevertheless, Smith says he's not convinced the legislature should make any changes to its schedule. For one thing, he thinks the number of competitive races in any given year shows that plenty of people still want to run.

He adds, "I actually think that our legislature does reflect Vermont to a large degree. Does it reflect it perfectly? Probably not, but I think it does to a large degree."

And if the difficulties of serving lead members to retire, maybe that's not such a bad thing, Smith suggests.

"It means that the composition of the legislature changes more frequently in Vermont than other places, because people don't sort of get into the legislature and settle in for decades," he says. "It can freshen up the place."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 3:04 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Vt. Catholic Church settles abuse cases

Three years after paying more than \$20 million to close almost 30 priest misconduct lawsuits, Vermont's Catholic Church settled a dozen new cases Wednesday just minutes before the first was set for trial.

The state's largest religious denomination had hoped to rid itself of nearly a decade of lurid headlines and legal headaches in 2010 when it sold its historic 32-acre Burlington headquarters and 26-acre Colchester Camp Holy Cross to make good with all its then-known accusers. But that settlement didn't preclude other former altar boys and young male churchgoers alleging sexual abuse from filing later lawsuits.

Lawyers for the first of 12 new plaintiffs were scheduled to argue their case in U.S. District Court in Burlington Wednesday at 10 a.m. But attorneys for the statewide Roman Catholic Diocese offered a settlement just minutes before the start of opening statements.

Neither church counsel Thomas McCormick nor Burlington lawyer Jerome O'Neill, representing all but two of the three dozen past and present plaintiffs, would reveal the amount of the settlement.

Shap Smith lands third term as Speaker

The most powerful member of the Legislature has officially begun his fifth year in the House's top leadership position.

Elected in a unanimous voice vote, Smith this morning delivered a 15-minute speech that touched on jobs, the economy, global warming, renewable energy, public education and workforce development.

It was an agenda that dovetails seamlessly with the one Peter Shumlin will outline in his inaugural address tomorrow, though Smith didn't once mention the governor.

All 150 members of the body were just sworn in in unison. We'll bring you more on Smith's wide-ranging speech soon.

Dean's gubernatorial records become public tomorrow

Posted on January 9, 2013 by Peter Hirschfeld

They won't be in as high demand as they were when he launched his bid for president, but about 90 boxes containing records related to Howard Dean's governorship will become fodder for public inspection tomorrow.

Tomorrow marks the 10-year anniversary of Dean's exit from the state's top elected office. Before departing the post, he invoked the Archives Act to seal for one decade gubernatorial records that he had judged to be "privileged" and "sensitive."

The conservative watchdog Judicial Watch sued to gain access to the Dean records in 2005, but the Vermont Supreme Court upheld Dean's decision, saying Vermont's public records law was superseded by the Archive Act.

Lawyers have pulled from the trove anything exempt from Vermont's public records statute or protected by attorney-client privilege. But the remainder should offer some new insights into Dean's 12-year tenure, the second-longest of any governor in Vermont history.

The records are spending their final 24 hours of privacy at the state archives in Middlesex. It'll be interesting to see whether the unsealing prompts a media feeding frenzy.

Campbell wins uncontested race for pro tem

John Campbell's biggest adversary just turned into his best friend.

In a surprise move moments ago, Chittenden County Republican Diane Snelling withdrew her candidacy for Senate President Pro Tem and instead nominated her would-be rival John Campbell.

"This may seem surprising to some, however I have been promised nothing more and nothing less than a fair and accountable process and productive Senate," Snelling said on the floor of a packed Senate chamber.

Snelling last year made little effort to veil her contempt for the chaotic scheduling and procedure blamed for casting the body into disarray.

Campbell has apparently convinced her it won't happen again. More on his victory speech coming soon.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Vermont Legislature opens today, advocates make voices heard early

When the Vermont Legislature opened its 2013 session this morning, members elected familiar leaders and advocates voiced concerns new and old, including investment in clean water and an assault weapons ban

When the Vermont Legislature opened its 2013 session this morning, members elected familiar leaders and advocates voiced concerns new and old.

The day started with a 9 a.m. news conference hosted by a group of advocates, the Blue Resolution Coalition, urging lawmakers to recognize the value of clean water in Vermont.

Chris Kilian of the Conservation Law Foundation urged investment in Lake Champlain. Coalition leader James Ehlers estimated \$156 million would be needed to keep the water clean.

Others gathered signatures at the Statehouse for a petition seeking an assault weapons ban.

Democrats hold a strong majority in both chambers.

Secretary of State Jim Condos opened the session in the House at 10:05 a.m.; shortly afterward members stood in silence to remember Rep. Greg Clark, of Addison County, who died when he was hit by a car Nov. 30.

In the House, Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, was elected on a unanimous voice vote to his third term as Speaker of the House.

He was unopposed for another two-year term in the chamber's top position. Rep. Paul Poirier, I-Barre, withdrew his bid to challenge Smith.

After taking the oath of office, Smith outlined challenges and opportunities of coming session.

Don Milne was elected as the House clerk.

House members are also expected to receive their committee assignments, made by Smith. Each member serves on one standing committee.

In the Senate, President Pro Tempore John Campbell, D-Windsor, was unanimously elected to return for a second two-year term as leader.

Before the full Senate vote Wednesday, leadership challenger Sen. Diane Snelling, R-Chittenden, withdrew her bid and nominated Campbell.

She had argued that the Senate did not run as efficiently as it should have last session with Campbell in charge. Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, made similar arguments in trying to defeat Campbell at a November Democratic caucus, but Campbell won after promising changes. Democrats then pledged to support Campbell during the full Senate vote. After nominating Campbell she said she was assured by Campbell that bills will proceed in orderly manner from committee to floor.

Senate committee assignments, made by a three-member panel, could come Thursday, though some said some assignments seem up in the air.

The House and Senate will hear Gov. Peter Shumlin's inaugural address Thursday afternoon.

Man accused of crushing cruisers found incompetent

NEWPORT — The Vermont man charged with driving a tractor over seven police vehicles and crushing them has been found incompetent to stand trial.

Roger Pion (PEE'-on) of Newport had already been involuntarily committed to the custody of the state commissioner of mental health. He's been at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

The 34-year-old Pion had faced multiple criminal counts after police say he drove his dad's tractor over six cruisers and a van at the county sheriff's department in Derby in August, causing about \$300,000 in damage.

Police said he was angry over a previous arrest for marijuana possession. Pion pleaded not guilty.

The Caledonian-Record reports a judge agreed to a hearing to determine how and where Pion will receive treatment. Prosecutors asked for another evaluation in 90 days.

WCAX:

Rep. Smith: Vt. lawmakers to hear of climate effects

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont House Speaker Shap Smith wants two legislative committees to take testimony from Vermont business owners and others who are already seeing the effects of climate change.

Smith says businesses including ski resorts and stores that rely on business from snowmobilers saw what may be a harbinger of things to come with last winter's minimal snowfall.

He wants the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce committees to hear the testimony as a first step toward creating policies to deal with the problem of climate change.

In remarks following his election to a third term as speaker, the Morristown Democrat also said he wants to address some problems in Vermont's education system - chief among them not enough kids going to college.

Vt. Legislature's opening features activist rally

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont lawmakers gathering for the opening of their session are being greeted by hundreds of activists pushing issues ranging from unionization of early childhood and home care providers to providing driver's licenses to farm workers in the country without the required authorization.

The Putting People First Campaign a coalition of groups ranging from 350 Vermont to Migrant Justice, rallied at noon for an agenda of human rights, universal health care, workers' rights, better access to transportation and other issues.

They're responding to statements by legislative leaders that it's going to be a tough budget year by saying they want a "people's budget" that focuses on reducing income inequality in the state.

Coalition calls for stepped up water protection

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A coalition of 32 environmental groups, businesses and other organizations are calling for improved protection of Vermont's rivers and lakes, including Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.

Among the biggest threats seen by the groups is an overload of nutrients, including phosphorus flowing into the state's rivers from both farms and yards. The groups say incidents like algae blooms in Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Bay harm the state's tourism economy.

Lori Fisher of the Lake Champlain Committee says the state's public water supply infrastructure alone needs nearly \$400 million in upgrades in the next 20 years.

Chris Kilian of the Conservation Law Foundation says the state needs to focus on tougher enforcement of its environmental laws.

London, Sarah

From: Guilford, Nikki <NGuilford@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Governors Chiefs of Staff
Subject: NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP DELIVER STATE OF THE STATES ADDRESS

NGA News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2013

Contact: Jodi Omeear, 202-624-5346

Krista Zaharias, 202-624-5367

**NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP
DELIVER STATE OF THE STATES ADDRESS**

Speech Highlights Economy, Education, Health Care and Homeland Security

To see a copy of the speech or view video, visit: <http://www.nga.org/cms/stateofthestates>.

WASHINGTON—National Governors Association (NGA) Chair **Delaware Gov. Jack Markell** and Vice Chair **Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin** delivered the association's first-ever State of the States address today at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The governors focused on the current conditions and challenges faced by states and discussed the governors' collective vision for 2013. Markell also highlighted several gubernatorial successes from the past year.

"It should come as no surprise how much we can accomplish when we work together. Governors and their federal partners were successful in crafting the command structure so that states and the federal government can respond in natural disasters," Markell said. "We also worked with the first responder community and others to secure needed broadband radio spectrum to build a national emergency communications system, and we engaged on issues ranging from transportation to education to preserving the capabilities of our National Guard."

Markell noted that while each governor has his or her own unique circumstances, each must facilitate job growth, improve schools and be financially responsible. He pointed out that uncertainty from Washington and the reality of shrinking federal support hurts both state economies and state budgets.

"As much as we do in our states, our economies are tightly linked to the national economy. As a result, our states' prosperity depends, in no small measure, on the ability of our public servants in Washington to come to terms on a path forward," said Markell.

He continued by saying that one of the largest uncertainties concerns elements of the "fiscal cliff" that were postponed or left out of the recently enacted *American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012*.

Markell also highlighted job creation, noting his NGA Chair's initiative, *A Better Bottom Line: Employing Individuals with Disabilities*, in addition to infrastructure, the nation's tax code and education as priority issues for governors.

Fallin focused her remarks on the importance of a strong state-federal partnership, noting that governors are "committed to a vibrant and strong collaboration with Congress and the administration to maintain and promote a balanced federal system."

She highlighted four points governors have asked the president and Congress to keep in mind when addressing sequestration and deficit reduction:

- Federal reforms should produce savings for both the federal government and states;
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by merely shifting costs to states or imposing unfunded mandates;
- States should be given increased flexibility to create efficiencies and achieve results; and
- Congress should not impose maintenance of effort provisions on states as a condition of funding.

“Essentially, all of these points can be boiled down to two words: flexibility and partnership,” said Fallin. “We need the flexibility to take care of the unique needs of our citizens and the unique challenges facing our states...and states need to be treated as partners, not underlings, as we work to implement good public policy. As we told the president, reducing the deficit simply by shifting costs to states is not indicative of a good partnership.”

Fallin also highlighted health care and its costs as a critical challenge for the country. She noted NGA’s new virtual resource center as a tool to help navigate the various complexities of health care policy.

“This website will provide policymakers with expert analysis and best practices already adopted in states that are working to improve health care access, affordability and quality,” Fallin said.

Fallin outlined NGA’s initiative to tackle the fastest-growing drug problem in the country: the abuse of prescription drugs. The initiative is co-chaired by **Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley** and **Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper** and seeks to develop and implement comprehensive and coordinated strategies to reduce prescription drug abuse.

Finally, Fallin noted that governors remain committed partners in the maintenance of the nation’s armed forces—especially the men and women of our National Guard. The National Guard plays a critical role responding to emergencies here at home as well as fighting alongside our active duty military overseas.

Fallin said, “Governors will continue to work with the Department of Defense and Congress to better leverage the National Guard’s cost-effectiveness and high level of experience while preserving military capability for the nation because the safety and security of our citizens is crucial.”

She concluded by highlighting governors’ work to develop a broadband network for public safety communications and the creation of an NGA Resource Center for State Cybersecurity led by **Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley** and **Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder**. Fallin also noted the work of 22 states to convert state automobile fleets to natural gas vehicles.

The nation’s governors will gather for their annual Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., from Feb. 22-25, 2013.

###

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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NGA Office of Management Consulting & Training (OMCT)
Listserv for Governors' Chiefs of Staff

To post questions/comments to subscribed members, email: chiefs@talk.nga.org
(This listserv is moderated; submitted messages are first received by the NGA moderator and then posted to the full list.)

For more information on OMCT resources: www.nga.org/omct

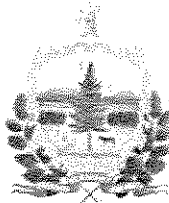
You are currently subscribed to [chiefs] as bill.lofy@state.vt.us.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to [leave-218232-](mailto:leave-218232-151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org)

151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Leah Marvin-Riley <lmarvinriley@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 1:09 PM
To: Leah Marvin-Riley
Subject: RELEASE: Speaker Shap Smith focuses on Education, Climate Change, and Strength of Vermonters in Biennial Opening Remarks
Attachments: GENERAL-#285237-v1-SP_Acceptance_2013.DOCX; GENERAL-#285267-v1-Org_Committee_Assignments_13-14.DOCX



**STATE OF VERMONT
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 9, 2013

Contact:

Leah Marvin-Riley
(802) 828-2245

Speaker Shap Smith focuses on Education, Climate Change, and Strength of Vermonters in Biennial Opening Remarks

Montpelier, VT- On the opening day of the 2013-2014 biennium, Representative Shap Smith, D-Morrisville, was unanimously re-elected to his third term as Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives. Upon being sworn in, Speaker Smith presented his goals for the upcoming session and announced assignments to the House Standing Committees. The Speaker identified significant challenges facing the state in education, health care reform, clean energy, and development of infrastructure.

Highlighting the strengths of Vermont's education system, the Speaker charged the House Committees on Education and Commerce and Economic Development to work together to ensure the State continues to build upon that foundation.

"Our students should, and must be the best prepared in the country. That is the goal that we must hold. Whether graduating from high school, from a college or university, or continuing education after college, we need to ensure that our students have the skills necessary to succeed once they leave school."

Speaker Smith also highlighted the work necessary in the coming years to address the problem of climate change. Speaker Smith stated that the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy will work with the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to take testimony to learn the details of the effects of climate change on businesses and Vermonters, with the goal of moving toward reducing and eliminating carbon-dependent energy use.

In concluding, the Speaker stressed the importance of a cohesive legislative body and the benefits that working together will have for the good of Vermonters.

“The intimacy of our democracy protects us from the forces that rend the nation’s political fabric. It continues to be the source of our strength as body and as a state,” said Speaker Smith. “As we engage each other, we realize that in spite of our differences, we have, at our very core, the same goal –a commitment to each other and a commitment to make the world a better place for all Vermonters.”

###

The Text of Speaker Smith’s Acceptance Speech:

Four years ago, this body first elected me to serve as Speaker of the House. I am humbled now, as I was then, by the faith that you have placed in me to serve as your Speaker. I hope to honor that faith over the coming two years as we work together to make Vermont a better place.

In the years since I was first elected Speaker, our state and country has experienced a grave economic downturn and politics have become increasingly polarized on the national level. The political culture in the nation’s capital has left many discouraged and, quite frankly, disgusted. As the country faces monumental challenges -- huge future fiscal imbalances, crumbling infrastructure and an education system that is not preparing our children for citizenry or the work force, many openly wonder whether our leaders and systems are capable of putting aside their differences, rolling up their sleeves and laying a foundation for a strong future.

I believe that we can set a better example in Vermont. In the past four years, in the wake of great economic and political stress and in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, Vermonters have united both within this body and across the state to face our challenges, see within them possibility, and chart a course for a better future.

So, what are our challenges, as we look out over the next two years? And where do we see possibility?

Vermont’s education system is a national leader. A high percentage of our students graduate from high school. A significant number of our adult citizens have college degrees, more, in fact, than most other states. Our test scores are among the best in the country. Yet, too few of our high school students seek a college degree. Many employers tell us how challenging it is to find qualified workers to fill their job vacancies. Most alarming, is that educational attainment is still lagging behind for those on the lower end of the economic ladder.

We have, through many policies we have adopted in this legislature, laid a strong foundation. We commit more resources than almost any other state in the country to our K-12 education system and our scores are among the best. But our students should, and must be the best prepared in the country. That is the goal that we must hold. Whether graduating from high school, from a college or university, or continuing education after college, we need to ensure that our students have the skills necessary to succeed once they leave school. And we need to work together to find innovative ways to reduce the crushing financial burden that many now experience when they complete their college education. Our Committees on Education and Commerce and Economic Development will work together to ensure that we are providing the legislation necessary to meet these goals over the next two years.

For too long the cost of health care in Vermont, as in the rest of the country, has been rising at an unsustainable rate, straining Vermonter's finances and making access to health care less attainable. In Vermont, we have recognized this challenge. Vermont is in the midst of transforming its health care system, and by health care system, I mean the whole system, both physical and mental. We may live in the healthiest state in the nation, but we live in a nation that spends more on health care than any other country, while our life expectancy, infant mortality, and percentage of Americans suffering from heart disease and obesity rank worse than many other developed nations-that is unacceptable. We are on the path to an affordable, universal health care system in Vermont, but for the sake of our country we cannot get there fast enough. There is no doubt that the transition to a new system is going to be difficult. There already have been, and there will be bumps in the road. But we understand the importance of moving forward and it is incumbent on us to keep the pressure on reducing costs and push forward to make sure everyone has access to affordable health care.

While we have passed energy bills that pave the way for a cleaner environment, and a reduced dependency on foreign oil, we have increasingly been witness to dramatic weather events. The drought that engulfed so much of the country last summer, and the second hurricane to ravage the eastern seaboard in as many years are examples of how devastating natural disasters are likely to be the norm in the future.

That is why we must adapt and act swiftly to address the threat of global climate change. Our actions must include efforts to reduce future impacts to our climate, but must also recognize that our climate has been altered and it is likely we cannot do anything about it. And we must acknowledge that those changes will have impacts on Vermonters. During the coming session, the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy will work with the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to take testimony from the businesses and people of the state to learn the details of the effects of climate change, to learn what measures are being taken to adapt to this change and how we can lead the charge to prevent future degradation of our environment by moving toward reducing and eliminating carbon-dependent energy use.

I know that some of us will say "it was kind of cold last night...it was cold last week." But all you have to do is talk to ski resorts and stores that work in the snow sports industry to learn that there are real economic impacts of climate change.

Like the rest of the country, Vermont's current infrastructure is not sufficient for a strong economic future. We have taken steps to address this challenge, using ARRA monies to improve our roads and bridges, build out our broadband network and modernize our electrical grid.

While our commitment to make long-term investments in the state's physical infrastructure and human capital has been a priority, our work is not finished. We must continue to invest in transportation infrastructure and broadband, this will make us most competitive economically and will help to address the problem of demographic decline. We have to address the long term challenges that face our Transportation fund. We must also work to ensure that one of our state's most precious resources, our own great Lake Champlain is restored to its natural beauty.

These are not our only challenges. We face an epidemic of opiate abuse and the specter of a similar epidemic of methamphetamines. Our benefit structures can at times discourage Vermonters from economic advancement. With all our good intentions, we have put together a structure that helps people, but sometimes hinders them-we need to fix this. The cost of housing is an issue. Our wages are not growing fast enough.

I believe that, unlike Washington, we are up to facing these challenges. Why? We are a small state with closely knit communities. I, like you, visit with my neighbors at corner stores, coffee shops and community

schools, discussing the pros and cons of what we are doing in Vermont and here in Montpelier. The intimacy of our democracy protects us from the forces that rend our nation's political fabric. It continues to be the source of our strength as body and as a state. As we engage each other, we realize that in spite of our differences, we have, at our very core, the same goal - a commitment to each other and a commitment to make the world a better place for all Vermonters.

In the end, I believe we, as all Vermonters, are humble enough to admit our challenges, thoughtful enough to consider all possible solutions, responsible enough to work with those with whom we disagree, and brave enough to chart new courses where necessary.

Humility, thoughtfulness, responsibility, and bravery: America's and Vermont's past success has been possible because its people practiced these principles. Our greatest ideals and ideas flowed from these foundations.

Let us today embrace these principles as we begin our work to build a better Vermont. Let us be servants to Vermont's future and to its very special people.

Let us get to work. Thank you.

###

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE

Partridge, Chair	of Windham
Lawrence, Vice-Chair	of Lyndon
Stevens ®	of Shoreham
Bartholomew	of Hartland
Connor	of Fairfield
Martin	of Springfield
Michelsen	of Hardwick
Taylor	of Barre City
Toleno	of Brattleboro
Smith	of New Haven
Zagar	of Barnard

APPROPRIATIONS

Heath, Chair	of Westford
Johnson, Vice-Chair	of South Hero
Helm ®	of Castleton
Fagan	of Rutland City
Keenan	of St. Albans City
Manwaring	of Wilmington
Miller	of Shaftsbury
O'Brien	of Richmond
Pearce	of Richford
Toll	of Danville
Winters	of Williamstown

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Botzow, Chair
Marcotte, Vice-Chair
Kitzmiller ®
Bouchard
Carr
Cross
Dickinson
Kupersmith
Ralston
Scheuermann
Young

of Pownal
of Coventry
of Montpelier
of Colchester
of Brandon
of Winooski
of St. Albans Town
of South Burlington
of Middlebury
of Stowe
of Glover

CORRECTIONS & INSTITUTIONS

Emmons, Chair
Myers, Vice-Chair
Lenes ®
Browning
Hatch Davis
Hooper
Larocque
Macaig
Shaw
Shaw
South

of Springfield
of Essex
of Shelburne
of Arlington
of Washington
of Montpelier
of Barnet
of Williston
of Pittsford
of Derby
of St. Johnsbury

EDUCATION

Donovan, Chair
Peltz, Vice-Chair
Lewis ®
Buxton
Campion
Christie
Cupoli
Juskiewicz
Rachelson
Stuart
Turner

of Burlington
of Woodbury
of Berlin
of Tunbridge
of Bennington
of Hartford
of Rutland City
of Cambridge
of Burlington
of Brattleboro
of Milton

FISH, WILDLIFE & WATER RESOURCES

Deen, Chair
McCullough, Vice-Chair
Beyor ®
Jewett
Krebs
Huntley
Quimby
Terenzini

of Westminster
of Williston
of Highgate
of Ripton
of South Hero
of Cavendish
of Concord
of Rutland Town

Webb

of Shelburne

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Moran, Vice-Chair
Savage ®
O'Sullivan
Stevens
Vowinkel
Weed

of South Burlington
of Wardsboro
of Swanton
of Burlington
of Waterbury
of Hartford
of Enosburgh

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Sweaney, Chair
Evans, Vice-Chair
Devereux ®
Cole
Consejo
Higley
Hubert
Martin
Mook
Townsend
Townsend

of Windsor
of Essex
of Mount Holly
of Burlington
of Sheldon
of Lowell
of Milton
of Wolcott
of Bennington
of Randolph
of South Burlington

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Copeland-Hanzas, Vice-Chair
Poirier ®
Dakin
Gage
Mitchell
Morrissey
Pearson
Spengler
Till
Woodward

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of Bradford
of Barre City
of Chester
of Rutland City
of Fairfax
of Bennington
of Burlington
of Colchester
of Jericho
of Johnson

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Haas, Vice-Chair
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Batchelor
Burditt
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French
Krowinski
McFaun

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of Rochester
of Northfield
of Derby
of West Rutland
of Underhill
of Randolph
of Burlington
of Barre Town

Mrowicki
Trieber

of Putney
of Rockingham

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Grad, Vice-Chair
Koch ®
Conquest
Donaghy
Fay
Goodwin
Marek
Strong
Waite-Simpson
Wizowaty

of Hinesburg
of Moretown
of Barre Town
of Newbury
of Poultney
of St. Johnsbury
of Weston
of Newfane
of Albany
of Essex
of Burlington

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Cheney, Vice-Chair
Canfield ®
Ellis
Feltus
Hebert
Malcolm
McCormack
Jerman
Nuovo
Yantachka

of East Montpelier
of Norwich
of Fair Haven
of Waterbury
of Lyndon
of Vernon
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of Charlotte

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Burke
Gallivan
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Lanpher
McCarthy
Russell
Wright

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of Clarendon
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of Brattleboro
of Chittenden
of Newport City
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of Rutland City
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of Georgia
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Greshin
Johnson
Komline
Masland
Ram
Wilson

of Colchester
of Warren
of Canaan
of Dorset
of Thetford
of Burlington
of Manchester

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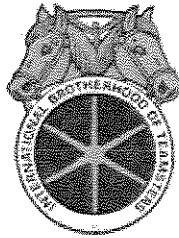
London, Sarah

From: James P. Hoffa, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
<teamsters2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:51 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: REMINDER: Inaugural Invite - TIME SENSITIVE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

January 7, 2013

Please join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union as we celebrate the momentous occasion of the 2nd Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on Monday, January 21, 2013.

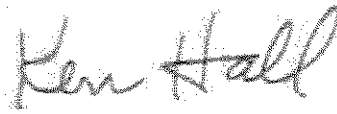
We are opening the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Headquarters to our friends and colleagues for the day to have a place to be warm, well fed and watch all of the excitement from our incredible view of the U.S. Capitol. We hope you will drop by or come for the day. We are located at 25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Our doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This invitation is NON-TRANSFERABLE and RSVP is mandatory and required for each individual and guest. You are invited with one guest. RSVP is needed by January 16, 2013. You must RSVP to teamsters2013@gmail.com. Please include your name, guest name and email to receive your confirmation. Please print your confirmation email and bring to event for entry. Please call Shari Yost Gold at (202) 525-1125 or email teamsters2013@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. We hope you can join us for what will be a memorable celebration.

Fraternaly yours,



James P. Hoffa
General President



Ken Hall
General Secretary-Treasurer

JPH:KH/syg

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empowered by



London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth; Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: updated Wed morning draft

Sorry, I'm at the State House.

Leigh or Shana - can one of you print this?

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2013, at 10:09 AM, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us> wrote:

On it. It will take 10-15 mins to load it into the teleprompter.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:05 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Appleby, Leigh; MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: updated Wed morning draft

Lisa, can you print this? Leigh, let's start with this one; I'm sure we'll edit further but it's a start.

London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Dana Thompson -GOV-
<dana.thompson@maryland.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:23 AM
To: Caucus_list_policy Caucus
Subject: no caucus today. Next caucus, Monday, January 14th

All,

Since Congress isn't in session, and many of our caucus is at the National Press Club watching the NGA Chair and Vice Chair's "State of the State" (live on C-SPAN now), we will not caucus today; rather, we will meet next Monday.

Thanks so much.

--

** NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: Dana.Thompson@maryland.gov**

Dana J. Thompson • Director, Federal Relations • Office of Gov. Martin O'Malley • State of Maryland • 202.624.1430 (o) • 202.783.3061 (f) • 443.336.2920 (c) • **Sign Up for Governor O'Malley's E-Newsletter** • *This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.*

--

London, Sarah

From: Burke, Ashley
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:17 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: reminder

Reminder about Senator Leahy. THANK YOU!!!

Ashley Burke
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: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Kunin, Lisa; MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: updated Wed morning draft

On it. It will take 10-15 mins to load it into the teleprompter.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:05 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Appleby, Leigh; MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: updated Wed morning draft

Lisa, can you print this? Leigh, let's start with this one; I'm sure we'll edit further but it's a start.

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:06 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Kunin, Lisa; Appleby, Leigh; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: updated Wed morning draft

...they actually have me as a judge over here; will extricate within hour but ...

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On Jan 9, 2013, at 10:05 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Lisa, can you print this? Leigh, let's start with this one; I'm sure we'll edit further but it's a start.
> <sos draft 11.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet on behalf of Reardon, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Reardon, Jim; Zeller, Susan; Reid, Martha; Obuchowski, Mike; 08 David Brotzman (VCGI); Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; 09 Sue Allen (Dep Chief of Staff); Dindo, Charlene; Miller, Janet; 10 Luke Martland (Leg Council); 11 Stephen Klein (Leg Fiscal Officer); Brooks, Francis; Juhasz, Joe; Salmon, Tom; Pearce, Beth; Wisloski, Stephen; Noonan, Tim; Smith, Gregory; 19 Bill Griffin (AG); Sorrell, Willaim; 19 Susanne Young (AG); 20 Willa Farrell (Court Diversion); Valerio, Matthew; Greemore, Bob; Bernardini, Barbara; Flynn, Keith; Pigeon, George; 25 Thomas Drew (Military); 26 Judy Rex (CCVS); Provost, David; Donegan, Susan; Candon, Tom; 30 Brian Leven (SOS); 30 Jim Condos (SOS); Recchia, Chris; 31 Sarah Hofmann (PSD); Volz, James; Appel, Robert; Hogan, Mike; 38 Barbara Cimaglio (Health); Chen, Harry; Moulton, Mary; Yacovone, Dave; Cohen, Jeff; Murphy, Reeve; Donahue, Shaun; George, Camille; Pallito, Andy; Menard, Lisa; Brown, Cary; 45 Guy Isabelle (RSVP); Noonan, Annie; Fischer, John; 48 Alberto Citarella (UVM); 48 Clarence Davis (UVM); 48 Richard Cate (UVM); 49 Tim Donovan (VT State Colleges); 50 Tara Lidstone (VT Interactive TV); 51 Donald Vickers (VSAC); 51 Tom Little (VSAC); Johnson, Justin; Royar, Kim; Berry, Patrick; Snyder, Michael; Mears, David; Borie, Lou; Shems, Ron; Miller, Lawrence; MoultonPowden, Pat; Aldrich, Alex; 62 Alan Jordan (VSO); 64 Gus Seelig (VHCB); 65 Peter Gilbert (VTHum); 67 Howard Deal (DMV); Ide, Robert; Zicconi, John; Maheras, Georgia; 70 Ann Curran (VPT); 70 John King (VPT); Pope, Aimee; Ferland, Brad; Byrne, Emily; Aronowitz, Jason; Trautz, Otto; Hartrich, Toni; Beatty, David; Boes, Richard; Bothfeld, Diane; Collins, Lori; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Duffy, Kate; Gabel, Patricia; Gauthier, Richard; Hetzel, Christine; Hollar, Jennifer; Hudson, Mark; Jackson, Melissa; Johnson, Harriet; Kukenberger, Bradley; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Mackay, Noelle; Markowitz, Deb; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Peterson, Mary; Racine, Doug; Riven, Matt; Ross, Chuck; Scott, Phil; Searles, Brian; Smith, Megan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Tucker, David; Vilaseca, Armando; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wehry, Susan; Wood, John; Johnson, Harriet; Rousseau, Paul; 02 Ruthann Sullivan (DII); Morse, Linda; Schwartz, Harold; Blaisdell, Terri; Pinard, Jason; Harris, Joe; 08 Linda Ladd (VCGI); Carrier, Janis; Lavery, Nathan; Goss, Duncan; Metivier, Krista; Grassmann, Felix; Booth, John; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Cassani, Mary; Ford, Diane; Evans, Lora; Harrison, Carol; Mongeon, Jim; Pellerin, Jacinthe; Chadwick, Joanne; Hallenbeck, Richard; Hutchins, Judi; Tornatore, Rita; Williams, Gail; Gauthier, Richard; Hodgdon, Marcey; 29 David Cameron (DFR); Daley, Paul; Behrns, Ronald; Rockcastle, Sheri; Chamberlin, Brenda; 33 Trish Grant (E-911 Board); Duke, Heather; Brown, Christine L.; Giffin, Jim; O'Connell, Kevin; Alligood, Mary Ann; Donahey, Richard; 36 Shirley Dow (AHS); 36 Suzanne Santarcangelo (AHS); Hathaway, Carrie; Cummings, Diane; Mall, James; Clark, Leo; Thompson, Shannon; Hall, Heidi; Cohen, David; Kelly, Bill; Clark, Sarah; Aubin, Lori-Ann; 44 Janet Bullard (Commission on Women); Wawrzyniak, Chad; Talbott, Bill; Flanagan, Kathy; 48 Karen Meyer (UVM); 49 T. Robbins (VSC); 50 Tara Lidstone (VTC); Berry, Brenda; Chadwick, Steve; Yacono, Sher; Pallito, Joanna; Wheeler, Denise; Thayer-Gosselin, Kathy; Clark, Claudia; Macaskill, Lucie; George, Julie; 61 Elaine Dufresne (Arts Council); Carbo, Kelly; Duffy, Anne; 65 Linda Winter (Humanities Council); LeBlanc, Leonard; Cayia, Lori; Cross, Phil; Bordeau, Renea; Neveau, Carmen; Kukenberger, Bradley; Beatty, David; Riven, Matt; Gonyea, John; Jones, Adrienne; Mullins, Jeri; O'Toole, Dawn; Stevens, JoAnn; Tauscher, David
Subject: Guidance regarding FY 2014 Governor's Recommended Budget Targets
Attachments: FY 2014 Target Memo.pdf
Importance: High

To all Department Heads and Business Managers:

The attached memo was sent on Monday to those departments that have received their General Fund targets. For those departments that do not receive General Funds, the same guidelines apply; that is, Vantage entries and budget submissions are required by **close of business Friday, January 11.**

For those departments that have not yet received their General Fund target (including all AHS departments), your deadline will be announced at the time your target is released, but you should expect that the turnaround time will be very short, and your staff may be required to work over the weekend to complete your budgets.

Regarding positions, the Secretary of Administration has approved creation of a constrained number of new positions in the Governor's Recommended budget. If you received approval for a General Fund position, your target should have included funds for that position. If you requested a non-General Fund position, your budget analyst should have communicated to you already whether that position was approved or not; if you are uncertain, please check with your analyst.

Please feel free to call me directly to discuss your concerns, or contact the Department of Finance & Management with any questions.

Sincerely,
Jim Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management

London, Sarah

From: Patrick Dolan <pdolan@nga.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 9:03 AM
To: NGA Daily E-Mail
Subject: NGA Daily E-mail

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

In this issue:

1. [This Just In](#)
2. [Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar](#)
3. [Press Clips](#)

Contact:

[Erin Cohan](#)
202-624-5300

This Just In

This Just In headlines:

1. **U.S. Supreme Court Rules in Clean Water Act Case**

U.S. Supreme Court Rules in Clean Water Act Case

A unanimous U.S. Supreme Court yesterday held in **Los Angeles County Flood Control District v. Natural Resources Defense Council** (No. 11-460) that the transfer of polluted water between two parts of the same water body does not constitute a discharge of pollutants under the federal Clean Water Act. The Court's opinion by Justice Ginsburg overturned a federal Ninth Circuit decision. The Court's decision reaffirmed a 2004 opinion in *South Fla. Water Management Dist. v. Miccosukee Tribe*, 541 U.S. 95, where the Court opined analogously that "if one takes a ladle of soup from a pot, lifts it above the pot, and pours it back into the pot, one has not 'added' soup or anything else to the pot." *Miccosukee*, 541 U.S. at 109-110. In this case, the Court considered whether LA County violated its federal permit governing "point source" discharges by removing, testing then returning river water flowing through a municipal separate storm sewer system's concrete channel constructed for flood and stormwater control. NGA signed onto an *amicus* brief filed by the State and Local Legal Center on behalf of the victorious Petitioner.

NGA Contact: [David Parkhurst](#), 202-624-5328

For past editions of This Just In, visit: <http://www.nga.org/cms/tji>

Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar

Wednesday, January 9

1. CANCELED: Meeting of the Health and Homeland Security Reps: Wednesday, January 9 at 2:00pm, NGA Governors Conference Room.

To view the NGA calendar, go to: www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/MONTH.pdf

Press Clips

Press clips that are relevant to state issues and Governors' offices are available from the NGA Office of Communications through the NGA Daily Email each Wednesday. In addition, the clips page has links to national news sources, which can be accessed any day of the week.

To view these press clips and links to national news sources, go to: <http://www.nga.org/clips>

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 8:48 AM
To: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Healthy snacks

Everyone, come people in this office didn't get lunch yesterday for any number of reasons. To that end, and given the hectic schedule of this week, I have a bowl of good stuff for noshing. Wander in and nosh ... don't be shy! (I'm sure you'll be shocked that there is not one Dorito chip in the mix)

London, Sarah

From: kjmbjm@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 6:22 AM
To: jank45 [REDACTED]; Ayer, Claire; JCampbell@leg.state.vt.us; PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us; Mazza, Richard; RRamos@leg.state.vt.us; Trombley, Shana
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb; louis_porter [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

Works for me - Kevin

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

From: Jane Kitchel <jank45@hotmail.com>
To: kjmbjm <kjmbjm@aol.com>; Claire Ayer <CAyer@leg.state.vt.us>; John Campbell <JCampbell@leg.state.vt.us>; Philip Baruth <PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us>; Richard Mazza <RMAZZA@leg.state.vt.us>; Rebecca Ramos <RRamos@leg.state.vt.us>; shana.trombley <shana.trombley@state.vt.us>
Cc: alex.macleam <alex.macleam@state.vt.us>; bill.lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>; elizabeth.miller <elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us>; jeb.spaulding <jeb.spaulding@state.vt.us>; louis_porter <louis_porter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tue, Jan 8, 2013 7:44 pm
Subject: RE: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

OK for me - Jane

From: Shana Trombley@state.vt.us
To: jank45 [REDACTED]; CAyer@leg.state.vt.us; JCampbell@leg.state.vt.us; KMULLIN@leg.state.vt.us; PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us; RMAZZA@leg.state.vt.us; RRamos@leg.state.vt.us
CC: Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us; Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us; Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us; Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us; louis_porter [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 8 Jan 2013 15:47:45 -0500
Subject: RE: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

We need to move the meeting time to 8:30 on January 10th. Please let me know if this works for everyone. Thank you. - Shana

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:34 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'cayer@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter [REDACTED]; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: FW: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

In order to better accommodate everyone's busy schedule on the 10th we will meet in the Ceremonial Office. Thank you, Shana

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](#)

From: Trombley, Shana

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:00 AM

To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'caver@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'

Cc: louis_porter [REDACTED]; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb

Subject: Meeting with Governor Shumlin

Hello,

Governor Shumlin would welcome the opportunity to meet with you all in advance of his inaugural address on Thursday, January 10th. Are you all available for a brief meeting on January 10th at 9:30am in the Governor's Office in the Pavilion Building?

Thank you,

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: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 5:56 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Shumlin: Feds to pony up for Berlin facility

By Peter Hirschfeld

BERLIN — After months of wrangling with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Gov. Peter Shumlin announced Tuesday that the federal government will pick up the lion's share of a \$42.8 million plan to replace the 52-bed psychiatric hospital washed out during Tropical Storm Irene.

At the groundbreaking for a 25-bed mental health facility in Berlin, Shumlin said that FEMA will pick up nearly 75 percent of the cost for a replacement plan that includes facilities in Berlin, Rutland and Brattleboro.

Administration officials had at one point last year anticipated that FEMA would pay for as much as 90 percent of the construction costs. However, Shumlin said he was "thrilled" with the \$30 million that federal officials have said Vermont can expect for the projects.

"That means that Vermont taxpayers will be paying for this entire rebuilt system between \$12.5 million and \$15 million," Shumlin said. "That is a great victory for Vermont taxpayers and worth celebrating."

The trials and tribulations of Vermont's negotiations with FEMA became fodder for gubernatorial politics last summer when news broke that a technical miscue had led to an overly optimistic estimate of what Vermont could expect in federal aid.

Republican challenger Randy Brock chided Shumlin for proceeding with a hospital replacement plan for which he had yet to identify a funding source.

"I have taken some heat over the past months for pushing ahead with this project without knowing exactly how the dollars would flow," Shumlin said Tuesday. "But I want to remind you that we had no other choice, that with the most vulnerable mental health patients not having a place to go, we didn't have the option of doing what government does so well: waiting, thinking, planning, deliberating, arguing and hoping for a better day."

At a cost of \$28.5 million, the 25-bed facility now under construction in Berlin will become the centerpiece of a "community-based" mental health system that aims to move away from the more centralized program in place before the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury was evacuated during Irene.

The plan calls for 14 secure hospital beds at the Brattleboro Retreat and six beds at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Each of those projects will cost about \$5.5 million.

While construction is under way in Berlin, Brattleboro and Rutland, the state will rely on temporary facilities in Morrisville and Middlesex to alleviate pressure on emergency rooms, which have been forced to accommodate mental health patients who previously would have been admitted to the hospital in Waterbury.

An eight-bed facility in Morrisville opened late last month; a seven-bed facility in Middlesex will be ready in a couple of months. The combined cost of those projects is \$3.4 million, all of which will be paid for by FEMA.

The nearly \$30 million FEMA figure cited by Shumlin will include any payouts from the state's insurance policy.

Sen. Robert Hartwell, a Bennington County Democrat and chairman of the Senate Committee on Institutions, said the FEMA funding levels announced Tuesday are "as good as it gets."

"If I had to pick something to help us with, this is the thing we need to be helped with," Hartwell said.

Flanked by lawmakers and members of his Cabinet, Shumlin plunged a ceremonial spade into a pile of camera-ready dirt on the Fisher Road parcel on which the new hospital is being constructed. The location, adjacent to Central Vermont Medical Center, has been lauded by mental health advocates who had insisted on proximity to a conventional hospital.

If Irene had a silver lining, mental health advocates have said, it was in expediting the long-running debate over how to replace the state's century-old psychiatric hospital in Waterbury. The antiquated facility was decertified by the federal government, costing Vermont about \$10 million annually in lost Medicaid reimbursements.

Shumlin said he expects that revenue to begin rolling back into Vermont when the Berlin facility opens by April 2014.

"When we get those reimbursements back, we will pay for our entire new system with federal dollars in roughly a year and a half," Shumlin said.

Mark Landry, federal coordinating officer for FEMA, said that while he can't officially announce the numbers Shumlin used Tuesday, the documents he provided to the administration "reflect with a high level of confidence the funding that the state of Vermont will receive based on eligible (damage) and eligible funding."

Shumlin said he expects similarly refined estimates from FEMA on reimbursement levels for the Waterbury office complex in the next 45 days or so.

EDITORIAL: A WELCOME DIVERSION

The appointment of Robert Sand to help set up special courts to handle drunken driving cases is a step by Gov. Peter Shumlin toward fulfilling his promise to reform the state's corrections and judicial system.

As the longtime state's attorney for Windsor County, Sand has established a reputation as an independent and creative thinker on questions of crime and punishment. He has argued for the decriminalization of small-time drug possession charges, partly to keep young offenders from becoming snared in the corrections system, which often damages people rather than helping them toward a productive life.

His progressive ideas on drug issues rankled Gov. James Douglas, who took exception to Sand's recommendation of court diversion in a marijuana possession case with a Windsor County lawyer as defendant. But the times are changing.

Shumlin favors reduced criminal liability for marijuana possession, as he favors other measures to steer defendants away from the prison system and toward programs that will put the correction in corrections.

The new DUI courts that Sand is charged with setting up are in line with the successful creation of drug courts in several Vermont jurisdictions. The idea is to use the criminal case as a lever to push defendants toward programs that will help them address the addictions or abuse that are the root cause of their criminal actions.

The nation has been in the grip of a punitive philosophy toward drug and alcohol offenses, going back for decades. Nationally, one consequence has been the vast expansion of the prison system which holds more inmates than any other nation. Historians have noted that the toll of this punitive approach has hit especially hard at black communities where a crippling percentage of young men are caught up in the prison system. A young black man on a city street is

much more likely to be stopped, frisked and jailed for a small stash of marijuana than a young white man on a college campus with a similar stash. Some critics have noted that the nation's war on the black community has amounted almost to a re-enslavement of young black men.

The toll of drugs is real, and even marijuana can be abused. But the war on drugs has not succeeded in rescuing America's cities or eliminating the small but consistent number of people who are addicted to dangerous drugs. Rather, it has depleted communities of potentially productive young men. It is a policy based on fear yielding an end result of social deterioration.

Vermont has played a small part in the war on drugs, mainly because of the presence of heroin and other hard drugs and the dealers who provide them. Heroin is a real menace, and the trade in hard drugs damages communities.

But Vermont is also a state where young people report a relatively high usage of marijuana. Even before the advent of the drug courts police and courts as a rule were not imposing draconian punishments for personal marijuana possession.

DUI, unfortunately, is always with us, and an effort to address the problem of repeat offenders is long overdue. If Sand can establish the means for helping repeat offenders get control of their alcohol abuse, he will have helped the offenders, made the state safer and eased the pressure on the corrections system. Let it be a warm-up for a larger effort to bring the full effect of diversion, drug courts and restorative justice to courts statewide.

Shumlin has reported that the population of young inmates has already started to drop — by more than half between 2003 and June 2012. That is a huge improvement. The important improvement will be if people brought before the courts are steered toward programs that will keep them out of the courts forever. That will save money and lives and will restore communities.

Police looking at Facebook posts about Lauzon and guns

BARRE — Police are investigating Facebook posts in which a Barre man allegedly disclosed Mayor Thom Lauzon's home address and called it a shooting range.

A week after Lauzon suggested that the Barre Fish and Game Club not allow assault-style weapons at the upcoming gun show, the mayor said multiple people alerted him to the posts Tuesday and expressed their concern about them.

Police did not provide the suspect's name, and while Lauzon has identified him, The Times Argus could not confirm his identity.

The mayor provided copies of electronic communications to The Times Argus.

Lauzon sent the man's Facebook profile a message saying, "Pretty serious when (someone) publicly posts my address and declares it to be a shooting range."

In a message from the suspect's Facebook profile to Lauzon, the writer apologized for the posts and reported having deleted them.

"I apologize if anything was taken the wrong way," the message said. "This gun control issue is getting out of hand. I voted for you in the past because I thought you were a good Republican. I certainly don't mean any harm to you at all."

Tuesday night at the City Council meeting, Lauzon made passing reference to the Facebook flare-up during a much longer discussion with representatives of the Barre Fish and Game Club about their upcoming show.

Lauzon publicly praised the club members for their "gentlemanly" response to his request that they ban assault firearms and extended magazines at the show.

Though the club politely declined Lauzon's request, the mayor said their response was better than most.

"The response has gone from there to the (person) who posted on Facebook that people should use my home as a practice range," Lauzon said. "He will be getting a visit from police."

Lauzon said earlier that he thought he had met the man but did not know him well. Lauzon said he considered not doing anything about the posts but changed his mind and reported the incident to police after he thought about how many people had seen the posts and the possibility that anyone had taken them seriously.

"If I ignore it, then I'm only adding to the problem," Lauzon said, adding there is nothing funny about threats of violence.

FOX44:

Vt. to Get \$30M for New Psychiatric Facilities

JOE GULLO

BERLIN, Vt. - Officials say the state of Vermont state will get \$30 million in federal funds and insurance payments toward a \$42 million total price tag to help the state hospital in Waterbury, which was made unusable by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene.

Gov. Peter Shumlin and others released the figures Tuesday while they were marking the start of construction on the Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center - a 25-bed facility next to the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin.

Construction of the Berlin facility is expected to cost \$28.5 million. The rest of total price tag will be for other, smaller facilities in other parts of the state.

State officials hope to have the Berlin facility open by early next year.

New Burlington Hotel to Open in April

MATT AUSTIN

BURLINGTON, Vt. - In just a few months, a new hotel is expected to open in Burlington.

Hotel Vermont will become one of the few major hotels located in the downtown.

From outside to inside, crews are working to make sure Hotel Vermont is ready to open in April in Burlington.

Hans Van-Wees is the hotel's general manager and took us on a tour Tuesday.

"The key thing it will offer is the experience of staying in an independent hotel," says Van-Wees.

Van-Wees says it's also about numbers. He says this is a \$20-million investment and will create about 70 jobs when it opens.

Hotel Vermont will add 125 rooms to downtown Burlington. Rooms that are desperately needed.

"We are most of the time at capacity," says Sarah Beal, Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce Director of Communications.

Beal says there are 3,500 hotel rooms in Chittenden County. But only a fraction of them are downtown.

"More rooms ups our capacity for having larger events come to Burlington," says Beal.

And she says also more tourists. Beal says more people means more money being spent in Burlington.

While Hotel Vermont is not quite ready for guests, Van-Wees says reservations are already being booked.

"People have been waiting for a hotel like this," says Van-Wees.

Hotel Vermont is putting on a special ice bar event in February.

London, Sarah

From: Jane Kitchel <janek45 [REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:44 PM
To: Trombley, Shana; Ayer, Claire; jcampbell@leg.state.vt.us; kmullin@leg.state.vt.us; pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us; Mazza, Richard; rramos@leg.state.vt.us
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb; louis_porter [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

OK for me - Jane

From: Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us
To: janek45 [REDACTED]; Cayer@leg.state.vt.us; JCampbell@leg.state.vt.us; KMULLIN@leg.state.vt.us; PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us; RMAZZA@leg.state.vt.us; RRamos@leg.state.vt.us
CC: Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us; Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us; Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us; Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us; louis_porter [REDACTED]
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Cc: louis_porter [REDACTED]; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
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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:
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From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:00 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'cayer@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter [REDACTED]; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb
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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: Redfern, Jenet K <RedfernJK@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 5:31 PM
To: info@governor.alabama.gov; Linda.Adams@governor.alabama.gov;
zach.lee@alabama.gov; governor@alaska.gov; mike.nizich@alaska.gov;
janice.mason@alaska.gov; shelley.james@alaska.gov; go@americansamoa.gov;
chiefstaff@americansamoa.gov; motu.seui@americansamoa.gov; azgov@az.gov;
eklein@az.gov; NBendle@az.gov; memmerman@az.gov; Skillian@az.gov;
mike.beebe@governor.arkansas.gov; morril.harriman@governor.arkansas.gov;
gtennille@arkansasedc.com; matt.decample@governor.arkansas.gov;
bart.handford@governor.arkansas.gov; governor@governor.ca.gov;
jim.humes@gov.ca.gov; Kathy.baldree@gov.ca.gov; john.hickenlooper@state.co.us;
roxane.white@state.co.us; Val.nosler@state.co.us; eric.brown@state.co.us;
karla.tartz@state.co.us; governor.mallo@po.state.ct.us; mark.ojakian@ct.gov;
arielle.reich@ct.gov; Zack.Hyde@ct.gov; jack.markell@state.de.us;
govschedule@state.de.us; thomas.mcgonigle@state.de.us; mary.darby@state.de.us;
missy.weir@state.de.us; alan.levin@state.de.us; rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com;
julie.roberts@em.myflorida.com; georgia.governor@gov.state.ga.us; criley@georgia.gov;
cbrown@georgia.gov; governor@guam.gov; frank.arriola@guam.gov;
governor.abercrombie@hawaii.gov; bruce.coppa@hawaii.gov;
donalyn.delacruz@hawaii.gov; wendy.corerinx@hawaii.gov; tim.mcbroom@hawaii.gov;
amy.asselbayer@hawaii.gov; governor@gov.idaho.gov; dhensley@gov.idaho.gov;
bmeuleman@gov.idaho.gov; governor@illinois.gov; jack.lavin@illinois.gov;
sean.vinck@illinois.gov; chelsea.lindeman@illinois.gov; shayna.cherry@illinois.gov;
Kate.Berner@illinois.gov; Shayna.Cherry@illinois.gov; kelly.kraft@illinois.gov;
mdaniels@gov.in.gov; mban@gov.in.gov; bpowlen@gov.in.gov; egoode@gov.in.gov;
jeffrey.boeyink@iowa.gov; alicia.freed@iowa.gov; dough.hoelscher@iowa.gov;
governor@ks.gov; landon.fulmer@ks.gov; jon.hummell@ks.gov; denise.coatney@ks.gov;
raeanne.davis@ks.gov; governor@mail.state.ky.us; larry.bond@ky.gov;
Elizabeth.roach@ky.gov; colmon.elridge@ky.gov; rebecca.byers@ky.gov;
bobby.jindal@la.gov; paul.rainwater@la.gov; Meg.Vanderbrook@la.gov;
Kelley.McCormick@la.gov; anthony.ramirez@la.gov; governor@maine.gov;
john.mcgough@maine.gov; Jeanne.stpierre@maine.gov; john.butera@maine.gov;
governor@governor.state.md.us; mgallagher@gov.state.md.us;
ipatoka@gov.state.md.us; mwaller@gov.state.md.us; constituent.service@state.ma.us;
michele.mansilla@state.ma.us; mo.cowan@state.ma.us; rosemary.powers@state.ma.us;
eleanor.miller@state.ma.us; rick.snyder@michigan.gov; muchmore.d@michigan.gov;
govscheduling@michigan.gov; mark.dayton@state.mn.us; tina.smith@state.mn.us;
fatima.villasenor@state.mn.us; hue.nguyen@state.mn.us;
governor@governor.state.ms.us; phurst@governor.state.ms.us;
bbryant@governor.state.ms.us; groberts@governor.state.ms.us;
constituent.services@mo.gov; john.watson@mo.gov; carla.schnieders@mo.gov;
Brent.bayer@mo.gov; governor@mt.gov; cojohns@mt.gov; vhammill@mt.gov;
fhall@mt.gov; selliot@mt.gov; dave.heineman@nebraska.gov;
kathy.graham@nebraska.gov; larry.bare@nebraska.gov; carmelee.tuma@nebraska.gov;
govcontact@gov.nv.gov; ggardner@gov.nv.gov; jarditor@gov.nv.gov;
tklimas@gov.nv.gov; scheduling@gov.nv.gov; governorlynch@nh.gov;
gail.wolek@nh.gov; rich.sigel@nh.gov; lindsay.whitelaw@nh.gov;
Elizabeth.Gray@nh.gov; kevin.o'dowd@gov.state.nj.us; bridgett.kelly@gov.state.nj.us;
suzanne.tagliabue@gov.state.nj.us; maria.comella@gov.state.nj.us;
michael.vanwagner@sos.state.nj.us; schedulingoffice@gov.state.nj.us;

To: richard.bagger@gov.state.nj.us; daniel.robles@gov.state.nj.us; susana.martinez2@state.nm.us; keith.gardner@state.nm.us; Gloria.marquez@state.nm.us; andrew.cuomo@exec.ny.gov; larry.schwartz@exec.ny.gov; leecia.eve@exec.ny.gov; governor.office@nc.gov; britt.cobb@nc.gov; pryor.gibson@nc.gov; carol.young@nc.gov; jim.mccleskey@nc.gov; governor@nd.gov; lstrinden@nd.gov; rrausche@nd.gov; mwagner@nd.gov; fitial@ptico.com; Beth.Hansen@governor.ohio.gov; Karrie.Rench@governor.ohio.gov; Jai.Chabria@governor.ohio.gov; tracy.intihar@governor.ohio.gov; mary.fallin@gov.ok.gov; denise.northrup@gov.ok.gov; robert.sullivan@gov.ok.gov; dana.wolpert@gov.ok.gov; Denise.Northrup@gov.ok.gov; gov.kitzhaber@state.or.us; curtis.robinhold@state.or.us; greg.wolf@das.state.or.us; jan.murdock@das.state.or.us; stormy.boyles@das.state.or.us; governor@pa.gov; jose.perez-riera@ddecpr.com; tsubira@fortaleza.gobierno.pr; nguilemard@prfaa.com; governor@governor.ri.gov; Lori.lee@governor.ri.gov; nikkihaley@gov.sc.gov; timpearson@gov.sc.gov; robgodfrey@gov.sc.gov; dennis.daugaard@state.sd.gov; dustin.johnson@state.sd.gov; deb.bowman@state.sd.us; kelsey.webb@state.sd.us; bill.haslam@tn.gov; mark.cate@tn.gov; larry.martin@tn.gov; claude.ramsey@tn.gov; hannah.parker@tn.gov; rick.perry@governor.state.tx.us; jeff.boyd@governor.state.tx.us; theresa.schirmer@governor.state.tx.us; kim.snyder@governor.state.tx.us; ademerson@governor.state.tx.us; gherbert@utah.gov; dbmiller@utah.gov; fstultz@utah.gov; peccles@utah.gov; bsomers@utah.gov; Governor Peter Shumlin; Lofy, Bill; Bartlett, Susan; robert.f.mcdonnell@governor.virginia.gov; pam.watts@governor.virginia.gov; martin.kent@governor.virginia.gov; kim.steinhoff@governor.virginia.gov; katherine.harris@governor.virginia.gov; emily.rabbitt@governor.virginia.gov; john.dejongh@go.vi.gov; rosemary.hamilton@go.vi.gov; luis.sylvester@go.vi.gov; nathan.simmonds@go.vi.gov; nellie.varlack@go.vi.gov; raul.carrillo@go.vi.gov; christine.gregoire@gov.wa.gov; ellen.landino@gov.wa.gov; marty.loesch@gov.wa.gov; barb.winkler@gov.wa.gov; governor@wv.gov; rob.alsop@wv.gov; rebecca.l.neal@wv.gov; sherrie.l.stone@wv.gov; hallie.s.mason@wv.gov; govgeneral@wisconsin.gov; eric.schutt@wisconsin.gov; scott.matejov@wisconsin.gov; eric.schutt@wisconsin.gov; governor@state.wy.us; kari.gray@wyo.gov; ruth.critchfield@wyo.gov

Cc: Schuelke, Elizabeth J

Subject: Message from The Secretary's Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs Reta Jo Lewis

Happy New Year!

Attached is the latest edition of "The Connector," my office's newsletter that highlights the successful results of our cooperation with valued partners, such as yourselves and offices that you represent. We look forward to enhancing our cooperation with you in the future, to complete more good works that benefit the U.S. through its relationships with global partners.

Sincerely,

Reta Jo Lewis

S/Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs (S/SRGIA) •

U.S. Department of State•

Rm. 4428 A , 2201 C St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520

URL: www.state.gov/s/srgia



@RetaJoATState : [Office of the S/Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

To schedule an appointment: Contact Ms. Jenet Redfern, Executive Assistant E-mail: redfernjk@state.gov | Desk:
202.647.7710 | Fax: 202.647.7724 |



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 5:08 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Wednesday, Jan 9

Wednesday, January 9th 2013 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:

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

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 4:34 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: AFTERNOON MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 8:

VPR:

Report Says Vermont Yankee Not Generating Enough Cash

JOHN DILLON

The Entergy Corporation will be back in court next week, defending its right to keep operating the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

But as Entergy continues its legal battle, a financial firm says Yankee is a drag on the company's finances.

The research report from UBS Securities says Entergy could decide to shutdown Yankee and its Fitzpatrick plant in New York state because they're not generating much cash for the company.

Nuclear power plants like Yankee compete with natural gas fired plants in the wholesale electric market. And the abundance of natural gas has kept electricity prices down, putting financial pressure on the company's older nuclear units.

Nuclear engineer and Yankee critic Arnie Gundersen says the UBS report didn't even include all the dire news facing the Vermont plant.

"It didn't look at Vermont Yankee in particular to see all of the additional cash drains that are going to be required in the future," he says.

Gundersen says the 43-year-old Vermont Yankee faces some expensive repairs. The plant has the same design as the Fukushima reactors in Japan that were severely damaged following a tsunami in 2011. Gundersen says federal regulators will soon require plants like Yankee to make post-Fukushima modifications that could cost tens of millions of dollars.

Yankee also needs a new condenser, a piece of equipment that will cost \$100 million or more to replace.

"So there's about a quarter of billion dollars in repairs to Vermont Yankee that will have to be made in the next couple of years," he says. "And this analyst and I agree that it doesn't make economic sense for a small plant like that."

Yankee spokesman Rob Williams says the company will not comment in detail on the UBS report.

"Our nuclear units, throughout Entergy nuclear, they're important sources of clean and reliable electricity. And we remain fully focused on the safe operation of those plants," he says. "But as a matter of policy we don't comment on the financial performance of the individual plants."

Entergy and the state of Vermont will be back in a federal court room next week arguing in a case that could decide the role of states to oversee nuclear power plants.

Vermont lost the first round last January when a federal court judge struck down two Vermont laws that gave the Legislature authority over the plant's future. District Judge Garvan Murtha said the Legislature was improperly

motivated by concerns over nuclear safety. Murtha cited federal law that says safety issues are the sole responsibility of the federal government.

The state of Vermont appealed, and the oral argument in the case takes place next week before the 2nd circuit court of appeals. Vermont Law School Professor Patrick Parenteau has followed the case closely. He says the challenge for the state is to convince the three judge panel to not delve deeply into the legislative record which shows lawmakers repeatedly talked about safety concerns.

"You can get into the weeds in this case and lose it very quickly but if they can get above that and convince the court that they shouldn't go beyond the text of the statute, and they ought to defer to the state on a question that isn't clearly pre-empted by federal law, then they're in good shape," he says.

The state Supreme Court also holds a hearing next week on a motion by the New England Coalition to shut down Vermont Yankee.

Burlington Council Approves Weapons Ban

Kirk Carapezza

City officials in Vermont's largest city have passed a ban on assault weapons, despite state statute that prohibits such ordinances.

On Monday night, Burlington's City Council approved a charter change that would ban semi-automatic assault weapons and multiple ammunition clips in the city.

The ban, if ratified by voters, would require approval by the Legislature.

City Councilor Norm Blais, who drafted the resolution, says Burlington had to act locally in the absence of federal and state gun control legislation.

Meanwhile, lawmakers arriving in Montpelier this week are already debating whether they should pass a measure that would effectively permit cities and towns to strike down the state's restrictive gun laws.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Philip Baruth plans to file a bill that would support a statewide assault weapons ban.

First FEMA Buyouts Could Come In February

Nancy Eve Cohen

State officials predict the first federally-approved buy-outs of homes destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene could be completed by February.

FEMA has approved the purchase of 81 properties that were destroyed by the flood. The federal buy-out process includes an appraisal, along with historic and environmental reviews of the property.

The state says it's doing everything possible to expedite the process. It's been more than 16 months since dozens of property-owners lost their homes in the flood.

Fox44:

No Injuries in Vt. Amtrak Car Crash in Middlesex

MIDDLESEX, Vt. - Vermont State Police say no one was injured in a collision between a car and the Amtrak Vermonter train in Middlesex.

The crash mid-morning Tuesday occurred just off U.S. Route 2.

Witnesses say a driver was trying to cross the tracks when her vehicle was hit by the train.

It was the second crash involving an Amtrak train in Vermont in two days.

On Sunday an Amtrak train hit a car that slid onto the tracks in Sharon. In that case, the driver of the car suffered minor injuries.

Threats in Burlington, Vt. Monday Lead to Evacuation & Arrest

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Threats in Burlington lead to an evacuation and an arrest.

Monday afternoon 35-year-old Amy Beede called Vermont Gas and threatened to blow up her building.

The gas was shut off and police and crews scoured the area.

Beede, who was not home at the time, was found a short time later.

She faces charges of disorderly conduct and making false public alarm.

FOX44 and ABC22 doesn't know why she made the threats.

41 States Reporting Widespread Flu Cases Including Vt., NY, NH

WASHINGTON - Flu cases around the country have jumped dramatically and some hospitals plan to open additional units for patients.

41 states are reporting "widespread" flu cases including those in our area.

Health officials report a higher number of people needing to be hospitalized with symptoms ranging from fever and coughing to muscle aches.

So far the CDC says at least 22,000 people have been hospitalized. 18 people have died, all children.

Experts can't say for sure why the flu is much stronger this year.

VALLEY NEWS:

Windsor County Prosecutor Robert Sand to Head DUI Court Program

MARK DAVIS

Montpelier — Gov. Peter Shumlin yesterday appointed Windsor County State's Attorney Robert Sand to serve as a coordinator to introduce alternative sentencing programs for repeat drunken driving offenders across Vermont, in hopes of improving alcohol abuse treatment, limiting repeat DUI offenses and reducing the state's prison population.

After 15 years as Windsor County's top prosecutor, Sand will step down in March to join the state Department of Public Safety and help fight what Shumlin yesterday termed the "war on recidivism" in the Vermont criminal justice system.

"Alcohol remains one of the great killers on our highways," Shumlin said during a press conference in Montpelier. "Repeat DUI offenders have maimed and killed innocent Vermonters for a long time. We can do better, but we have to be innovative."

So-called DUI courts, which have spread across the country in recent years, operate similarly to drug courts — repeat offenders are offered intense supervision and counseling, and are required to meet regularly with judges and undergo substance abuse treatment. If they succeed, they avoid criminal penalties. If they fail, they are sent to prison. Critics say the current model of charging and penalizing offenders does little to curtail underlying problems and leads to repeat offenses.

Sand, along with other local officials, had helped lay ground work for a DUI treatment docket in Windsor County, the first in the state, which is slated to launch in the coming weeks, he said. In his new position, funded by a federal grant, Sand will work with other prosecutors to bring similar programs to other state courts.

"It has been clear to me for some time that if we can't address the underlying problem, we are dooming ourselves to high recidivism rates," Sand said. "There is a large population for whom government has an opportunity and an obligation to see if we can help make them better and see if we can help them overcome their addiction. This is too good a model, and too cost effective, to confine solely to Windsor County."

By the end of March, Shumlin said he will appoint someone to serve the remainder of Sand's four-year term, which expires in November 2014. The governor demurred when asked about a possible replacement for Sand yesterday. While state's attorneys generally reside in the counties where they work, there is no legal residency requirement. (Technically, the law does not require a state's attorney to be a licensed attorney, either.)

Sand, a 54-year-old Woodstock resident and graduate of Hamilton College and Vermont Law School, gained statewide attention in 2007 when he publicly advocated for the decriminalization of marijuana, a stance that he continued to quietly push in subsequent years. And Sand has been a close observer of policy and political developments in Montpelier. After the press conference, Sand conceded that, as years went on, his interests began to roam beyond the White River Junction courthouse.

"Increasingly, I found that my thinking is broader than just prosecuting cases," Sand said in an interview.

Sand said he will make roughly \$90,000, taking a small pay cut from his current position. The move is not without risk, however. Sand will go from being the top cop in his jurisdiction, overseeing four deputy prosecutors and wielding the final word on how all manner of cases are prosecuted in the county, to a bureaucrat with few enumerated powers. State's attorneys are independently elected by county voters and do not answer to the state officials. Sand said he viewed his new job as a "utility infielder" who would assist prosecutors and judges too busy with their daily case load to set up a DUI docket.

Many defendants charged with DUI would not be eligible for the program. Officials will target repeat offenders with underlying addiction issues.

Roughly 70 percent of people charged with a DUI do not repeat the offense, Sand said. Typically, defendants invited onto the DUI docket will have been charged with at least a second DUI, and will have registered a blood-alcohol level at least twice the legal limit, Sand said.

In 2011, 529 Vermonters were convicted of repeat DUI offenses, according to the Vermont Department of Corrections.

"You can't have a conversation about DUI, or drugs, without talking about treatment," Vermont State Police Col. Tom L'Esperance said during the news conference. "We will be watching very closely."

Shumlin billed Sand's hiring as another step in what he touts as a successful effort to reduce repeat crimes and tame the exploding Department of Corrections budget. According to the DOC, the number of inmates under 21 years old has dropped from 1,306 to 938 since 2010. It costs \$54,000 to incarcerate an inmate for one year in Vermont.

The grant, through the federal Highway Safety program, runs for three years and totals roughly \$300,000, officials said. By then, Sand said, he hopes to have DUI courts available to defendants in every county in the state.

"I am confident that it will ultimately save more money than it will cost," Sand said.

Editorial: Hartford Police Chief Decision; Public Discussion Absent

Last March, Hartford voters elected to the Selectboard a slate of three candidates pledged above all to transparency in government. Thus it comes as a bit of a surprise to learn 10 months later that the town is quietly considering a major change in the way the police department is administered without any apparent attempt to solicit the opinion of residents.

As staff writer Jon Wolper reported in the Sunday Valley News, Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg is strongly considering creating the new position of public safety director, who would administer both the police and fire departments. This is being pitched primarily as a way to save money in tight budget times, and it also may have something to do with the fact that a search for a successor to Police Chief Glenn Cutting, who retired in March, was unsuccessful. Fire Chief Steve Locke is apparently the in-house favorite to fill both roles if the change is made.

The context, of course, is that Hartford police have been accused on three separate occasions in recent years of using excessive force. Although all the officers involved have been cleared of criminal wrongdoing, a civil suit in one of those incidents is still pending. In any case, it seemed obvious to many people at the time that, at a minimum, the officers involved exercised poor judgment in all three instances, and that training and supervision needed to be strengthened.

As town manager, Rieseberg has sole authority to decide how the department will be administered, but apparently the Selectboard has discussed the proposed change, which Vice Chairman F.X. Flinn told Wolper is "definitely happening."

OK, but we would note that Flinn was among the three successful "transparency" candidates and told Valley News columnist Jim Kenyon last April that "people need an opportunity for their voices to be heard" on the subject of what kind of policing they want and what qualities they would like in a new police chief. To our knowledge, no such public forum has been provided.

This is not to say that making the change is a bad idea. It may make a lot of sense. But it's worth noting that only two communities in Vermont, Bennington and Barre, have adopted this structure, and each in response to a specific set of circumstances that argued for the change.

Cutting himself expressed doubts to Wolper that a single administrator overseeing both fire and police would be able to stay on top of things in a 14-officer police force that handles 10,000 cases a year.

We have that question, too, especially because the department has been in such turmoil for the past few years. The town needs to rebuild confidence that interactions between police and public will be respectful and that officers will exercise appropriate verbal and physical restraint. What's needed now is not a caretaker, but a respected leader who is a forceful advocate for sensible and sensitive community policing — something that might argue strongly in favor of a candidate with a background in law enforcement.

But apart from the merits, shouldn't there be some community discussion? As Cutting said, "To not have a police chief is one thing, but it should be discussed, it should be public." Or as Flinn said when he was running for Selectboard, "I think there are a lot of things we can do to stimulate citizen engagement."

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD BLOG:

Senate waits with bated breath for 2013 committee assignments

Posted on January 8, 2013 by Peter Hirschfeld

The palace intrigue continues today in the Senate, where a rumored shake-up in some key committee chairwomanships has set off a wave of speculation about who will end up where.

Sen. Dick Mazza, one of three members on the powerful "Committee on Committees," said he, Senate Pro Tem John Campbell and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott are hoping to ink a final roster by Thursday. They'll probably announce the decisions to members on Friday morning – "so they have assignments before they go home for the weekend," Mazza said.

The Friday news drop serves another key function: giving spurned senators 72 hours to ice their bruised egos before returning to Montpelier for the first full week of the session.

"There are going to be some happy folks and some unhappy folks," Mazza said this morning. "But you deal with it and within a week or so people usually move on."

Mazza, Campbell and Scott – the lite guy always gets a spot on the committee on committees – have been working for weeks on a roster of committee assignments. Sen. Ginny Lyons, longtime chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, is rumored to be on the chopping block – she had earlier this year pondered a run against Campbell for pro tem.

Sen. Ann Cummings won't continue as chairwoman of Senate Finance – she requested last month to be pulled from the plum assignment, something that likely would have happened anyway given her very public dressing-down of Campbell at a Senate caucus last month.

Vince Illuzzi's departure from the body opens up another chairmanship in the Committee on Economic Development, House and General Affairs.

The Committee on Committees has done a pretty good job keeping people guessing – some of the senators who will be most directly impacted by its choices still don't know what's coming. It's the kind of inside baseball that no one who works outside Montpelier will probably care much about, but the committee compositions will signal changes in the Senate's evolving power dynamic, and could have an effect on prospects for some key pieces of legislation.

Senator wants sway over Public Service Board, and more from the first bills of 2013

Posted on January 8, 2013 by Peter Hirschfeld

Forget about broad-based taxes, death with dignity, marijuana decriminalization and probitions on mountaintop wind: the first House bill of the new biennium aims to simplify judicial bookkeeping.

In a sure sign that the new session is nearly upon us, legislative staff have unveiled the texts of bills that are ready for introduction.

H1 is a gripping bit of statute that would repeal a provision requiring superior court clerks to "keep a book of judgments separate from the originals."

Like most of the 1,000 or so bills introduced in a given biennium, H1 won't generate much talk outside the committee to which it's assigned. But in addition to the mundane work of legal bookkeeping, lawmakers will consider scores of bills this year that could have a real impact on the lives of the Vermonters they represent.

Take H6, introduced by Rep. Paul Poirier, the Barre City Independent who late last month dropped his insurgent candidacy for Speaker of the House. Poirier's legislation would add "mental injury" to the list of job-related afflictions for which employees are entitled to workers' compensation.

In the Senate's first piece of new legislation, Sen. Tim Ashe, a Chittenden County Democrat/Progressive, wants to require judges "to consider the approximate financial cost" of a sentence before handing down a ruling.

It won't be the first go-round in Montpelier for many of the bills under consideration in 2013. Already on the calendar in the Senate is a bill relating to concussions in youth sports. Lawmakers failed to reach consensus on a proposal last year; S.4, introduced by Ashe, Sen. Dick Sears and Senate President John Campbell, would, among other things, prohibit a coach from letting a child reenter a game after suffering a concussion.

Sen. Robert Hartwell, a Bennington Democrat and vocal critic of the Public Service Board, promises to spark a lively debate with his first piece of legislation of the biennium. Hartwell, an opponent of ridgeline wind development and wireless "smart meters," wants to give the Senate more influence over the composition of the three-person panel responsible for regulating those technologies.

Hartwell's S16 would require the governor's appointments to the Public Service Board to first win consent from the Senate.

You can scroll through the first 24 bills of the session yourself at

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/serviceMain.cfm>, and expect to see many more added in the coming days.

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 4:01 PM
To: EXE; Porter, Louis; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Staff mtg now in 5th floor conference room

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: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Trombley, Shana; 'John Campbell'; 'Rebecca Ramos'; Ayer, Claire; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: 'louis_porter@yahoo.com'; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: RE: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

We need to move the meeting time to 8:30 on January 10th. Please let me know if this works for everyone. Thank you. - Shana

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:34 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'cayer@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter@yahoo.com; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: FW: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

In order to better accommodate everyone's busy schedule on the 10th we will meet in the Ceremonial Office. Thank you, Shana

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

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From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:00 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'cayer@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter@yahoo.com; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Meeting with Governor Shumlin

Hello,

Governor Shumlin would welcome the opportunity to meet with you all in advance of his inaugural address on Thursday, January 10th. Are you all available for a brief meeting on January 10th at 9:30am in the Governor's Office in the Pavilion Building?

Thank you,

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: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 2:20 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin, lawmakers and others celebrate ground breaking on new state mental hospital

For Immediate Release
Jan. 8, 2013

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8492

Gov. Shumlin, lawmakers and others celebrate ground breaking cutting on new state mental hospital

BERLIN – Gov. Shumlin was joined by mental health advocates, Administration officials, lawmakers and others today for a ground breaking to launch construction of a new state psychiatric hospital in Berlin to provide up to 25 secure beds. The facility is part of a robust system created after the aging Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury was destroyed in Tropical Storm Irene.

“This is a huge victory for Vermont taxpayers because starting 10 years ago we lost \$10 million a year in federal funding because of the decrepit condition of the Vermont State Hospital,” Gov. Shumlin said. The new facility will enable the state to become eligible for that assistance, adding that because of that funding, “The state portion of this investment will be paid for in less than two years.”

In addition, nearly \$30 million of the \$42.8 million price tag of the mental health requirements left in the wake of the August 2011 storm will be eligible for financial assistance from a combination of insurance or federal assistance. The Governor noted that the Waterbury hospital had long been slated for replacement, all on the state’s dime. News from FEMA that the federal government and insurance will cover the bulk of the costs was welcome news.

“Today is a true celebration as we begin construction on this state-of-the-art hospital to provide the quality care and services our mental health community needs and deserves,” Gov. Shumlin said. “This facility is a crucial piece of the statewide mental health system that guarantee great care for people closer to their homes and workplaces.”

FEMA has submitted grant paperwork supporting payment through a combination of insurance and federal funding to cover the following construction-related costs linked to the mental health system:

Berlin hospital	Total cost: \$28.5 million	Insurance/FEMA: \$17.5 million
Brattleboro Retreat	\$ 5.5 million	\$ 4.3 million
Rutland hospital	\$ 5.4 million	\$ 4.4 million
Morrisville center	\$ 1.9 million	\$ 2.3 million
Middlesex facility	\$ 1.5 million	\$ 1.5 million
Total:	\$42.8 million	\$30.0 million*

*FEMA funding before mandatory reductions for insurance and 90:10 cost share

These facilities (which include upgrades to the Brattleboro Retreat and Rutland Regional Medical Center, as well as temporary facilities in Morrisville and Middlesex) are part of a broader network of services that include programs in local communities.

The Berlin hospital has not been named, and an inclusive process that includes stakeholders and the Legislature will be launched to choose a permanent name.

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 2:05 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

YES! I knew you wouldn't let me down. Would you say we had a "plethora" of staff meetings??

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 8, 2013, at 2:04 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Today, El Guapo is 30 years old. Huzzah! "It is a sweater!"

From: <Richards>, Alyson <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 2:03 PM
To: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, EXE <EXE@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Porter, Louis" <Louis.Porter@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

I can make it, el Guapo. (Three Amigos, anyone?)

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 8, 2013, at 1:40 PM, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us> wrote:

I have to leave by 4 today to pick up some food donations for the open house, unfortunately.

On Jan 8, 2013, at 1:22 PM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

I have an intern interview at 4:00 but that shouldn't be much longer than 20 minutes

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:21 PM
To: EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 2:04 PM
To: Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

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Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 2:03 PM
To: "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, EXE <EXE@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Porter, Louis" <Louis.Porter@state.vt.us>
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Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 2:04 PM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: Wesley, Carolyn; London, Sarah; EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

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Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:54 PM
To: MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah
Cc: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: RE: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

I am available.
Lisa

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:51 PM
To: London, Sarah
Cc: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

I have a 3:15 at ACCD so afraid not.

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

On Jan 8, 2013, at 1:21 PM, London, Sarah wrote:

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:51 PM
To: London, Sarah
Cc: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

I have a 3:15 at ACCD so afraid not.

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

On Jan 8, 2013, at 1:21 PM, London, Sarah wrote:

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:42 PM
To: London, Sarah
Cc: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

Yes

Sent from my iPho

On Jan 8, 2013, at 1:21 PM, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us> wrote:

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Cc: London, Sarah; EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
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Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:21 PM
To: EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:31 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: Addendum to Executive Order signed
Attachments: EO 11-11 Addendum Terminating Irene State of Emergency.pdf

The Governor has signed the attached Addendum to Executive Order No. 11-11 terminating the State of Emergency related to Tropical Storm Irene.

Thank you.

Sarah London
Counsel to the Governor
802-828-3333
sarah.london@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:26 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

thx

From: <Wesley>, Carolyn <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 1:23 PM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

Sure

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:23 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

Can you start the interview at 4:10? This is gonna be a really short meeting.

From: <Wesley>, Carolyn <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 1:22 PM
To: "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, EXE <EXE@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Porter, Louis" <Louis.Porter@state.vt.us>
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London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:24 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

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From: Lofy, Bill
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To: EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:22 PM
To: London, Sarah; EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: RE: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

Jeb won't be free then.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:21 PM
To: EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

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London, Sarah

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Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:21 PM
To: EXE
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: STAFF MEETING TODAY AT 4pm

From the Chiefs: Can everyone do a short staff meeting at 4:00 pm today?

London, Sarah

From: Burke, Ashley
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:56 AM
To: EXE
Subject: We Give Books bag

Hi all, this morning in the outgoing mail box I found a "We Give Books" bag. I'm not sure who it belongs to, but it's currently living under my desk if anyone wants to claim it!

Ashley Burke
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

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

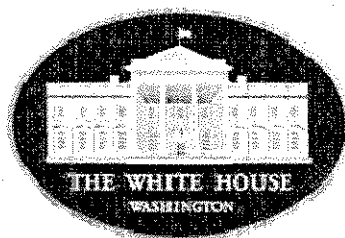
London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Ian Walton <walton@DGA.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:40 AM
To: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com
Subject: FW: UPDATE: Invitation: Call w/ Vice President Biden on Wednesday
Attachments: image004.gif; image005.gif; image006.gif

Hello folks, making sure you have the newly updated call-in info for Wed – please let me know if your Gov is able to join

From: James, Jewel [mailto:Jewel_A_James@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:41 AM
To: James, Jewel
Cc: Kukla, Alison
Subject: UPDATE: Invitation: Call w/ Vice President Biden on Wednesday

Good Afternoon – please note the updated call time below, the call will now take place from 1:30PM – 2:30PM EST.



In the weeks since the tragedy in Newtown, Americans from all over the country have called for action to protect our children and reduce gun violence. President Obama has asked Vice President Biden and the Cabinet to lead the Administration's effort to identify concrete proposals in the coming weeks. As part of that process, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to invite your Governor to join a conference call with the Vice President on **Wednesday, January 9th at 1:30 p.m. EST**. Please see the call-in details below:

WHAT: White House conference call with Governors
WHEN: Wednesday, January 9, 2013
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST
CALL IN: *I will provide the call-in number and passcode to confirmed governors.*

Please RSVP by EOD Tuesday, January 8th if your Governor plans to join. This invitation is intended for GOVERNORS ONLY. The call is closed press and not for attribution. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thanks!

Jewel James
Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
(office)

Stay connected with the White House:



Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Sign up for White House Updates [here!](#)

--

London, Sarah

From: Fiermonte, Philip (Sanders) <Philip_Fiermonte@sanders.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:39 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject:

Liz and Bill:

Hi—best to you both as you begin the new year and a new session. We are looking forward to meeting on Friday.

I wanted to let you know that [REDACTED] was in touch with our office asking for the Senator's support for her appointment to the [REDACTED]

The Senator has worked with [REDACTED] number of years and has a very good working relationship with her. He thinks she'd make a fine appointment.

All best.

Phil

Philip Fiermonte
Outreach Director
Office of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders
1 Church Street 2nd Floor
Burlington, VT 05401
-- cell
802-862-0697 office phone
802-860-6370 fax

Visit Senator Sanders' Online Resources:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [You Tube](#) | [Bernie Buzz](#)

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:34 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; Ayer, Claire; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter@yahoo.com; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: FW: Meeting with Governor Shumlin - Change in location

In order to better accommodate everyone's busy schedule on the 10th we will meet in the Ceremonial Office. Thank you, Shana

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](#)

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:00 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; 'cayer@leg.state.vt.us'; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: louis_porter@yahoo.com; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Meeting with Governor Shumlin

Hello,

Governor Shumlin would welcome the opportunity to meet with you all in advance of his inaugural address on Thursday, January 10th. Are you all available for a brief meeting on January 10th at 9:30am in the Governor's Office in the Pavilion Building?

Thank you,

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: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:32 AM
To: 'Leah Marvin-Riley'; Johannah Donovan; Martha Heath; Peter Peltz; Shap Smith; Tess Taylor; Willem Jewett
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb; louis_porter@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Meeting with Gov. Shumlin

Thank you Leah. Let's move the meeting to the Ceremonial office 9am. Thank you, Shana

From: Leah Marvin-Riley [mailto:lmavinriley@leg.state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Johannah Donovan; Martha Heath; Peter Peltz; Shap Smith; Tess Taylor; Willem Jewett; Trombley, Shana
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb; louis_porter@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Meeting with Gov. Shumlin

Shana,

The House will be hearing the report of the canvassing committee at 10:00am on Thursday, January 10th. I imagine members will be available by 10:45/11:00am.

Leah

>>> "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> 1/8/2013 11:20 AM >>>
Hello,

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

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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Draft of Berlin hospital press release:

For Immediate Release
Jan. 8, 2013

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8492

Gov. Shumlin, lawmakers and others celebrate ribbon cutting on new state mental hospital

BERLIN – Gov. Shumlin was joined by mental health advocates, Administration officials, lawmakers and others today for a ribbon cutting launching construction of a new state mental hospital in Berlin to provide up to 25 secure beds. The facility is part of a first-in-the-nation community-based system created after the aging Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury was destroyed in Tropical Storm Irene.

In addition, FEMA officials announced today that the federal government would pick up \$30 million of the \$42.8 million price tag of the mental health requirements left in the wake of the August 2011 storm. The Governor noted that the Waterbury hospital had long been slated for replacement, most likely on the state's dime. News from FEMA that the federal government will cover the bulk of the costs was welcome news.

"Today is a true celebration as we begin construction on this state-of-the-art hospital to provide the quality care and services our mental health community needs and deserves," Gov. Shumlin said. "This facility is a crucial piece of the community-based package of programs that guarantee great care for people closer to their homes and workplaces."

The Governor noted that with the addition of the hospital beds, Vermont will have crisis beds in every region of the state, totaling 35 – a 23 percent increase over the 27 beds pre-Irene.

Quotes from others here?

According to FEMA, the federal government will pay the following construction-related costs linked to the mental health system:

Berlin hospital	Total cost: \$28.5 million	FEMA grant: \$17.5 million
Brattleboro Retreat	\$ 5.5 million	\$ 4.3 million
Rutland hospital	\$ 5.4 million	\$ 4.4 million
Morrisville center	\$ 1.9 million	\$ 2.3 million
Middlesex facility	\$ 1.5 million	\$ 1.5 million

These facilities (which include upgrades to the Brattleboro Retreat and Rutland Regional Medical Center, as well as temporary facilities in Morrisville and Middlesex) are part of a broader network of services that include programs in local communities.

The Berlin hospital has not been named, and an inclusive process that includes stakeholders and the Legislature will be launched to choose a permanent name.

More ...???

London, Sarah

From: Leah Marvin-Riley <lm Marvinriley@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Johannah Donovan; Martha Heath; Peter Peltz; Shap Smith; Tess Taylor; Willem Jewett; Trombley, Shana
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Spaulding, Jeb; louis_porter@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Meeting with Gov. Shumlin

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

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London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:21 AM
To: 'Shap Smith'; 'Leah Marvin-Riley'; 'wjewett@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jdonovan@leg.state.vt.us'; 'ppeltz@leg.state.vt.us'; 'mheath@leg.state.vt.us'; 'ttaylor@leg.state.vt.us'
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; louis_porter@yahoo.com; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb
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802.371.7499 (c)
shana.trombley@state.vt.us

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

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:18 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: News: Health Department Supports Dental Sealants

One of those odd issues that I suspect will get some media attention. Just FYI .. no need to respond. Sue

From: Stirewalt, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:36 AM
To: AHS - VDH - All Users
Cc: Allen, Susan; Nealy, Diane
Subject: News: Health Department Supports Dental Sealants

Health Department Voices Strong Support for Dental Sealants

For Immediate Release: January 8, 2013
Media Contact: Communication Office
Vermont Department of Health
802-863-7281

BURLINGTON – The Vermont Department of Health strongly supports the use of dental sealants to help prevent tooth decay, despite a Pew Center on the States' Children's Dental Campaign study "*Falling Short: Most States Lag on Dental Sealants*," released today,

The report gives Vermont a "C" grade for its sealant program in 2012, despite the state being among the best in the nation for children with dental sealants. Sixty-four percent of third graders in Vermont had dental sealants in 2009-2010. The survey data was unavailable to Pew in time to be included in this report.

"The study didn't take into account our most recent survey data, which shows Vermont far exceeds the national average in the number of third graders who have at least one sealant," said Steve Arthur, DDS, director of the Office of Oral Health. "With the more recent data, I believe we would have a much higher rating."

Vermont promotes and supports the use of sealants through the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program. The program links school children who have not accessed dental care in the past year with local dental offices where they can receive comprehensive dental care, including sealants.

"We thank the dentists and hygienists around the state for their strong support of this important public health measure," said Dr. Arthur. "By continuing to promote and expand the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program, updating the data we report on sealants, and providing incentives for increased use of all preventive measures, we will continue to improve oral health for Vermont kids."

For more information visit: healthvermont.gov.

Follow the Health Department on Twitter and join us on Facebook for up-to-date news, alerts and health information.

###

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 11:00 AM
To: John Campbell; Rebecca Ramos; Ayer, Claire; 'pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us'; Mazza, Richard; 'kmullin@leg.state.vt.us'; 'jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us'
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Hello,

Governor Shumlin would welcome the opportunity to meet with you all in advance of his inaugural address on Thursday, January 10th. Are you all available for a brief meeting on January 10th at 9:30am in the Governor's Office in the Pavilion Building?

Thank you,

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: Sundstrom, Craig <CSundstrom@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:35 AM
To: NR Reps
Cc: Wilson, Morgan
Subject: FW: NGA Natural Resources Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 10th at 1:00pm ET
Attachments: NR-01 Environmental Protection Idaho and SD Edits.docx; 1.10.2013 NGA NR Committee Meeting Agenda.docx

Importance: High

As a reminder, please see the notice below with details for this week's meeting of the NGA Natural Resources Committee. The agenda with conference dial information is also attached.

Please contact [Craig Sundstrom](mailto:CSundstrom@NGA.ORG) (202-624-3623) or [Morgan Wilson](mailto:MWilson@NGA.ORG) (202-624-7822) with any questions.

From: Wilson, Morgan [mailto:MWilson@NGA.ORG]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:11 PM
To: NR Reps
Subject: NGA Natural Resources Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 10th at 1:00pm ET

TO: NGA Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Morgan Wilson, NGA
RE: Vote on Proposed Changes to Existing Policy, Thursday, January 10th at 1:00p.m. ET

The NGA Natural Resources Committee will meet next Thursday, January 10th, to vote on the remaining committee policy to be approved, NR-01 Environmental Protection. Please see the attached document containing proposed edits to NR-01 offered by Idaho and South Dakota discussed during the December 20th meeting of the Natural Resources Committee.

Please contact [Craig Sundstrom](mailto:CSundstrom@NGA.ORG) or [Morgan Wilson](mailto:MWilson@NGA.ORG) with any questions.

Morgan Wilson
Legislative Coordinator
Office of Federal Relations
National Governors Association

Ph: _____
Fax: (202) 624-5825
mwilson@nga.org

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You are currently subscribed to [nrreps] as csundstrom@nga.org.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218062-162219.9da23d2d8a1ae84c80eacd3fc624d51c@talk.nga.org.

Visit the NGA web site at <http://www.nga.org>

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You are currently subscribed to [nrreps] as Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218192-153737.ddb25f155ef51eb1a5ae1e119cd7fc16@talk.nga.org.

Visit the NGA web site at <http://www.nga.org>

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Jamie Lofy
Subject: Fwd: 'See you around' gathering

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>
Date: January 8, 2013, 10:06:43 AM EST
To: EXE <EXE@state.vt.us>, GPS <gps@state.vt.us>
Subject: 'See you around' gathering

Hi Everyone,

'Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos.' Snoopy

As you all know Thursday and Friday are Bill and Alex's last days on the 5th floor. However, we're not really saying 'goodbye' it's more of a 'see you around!' It has been such a happy two years working together on the 5th floor so let's gather for a celebratory send-off after the Inaugural Open House on Thursday evening.

Please plan on meeting in the Governor's back office/living room after 6:30pm. The open house is scheduled to end at 6pm but it may run late -- hopefully we'll all be free by 6:30pm. We plan to order pizzas and beverages.....

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

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

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:02 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Senator Sanders

Senator Sanders has decide he will attend the inaugural.

Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:01 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Cc: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Subject: Press Release from Hunger Free VT on Reduced Lunch
Attachments: Press Release on Reduced Lunch.doc

Hi,

Attached and below is the press release that Hunger Free VT would like to send out after GPS finishes his State of the State. Sue and I have edited it and Armando and the Agency of Ed have approved it and confirmed \$320,000 as an accurate number. Let me know if it's good to go.

Thanks
Aly

Press Release:

Today, in his State of the State address, Governor Shumlin has proposed funding to ensure that all low income students have access to school lunch. In Vermont, like states across the nation, school children go without eating because they do not have the money to buy school lunch and there is no food at home. These students struggle to concentrate and do poorly in school. Schools report that low income students who must pay 40 cents for lunch are often the ones going without. These are the working families who make too much for free school meals but not enough to make ends meet.

The proposed funding would pay the students' share of the cost of reduced price school lunch. The cost of this proposal is \$320,000 which would provide lunch for over 6,000 low income students and leverage an additional \$390,000 in federal funds to support school meal programs in Vermont.

"We know that kids can't learn if they're hungry," Gov. Shumlin said. "We're spending \$1.4 billion on K-12 education in this state. For only \$320,000 we will ensure that more than 6,000 students will be able to fully engage in their studies and be more successful in school, while also supporting Vermont's working families."

Commenting on the Governor's recommendation, Secretary of Education Armando Vilaseca commented, "As a former school principal, I know that many children go the entire school day without eating. Hungry kids struggle to concentrate and often do poorly in school. This small amount of funding, 40 cents a day per eligible student, will have a huge impact."

"We've been advocating for this for the past three years," said Marissa Parisi, Executive Director of Hunger Free Vermont. "We're thrilled that the Governor understands the importance of adequate nutrition in our children's success and applaud him for suggesting that Vermont become the first state in the nation to take this step."

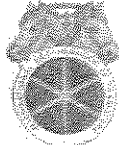
London, Sarah

From: Reilly Dan <DReilly@teamster.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Reilly Dan
Subject: Teamsters Presidential Inauguration Open House - Monday, January 21st
Attachments: image002.jpg

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202-524-5000
www.teamster.org

January 7, 2013

Please join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union as we celebrate the momentous occasion of the 2nd Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on Monday, January 21, 2013.

We are opening the International Brotherhood of Teamsters headquarters to our friends and colleagues for the day to have a place to be warm, well fed and watch all of the excitement from our incredible view of the U.S. Capitol. We hope you will drop by or come for the day. We are located at 25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Our doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This invitation is NON-TRANSFERABLE and RSVP is mandatory and required for each individual and guest. You are invited with one guest. RSVP is needed by January 16, 2013. You must RSVP to teamsters2013@gmail.com. Please include your name, guest name and email to receive your confirmation. Please print your confirmation email and bring to event for entry. Please call Shari Yost Gold at (202) 525-1125 or email teamsters2013@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. We hope you can join us for what will be a memorable celebration.

Fraternally yours,

Handwritten signature of James P. Hoffa.

James P. Hoffa
General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Handwritten signature of Ken Hall.

Ken Hall
General Secretary-Treasurer
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

JPH/KH/syp

Dan Reilly
State Legislative & Political Director
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

(202)508-6641 (p)

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:09 AM
To: Roessle, Drusilla
Cc: MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: state house ceremonial office key

I think mine's in the top right corner drawer of my desk

On Jan 8, 2013, at 9:04 AM, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us> wrote:

Hi there!

I asked Janis if I could steal my ceremonial office key back from her, but she won't be in again until Thursday. She suggested I ask one of you for your keys, which you'll be returning soon anyway (☹). Are either of you willing to part with yours yet?

Thanks,
Dru

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent/Legislative Aide
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05609
W: 802 279 6438

London, Sarah

From: Roessle, Drusilla
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: state house ceremonial office key

Hi there!

I asked Janis if I could steal my ceremonial office key back from her, but she won't be in again until Thursday. She suggested I ask one of you for your keys, which you'll be returning soon anyway (☹). Are either of you willing to part with yours yet?

Thanks,
Dru

Drusilla Roessle
Constituent Correspondent/Legislative Aide
Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05609
W: 802.828.6438

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:01 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Speech

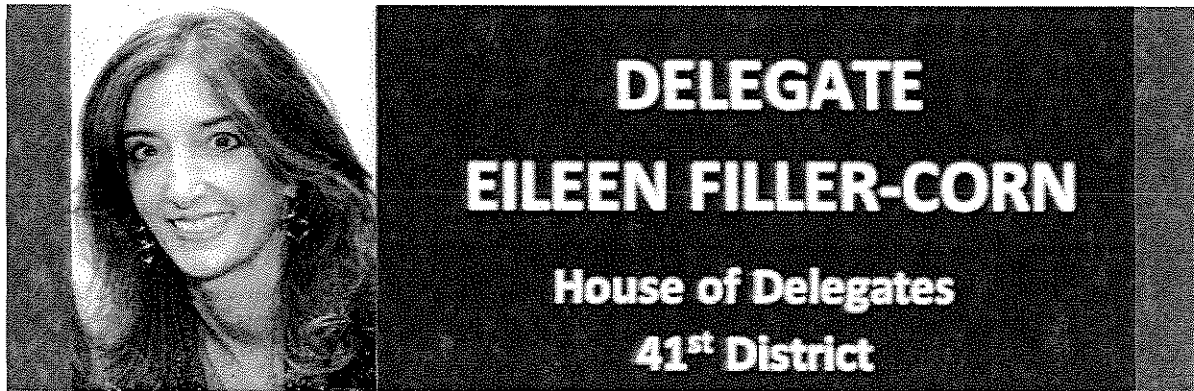
Would love to get a chance to run through the most up to date version sometime soon.

Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont
Pavilion Office Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

People are our greatest asset

London, Sarah

From: Eileen Filler-Corn bounce@bounce.myngp.com on behalf of Eileen Filler-Corn
<Eileen@EileenFillerCorn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:00 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Off to Richmond!



Off to Richmond!

Today I head down to Richmond to begin the 2013 Virginia General Assembly Session! This year's session is set to last 45 days, with many issues important to our community up for debate including: the Budget, Transportation Funding, Public Safety, Medicaid Expansion, Women's Rights, Gun Safety and Environmental and Energy solutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my new Legislative Assistant, Garrett McGuire. Garrett joins my office from Alcalde & Fay Government and Public Affairs Consultants, where he was an Associate working on Transportation, Tourism and Maritime issues. Previously, Garrett worked for former Congressman Rick Boucher from the 9th Congressional District of Virginia. Garrett holds his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia and currently lives in Arlington, Virginia. I am thrilled to have Garrett on board; he has met with many of you over the past month and looks forward to meeting the rest of you in the very near future. Please do not hesitate to contact him at garrett@eileenfillercorn.com or in the Richmond office at (804) 698-1041.

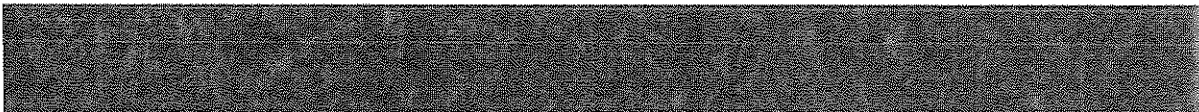
I encourage you to visit the Virginia General Assembly's new website [here](#). This website is a great tool to track legislation you are interested in, follow Committee meetings and contact my office or your Senator's office. You can also watch each House of Delegates session live starting tomorrow [here](#). Also, please visit my website, www.eileenfillercorn.com, for updates and issue briefs during the session.

If you are interested in visiting Richmond during the Legislative Session, please contact me at Eileen@EileenFillerCorn.com. Garrett would be happy to help set up a tour of the Capitol, reserve seating for a session and offer recommendations of places to visit while in Richmond.

It is my privilege to serve in the House of Delegates and address the issues that face the 41st District and the Commonwealth as a whole. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in Richmond over the next 45 days, and/or out and about in the 41st District. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance from my office.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen



Paid for and authorized by Eileen Filler-Corn for Delegate

Eileen Filler-Corn for Delegate
P.O. Box 523082
Springfield, VA 22152

[Forward To A Friend](#)

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London, Sarah

From: Hayden, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:56 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Ide, Robert
Subject: RE:

You're welcome.

Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner's Office
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05603
802-828-2011 phone
802-828-2170 fax

Please allow 24 business hours for response time.

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

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:21 AM
To: Hayden, Holly; Ide, Robert
Subject: Re

Great, thanks Holly!

On 1/8/13 7:20 AM, "Hayden, Holly" <Holly.Hayden@state.vt.us> wrote:

>I have ordered the plate for you and hope to have it next week.

>

>

>

>Department of Motor Vehicles

>Commissioner's Office

>120 State Street

>Montpelier, VT 05603

>802-828-2011 phone

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>and do not disclose its contents to anyone.

>

>

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

>From: Lofy, Bill

>Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:42 PM

>To: Ide, Robert

>Cc: Hayden, Holly

>Subject: Re: 118

>

>Great, thanks. Sure you can mail it. The plate is.

>

>Thank you!

>

>On 1/7/13 5:25 PM, "Ide, Robert" <Robert.Ide@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>>Hang tight, Holly can fix everything. Do you want them mailed to you?

>>The registration period will track the same as the plate it is replacing.

>>What is that number?

>>

>>Robert Ide, Commissioner

>>Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles

>>120 State Street

>>Montpelier, VT 05603

>>Robert.ide@state.vt.us.

>>

>>On Jan 7, 2013, at 1:44 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>>

>>> Rob - I received permission today from the governor to take the

>>>three-digit plate. Can you remind me of the process of transferring

>>>my plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my

>>>current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain - do I

>>>need to buy new tags for the new plates?

>

London, Sarah

From: Footprints Service Desk <dii-footprints@state.vt.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:23 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Bill Lofy ipad scrub ISSUE=

When replying, type your text above this line.

Desktop Support, Dan Morse,

Your ticket has been updated. Please see "Short List of What Just Changed" below.

Short List of What Just Changed

Changed Status to Pending from Open, Changed SLA Due Date to EMPTY from 01/18/2013 3:44 PM, Changed SLA Response Time to EMPTY from 01/08/2013 9:44 AM, Added Assignee : Dan Morse, Deleted Assignees: ADExchange HelpDesk, Changed Ticket data or Contact data.

Assignee:
Desktop Support, Dan Morse


Description:
Entered on 01/07/2013 at 16:02:26 EST (GMT-0500) by Rich Weeks:
Janis, please fill out the new hire-Termination form for Bill's termination.

ADExchange: please note that the iPad will need to be remotely scrubbed before his AD account gets cancelled.

Entered on 01/07/2013 at 14:29:54 EST (GMT-0500) by Janis Carrier:
Bill Lofy will be leaving state government eff. 1/10/13. It has been approved for him to purchase his ipad from state government. We will need to have DII scrub the ipad sometime on Thursday prior to his departure. Thursday afternoon is the Governor's inaugural speech so it will be a very busy/hectic day but is imperative this happen prior to his departure. Please let us know if there is anything else DII needs to perform this. Thank you.

Priority:
Medium

Subject:
Bill Lofy ipad scrub

Ticket Number:


Status:
Pending

Creation Date and Time:
01/07/2013 14:29:54

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:21 AM
To: Hayden, Holly; Ide, Robert
Subject: Re:

Great, thanks Holly!

On 1/8/13 7:20 AM, "Hayden, Holly" <Holly.Hayden@state.vt.us> wrote:

>I have ordered the plate for you and hope to have it next week.

>

>

>

>Department of Motor Vehicles

>Commissioner's Office

>120 State Street

>Montpelier, VT 05603

>802-828-2011 phone

>802-828-2170 fax

>

>Please allow 24 business hours for response time.

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>behalf of the intended recipient. If you have received this email in

>error, please notify me immediately by reply email, delete this email,

>and do not disclose its contents to anyone.

>

>

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

>From: Lofy, Bill

>Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:42 PM

>To: Ide, Robert

>Cc: Hayden, Holly

>Subject: Re: 118

>

>Great, thanks. Sure you can mail it. The plate is:

>

>Thank you!

>

>On 1/7/13 5:25 PM, "Ide, Robert" <Robert.Ide@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>>Hang tight, Holly can fix everything. Do you want them mailed to you?

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>>

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>>Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles

>>120 State Street

>>Montpelier, VT 05603

>>Robert.ide@state.vt.us.

>>

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>>

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>>>three-digit plate. Can you remind me of the process of transferring
>>>my plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my
>>>current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain - do I
>>>need to buy new tags for the new plates?

>

London, Sarah

From: Hayden, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 7:20 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Ide, Robert
Subject: RE:

I have ordered the plate for you and hope to have it next week.

Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner's Office
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05603
802-828-2011 phone
802-828-2170 fax

Please allow 24 business hours for response time.

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

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:42 PM
To: Ide, Robert
Cc: Hayden, Holly
Subject: Re: 118

Great, thanks. Sure you can mail it. The plate is: ECL 649

Thank you!

On 1/7/13 5:25 PM, "Ide, Robert" <Robert.Ide@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Hang tight, Holly can fix everything. Do you want them mailed to you?
>The registration period will track the same as the plate it is replacing.
>What is that number?

>

>Robert Ide, Commissioner
>Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles
>120 State Street
>Montpelier, VT 05603
>Robert.ide@state.vt.us.

>

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>>plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my
>>current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain - do I
>>need to buy new tags for the new plates?

London, Sarah

From: Stephen Kimbell <swkimbell [REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 6:25 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Invitation

You are invited (along with your spouse, significant other and children) to a **Party** to celebrate receipt by **Robin Lunge** of a Masters Degree in Health Care Delivery Science from Dartmouth College.

When: Saturday, January 19th, 2013, 2:30 until 5:30.

Where: Home of Steve and Deborah Kimbell, [REDACTED] Tunbridge, VT. (Directions below)

What: Conversation, food and drink. Sledding and cross country skiing available.

R.S.V.P. Please send your response, including the number in your party, to [swkimbell@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:swkimbell@[REDACTED]) by Monday, January 14th. My state email goes black on 1/9.

Directions: Call [REDACTED] if you get lost.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 6:18 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 8:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD (CON'T):

OP-ED BY GUY PAGE: Nuclear a key part of Vt. energy future

Vermont has excellent prospects for strong and sustained economic growth and a high quality of life if it can fashion a more prudent energy policy. This is a central conclusion in a recent report released by The New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business organization.

First, the good news.

The report, "Smart Infrastructure in New England: An Investment for Growth and Prosperity," finds that Vermont has an important structural advantage: a lower-cost, high-skill subregion known as the I-91 corridor. As a result, this area and two other regional corridors have "acceptable cost structures for industries making complex products and/or offering sophisticated services." This can be a catalyst for the creation of new businesses, quality jobs and business relocations, particularly from manufacturers and distribution facilities.

The I-91 corridor offers production costs, says the report, "only four to five percent higher than that for the same product made in the Southeast. Salaries are relatively comparable, and any cost differences come mainly from higher taxes and energy prices in the Northeast."

Unfortunately, energy is a glaring competitive weakness. As the report says, "New England's infrastructure lacks an energy resource that is both reliable and cost competitive. In fact, prices for energy in the region are double those of some southern U.S. states."

All six New England states are among the 10 most expensive for electricity rates in America, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. And recently, with the push to higher-priced, noncompetitive, mandated renewable electricity sources, Vermont's electricity prices have increased considerably. The EIA reports that for the 12 months ending Oct. 31, Vermont's electricity prices had risen 6.8 percent, more than any other state east of the Mississippi. In fact, prices have declined or stayed the same in most states.

The New England Council report also makes clear that for economic and environmental reasons it is important to keep New England's four nuclear plants operating. New England needs its own sources of affordable, reliable, grid-friendly, low-carbon electricity — an apt description for nuclear power. And because new power plant construction seems unlikely, New England must protect its assets, including Vermont Yankee.

As the report says, "The region's four nuclear power facilities generate 30 percent of its electric energy. Nuclear energy is the only local fuel source and plays a big role in maintaining fuel diversity. Just as important, low operating costs make nuclear power an economical choice. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that new plants will be built in New England in the future, while prices would likely rise if a current plant were decommissioned. This is the economic rationale for keeping nuclear facilities operating."

The council's report also drives home the downside of closing nuclear power plants as regulation of carbon and other emissions increases. It says, "In addition to providing cost and reliability advantages, nuclear energy also plays an important role in attaining greenhouse gas reduction goals. Nuclear energy is an emission-free energy source, producing

no carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, or sulfur dioxide. ... If nuclear power plants were closed, new sources of energy would need to be emission-free to continue to meet emissions standards."

The council supports energy portfolio diversity, including renewables if shown to be cost-efficient, and recommends investment in transmission and natural gas generation. For Vermont, however, the most important "takeaway" is this: New England's future prosperity will benefit from the continued operation of Vermont Yankee.

Policymakers need to take us away from policies that lead to higher energy prices and undermine the region's competitiveness. Vermont can and should have a bright future, as The New England Council envisions. We also owe this to our children, so they can find the jobs, quality of life, and opportunities here in the Green Mountain state.

The report is online at <http://www.newenglandcouncil.com/assets/SmartInfrastructureStudy-FINAL.pdf>.

Guy Page is communications director for the Vermont Energy Partnership, a group of more than 90 business, labor and community leaders committed to finding clean, affordable and reliable electricity solutions. Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee, is a member.

Windsor prosecutor looks back while moving ahead

By Brent Curtis

After 16 years of working within the system as Windsor County's top prosecutor, Robert Sand said Monday that a big part of the reason he accepted an appointment from the governor to set up DUI courts around the state is because he wants to devote his time to improving the state's justice system.

"I see myself as being a community organizer," Sand said borrowing a monicker from President Barack Obama. "I'm hoping to come in and kick-start some things that people have wanted to see happen but couldn't get done because there's so much else going on."

As the longest serving state's attorney in Windsor County history, Sand said he knows how little time prosecutors have to devote to projects beyond their caseloads at hand.

When he originally began talking with Gov. Peter Shumlin months ago about working with his administration to spearhead the DUI courts — Windsor County is home to the state's DUI court at present — Sand said the job was envisioned as a prosecutors position.

Over further discussions, his role was refined to a facilitative position that would work with both prosecutors and defense attorneys to develop not only the DUI courts but also other initiatives that could address flaws in the criminal justice system, he said.

"I found myself increasingly thinking about how the system works rather than how to prosecute individual cases," Sand said. "I started looking at the system with a statewide focus. I wanted to make the system as a whole work better."

The governor appointment is a refreshing change of pace for a state's attorney who was temporarily out of favor former Gov. James Douglas.

In November 2007, Douglas ordered state law enforcement officers to send significant marijuana cases in Windsor County to the attorney general's office or the U.S. attorney rather than the county prosecutor.

Douglas was upset that Sand allowed a 61-year-old Windsor attorney to enter a court diversion program after law enforcement officers seized 2 1/2 pounds of marijuana from her home.

Asked about his changing fortunes, Sand said the many years at his post had exposed him to the changing political winds in Vermont.

"Elections and changes in administrations are interesting things," he said. "At one time I was in the spotlight incurring the disappointment from a prior administration. But there's a different spotlight on me now."

The uncoupling of his new role from the prosecutor's chair was a bittersweet change of direction for the 54-year-old prosecutor who started his career in Windsor County as a deputy prosecutor in 1991.

"It's hard for me after 20 years to not be a prosecutor anymore," he said Monday afternoon. "There's an excitement and energy to a courtroom that to some kinds of attorneys is incredibly exhilarating."

But along with the exhilaration of the job comes an endless parade of cases, late night phone calls and other responsibilities that Sand said he won't miss.

The constant demands of the job made it impossible, he said, to focus on fixing the flaws that became all too apparent in the system after more than a decade of working within it.

In his new role with the administration, Sand will have a chance to do just that — not by ramming programs and protocols down the throats of local prosecutors and defense attorneys but by serving as a clearinghouse of ideas and aid for those who want help making changes.

Some of the programs Sand wants to facilitate are already active in the state — a program in Chittenden County that connects drug and alcohol users to treatment programs, drug courts which function in a handful of Vermont counties and the Sparrow Program which Sand got up and running in Windsor County in 2009.

That program, which focuses on increasing the availability of therapeutic services to defendants and veterans charged with nonviolent offenses, reduced recidivism rates to 17.9 percent for those who participated. Offenders who didn't participate in the program had a reconviction rate of 29.3 percent.

It's those kinds of results that not only lower crime rates but lower costs for the state and its taxpayers, Sand said.

"I know I'm being successful if I save more money than I cost," he said.

Windham, Grafton wind towers approved

By Susan Smallheer

WINDHAM — Iberdrola Renewables said Monday it will start to construct three controversial wind-measurement towers in Windham and Grafton later this month.

Iberdrola, a Spanish company that is one of the largest energy companies in the world, and its subsidiary, Atlantic Wind LLC, received a certificate of public good last month from the Vermont Public Service Board to build the three meteorological towers, two in Windham and one in Grafton. All three towers will be on land owned by Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd., of New London, N.H., which owns 5,000 acres in the two towns.

The decision disappointed officials and residents in the town of Windham, which has a ban on industrial wind projects outlined in its town plan. Windham had received support from the Department of Public Service in its bid to keep the wind-measuring towers out of town.

Mary Boyer, chairwoman of the Windham Select Board, said Monday the town would not appeal the decision, and would wait to see what the so-called "met towers" showed.

"We were hoping the PSB would support Windham's right to determine our own land use, as the governor has suggested, but that appears not to be the case at this time," Boyer said.

Boyer said the PSB decision, which came down Dec. 20, was "very narrow," and "an example of the law of unintended consequences."

"Windham is one of the first, if not the first, town to write a clear prohibition of commercial wind development on its ridgelines. Our town plan has been our official policy regarding such development since 2007," she said.

Windham rewrote its town plan in response to another proposed wind project — one on Glebe Mountain, another ridgeline in Windham. Catamount Energy, then a subsidiary of Central Vermont Public Service Corp., has since abandoned the project, which would have been built in both Londonderry and Windham.

Iberdrola spokesman Paul Copleman said Iberdrola would like at least a year's worth of wind data before deciding whether to pursue a full-fledged project.

He said construction of the three met towers would be done in late January or early February, weather permitting. He said the construction of the 150-foot tall towers was relatively simple and would not require any land disturbance. "The equipment can be brought in on a pickup truck," he said. The towers are not even put on a foundation.

Copleman declined to comment on the legislation being prepared by several Vermont legislators calling for a two-year ban on commercial wind projects.

"We feel the state already has a very robust and transparent process in place that invites numerous stakeholders into the process," he said. Vermont, he said, "is one of the tougher states," and approval is a lengthy process.

Iberdrola, doing business as Deerfield Wind LLC, hopes to build a series of wind turbines on land in Searsburg and Readsboro, in extreme southern Vermont, on land owned by the Green Mountain National Forest. While the Forest Service approved the project, that project is being appealed, he said.

Liisa Kissel of Grafton, one of the leaders of an anti-wind group in that town, said Monday her group was pursuing a petition drive to have Grafton's town plan amended to reflect a ban on industrial-sized wind towers.

Kissel said her group was not discouraged by the PSB decision, noting the approval was granted on what she called a "technicality," because met towers were not specifically banned in the Windham Town Plan.

Grafton won't make the same mistake, she said.

Grafton Select Board member Bill Kearns said the town of Grafton had not taken a stand on the wind project or the town plan amendment. An informational meeting with Iberdrola representatives is set for Feb. 2, and another meeting, with both supporters and opponents presenting their arguments, will be held Feb. 16, he said.

"We're really looking at these things. We don't know enough to say yes or no," said Kearns. The Public Service Board makes its decision based on the public good, "not Grafton, Chester or Windham," he said.

He said the Select Board hoped to have some kind of resolution regarding the wind project ready for discussion at Town Meeting Day.

FOX44:

Burlington Moves Forward with Assault Weapons Ban

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The Burlington City Council preliminarily passed a ban on assault weapons.

It now goes to a committee to be worked on and then would return to the council. If passed for a second time, the ban because it's a charter change would still need the approval of Burlington voters and legislators in Montpelier.

The ban would outlaw semi-automatic guns and multiple ammo clips in the city.

Before the ban was passed, gun supporters packed the council meeting and they made it clear any attempt to outlaw these guns was going too far.

"It should be federal. So we have federal laws. So it's the same across the nation. Not Burlington has this. Barre has this. Rutland has this. Brattleboro has this," says Clint Gray, who was against the ban.

Councilor Norman Blais says he had proposed the ban on semi-automatic weapons and multiple ammo clips to make the city safer. Blais says he was motivated by tragedies including in Newtown, Connecticut.

Opponents pointed out that the guns could be easily bought outside the city and brought to Burlington. They also argued there should be a greater emphasis on mental health.

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin said he wouldn't talk specifically about what is happening in Burlington.

But he did weigh in generally on gun control measures.

"I firmly believe that a 50 state solution is the only way that we're going to make real progress," says Shumlin.

The governor says there needs to be a greater focus on mental health. And that's something he thinks can be done in Vermont.

Too Many People Skiing Out of Bounds - It's Technically Illegal

JENNY DAY

KILLINGTON, Vt. - Skiing conditions have been ideal these past few weeks, but almost every year, skiers searching for untouched powder ski out of bounds and get lost. This means search and rescue has to be called, man hours are used, and tax payer dollars are spent.

"It is technically illegal," Captain Donald Patch said of the Vermont State Police, Rutland Barracks.

But because police fear a ticket would deter lost skiers from calling and asking for help, it's been years since anyone has been charged. Already this season, 40 Killington or Pico mountain skiers have skied out of bounds, gotten lost and had to call. The majority were from out of state.

"Anybody that has to be fielded in that area, it's a dangerous situation because of steep inclines, the snow is deep," Captain Patch said.

Every search and rescue mission takes about four hours. We reached out to Vermont State Police to find out how much that costs you and I, who foot the bill, but did not hear back. Aside from tax payer dollars, it's officer time.

"The troopers on duty, when they're stuck on those cases up there, they're not able to tend to other incidents," the Captain said.

With the diverse terrain, and sheer volume of space, the Killington Resort Communications Manager doesn't see why skiing out of bounds is even desired.

"We have 140 trails, there are 71 miles, anything you want from long cruisers, blue square trails, tree skiing, steeps, bumps, parks, it's offered in bounds," Sarah Thorson said.

Thorson says the violators know they're breaking the law. To ski out of bounds, you would literally have to lift a rope and ignore the signs.

"The signs are very very prominent," Thorson added.

Not only is it Vermont State Police troopers who respond, but also Vermont Fish and Wildlife, volunteers and the ski patrol.

There will be a meeting soon involving all of those agencies, to discuss how skiing out of bounds can be prevented.

Out of 47, Only 4 Pigs Are Left!

JENNY DAY

ESSEX, Vt. - Last we told you about Florence Gruber, And her 47 pigs.

Gruber, the pig breeder, thought she could keep the swine in her home, but Essex officials told her, she'd have to say goodbye because neighbors complained and she violated zoning ordinances.

She was given until the end of the month, but Gruber was anxious to find her snout-nosed friends good homes by today.

We checked back in with her, for an update.

"We got the best response... People, most of them had already done research and had been thinking about getting a house pet mini pig for they said; some people said as much as two years they had been thinking about it. And now this was just like their perfect opportunity," Florence Gruber said.

Gruber says she has three or four little pigs left that need a home. The pigs range between nine months and three years old.

After 15 Years, Windsor County State's Attorney Steps Down

NICK NATARIO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - As Robert Sand takes over the DUI court campaign he will be leaving a post he's held for more than a decade.

For 15 years Sand has served as Windsor County State's Attorney.

He decided to leave the post because he likes Governor Peter Shumlin's vision on crime and he says it's time to try something new.

"15 years is a pretty good run for me and it's time for somebody else to have some fun in the office," said Sand.

Sand will step down in March.

Governor Shumlin will appoint a temporary replacement then.

In November, Windsor County voters will select a permanent one.

Gov. Peter Shumlin Wants DUI Court Set-up For Repeat Offenders

NICK NATARIO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Governor Peter Shumlin announced Monday, instead of putting DUI offenders in jail for a long period of time; he wants to create a DUI court.

"Repeat DUI offenders have maimed and killed innocent Vermonters for a long time," said Governor Peter Shumlin.

Shumlin has asked Windsor County State's Attorney Robert Sand to spearhead the campaign.

Sand wanted the position because he's studied these types of courts, and he says prison isn't the answer.

"Those individuals are not getting better," said Sand.

Here's how it would work.

Sand says the system would allow people to have weekly meetings with judges and go through treatment, instead of sitting in jail.

Not everyone who ends up in a state's superior court on a DUI charge will be eligible for this program.

Sand says it will only be used on repeat offenders.

Who would pay for this new court?

The federal government is giving Vermont nearly \$300,000-dollars for the first three years.

But after that, lawmakers aren't sure.

Although Shumlin believes it will pay for itself by cutting down on the prison population.

"Every dollar spent to support these courts saves taxpayers 2 to 4 dollars," said Shumlin.

The program will be installed in phases and until its statewide sand says people could take part in different counties.

"So we don't need 14 specific dockets," said Sand.

Sand hopes to have the program statewide after three years.

This won't be a mandatory program.

It will be up to the judge and state's attorney if an offender should be placed in it.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 6:03 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 8:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Montpelier downtown promotion nonprofit to propose new city tax

By David Taube

MONTPELIER — A group of local business leaders says it hopes a new tax could help boost the downtown.

Montpelier Alive, a nonprofit organization that supports and promotes businesses in the city, wants to create a special taxing district for certain downtown property owners to fund streetscape improvements, like new planters and benches, and advertising campaigns in local and regional media that would include both print and radio ads, some even targeted to the Montreal market.

"There's nothing in the city's coffers, and we understand that," said Andrew Brewer, owner of Onion River Sports and a member of the Montpelier Alive board of directors. "We want Montpelier to be the next New England town on the rise."

The organization wants the city to put the question to Montpelier voters in March. The proposal to create a "Downtown Improvement District" would call for a 4.5 cent tax per \$100 of assessed property to commercial property owners, affecting about 220 parcels in the area of the Designated Downtown that currently exists.

Residential property owners, nonprofits and municipal properties would be exempt. The proposal says landlords, at their discretion, could with absorb the cost or pass it on to commercial and residential tenants.

Brewer described the tax as businesses and property owners essentially taxing themselves. The Rivendell Books block, for example, could be billed \$232 for the year as a result of the proposal; that cost could be divided among the eight businesses there or be absorbed by the property owner.

Montpelier Alive will present the proposal to the City Council at Wednesday night's meeting with councilors expected to make a decision on whether to put the measure on the Town Meeting Day ballot. Phayvanh Luekhamhan, executive director of Montpelier Alive, said the group expects to get input on the measure at the meeting.

Montpelier Alive would control the money, reinvesting the funds back into the district, Luekhamhan said.

The group hopes to emulate what other communities in the state have done with similar districts, pointing to places like Rutland, Middlebury and Burlington. One of the districts in Burlington is the Church Street Marketplace, and advocates of the plan say the success there has meant properties appreciated in value and the Marketplace has become an attractive destination in and of itself.

In subsequent years, the organization may seek a city charter change to make permanent the funding stream, rather than putting the question on the ballot every year, according to Montpelier Alive officials.

If that were to happen, the situation would then be similar to that of a fire district, according to the organization. Luekhamhan said a Montpelier Alive steering committee could oversee that arrangement, in concert with representatives of affected parties like property owners.

Montpelier Alive is spending \$15,000 on advertising this fiscal year. (Their fiscal year begins and ends in the summer.) As a result of that commitment to year-round marketing, the organization was not able to make the popular First Night a priority this year. First Night usually costs around \$60,000, Luekhamhan said.

Montpelier Alive supporters say the proposed ballot question differs from previous attempts by the city, which has sought a 1 percent increase of the state sales tax and on food, lodging and alcohol. A ballot question last year and about a decade ago both failed.

Officials say the Downtown Improvement District would be discretionary money rather than city-controlled, and it would not have an impact on purchase taxes.

The taxes raised would amount to \$75,000. Montpelier Alive expects \$35,000 would be used for streetscape improvements, and \$40,000 would be for advertising.

Advertising could include "Vermont 89," "Vermont Life," "Yankee" magazine, Seven Days, Burlington's BTV airport magazine, "Vermont Weddings," "Vermont Vows," WCVT, WDEV, The Point, WVPR, WGDR and Nassau Broadcasting.

When one area of the downtown was improved, another area would be targeted, keeping the funding the same, Luekhamhan said.

Part of the money could also be used to create a tourism-style website similar to www.gostowe.com.

"We're trying to market Montpelier the way it should be," Luekhamhan said.

Barre show will go on with 'assault' guns

By David Delcore

News | Central Vermont

Barre show will go on with 'assault' guns

By David Delcore

| January 08, 2013

Email Article

Print Article BARRE — Mayor Thomas Lauzon asked nicely late last week, and on Monday representatives of the Barre Fish & Game Club politely rejected his request that they ban the display and sale of military-style assault firearms and high-capacity magazines at their 30th annual gun show next month.

"They were complete gentlemen," Lauzon said of representatives of the club who met with him, Chief Tim Bombardier and Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron. The meeting's agenda also included the rental agreement the club needs to hold its two-day show at the Barre Municipal Auditorium starting Feb. 9.

Lauzon pitched his request for a ban as a simple show of respect in the wake of the mass school shooting in Newtown, Conn. last month.

"This isn't a 'gun control' issue and never was," Lauzon said, explaining his request was merely an attempt to manage the emotions of those — himself excluded — who don't believe there should be a gun show in Barre at all in the aftermath of a high-profile, gun-related tragedy.

"I think it would be the respectful thing to do, (but) they choose not to do it. ... That's the end of the discussion," he said.

Although Lauzon didn't get what he asked for, he said the meeting was a refreshing change after a weekend during which he was bombarded by armchair constitutional scholars and "self-appointed spokesmen" for the club, who questioned his motives, his integrity and his authority.

"I got some valuable insight over how people react to just having the discussion," he said.

The item is on tonight's City Council agenda, but Lauzon said he didn't ask that it be placed there.

"It could be a short discussion," he said, suggesting he isn't willing to support issuing any ultimatums.

"Before a small-town mayor from Barre, Vermont, starts banning anything, there's a lot more discussion that has to occur," he said.

Contacted for comment, gun show organizer John Simanskas deferred to the mayor and said a second meeting with Bombardier is scheduled for Thursday night to outline the details of the rental agreement. At issue, he said, is working out the mechanics of a proposed requirement that those who bring their personal firearms to sell at the show enlist the assistance of a federally licensed firearms dealer to conduct background checks on the prospective buyer.

Simanskas said there would be a fee for that service, but he was hoping to keep it "reasonable."

"I'll know more on Friday," he said.

Lauzon said he is a proponent of making background checks mandatory for all firearms transactions — not just those involving licensed gun dealers, as is the case now — and believed the city should do everything in its power to require them at a gun show that is held on city property.

"It's our responsibility," he said, noting that police departments in Barre and Montpelier have been working with state police and two federal agencies on controlling firearms distribution in their communities for the past 18 months. He said the idea of strongly encouraging — if not requiring — background checks involving private gun transactions was an outgrowth of that initiative.

"I would never in a million years sell a firearm to anyone I didn't know well ... like a family member," he said.

Working with the club, Lauzon said he was confident the city could ensure background checks are conducted for all firearms transactions that occur inside the auditorium by making it a condition of the rental agreement.

Meanwhile, he said the city's traffic ordinance provides an "airtight" mechanism to guard against private sales occurring in the parking lot.

According to Lauzon, the ordinance states that it is unlawful "to park a vehicle from which merchandise or service is sold or offered for sale, or displayed for sale or exhibition without permission of the council."

Lauzon interprets that to apply to anything transported in a vehicle for possible sale — whether it is popcorn, Girl Scout cookies, an old shotgun or an assault rifle. It is unclear how that provision of the ordinance would apply to someone who walked to the auditorium.

Vt. students above average in vocabulary

MONTPELIER — Vermont students' vocabulary comprehension in the fourth and eighth grades are above national averages, according to data released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Challis Breithaupt, NAEP state coordinator at Vermont Department of Education, said it was the first-ever national vocabulary report.

"There was a new framework for reading in 2009 and the feeling was there needed to be a criteria developed for vocabulary," Breithaupt said.

The measure would assess more of students' ability to understand vocabulary and their ability to acquire meaning from passages they were reading.

"Helping students to increase their vocabulary and to feel comfortable using words in various contexts is paramount," state Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca said in a statement. "There is significant research in the field supporting a link between vocabulary and comprehension."

On a scale of 0-500, fourth-graders scored 224 and eighth-graders scored 274. The national average for fourth- and eighth-graders was 217 and 263, respectively.

Only Connecticut, Massachusetts, Montana and North Dakota scored higher than Vermont's eighth-grade vocabulary.

"Students use their knowledge of words in order to understand what they are reading, to identify ideas and themes," said Vilaseca. "Summer reading programs continue to support the good work that is done throughout the school year; keeping our children's minds active supports strong reading and comprehension skills."

The NAEP addressed the method of the vocabulary test in its results: "Unlike traditional tests of vocabulary that ask students to write definitions of words in isolation, NAEP always assesses word meaning within the context of particular passages. Students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of words by recognizing what meaning the word contributes to the passage in which it appears."

For more information, The report card can be found online: www.nationsreportcard.gov.

Shumlin: Vermont plans DUI courts

MONTPELIER — Vermont plans to set up DUI courts to reduce the number of repeat drunken drivers by treating their addictions to alcohol, a move that is expected to save lives and money, Gov. Peter Shumlin said Monday.

Similar to the three drug courts already operating in the state, judges would monitor the treatment of people with a second or third DUI offense and could impose sanctions and rewards. The offenders would be convicted and sentenced. After they've served a mandatory sentence they could work out a deal with the judge to return to court on a regular basis to account for their progress and treatment as a condition of their probation. If they violate those terms, they lose that benefit and are incarcerated.

"There is something about returning on a regular basis to court to speak to the judge that nationally we have learned makes a significant difference in helping people recover from addiction," said Robert Sand, the Windsor County state's attorney will be leaving that position to set up the courts.

Sand has been working with criminal justice professionals in Windsor County on such a court — called a DUI treatment docket. The system is expected to take its first cases in 30 to 60 days, Sand said. He hopes to see a statewide DUI treatment dockets in three years.

Of the 77 fatal crashes in Vermont last year, 23 were alcohol related.

"I think it's important to emphasize that repeat DUI offenders have maimed and killed innocent Vermonters for a long time," said Shumlin.

"Anything that I can do as governor and that we can do as an administration to make Vermont roads safer while we deal with addiction in a smarter and more effective way is good news for Vermonters and good news for Vermont taxpayers," he said.

Vermont already is reducing its rate of young inmates. The number has dropped from 2,074 in 2003 to 938 in June of 2012.

The DUI courts will help to reduce those numbers even more, as well as a plan to merge the Community High School of Vermont and the Vermont Correctional Industries programs to offer inmates better training to succeed when they're released, Shumlin said.

The proposal — which is expected to save about \$600,000 a year — will offer training in independent living, post-secondary planning and work force development.

Vt. family income made no gain in 2011

Median income in Vermont was stuck in neutral in 2011, according to an analysis of state Tax Department data.

In its annual analysis, The Vermont Economy Newsletter analysis concluded that after adjusting for inflation, median family income fell in 2011 by \$130, or 0.2 percent, compared to 2010.

Fifty percent of families earn more than the median and fifty percent earn less.

"Median family income has been essentially stagnant for the past four years," said Art Woolf, co-author of the study and editor of The Vermont Economy Newsletter. "During the recession real median income fell by nearly five percent and has not recovered."

Richard Heaps, the study's other co-author, said stagnant income growth came as a surprise.

"Vermont's jobs picture was positive in 2011 and we expected that would translate into higher incomes for the average Vermont family," Heaps said. "It did. However, inflation was slightly higher than nominal income gains, causing a reduction in inflation-adjusted income."

Woolf and Heaps are forecasting that when the 2012 numbers are in, the data will show a healthy gain in median inflation-adjusted family income of 1.9 percent with a Vermont family earning \$70,000 in 2012,

Woolf added that after adjusting for inflation, income will remain about \$1,000 below the 2007 peak level.

Woolf's and Heaps' analysis does not include individuals or single heads of households.

According to Woolf and Heaps, state Tax Department data are the most comprehensive data available on family income. "All other government data sources are based on a small sample of Vermonters," Heaps said, "whereas the Tax Department data is based on the complete universe of more than 124,000 Vermont families with both a husband and wife present."

Selling across borders

When it comes to food purchases, the mantra to buy local is embedded in the Vermont psyche. After all, those are our friends and neighbors sweating in the fields to harvest produce, or standing over hot stoves stirring up batches of jams and jellies. Somehow, knowing exactly where that squash came from just makes it taste better.

That same psychology works outside the Green Mountains. It's no secret the Vermont food brand, especially when it comes to iconic maple and cheese products, is recognized on the domestic front.

The same emotive pulls of pristine farms and conscientious workers that draw purchasing power to the Green Mountains also work offshore in international markets. These, along with the Yankee acumen to get the most bang for the buck, have created a Vermont food brand among consumers in such far-flung places as Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, where Vermont exports of raw agricultural products grew 65 percent and 255 percent respectively from 2010 to 2011.

But, these sales of Vermont food products aren't just a fluke. As in the tourism industry, layer upon layer of teamwork that begins within the state's borders and fans out creates the impetus that makes outreach across the oceans pay off. For example, exports to Indonesia of Vermont-processed foods such as jams and jellies grew 56 percent from 2010 to 2011.

One layer concerns a private, nonprofit organization called Food Export USA – Northeast in Philadelphia, PA, whose members consist of regional state agriculture departments. Founded in 1974 to support small food companies in the northeast, its market access program is funded by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the past five years, 64 food and agricultural companies in Vermont have used Food Export USA – Northeast programs and services to promote and sell their products in international markets.

"We deal with companies one-on-one to provide different programs and services," said John Belmont, communications manager for the group; he also serves in the same capacity for the Food Export Association of the Midwest USA.

Services include outreach education on the value of exporting, market entry, and help with international trade shows. It maintains a network of 19 in-market representatives around the globe who identify buyers within their markets, and works with trade missions exploring retail segments and competitive factors.

The organization also brings buyers to the U.S. for domestic trade shows. Companies pay fees for participating in various activities that number some 70 opportunities over the course of a year.

"Small companies in Vermont can meet with these buyers," Belmont said. "We get success stories from our companies. It's important to gauge success."

Vermont's food export program also showcases members of the Vermont Specialty Food Association, said Chelsea Bardot Lewis, senior agricultural development coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Firms called freight forwarders or export management companies come into play. Federal subsidies can help food companies in their export outreach by reimbursing 50 percent of the cost of exhibiting at certain shows.

As of late fall, 18 companies were enrolled in a program that garnered financial reimbursement for attending trade shows or doing international marketing. An example of an event showcasing Vermont food products was a November 30 seminar at Vermont Technical Center which put market representatives from the Caribbean in front of Vermont food purveyors.

"A Vermont specialty cheese maker, Jasper Hill out of Greensboro, exhibited in a Vermont pavilion in Canada," said Lewis. "They were able to meet buyers from all over the world. Through that activity and their own marketing, they have been able to begin exporting."

Another example of a Vermont company that has been exporting for 30-plus years is Butternut Mountain Farm, marketers of Vermont maple syrup. David and Lucy Marvin, who live in Hyde Park, maintain the farm in Johnson.

It can be complex to get into the international market, said David Marvin. One of the complexities is being sure that packaging is labeled in metrics.

"For the last 25 years the problem has been competing against the Canadian dollar being so favorable; they do a great job of promoting their exports," said Marvin. "Now, with the Canadian dollar on par with the U.S., it's leveling the playing field, and there is some exporting to Canada."

An international system of coding for exports can track where in the world products are going. Lewis said she can pull up 25 markets for Vermont artisan cheeses.

"One of the nice things about Vermont is that we have this reputation, for the most part rightly deserved, that a lot of good food products come from Vermont," said Jim Harrison, executive director of the Vermont Specialty Food Association, comprised of some 120 food producers.

"A typical growth pattern," said Harrison, "is for someone to make a nice product that sells locally; it's then packaged for food stores and institutional buyers; and then they may come to this organization to determine how to take the next step."

As an example of the impact of the food production industry in Vermont, statistics from the first quarter of 2010 show at least 143 food manufacturing establishments with a total of 4,033 employees. This industry sector is inclusive of dairy processors, cheese makers, meat processing facilities and slaughterhouses, breweries, wineries, and commercial bakeries.

During 2010, total revenues from exports of Vermont specialty food products was \$26.6 million; of that, \$26.1 million were exports to Canada.

London, Sarah

From: Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO <vslcafl@sover.net>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:42 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Jan. 9th: Mobilizing for a Working Class Agenda

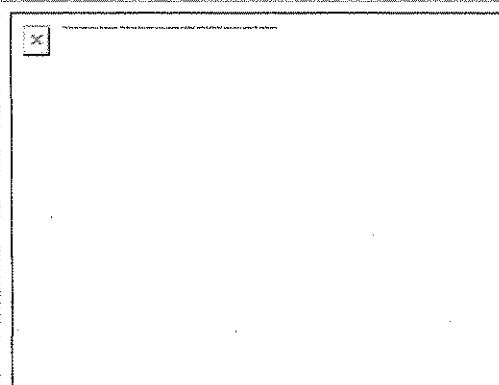


Jan. 9th: Mobilizing for a Working Class Agenda

A grassroots movement for human rights is growing in Vermont. Join the Vermont AFL-CIO, Vermont Workers' Center, and our partners in the Put People First movement as we pack the Vermont Statehouse on January 9 for the 2013 Legislative Session Kickoff.

Can you make it? Let us know [here](#).

As we rally and deliver thousands of postcards to our legislators, we will send a clear message to our state government: Put People First demands that the human rights of all people in Vermont be fulfilled. This year, our organizations choose not to fight for one issue or one constituency alone. We are uniting to call for the People's Agenda and the fulfillment of:



Newly elected Senator David Zuckerman meets with registered home provider Nan Reid and pledges his support for the right of Early Educators to organize a Union

- The human right to healthcare
- The right to dignified work and the right to organize
- The human right to freedom of movement and access to transportation
- The human rights of people with disabilities
- The right to a healthy environment and livable planet
- A budgeting process that puts people, not money, at its center

After our rally and press conference in Room 11, join us for a series of workshops designed to more fully prepare us for the legislative session ahead.

January 9 Schedule:

- 11:30 am: Please arrive at Statehouse early. (It takes a while to park and find your way!)
- 12:00 - 12:30 pm: Rally & Press Conference, Room 11
- 12:30 - 1:15: Lunch

-1:15 - 2:00: People's Agenda Briefing & Overview of Workshops

-2:00 - 3:00 pm: People's Team Training Session 1. Statehouse Tour OR How the Legislature Works

-3:00 - 4:00 pm: People's Team Training Session 2. Statehouse Tour OR How the Legislature Works

Join us on this historic day as we come together from all across our state to call for a Vermont that Puts People First.

Visit our website at: www.vt.aflcio.org
or call at 802-272-6421 and 802-272-4467

[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

London, Sarah

From: Ellen Kahler <ellen@vsjf.org>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:35 PM
To: Fischer, John; Ross, Chuck; Miller, Lawrence; Lofy, Bill; Noonan, Annie
Subject: FW: Press Advisory: Connecting Food System Education with Employment



MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: January 7, 2013
CONTACT: Martha Trombley Oakes, Vermont Technical College
802.728.1732, MTrombleyOakes@vtc.vsc.edu

Food System Employers to Meet with Educators at Vermont Technical College

Randolph, Vermont – On Tuesday, January 15, food system employers and a wide array of educators and state officials will meet to discuss how to better prepare young people for careers in the expanding farm and food sector of Vermont's economy. The event is being hosted by the Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Technical College and co-sponsored by the Farm to Plate Network, the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the VT Departments of Education and Labor, and the VT Agencies of Agriculture, Food & Markets and Commerce & Community Development.

The conference is entitled *GroundWork: Connecting Employers with Education* and will take place from 8:30am to 2pm in Judd Hall on the VTC campus in Randolph. It is the third conference in a four-part *GroundWork* series at VTC. Each of the four parts of this series explores various issues in Vermont's agriculture, energy, waste, business and education sectors, with the goal of enhancing our collective understanding, planning, and coordination to invigorate our regional economy.

The upcoming conference on January 15 is an opportunity for teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, and other education professionals to engage with business owners, managers, supervisors, and employers in Vermont's food system. Participants will hear the results of a statewide survey of employers conducted by Holly Tippet and Wendy Meunier that identifies gaps between current food system education and the skills needed by today's farm and food businesses. The education and employment communities will be given ample time to meet and discuss the study's findings and recommendations. The fourth conference of this series, *GroundWork: Aligning Educational Needs with Resources*, will be held on March 12 and will follow on the progress made at the January 15 conference.

"This conference will bring together food system businesses and educators to reflect on the survey findings and to develop action plans to better prepare Vermonters for jobs in our growing food system," says Dan Smith, Co-Chair of the Farm to Plate Network's Education and Workforce Development Working Group that sponsored the survey and is co-hosting the event.

Cost is \$25 for the day, including lunch. Advanced registration is at www.vtc.edu/groundwork. For more information or scholarships contact: lvasteamburg@vtc.edu or call 802-728-1339.

The Vermont Technical College Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems serves the applied educational needs of agriculture, food production, waste disposal and energy production businesses in the region.

The Farm to Plate Network coordinates action among organizations across Vermont to achieve the goals set forth in the *10-Year Strategic Plan*. The overarching goal of the Farm to Plate Initiative is to double consumption of locally-grown food.

This conference is made possible by support from the Vermont Department of Education and Vermont Technical College.

Sarah Galbraith

Farm to Plate Network Manager

Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

3 Pitkin Court, Suite 301e

Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 828-5670

www.vsif.org

sarah@vsif.org

London, Sarah

From: Bartlett, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:31 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Trombley, Shana; Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Board Appointment

Consider it done

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 7, 2013, at 6:41 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

yep I have it on my growing list; we have had some preliminary chats on the subject but need to circle back! Shana, can you set up a time to talk with the gov about appointments as soon as reasonably possible? Susan, please let Stephan know that it is on our radar screen and I or another of us will be in touch...thanks!

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On Jan 7, 2013, at 5:06 PM, "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us> wrote:

Is he working on these appointments? I think it would be helpful for Jeb and myself and you to talk with him about what he wants to do with

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephan Morse <stephan@sover.net>
Date: January 7, 2013 5:02:34 PM EST
To: "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Board Appointment

Susan: Do you have any advice on what I can report on the
Or I just contact Susan Spaulding?

Sorry to bother you... Stephan

London, Sarah

From: Cohan, Erin <ecohan@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:29 PM
To: HHS Committee
Cc: ts@rubicondc.com; erik.l.johnson@governor.ohio.gov; lauren.lepage@maine.gov; brian.mcmanus2@eog.myflorida.com; dan.wilmot@governor.state.tx.us; joshbaker@gov.sc.gov
Subject: NGA/Council of Governors Letter to the President - Air Force Commission
Attachments: NGA COG Letter AF Commission.pdf

To: Washington Representatives and State-Federal Contacts

Re: Letter to President Obama on Air Force Commission

Please be advised the attached letter was sent this evening to President Obama from NGA and Council of Governors leadership. The letter urges the President to include state National Guard representation on the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force which was created by the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act.

Please feel free to contact Heather Hogsett or me with any questions.

Regards,

Erin

Erin Cohan
Special Projects Manager
Office of Federal Relations
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001-1512
Phone: (202) 624-5317 Cell: (516) 287-3305
www.nga.org<<http://www.nga.org/>>

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You are currently subscribed to [hhsreps] as Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218185-167532.67600f39d9d5e2c2bb2aefd8293a5abd@talk.nga.org.

Visit the NGA web site at <http://www.nga.org>

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:12 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: NRA questionnaire

....good to know...

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On Jan 7, 2013, at 8:01 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

I kind of ducked the interview part and just answered his factual questions: No, the Governor is not a member of the NRA, and he does not own any semi-automatic weapons, but does own six hunting rifles (thanks Alex for getting those answers).

Sue

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:45 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Porter, Louis
Subject: Re: NRA questionnaire

If no one else yet replied, I'm sure you probably already sent him the ??s/answers. In terms of an interview, I'd rather have another member of the administration such as someone at DPS - Keith? - take the "history of state laws/culture" given schedule and other issues on agenda this week...liz

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On Jan 7, 2013, at 11:12 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Neal Goswami <ngoswami@benningtonbanner.com>
Date: January 6, 2013 1:12:10 PM EST
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: NRA questionnaire

Hi Sue,

Can you send me the NRA questionnaire the governor completed for the NRA earlier this year?

I will be working this week for a sister paper, the New Haven Register. They are seeking a story about Vermont's gun laws — whether the state will consider any changes and how the state came to have one of the most relaxed set of laws in the nation. I would like to have a few minutes to chat with the governor via phone about the state's laws and the history and culture that helped shape them. I am hoping to file a story tomorrow evening.

Thanks for you help,

Neal

Neal P. Goswami

Staff Writer

ngoswami@benningtonbanner.com

(802)-447-7567 ext 119

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:42 PM
To: Ide, Robert
Cc: Hayden, Holly
Subject: Re:

Great, thanks. Sure you can mail it. The plate is:

Thank you!

On 1/7/13 5:25 PM, "Ide, Robert" <Robert.Ide@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Hang tight, Holly can fix everything. Do you want them mailed to you?
>The registration period will track the same as the plate it is replacing.
>What is that number?

>

>Robert Ide, Commissioner
>Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles
>120 State Street
>Montpelier, VT 05603
>Robert.ide@state.vt.us.

>

>On Jan 7, 2013, at 1:44 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>> Rob - I received permission today from the governor to take the
>>three-digit plate. Can you remind me of the process of transferring my
>>plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my
>>current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain - do I
>>need to buy new tags for the new plates?

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:27 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Porter, Louis; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Re: VHSG Rate Filing

Thanks. She ought to be able to send a letter to D'onofrio and ask him to share it with GMCB when appropriate and to file as a public comment too, and yes I would CC Donegan. She may choose to send the letter (or issue) elsewhere too and so we should be ready for the ? in pressers and across at legislature too, and so we may need some info from D'onofrio or Robin et al. looping in Jeb...liz

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On Jan 7, 2013, at 12:27 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

I wanted you to be aware of this controversy. And FYI, I spoke with Andrea Cohen this morning. She is also very worried about the rate increase for her members. She wondered – because she cannot complain to Anya – who she should officially write to express her concerns. Would Susan Donegan be the best person?

From: Tasha Wallis [<mailto:Tasha@vtretailers.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:11 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: VHSG Rate Filing

Sue,
I understand you spoke with Andrea today regarding our experience with the Green Mountain Care Board. I am following up with the communication string. If you read from the bottom up, you get a pretty good sense of the landscape. Let me know if you have any questions.
Best,

Tasha Wallis
Executive Director
Vermont Retail Association
www.vtretailers.com
1-802-839-1931
Cell 1-802-760-7466
tasha@vtretailers.com
"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

From: Donofrio, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Donofrio@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:02 PM
To: 'Tasha Wallis'
Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; 'Andrea Cohen'; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; 'Finnie, Kathy'; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy
Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Tasha,

The ex parte issue extends to board members and staff, as I mentioned below. Additionally, I'm not comfortable providing advice about possible recourse, as that puts me in the role of providing legal advice to someone other than my client. I apologize that I can't be more helpful and directly engage on your substantive questions at this time. We'd be glad to meet on or after January 10 to discuss your concerns and how to address them in the future.

Thanks,

Mike

From: Tasha Wallis [<mailto:Tasha@vtretailers.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 12:39 PM

To: Donofrio, Michael

Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; 'Andrea Cohen'; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; 'Finnie, Kathy'; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy

Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Mike,

Thank you for the email. I removed Anya from this list so there wouldn't be any ex parte. I am still quite concerned about the Board's decision and the increased rates our members will see. I can assure you that if we had any inkling or understanding that there was any chance that the board would actually increase the rates, we would have made a point of attending the meeting.

I am also concerned that the board approved the rates without actually knowing how the trend would affect those rates and without having the actual numbers in front of them.

I understand Anya's point about previous Board decisions. I see that the board required use of trend in the VACE rates, but BCBS and VACE had negotiated a cap so that didn't result in higher rates for VACE.

Also, given BISCHA's testimony that the VHSG rates should be lower, the Board might have made the point about trend but still capped the rates because of possible rate shock to members.

I would really like to better understand if there is any recourse for us in this scenario or if we just have to wait until January 10 to discuss it with Anya.

Thanks so much for your time. Any additional information that you can provide us would be terrific.

Tasha Wallis

Executive Director

Vermont Retail Association

www.vtretailers.com

1-802-839-1931

Cell 1-802-760-7466

tasha@vtretailers.com

"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

From: Donofrio, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Donofrio@state.vt.us>]

Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:00 AM

To: Wallack, Anya; Tasha Wallis

Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; Andrea Cohen; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; Finnie, Kathy; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy

Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Hi Tasha and all,

In my standard lawyer-as-wet-blanket role, I want to point out that GMCB members and staff cannot have ex parte discussions (and by that I mean discussions that don't include the parties to the case) about a rate review case while the case is open, including while the appeal period is pending. By statute and rule, the parties (in this case, BCBSVT and the Vermont Office of the Health Care Ombudsman) have 30 calendar days from the date a decision issues in which to appeal that decision to the Vermont Supreme Court. In this case, the decision issued on December 10, 2012. Therefore, Board members and staff cannot discuss the case with you until January 10, 2013, at the earliest.

Let me know if you have any questions about this.

Thanks,
Mike

From: Wallack, Anya
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:12 PM
To: Tasha Wallis
Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; Andrea Cohen; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; Finnie, Kathy; Lacy, Sam; Donofrio, Michael; Henkin, Judy
Subject: Re: VHSG Rate Filing
Importance: High

Tasha,

I am happy to discuss. I believe the decision to go with the most recent approved trends is consistent with the GMCB's decision in a number of recent rate cases, where, at the request of the carriers, we have updated trends to reflect changes in costs and utilization that have occurred in the time between when rate increases are filed and when they receive final consideration by the GMCB. BCBS has made the case, in recent filings, that trends have been significantly higher in actuality than they predicted when they filed initial rate increase requests.

I would be happy to meet, but I would prefer to do it in person. Sam, could you please try to find a time next week or the week after when I could meet with Tasha? Mike Donofrio and Judy Henkin should be included.

Thanks.

Anya

From: Tasha Wallis <tasha@vtretailers.com>
Organization: Vermont Retailers Association
Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013 5:20 PM
To: Arrowhead <anya.wallack@state.vt.us>
Cc: 'Jim Harrison' <jim@vtgrocers.org>, Andrea Cohen <andreac@vbsr.org>, 'Stacey Dumas' <staceyd@benefitsolutionsllcs.com>, "cmagne@vtmd.org" <cmagne@vtmd.org>, "Finnie, Kathy" <kathy@vtvets.org>
Subject: VHSG Rate Filing

Anya,

I have a call in to you and hope to hear back from you soon. We recently found out from Blue Cross that the GMC Board's approval of the VHSG PPO rates (I am president of the VHSG board) included the requirement that Blue Cross use most recent trend and recalculate the rates. The recalculation

has resulted in rates an average of 3.2% higher than those that were filed. This is a challenge for us and our members. It is common practice to go to market with the rates that are filed , so our customers can at least get a general sense of what rates will be. Rates are sometimes approved very late in the year so we need to show them something.

We haven't been hugely comfortable with going to market with unapproved rates, but it has been general practice among associations. The understanding has always been that the rates will be what are filed, or regulators will lower the filed rates and customers will get a nice surprise. This is the first case we are aware of, where the regulatory body has increased the filed rates.

We are very concerned about the reaction of our members to this new increase. It is very late in the year, actually it is a new year, to be notifying them of such an increase. I wanted to give you a heads up about this development as some people will, no doubt, be unhappy. I can't say we are too thrilled ourselves.

It would be great to understand how this came about and if there is anything we can do going forward. Thanks in advance for your help and guidance on this important issue.

Just to refresh your memory, VHSG includes

The Vermont Retail Association

The Vermont Grocers Association

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility

The Vermont Medical Society

Vermont Women Business Owners

Vermont Veterinarians

Very best and Happy New Year

Tasha Wallis

Executive Director

Vermont Retail Association

www.vtretailers.com

1-802-839-1931

Cell 1-802-760-7466

tasha@vtretailers.com

"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:41 PM
To: Bartlett, Susan
Cc: Trombley, Shana; Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Board Appointment

yep I have it on my growing list; we have had some preliminary chats on the subject but need to circle back! Shana, can you set up a time to talk with the gov about appointments as soon as reasonably possible? Susan, please let Stephan know that it is on our radar screen and I or another of us will be in touch...thanks!

Elizabeth H. Miller
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elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

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Is he working on these appointments? I think it would be helpful for Jeb and myself and you to talk with him about what he wants to do with

Sent from my iPad

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To: "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Board Appointment

Susan: Do you have any advice on what I can report on the contact Susan Spaulding? y? Or I just

Sorry to bother you... Stephan

London, Sarah

From: Ide, Robert
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 5:25 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Hayden, Holly
Subject: Re:

Hang tight, Holly can fix everything. Do you want them mailed to you? The registration period will track the same as the plate it is replacing. What is that number?

Robert Ide, Commissioner
Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05603
Robert.ide@state.vt.us.

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> Rob – I received permission today from the governor to take the three-digit plate. Can you remind me of the process of transferring my plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain – do I need to buy new tags for the new plates?

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 5:06 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Allen, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; GPS; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; Johnson, Harriet; Murray-Clasen, Madeline; Burke, Ashley; Stamper-EXE, Aleksandra; Moody, Alison; Gilbert, Elizabeth; 'louis_porter' [REDACTED]; Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Daily Report- January 7, 2013

Top Issues:

- We received the recommendation from Susan Spaulding has the document, in addition, we have received the following correspondence
 - 1 call from [REDACTED] in support of [REDACTED]
 - 5 emails in support of [REDACTED] (all emails printed and given to SS for review)
 - 2 emails in support of [REDACTED] ar [REDACTED]
 - 1 email in support of [REDACTED]
 - 1 email against the appointment of [REDACTED] is (no issue with [REDACTED] individually, [REDACTED] t).
- 3 emails calling for stricter gun control, specifically a ban on automatic and assault weapons.
- 5 emails asking the Governor to protect 2nd amendment rights.

Notable Contacts:

- [REDACTED] is a VT native currently living in NH and looking to move home. She has had difficulty applying for state jobs on HR website and says she keeps getting through to step 8 or 9 of the application process and then being kicked off and she isn't able to save her information along the way. She says she called HR but was told that it was antiquated system and there wasn't anything they could do. She was wondering what, if any, alternatives she had because she'd really like to apply. HR will follow up with her.
- [REDACTED] emailed the office last month when his daughter, [REDACTED], was on the verge of being homeless. His daughter is now in permanent housing, after her story ran on WCAX and in 7 days. He thinks the Governor needs to continue to look at benefits and resources for people dealing with housing crises and how to make them most effective.
- [REDACTED] had emailed the office last month because Medicaid wouldn't approve a prescription weight-loss drug that her doctor had prescribed. She had worked very hard on exercise and lifestyle changes but was struggling against hereditary obesity, which played a part in her Grandmother's death. She was frustrated that Medicaid would cover \$60,000 surgery, but not a \$3,000 medication. When we checked in today she was very pleased to report that she had successfully appealed the decision to Vermont Medicaid and she said she was a strong supporter of the Governor's.

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](#)

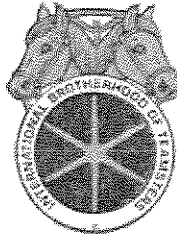
London, Sarah

From: James P. Hoffa, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
<teamsters2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:48 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Inaugural Invite - TIME SENSITIVE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

January 7, 2013

Please join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union as we celebrate the momentous occasion of the 2nd Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on Monday, January 21, 2013.

We are opening the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Headquarters to our friends and colleagues for the day to have a place to be warm, well fed and watch all of the excitement from our incredible view of the U.S. Capitol. We hope you will drop by or come for the day. We are located at 25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Our doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This invitation is NON-TRANSFERABLE and RSVP is mandatory and required for each individual and guest. You are invited with one guest. RSVP is needed by January 16, 2013. You must RSVP to teamsters2013@gmail.com. Please include your name, guest name and email to receive your confirmation. Please print your confirmation email and bring to event for entry. Please call Shari Yost Gold at (202) 525-1125 or email teamsters2013@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. We hope you can join us for what will be a memorable celebration.

Fraternally yours,



James P. Hoffa
General President



Ken Hall
General Secretary-Treasurer

JPH:KH/syg

If you would no longer like to receive email updates, [unsubscribe here](#).

empowered by



London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:27 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Tuesday, January 8th

Tuesday, January 8th 2013 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:

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

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Porter, Louis; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: Education Reform Recommendations from LCRCC/GBIC
Attachments: edrecommends11-26.doc.docx; ATT00001.htm

fyi. gov asked LCRCC to send these when they mentioned it at the mtg this a.m.

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Francis <dawn@vermont.org>
Date: January 7, 2013, 10:28:01 AM EST
To: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Torti, Tom" <Tom@vermont.org>, "Catherine Z. Davis" <cathy@vermont.org>, Matt McMahon <matt@vermont.org>, Frank Cioffi <Frank@vermont.org>
Subject: Education Reform Recommendations from LCRCC/GBIC

Liz and Lawrence::

As per our meeting, attached are the recommendations on education developed by a diverse group of our members including employers, teachers, non-profits (including Boys and Girls Club), higher education, school boards and a superintendent. This group was chaired by Dan Smith of the Vermont State Colleges. I have also pitched these ideas to the directors of the School Boards, Principals and Superintendent Associations who have all indicated they are open to working on many of these ideas. I look forward to working with you to advance these improvements to our education system.

Dawn

--

.....

Dawn H. Francis
Government Affairs Director
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce/GBIC
60 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 863 - 3489 X 210 | dawn@vermont.org | www.vermont.org

Learn more about the issues important to us

London, Sarah

From: Cadorette, Wendy
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:03 PM
To: BGS; Lynch, Nancy; 'Jim Condos'; Johnson, Harriet; Boes, Richard; 02 Ruthann Sullivan (DII); Peterson, Mary; 08 David Brotzman (VCGI); Driscoll, Nancy; Pearce, Beth; 17 Debbie Doyle (VOSHA); 18 Alan Yandow (VT Lottery); 19 Bill Griffin (Attny Gen); 20 Willa Farrell (Ct. Diversion); Ross, Chuck; Bothfeld, Diane; 30 Bill Dalton (Sec of State); 30 Jim Condos (Sec of State); 30 Nancy Lynch (Sec of State); Miller, Elizabeth; Racine, Doug; 38 Barbara Cimaglio (Health); 39 Beth Tanzman (Mental Health); 39 Christine Oliver (Mental Health); Walcott, Cindy; Vilaseca, Armando; 51 Donald Vickers (VSAC); Markowitz, Deb; Miller, Lawrence; Mackay, Noelle; Smith, Megan; Aldrich, Alex; 62 Alan Jordan (VSO); Searles, Brian; 70 Ann Curran (VPT); 70 John King (VPT); Brodeur, Aaron; Beatty, David; Sarah Hofman (PSD); Spaulding, Jeb; Reardon, Jim; Zeller, Susan; Duffy, Kate; Reid, Martha; Obuchowski, Mike; Sandretto, Tom; Lofy, Bill; Dindo, Charlene; 10 Emily Bergquist (Chief Leg Counsel); Miller, Janet; 11 Stephen Klein (Leg Fiscal Officer); Brooks, Francis; Juhasz, Joe; Salmon, Tom; Noonan, Tim; Sorrell, Willaim; 19 Janet Murnane (Attny Gen); Valerio, Matthew; Greemore, Bob; Mongeon, Jim; 24 Keith Flynn (Public Safety); Pigeon, George; 26 Judy Rex (CCVS); Provost, David; Volz, James; Appel, Robert; Hogan, Mike; 36 Patrick Flood (AHS); Chen, Harry; 40 Joe Patrissi (DCF - Econ Dev); Murphy, Reeva; 40 Scott Johnson (DCF - Field Services); Donahue, Shaun; Wehry, Susan; Pallito, Andy; Menard, Lisa; 44 Wendy Love (Com on Women); 45 Guy Isabelle (RSVP); Noonan, Annie; 48 Karen Meyer (UVM); 48 Richard Cate (UVM); 48 Ted Winfield (UVM); 49 T Robbins (VT State Colleges); 50 Tara Lidstone (VT Interactive TV); 51 Tom Little (VSAC); Berry, Patrick; Johnson, Justin; Borie, Lou; MoultonPowden, Pat; Carbo, Kelly; 64 Gus Seelig (VHCB); 65 Peter Gilbert (VTHum); 67 Howard Deal (DMV); Ide, Robert; 68 Glenn Gershaneck (Trans Bd); Ferland, Brad; Aronowitz, Jason; Trautz, Otto; Hartrich, Toni; Racine, Doug; Rousseau, Paul; Schwartz, Harold; Blaisdell, Terri; Pinard, Jason; Harris, Joe; Carrier, Janis; Lavery, Nathan; Goss, Duncan; Metivier, Krista; Grassmann, Felix; Booth, John; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Cassani, Mary; Ford, Diane; Evans, Lora; Harrison, Carol; Bernardini, Barbara; Pellerin, Jacinthe; Chadwick, Joanne; Hallenbeck, Richard; Hutchins, Judi; Williams, Gail; Gauthier, Richard; 28 Mary Morrison (Agriculture); 29 Sandra Barton (BISHCA); Daley, Paul; Behrns, Ronald; Rockcastle, Sheri; Chamberlin, Brenda; Lambert, Sandra; 35 Jane Menard (Liquor Control Board); 36 Allan Merritt (AHS); Brown, Christine L; Giffin, Jim; O'Connell, Kevin; Donahey, Richard; 36 Suzanne Santarcangelo (AHS); Clark, Leo; 40 David Cameron (DCF); Aubin, Lori-Ann; 44 Janet Bullard (Commission on Women); Teske, Charles; Talbott, Bill; Flanagan, Kathy; Chadwick, Steve; Wheeler, Denise; Thayer-Gosselin, Kathy; Neveau, Carmen; LeBlanc, Leonard; Cayia, Lori; Cross, Phil; 66 Renea Bordeau (AOT); Isabelle, Jean-Paul; Morse, Linda; 08 Linda Ladd (VCGI); Page, Sarah; Hathaway, Carrie; Mall, James; Thompson, Shannon; Hall, Heidi; Cohen, David; Kelly, Bill; 42 Ira Sollace (Corrections); 42 Marcey Hodgdon (Corrections); 50 Tara Lidstone (VTC); Berry, Brenda; Yacono, Sher; Clark, Sarah; Pallito, Joanna; Clark, Claudia; Macaskill, Lucie; George, Julie; 61 Elaine Dufresne (VT Arts Council); Duffy, Anne; 65 Linda Winter (VT Hum Council); Riven, Matt; Duke, Heather; Kukenberger, Bradley;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Bonnie.Sanders;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Clayton.Clark;
/o=state.vt.us/ou=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Ed.Polk;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jane.Menard;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jennifer.Underwood;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Leslie.Baker;
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Scott.Barnett;
/o=state.vt.us/ou=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Val.Cyr; Amaral, Elizabeth; Ancel,

To: Renee; Antone, Carolyn; Appel, Robert; Audet, Jenny; Belville, Francine; Bernardini, Barbara; Bernier, Marie; Berube, Teri; Bilodeau, Joanne; Boyce, Rhonda; Brooks, Francis; Brown, Karen; Bullard, Janet; Cadorette, Wendy; Carbo, Kelly; Carlson, Amy; Carrier, Janis; Chamberlin, Brenda; Chenail, Bruce; Churchill, Connie; Clasen, Michael; Crockett, Jean; Crowley, Annie; DII - Datacenter Manager; Dimick, Leslie; Donovan, Paul; Elliott, Brittany; Emmons, Tonia; Evans, Lora; Ferland, Brad; Flanagan, Kathy; Flinn, Charlene; Fuller, Stephanie; Goodwin, Walter; Grassmann, Felix; Gray, Beth; Guy, Janice; Hebert, John; Hebert, Rosemary; Hester, Jim; Hughes, Victoria; Huntsman, Bill; James, Pam; Janawicz, Scott; Johnson, Harriet; Joubert, Ellie; Kellogg, Jeremiah; Labelle, Tricia; Laferriere, Deb; Lamberti, Jaylene; Lamos, Terry; Lapoint, Sheila; Lavery, Nathan; Loftus, Margaret; Matott, Heather; Mattison, Lestyn; McConnell, Chris; McManis, Shawn; Morey, Michael; Morse, Linda; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Mulhall, Tom; Ng, Joe; Noonan, Tim; Palmer, Allen; Parker, Dennis; Pierce, Robert; Plastridge, Timothy; Powell, Doug; Pryce, Tonia; Putney, Renee; Rea, Bob; Robbins, Don; Robinson, Rita; Rockcastle, Sheri; Rutledge, Jonathan; Sanford, Greg; Satterfield, Kathy; Schraut, Karl; St. Onge, Peggy; Starr, Loring; Swanson, Mary-Kay; Talbert, Lilly; Blaisdell, Terri; Tierney, Mike; Utton, Theresa L.; Wells, James; Wood, Ray; Wortman, Linda; Young, Linda; Zampieri, Kathy

Subject: Legislative Parking - Montpelier Capitol Complex

Attachments: legislator-parking2013 11x17.pdf; Leg Session_Full DL Parking Memo.map_2013.doc

Importance: High

On behalf of Commissioner Obuchowski, Buildings & General Services, please see the memo and map attached regarding legislative parking for the legislative session.
The session starts on Wednesday, January 9 2013.

Thank you.

Wendy

Wendy L. Cadorette | Department of Buildings & General Services
Office of the Commissioner | Executive Assistant
2 Governor Aiken Avenue | Montpelier, VT 05633-5801
ph: 802.828.3519 | fax: 802.828.3533

London, Sarah

From: James, Jewel <Jewel_A_James@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:32 PM
Subject: Talking Points: Chuck Hagel and John Brennan Nominations

Talking Points on Chuck Hagel Nomination

- The President believes Chuck Hagel is uniquely qualified to be Secretary of Defense. A decorated war hero and two term Senator on both the Foreign Relations Committee and the Intelligence Committee – he has the experience to serve. He had the judgment and independence to **buck his own party on Iraq, and the President believes he will be well-positioned to carry out the President's commitment to end the war in Afghanistan** – which will be one of the President's biggest priorities.
- Senator Hagel will be the first enlisted soldier to become Secretary of Defense and has a lifelong commitment to our troops, military families and veterans, and would put them first as Secretary. The White House believes this experience and commitment to the troops will make **him a popular choice with rank and file military and an effective advocate for military families** – which is a longtime priority for the President and First Lady.
- We believe Hagel will be confirmed. There has been a fair bit of heat around his possible nomination – but not a lot of stated opposition – mostly just lots of Senators saying they have questions for the hearing. And as decorated veteran Max Cleland said – **at the end of the day, are Senators really going to look a veteran hero - with 2 purple hearts who still carries around shrapnel in his chest - in the eye and say they aren't going to support him?**
- It is quite possible that a good bit of the Republican concern about Hagel is due to fact he bucked his party by opposing the Iraq war. Some Republicans are still smarting over that – but don't think it will ultimately amount to trouble for his nomination.
- The fact is Senator Hagel represents the proud tradition of a strong, bipartisan foreign policy in the United States. When it comes to national security, there should be no Democrats or Republicans. That approach has guided Chuck Hagel in the Senate, and it guides him today, which is why he has earned respect on both sides of the aisle.

Talking Points on John Brennan Nomination

- John Brennan's career of service and extraordinary record has prepared him to be an outstanding director of the CIA. Brennan served for decades at the Agency. Since 9/11, he has been on the front lines in the fight against al Qaeda. Over the past four years, he has been involved in virtually all major national security issues and will be able to hit the ground running at CIA
- POTUS: Brennan has the full trust and confidence of the President. For four years, he has seen the President every day, and been by his side for some of his toughest decisions – including the decision to launch the bin Laden raid. Brennan is as close to President Obama as any member of his national security team.
- Record: Brennan has excelled as the President's top advisor on counter-terrorism. During his four years on the job, al Qaeda's leadership has been devastated and Osama bin Laden has been taken out. He has also led the effort to take the fight to al Qaeda's affiliates in places like Somalia. He's helped navigate the challenges of this Arab Spring, including the transition in Yemen. And he's bolstered our homeland security, improving aviation screening and terrorist watch-lists, and helping to guide our response to countless challenges, from tornadoes to cyber threats to Hurricane Sandy.

- CIA: Brennan has a deep understanding of CIA's collection, covert action, and analytic missions. He worked for decades at CIA, serving in the field and at headquarters – including service as Deputy Executive Director, station chief in Saudi Arabia, and PDB briefer at the White House. He has enormous appreciation for the men and women of CIA, and the work they do – often in the shadows – to keep us safe.
- Intelligence community: Brennan has worked closely with other intelligence agencies. He is committed to investing in the range of intelligence capabilities we need—technical and human. And when it comes to sharing and integrating information across the Intelligence Community, he's been a pioneer. After 9/11, he built—and then led—the National Counterterrorism Center to ensure better coordination
- Rule of law: Brennan has been an advocate for greater transparency in our counter-terrorism policy, and adherence to the rule of law. He has spoken out repeatedly about the need for strong oversight and review of our counter-terrorism actions, and has led efforts within the government to ensure that we put those ideals into practice.
- Bipartisan: Brennan has held senior positions in Democratic and Republican Administrations. He has worked closely with members of Congress, as well as Republican Governors like Chris Christie through his disaster relief efforts. He has no party affiliation, and has worked around the clock to protect our country.
- Personal Story: Brennan comes from a working class family in New Jersey – the Jesuit-educated son of an Irish immigrant who was inspired to join the CIA by an ad in the newspaper. This nomination is part of a great American story.

##

Jewel James

Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
202-456-4770 (office)

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Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:21 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: iPad

Sounds good Bill.

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From: Lofy, Bill
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I totally understand, Janis. We'll miss you, but you need to take care of that foot!

I've got my credit card in my desk, ready to hand in. I'll be sure to bring the iPad on Thursday and will just leave it on my (Liz's desk). That sound ok?

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Attachments: image001.gif

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Janis, I'll also need to transfer the monthly cost to my current account.

From: <Clasen>, Michael <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>
Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013 8:53 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: iPad

Bill,

See below. I checked out Apple and a new Ipad 2 Wi-Fi 3 G 16 GB is selling for \$529.

Let me know.

Michael

From: Lamos, Terry
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Clasen, Michael
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I am assuming this item is still in excellent condition and would suggest a price of \$400.00. Thanks

Teresa Lamos
BGS - Government Business Services
Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property
438 US Route 2
Waterbury VT 05671-4210
Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386
terry.lamos@state.vt.us

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Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:12 PM
To: Lamos, Terry
Subject: RE: iPad

See yellow highlight below.

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Per the DII Digital Media and Hardware Disposal - Policy I will need approval from them to make the sale with applicable memory device(s) in place.

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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 2:24 PM
To: 'ALLEN, TIMOTHY J'
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Batchelder, Dale
Subject: AT&T Acct # [REDACTED] /Bill Lofy ipad

Hi Tim,

Bill Lofy will be leaving state government effective 1/10/12. We are allowing him to take his ipad with him and he would like the monthly charges to move over to his personal AT&T account (Acco[REDACTED]). The phone # associated with his ipad on our state account is [REDACTED]. Would it be possible for you to move these charges/this phone # over to his personal account?

Please let me know if there is anything else you need from me in order to accomplish this. We appreciate your assistance with this. Thank you.

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

From: Clasen, Michael

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 11:21 AM

To: Lofy, Bill

Cc: Carrier, Janis

Subject: RE: iPad

Write a personal check to Vermont Surplus Property for \$400.

Janis you will need to complete a form similar to the one for the stand up workstation. Also you will need to check with Dale to determine what DII needs to do with the iPad with respect to scrubbing it for VT State Government data—they have a specific protocol they have to follow.

From: Lofy, Bill

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 11:08 AM

To: Clasen, Michael

Cc: Carrier, Janis

Subject: Re: iPad

\$400 is reasonable, I'll take it. Can I get that deducted out of my paycheck or should I write a check?

Janis, I'll also need to transfer the monthly cost to my current account.

From: <Clasen>, Michael <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>
Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013 8:53 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: iPad

Bill,

See below. I checked out Apple and a new Ipad 2 Wi-Fi 3 G 16 GB is selling for \$529.

Let me know.

Michael

From: Lamos, Terry
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: RE: iPad

I am assuming this item is still in excellent condition and would suggest a price of \$400.00. Thanks

Teresa Lamos
BGS - Government Business Services
Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property
438 US Route 2
Waterbury VT 05671-4210
Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386
terry.lamos@state.vt.us

From: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:12 PM
To: Lamos, Terry
Subject: RE: iPad

See yellow highlight below.

From: Lamos, Terry
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:11 PM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: RE: iPad

I will need to know what the state paid for it as sometimes we pay less (via contract or P/O) than the usual list price. Looks like this item lists for around \$529.99 and ebay prices are strong for used units in good condition - ranging from \$350 - \$470.

Per the DII Digital Media and Hardware Disposal - Policy  I will need approval from them to make the sale with applicable memory device(s) in place.

Thanks

Teresa Lamos
BGS - Government Business Services
Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property
438 US Route 2
Waterbury VT 05671-4210
Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386
terry.lamos@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

Thanks! Works for me if it works for others

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:06 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

How about something short along these lines?

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

As reminder, I have tweaked last year's school budget form letter below with a reference to reducing supervisory unions as well. I am looking for some brief language to address Rep. Greshin's broader concerns. I'm cc'ing Bartlett as well in case she has any ideas.

Dear Representative Greshin,

Thank you for your letter and for your strong advocacy on behalf of Vermont schools. I apologize for the delay in response.

Like you, I am very proud of Vermont's education system. Yet, if our children are to lead prosperous lives, we must do better. That is why I will be devoting my State of the State speech to outlining an ambitious education agenda from prekindergarten through postsecondary education.

I applaud the hard work of most boards in restraining spending and I agree that we must pursue other avenues for educational savings. For example, I support reducing the number of supervisory unions and revamping their relationship to local school boards to achieve savings. If you or other policymakers have additional ideas that are practical and achievable, I am very open to them.

I want to thank you again for your commitment to education and I look forward to working with you on education issues in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be of assistance.

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

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I'm not sure how to respond to the broader criticism of our system of funding education. Thank you for any assistance/advice you can offer.

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

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London, Sarah

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Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent

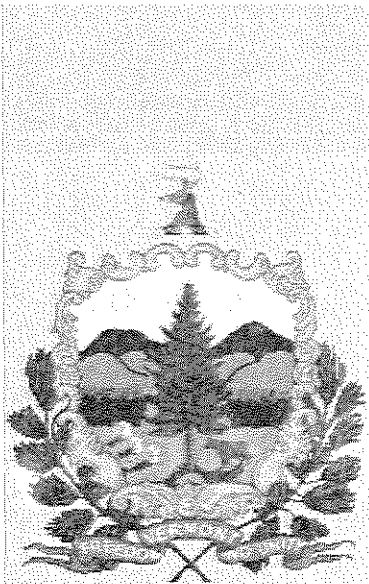
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-3333

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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London, Sarah

From: Gov. Peter Shumlin <no_reply@state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:02 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: REMINDER: Inaugural Open House



State of Vermont

OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR

*Governor Peter Shumlin
invites you to an
Inaugural Open House*

DATE: Thursday, January 10, 2013
TIME: 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm
LOCATION: The Vermont State House

Free and open to the public

*Dedicated to fundraising efforts to help Vermonters
impacted by Tropical Storm Irene.*

www.vermontdisasterrecovery.com/donate

Please do not bring large bags or backpacks

Please do not reply to this email. Contact the Executive Office of the Governor

To unsubscribe from Governor Shumlin's email list click Here

Executive Office of the Governor • 109 State Street, Pavilion • Montpelier, Vermont 05603 • 802-828-3333

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:45 PM
To: Ide, Robert
Subject: [REDACTED]

Rob – I received permission today from the governor to take the [REDACTED] three-digit plate. Can you remind me of the process of transferring my plates. Also, I foolishly did a two-year renewal in December of my current plates and hate to see that money go down the drain – do I need to buy new tags for the new plates?

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:17 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin proposes court and educational changes to reduce recidivism

For Immediate Release
Jan. 7, 2013

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Shumlin proposes court and educational changes to reduce recidivism

MONTPELIER – In a move to further reduce recidivism, Gov. Peter Shumlin today called for changes in the way courts handle drunk driving cases, as well as the consolidation of the successful Community High School of Vermont and Vermont Correctional Industries programs under the umbrella of Corrections Education.

These latest proposals build on previous work to reduce the number of Vermont inmates who re-offend after their release and return to prison, particularly among youthful offenders. According to the Department of Corrections, the rate of young inmates in Vermont's prison dropped from 2,074 in 2003 to 938 in June of 2012 (which was down from 1,079 the year before, and 1,306 in 2010).

The Governor announced that Robert Sand, Windsor County State's Attorney, would join the Vermont Department of Public Safety to help criminal justice professionals throughout the state develop innovative and effective sentencing practices, including the creation of DUI treatment dockets in Vermont. DUI treatment dockets, similar to the drug court model, help impaired drivers overcome their addiction through close judicial monitoring of their treatment and the imposition of swift and certain sanctions and rewards. DUI treatments dockets can increase substance abuse recovery rates, lower recidivism rates, and save correctional and other costs.

Based on the experiences in other states that have developed treatment courts, for every dollar spent to support these courts, states save between \$2 to \$4 in other criminal justice expenditures (source: The National Association of Drug Court Professionals www.nadcp.org/learn/facts-and-figures).

Sand, who has been a State's Attorney since 1997 and who worked in the mid- 1990's as the Department of State's Attorney's DUI Resource Attorney and legislative liaison, said, "Few areas of criminal law provide as vexing a sentencing challenge as operating under the influence of alcohol offenses. While Vermonters are understandably alarmed at the rise in prescription opiate abuse, alcohol addiction is a pressing criminal justice problem."

He said a small number of alcohol abusers repeatedly return to court on new charges and pose an unacceptably high risk to the public. But many of these offenders, once they achieve sobriety, productively rejoin their communities.

"The criminal justice system has an opportunity, and an obligation, to find effective ways to help these offenders address their addiction," said Sand.

The Governor said Sand will work to spearhead efforts on behalf of the Administration for the development of effective and innovative evidence-based sentencing practices in DUI and other cases, as well as develop trainings and educational programming for criminal justice professionals and students at Vermont Law School. Sand's position, which he will

assume in March, is federally funded for at least the first three years. He will work from an office at the Vermont Law School in South Royalton.

"It's imperative that we keep drunk drivers off Vermont's roads, but locking them in jail cells isn't always the best way to deal with these complex cases," the Governor said. He said Windsor County has been focusing on smarter ways to deal with DUI cases that reduce the likelihood of re-offense and help treat addiction. These efforts include the pre-trial services docket known as the Sparrow Program and the newly developed DUI Treatment docket in Windsor County.

"Bobby has been key to that work, and can now work with other criminal justice professionals around the state that want to hold these offenders accountable while also helping them overcome their addiction," the Governor said.

Gov. Shumlin also noted that each year approximately 2,000 people access the services of the Community High School of Vermont and Vermont Correctional Industries. On a yearly basis CHSVT graduates approximately 125 students and issues 300 Industry Certifications. Vermont Correctional Industries employs over 100 workers on a daily basis, which provides on the job training and skill building, the Governor said.

The Corrections Education proposal, which will save the state about \$600,000, has two components. First, CHSVT will concentrate its efforts in the correctional facilities, and redefine program offerings for various populations – which can be dependent on type of sentence and risk factors. CHSVT and VCI will redesign the offerings and work experiences to meet the various needs of the inmate populations. Correctional education efforts will include work force development, independent living, and post-secondary planning -- all necessary for successful transition from the facilities into the community.

"Education and jobs training are critical in helping incarcerated Vermonters rebuild their lives after their release," Gov. Shumlin said.

"Because of the success of diversion programs over the past few years such as the Rapid Intervention Community Court in Chittenden County, the DOC is excited to retool the CHSVT to serve our current population with this new model" said Commissioner Andrew Pallito. "This new model will allow us to focus not only on educational needs, but also the associated job skills to become employable upon release."

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:06 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin
Attachments: Greshin Education.pdf

Just wanted to check again language for a response to the attached letter from Adam Greshin. We received the letter November 30th and are overdue on a response.

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 2:17 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Cc: Bartlett, Susan
Subject: RE: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

As reminder, I have tweaked last year's school budget form letter below with a reference to reducing supervisory unions as well. I am looking for some brief language to address Rep. Greshin's broader concerns. I'm cc'ing Bartlett as well in case she has any ideas.

Dear Representative Greshin,

Thank you for your letter and for your strong advocacy on behalf of Vermont schools. I sincerely apologize for the delay in response. As you know, Vermont has the most equitable education system in the nation, something of which I am very proud. I firmly believe that Vermont can continue to lead the country in education. By making sure all Vermont children have access to pre-kindergarten programs, by expanding opportunities for high school students to gain college credit, and by encouraging our students in science, technology, math, and engineering, I am confident we can continue our tradition of equitable and excellent education for all Vermont students.

While setting these ambitious goals, we must remember that we are in the early stage of economic recovery. All of us who set budgets in this state must make tough choices to support our initiatives without adding to the financial burden of our constituents. I am committed to passing a state budget without raising broad-base taxes and I'm asking local school boards to join in that effort. I applaud the hard work of the boards in meeting level funding over the last three years on a statewide basis. As staffing levels finally begin to drop in keeping with trends in declining enrollment, I ask that boards meet that challenge once again. I have been clear that we should expect some budgets will go up and some will go down. My goal is to hold school spending level on a statewide level.

I agree that there are other avenues for educational savings to explore. As you mentioned, last legislative session I supported a proposed bill that would reduce the number of supervisory unions in the state to sixteen. I believe we can reduce administrative costs while retaining the autonomy of local boards. In addition...[SUGGESTIONS?]

I'm sorry that this is an issue on which we disagree, but am hopeful we have much in common in our views and hopes for public schools in Vermont. I want to thank you again for your commitment to education and I look forward to working with you on education issues in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:59 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Education Spending from Rep Adam Greshin

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109 State Street
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802-828-3333

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London, Sarah

From: Lacy, Sam
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:02 PM
To: Wallack, Anya
Cc: Lacy, Sam
Subject: Reminder: GMCB Seeks Public Comment on Health Care Expenditure Targets AND Workforce Strategic Plan

This is a reminder that the Green Mountain Care Board is seeking public comment on two topics:

- a) **Public comment period until January 9, 2013 at 11:00 am on the Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan presented to the Board January 3, 2013:**
 - a. Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan, January 3, 2013
 - b. Physician Discontinuing Practice Statistics, January 3, 2013
- b) **Public comment period until January 9, 2013 at 11:00 am on the Green Mountain Care Board's proposed health care spending target for fiscal year 2014.**
 - a. Memo from Anya Rader Wallack, Phd., Chair - Proposal for fiscal year 2014 Vermont health care expenditure targets.
 - b. Motion regarding public comment on health care expenditure targets
 - c. Presentation of Unified Health Care Budget (UHCB) Setting Targets, Considering a System of Enforcement and Promoting Payment/Delivery System Reform
 - d. Green Mountain Care Board Seeks Comment on Health Care Expenditure Targets

Please fill out our public comment form: <http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/publiccomments> or respond to this email.

Thanks,

Sam Lacy
802 828 2130

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 21, 2012

CONTACT: Anya Rader Wallack, Office (802) 828-2160, Cell (617) 694-0424

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD SEEKS COMMENT
ON HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURE TARGETS**

Montpelier, VT- As Vermont works to slow the rising cost of health care, the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) is seeking comment from Vermonters about proposals for setting statewide targets for health expenditure growth beginning later in 2013.

On January 9, the GMCB will resume deliberation on a set of proposals discussed in yesterday's open meeting. For fiscal year 2014, which begins in October 2013, the GMCB is considering two complementary ways of limiting growth in health spending:

- For hospital budgets, which account for more than 40 percent of Vermont health spending, budget growth would be limited to 3.1 percent. This would translate to approximately \$65 million in additional health care spending in Vermont for the year.
- For Vermont's entire health system, the GMCB will set a target after analyzing the results of a forthcoming 2011 statewide health spending analysis and a three-year forecast of health expenditure growth. This

target will serve as a guide in monitoring total system costs and in identifying areas of potential excess growth. The overall growth target also will guide GMCB review of health care cost trend factors embedded in health insurer rate increases.

"The fundamental issue we're trying to address is that the growth in health spending in Vermont continues to outpace the growth in other areas of the economy," said GMCB Chair Anya Rader Wallack. "This is simply not sustainable, because it means that each year Vermonters have to make greater sacrifices in other areas in order to pay for health care."

The GMCB arrived at its recommendations after reviewing relevant indicators of health care cost growth and economic growth, including projected growth in Vermont's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – a standard measure of economic growth based on the total value of all goods and services produced in an area over a set period of time. Vermont's 2014 GDP growth is projected to be 3.1 percent. The cost of hospital inputs is expected to increase 2.49 percent in FY 2014, while the cost of inputs in physician practices is expected to increase 1.26 percent. Changing demographics in Vermont (in particular, the aging of our population) are expected to increase the demand for hospital services, contributing an additional one percent to the state's cost growth. Taken altogether, these factors forecast a rate of growth in hospital and physician costs of about three percent. About 45 percent of spending on physician services in Vermont is included in hospital budgets.

The proposal to pin targets to economic indicators such as GDP comes after the GMCB's first full year of regulating both hospital budgets and health insurance rates. In the first round of hospital budget reviews, the GMCB set an initial cap of 3.75 percent growth. The final approved 2013 budgets included a total increase of 5.1 percent after the Board allowed certain "exemptions" for hospital spending to fulfill state or federal mandates, or investments in health reform. Under the new proposal, the Board would allow no exemptions to the 3.1 percent target.

The GMCB encourages comments on the concept of pinning spending targets to key economic indicators and on the specific proposal regarding hospital budgets. Comment will be accepted until 11 a.m. on January 9, when the GMCB will take up the issue at its 2 p.m. meeting. All Board meetings are open to the public. More information, including the motion approved by the GMCB at yesterday's meeting and a link to the online comment form is available at www.gmcboard.vermont.gov/publiccomments

###

*Vermont's Health Reform law, Act 48, charges **The Green Mountain Care Board** (GMCB) with controlling the rate of growth in health care costs and improving the health of Vermonters. The GMCB approves hospital budgets, major health care capital investments, health insurer rates, all-payer rates for all providers, minimum health benefit requirements and plans for Vermont's health care workforce and health information technology. The Board encourages Vermonters seeking to share their views to visit the GMCB website (<http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/>) or to call (802) 828-2177.*

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 1:01 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: More concise Education recommendations from LCRCC & GBIC

Elizabeth H. Miller
Cell
Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Francis <dawn@vermont.org>
Date: January 7, 2013, 12:55:22 PM EST
To: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Lawrence" <Lawrence.Miller@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Torti, Tom" <Tom@vermont.org>, "Catherine Z. Davis" <cathy@vermont.org>
Subject: **More concise Education recommendations from LCRCC & GBIC**

Improve outcomes for post-secondary aspiration, continuation, retention and completion.

Public higher education in Vermont is chronically underfunded relative to the rest of the nation. In the near term, additional state investment should be targeted to desired performance: enrollment of Vermonters and successful degree completion.

- Adopt a loan forgiveness program tied to the timely completion of a degree, in which a student or his/her parents are provided with an economic incentive to be staggered over five years which forgives the equivalent of one year's tuition at a four-year public college.
- For students who demonstrate college or career readiness before they would otherwise finish high school, use the state's commitment to their education through age eighteen to support an additional year of learning. This funding might be applied to an apprenticeship, an experience in entrepreneurship, a certificate program, a year in college, an internship, or community service.

These programs can be paid for by setting a state deadline for voluntary consolidation to achieve a target number of supervisory unions and districts (DOE reports they cost over \$30 million per year to support). If the necessary consolidation is not achieved voluntarily, the Legislature should appoint an independent panel to draft a statewide slate of consolidations. Districts and SUs must describe what unique circumstances prevent their reorganization to serve an average of 1,500 students. Grass roots, community-driven consolidation is the healthiest and most viable course. However, reducing the number of SUs and school districts presents an

opportunity to use cost savings to support innovation, improve programs and reduce unnecessary and duplicate spending as well as property taxes.

--

.....

Dawn H. Francis
Government Affairs Director
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce/GBIC
60 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 863 - 3489 X 210 | dawn@vermont.org | www.vermont.org

Learn more about the issues important to us

.....

London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Hoag, Jamie <jhoag@sso.org>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:58 PM
To: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com
Subject: Mayors Against Illegal Guns
Attachments: MAIG Policy Mem_1 3 13_730p.docx

FYI

Jamie Hoag
Director, Office of Federal-State Relations
Office of Governor Deval Patrick
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 208
Washington D.C. 20001
202-624-3617 (office)
202-624-7714 (fax)
617-851-3650 (cell)

--

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:53 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Because I don't know the issue:

The Newport Express is doing a story on the Newport-Wal-Mart announcement next Tuesday. They wanted Gov to call to comment. Should he? And if not, I'll have Lawrence call.

Sue

London, Sarah

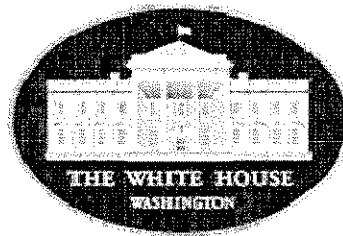
From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Trombley, Shana; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Invitation: Call w/ Vice President Biden on Wednesday
Attachments: image004.gif; image005.gif; image006.gif

He should do this.

From: Ian Walton <walton@DGA.net>
Date: Monday, January 7, 2013 12:29 PM
To: "demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com" <demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com>
Subject: FW: Invitation: Call w/ Vice President Biden on Wednesday

FYI – especially timely given our conversation at Caucus today. Please let me know if your Gov can join

From: James, Jewel [mailto:Jewel_A_James@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:28 PM
Cc: Ryan, Evan
Subject: Invitation: Call w/ Vice President Biden on Wednesday



In the weeks since the tragedy in Newtown, Americans from all over the country have called for action to protect our children and reduce gun violence. President Obama has asked Vice President Biden and the Cabinet to lead the Administration's effort to identify concrete proposals in the coming weeks. As part of that process, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to invite your Governor to join a conference call with the Vice President on **Wednesday, January 9th at 3:15 p.m. EST**. Please see the call-in details below:

WHAT: White House conference call with Governors
WHEN: Wednesday, January 9, 2013
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EST
CALL IN: *I will provide the call-in number and passcode to confirmed governors.*

Please RSVP by EOD Tuesday, January 8th if your Governor plans to join. This invitation is intended for GOVERNORS ONLY. The call is closed press and not for attribution. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thanks!

Jewel James

Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
(office)

Stay connected with the White House:



Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Sign up for White House Updates [here!](#)

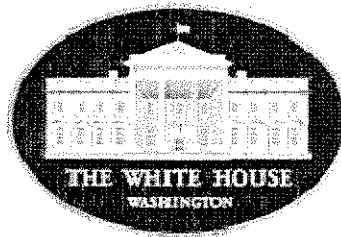
--

London, Sarah

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To: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com
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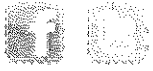
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Thanks!

Jewel James
Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
(office)

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Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Sign up for White House Updates [here!](#)

--

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:28 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: VHSG Rate Filing

I wanted you to be aware of this controversy. And FYI, I spoke with Andrea Cohen this morning. She is also very worried about the rate increase for her members. She wondered -- because she cannot complain to Anya -- who she should officially write to express her concerns. Would Susan Donegan be the best person?

From: Tasha Wallis [<mailto:Tasha@vtretailers.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:11 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: VHSG Rate Filing

Sue,
I understand you spoke with Andrea today regarding our experience with the Green Mountain Care Board. I am following up with the communication string. If you read from the bottom up, you get a pretty good sense of the landscape. Let me know if you have any questions.
Best,

Tasha Wallis
Executive Director
Vermont Retail Association
www.vtretailers.com
1-802-839-1931
C
tasha@vtretailers.com
"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

From: Donofrio, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Donofrio@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:02 PM
To: 'Tasha Wallis'
Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; 'Andrea Cohen'; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; 'Finnie, Kathy'; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy
Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Tasha,
The ex parte issue extends to board members and staff, as I mentioned below. Additionally, I'm not comfortable providing advice about possible recourse, as that puts me in the role of providing legal advice to someone other than my client. I apologize that I can't be more helpful and directly engage on your substantive questions at this time. We'd be glad to meet on or after January 10 to discuss your concerns and how to address them in the future.
Thanks,
Mike

From: Tasha Wallis [<mailto:Tasha@vtretailers.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 12:39 PM
To: Donofrio, Michael

Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; 'Andrea Cohen'; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; 'Finnie, Kathy'; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy
Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Mike,
Thank you for the email. I removed Anya from this list so there wouldn't be any ex parte. I am still quite concerned about the Board's decision and the increased rates our members will see. I can assure you that if we had any inkling or understanding that there was any chance that the board would actually increase the rates, we would have made a point of attending the meeting.

I am also concerned that the board approved the rates without actually knowing how the trend would affect those rates and without having the actual numbers in front of them.

I understand Anya's point about previous Board decisions. I see that the board required use of trend in the VACE rates, but BCBS and VACE had negotiated a cap so that didn't result in higher rates for VACE.

Also, given BISCHA's testimony that the VHSG rates should be lower, the Board might have made the point about trend but still capped the rates because of possible rate shock to members.

I would really like to better understand if there is any recourse for us in this scenario or if we just have to wait until January 10 to discuss it with Anya.

Thanks so much for your time. Any additional information that you can provide us would be terrific.

Tasha Wallis
Executive Director
Vermont Retail Association
www.vtretailers.com
1-802-839-1931

tasha@vtretailers.com
"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

From: Donofrio, Michael [<mailto:Michael.Donofrio@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:00 AM
To: Wallack, Anya; Tasha Wallis
Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; 'Andrea Cohen'; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; Finnie, Kathy; Lacy, Sam; Henkin, Judy
Subject: RE: VHSG Rate Filing

Hi Tasha and all,
In my standard lawyer-as-wet-blanket role, I want to point out that GMCB members and staff cannot have ex parte discussions (and by that I mean discussions that don't include the parties to the case) about a rate review case while the case is open, including while the appeal period is pending. By statute and rule, the parties (in this case, BCBSVT and the Vermont Office of the Health Care Ombudsman) have 30 calendar days from the date a decision issues in which to appeal that decision to the Vermont Supreme Court. In this case, the decision issued on December 10, 2012. Therefore, Board members and staff cannot discuss the case with you until January 10, 2013, at the earliest.

Let me know if you have any questions about this.

Thanks,
Mike

From: Wallack, Anya
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:12 PM

To: Tasha Wallis

Cc: 'Jim Harrison'; Andrea Cohen; 'Stacey Dumas'; cmagne@vtmd.org; Finnie, Kathy; Lacy, Sam; Donofrio, Michael; Henkin, Judy

Subject: Re: VHSG Rate Filing

Importance: High

Tasha,

I am happy to discuss. I believe the decision to go with the most recent approved trends is consistent with the GMCB's decision in a number of recent rate cases, where, at the request of the carriers, we have updated trends to reflect changes in costs and utilization that have occurred in the time between when rate increases are filed and when they receive final consideration by the GMCB. BCBS has made the case, in recent filings, that trends have been significantly higher in actuality than they predicted when they filed initial rate increase requests.

I would be happy to meet, but I would prefer to do it in person. Sam, could you please try to find a time next week or the week after when I could meet with Tasha? Mike Donofrio and Judy Henkin should be included.

Thanks.

Anya

From: Tasha Wallis <tasha@vtretailers.com>

Organization: Vermont Retailers Association

Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013 5:20 PM

To: Arrowhead <anya.wallack@state.vt.us>

Cc: 'Jim Harrison' <jim@vtgrocers.org>, Andrea Cohen <andreac@vbsr.org>, 'Stacey Dumas'

<staceyd@benefitsolutionsllcs.com>, "cmagne@vtmd.org" <cmagne@vtmd.org>, "Finnie, Kathy" <kathy@vtvets.org>

Subject: VHSG Rate Filing

Anya,

I have a call in to you and hope to hear back from you soon. We recently found out from Blue Cross that the GMC Board's approval of the VHSG PPO rates (I am president of the VHSG board) included the requirement that Blue Cross use most recent trend and recalculate the rates. The recalculation has resulted in rates an average of 3.2% higher than those that were filed. This is a challenge for us and our members. It is common practice to go to market with the rates that are filed, so our customers can at least get a general sense of what rates will be. Rates are sometimes approved very late in the year so we need to show them something.

We haven't been hugely comfortable with going to market with unapproved rates, but it has been general practice among associations. The understanding has always been that the rates will be what are filed, or regulators will lower the filed rates and customers will get a nice surprise. This is the first case we are aware of, where the regulatory body has increased the filed rates.

We are very concerned about the reaction of our members to this new increase. It is very late in the year, actually it is a new year, to be notifying them of such an increase. I wanted to give you a heads up about this development as some people will, no doubt, be unhappy. I can't say we are too thrilled ourselves.

It would be great to understand how this came about and if there is anything we can do going forward. Thanks in advance for your help and guidance on this important issue.

Just to refresh your memory, VHSG includes

The Vermont Retail Association

The Vermont Grocers Association

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility

The Vermont Medical Society

Vermont Women Business Owners

Vermont Veterinarians

Very best and Happy New Year

Tasha Wallis

Executive Director

Vermont Retail Association

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1-802-839-1931

tasha@vtretailers.com

"The Voice of Vermont Retailers"

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 12:05 PM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Re: iPad
Attachments: image001.gif

I'm here today and every day this week except Friday. My personal account number is: i

From: <Carrier>, Janis <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>
Date: Monday, January 7, 2013 12:03 PM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Clasen, Michael" <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: iPad

Bill,
When will you be in next? Please tell me what your personal AT&T account # is and I can have our account rep move over the monthly charges.

Yes I will submit a workorder for Dale to scrub it.

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: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 11:21 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Carrier, Janis
Subject: RE: iPad

Write a personal check to Vermont Surplus Property for \$400.

Janis you will need to complete a form similar to the one for the stand up workstation. Also you will need to check with Dale to determine what DII needs to do with the iPad with respect to scrubbing it for VT State Government data—they have a specific protocol they have to follow.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 11:08 AM
To: Clasen, Michael
Cc: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Re: iPad

\$400 is reasonable, I'll take it. Can I get that deducted out of my paycheck or should I write a check?

Janis, I'll also need to transfer the monthly cost to my current account.

From: <Clasen>, Michael <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>

Date: Thursday, January 3, 2013 8:53 AM

To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>

Subject: FW: iPad

Bill,

See below. I checked out Apple and a new Ipad 2 Wi-Fi 3 G 16 GB is selling for \$529.

Let me know.

Michael

From: Lamos, Terry

Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:28 AM

To: Clasen, Michael

Subject: RE: iPad

I am assuming this item is still in excellent condition and would suggest a price of \$400.00. Thanks

Teresa Lamos

BGS - Government Business Services

Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property

438 US Route 2

Waterbury VT 05671-4210

Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386

terry.lamos@state.vt.us

From: Clasen, Michael

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:12 PM

To: Lamos, Terry

Subject: RE: iPad

See yellow highlight below.

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Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:11 PM

To: Clasen, Michael

Subject: RE: iPad

I will need to know what the state paid for it as sometimes we pay less (via contract or P/O) than the usual list price. Looks like this item lists for around \$529.99 and ebay prices are strong for used units in good condition - ranging from \$350 - \$470.

Per the DII Digital Media and Hardware Disposal - Policy  I will need approval from them to make the sale with applicable memory device(s) in place.

Thanks

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The question is how much would we charge him to allow him to keep it—assuming DII scrubs any relevant state related data.

Thanks.

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: iPad

It was \$629.99 purchased in Feb. 2012.

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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Porter, Louis
Subject: Fwd: NRA questionnaire

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Neal Goswami <ngoswami@benningtonbanner.com>
Date: January 6, 2013 1:12:10 PM EST
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: NRA questionnaire

Hi Sue,

Can you send me the NRA questionnaire the governor completed for the NRA earlier this year?

I will be working this week for a sister paper, the New Haven Register. They are seeking a story about Vermont's gun laws — whether the state will consider any changes and how the state came to have one of the most relaxed set of laws in the nation. I would like to have a few minutes to chat with the governor via phone about the state's laws and the history and culture that helped shape them. I am hoping to file a story tomorrow evening.

Thanks for you help,
Neal

Neal P. Goswami
Staff Writer
ngoswami@benningtonbanner.com
(802)-447-7567 ext 119

London, Sarah

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Cc: Carrier, Janis
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Attachments: image001.gif

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London, Sarah

From: Obuchowski, Mike
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 10:47 AM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: Dedication tomorrow - Rep. Emmons

From: Cadorette, Wendy
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Kuhn, Mike
Cc: Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda
Subject: Dedication tomorrow - Rep. Emmons

Mike – as we discussed, Rep. Emmons has called and cannot be at tomorrow's dedication however she has contacted Rep. Mary Hooper; she has agreed to speak on Alice's behalf.

Wendy

Wendy L. Cadorette | Department of Buildings & General Services
Office of the Commissioner | Executive Assistant
2 Governor Aiken Avenue | Montpelier, VT 05633-5801
ph: 802.828.3519 | fax: 802.828.3533

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 10:39 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Allen, Susan; Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: morning social media

I'm good w the content but seems like a really heavy schedule.

On Jan 7, 2013, at 10:36 AM, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us> wrote:

Twitter – January 7, 2013

11:00 am Happening now: Gov. Shumlin is holding a press conference at his Pavilion office in #Montp.

11:05 am The Governor has called for changes in the way courts handle drunk driving cases & changes to corrections education.

11:15 am Windsor County State's Attorney Robert Sand will join the Department of Public Safety to help develop effective sentencing practices.

11:20 am Gov. Shumlin has called for DUI treatment dockets to help impaired drivers overcome addiction through close judicial monitoring of treatment.

11:25 am Other states that have developed treatment courts save between \$2 to \$4 for every dollar spent to support these courts.

11:30 am "It's imperative that we keep drunk drivers off VT's roads, but locking them in jail cells isn't always the best way to deal with these cases"

11:35 am Gov. Shumlin also proposed consolidating Community HS of VT & VT Correctional Industries under the umbrella of Corrections Education.

11:35 am CHSVT and VCI will redesign the offerings and work experiences to meet the various needs of the inmate populations.

11:40 am Each year, approx. 2,000 people access the services of the Community HS of VT and VT Correctional Industries.

11:45 am On a yearly basis, CHSVT graduates approximately 125 students and issues 300 Industry Certifications.

11:50 am Correctional education efforts will include workforce development, independent living, and post-secondary planning.

Facebook – January 7, 2013

3:30 pm quote graphic: "It's imperative that we keep drunk drivers off Vermont's roads, but locking them in jail cells isn't always the best way to deal with these complex cases."

8:45 pm Today, Governor Shumlin unveiled a proposal to reduce recidivism through the consolidation of the successful Community High School of Vermont and Vermont Correctional Industries programs under the umbrella of Corrections Education. Education reform efforts will include greater emphasis on workforce development, independent living, and post-secondary planning -- all necessary for successful transition from the facilities into the community.

6:30 am Photo of the day: yesterday, Governor Shumlin spoke at the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Northern Vermont Annual Membership Meeting in Burlington.

Leigh Appleby

Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin

109 State Street, Pavilion

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: (802)828-3333

Fax: (802)828-3339

Cell: (802)279-6825

leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 10:37 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: morning social media

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From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 10:08 AM
To: Johnson, Harriet; Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Reardon, Jim; Zeller, Susan; Reid, Martha; Obuchowski, Mike; 08 David Brotzman (VCGI); Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Dindo, Charlene; Miller, Janet; 10 Luke Martland (Leg Council); 11 Stephen Klein (Leg Fiscal Officer); Brooks, Francis; Juhasz, Joe; Salmon, Tom; Pearce, Beth; Wisloski, Stephen; Noonan, Tim; Smith, Gregory; 19 Bill Griffin (AG); Sorrell, Willaim; 19 Susanne Young (AG); 20 Willa Farrell (Court Diversion); Valerio, Matthew; Greemore, Bob; Bernardini, Barbara; Flynn, Keith; Pigeon, George; 25 Thomas Drew (Military); 26 Judy Rex (CCVS); Provost, David; Donegan, Susan; Candon, Tom; 30 Brian Leven (SOS); 30 Jim Condos (SOS); Recchia, Chris; 31 Sarah Hofmann (PSD); Volz, James; Appel, Robert; Hogan, Mike; 38 Barbara Cimaglio (Health); Chen, Harry; Moulton, Mary; Yacovone, Dave; Cohen, Jeff; Murphy, Reeve; Donahue, Shaun; George, Camille; Pallito, Andy; Menard, Lisa; 44 Cary Brown (Com on Women); 45 Guy Isabelle (RSVP); Noonan, Annie; Fischer, John; 48 Alberto Citarella (UVM); 48 Clarence Davis (UVM); 48 Richard Cate (UVM); 49 Tim Donovan (VT State Colleges); 50 Tara Lidstone (VT Interactive TV); 51 Donald Vickers (VSAC); 51 Tom Little (VSAC); Johnson, Justin; Royar, Kim; Berry, Patrick; Snyder, Michael; Mears, David; Borie, Lou; Shems, Ron; Miller, Lawrence; MoultonPowden, Pat; Aldrich, Alex; 62 Alan Jordan (VSO); 64 Gus Seelig (VHCB); 65 Peter Gilbert (VTHum); 67 Howard Deal (DMV); Ide, Robert; Zicconi, John; Maheras, Georgia; 70 Ann Curran (VPT); 70 John King (VPT); Pope, Aimee; Ferland, Brad; Byrne, Emily; Aronowitz, Jason; Trautz, Otto; Hartrich, Toni; Beatty, David; Boes, Richard; Bothfeld, Diane; Collins, Lori; Cook, Steven; Doian, Tracy; Duffy, Kate; Gabel, Patricia; Gauthier, Richard; Hetzel, Christine; Hollar, Jennifer; Hudson, Mark; Jackson, Melissa; Kukenberger, Bradley; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Mackay, Noelle; Markowitz, Deb; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Peterson, Mary; Racine, Doug; Riven, Matt; Ross, Chuck; Scott, Phil; Searles, Brian; Smith, Megan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Tucker, David; Vilaseca, Armando; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wehry, Susan; Wood, John; Rousseau, Paul; 02 Ruthann Sullivan (DII); Morse, Linda; Schwartz, Harold; Blaisdell, Terri; Pinard, Jason; Harris, Joe; 08 Linda Ladd (VCGI); Carrier, Janis; Lavery, Nathan; Goss, Duncan; Metivier, Krista; Grassmann, Felix; Booth, John; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Cassani, Mary; Ford, Diane; Evans, Lora; Harrison, Carol; Mongeon, Jim; Pellerin, Jacinthe; Chadwick, Joanne; Hallenbeck, Richard; Hutchins, Judi; Tornatore, Rita; Williams, Gail; Gauthier, Richard; Hodgdon, Marcey; 29 David Cameron (DFR); Daley, Paul; Behrns, Ronald; Rockcastle, Sheri; Chamberlin, Brenda; 33 Trish Grant (E-911 Board); Duke, Heather; Brown, Christine L.; Giffin, Jim; O'Connell, Kevin; Alligood, Mary Ann; Donahey, Richard; 36 Shirley Dow (AHS); 36 Suzanne Santarcangelo (AHS); Hathaway, Carrie; Cummings, Diane; Mall, James; Clark, Leo; Thompson, Shannon; Hall, Heidi; Cohen, David; Kelly, Bill; Clark, Sarah; Aubin, Lori-Ann; 44 Janet Bullard (Commission on Women); Wawrzyniak, Chad; Talbott, Bill; Flanagan, Kathy; 48 Karen Meyer (UVM); 49 T. Robbins (VSC); 50 Tara Lidstone (VTC); Berry, Brenda; Chadwick, Steve; Yacono, Sher; Pallito, Joanna; Wheeler, Denise; Thayer-Gosselin, Kathy; Clark, Claudia; Macaskill, Lucie; George, Julie; 61 Elaine Dufresne (Arts Council); Carbo, Kelly; Duffy, Anne; 65 Linda Winter (Humanities Council); LeBlanc, Leonard; Cayia, Lori; Cross, Phil; Bordeaux, Renea; Neveau, Carmen; Kukenberger, Bradley; Beatty, David; Riven, Matt; Gonyea, John; Jones, Adrienne; Mullins, Jeri; O'Toole, Dawn; Stevens, JoAnn; Tauscher, David
Subject: Important UPDATED Memo from Commissioner Reardon re: Payroll Federal Tax Rates
Attachments: Jan7 2013 Payroll FedRates.pdf

Please find the attached updated memo from Finance Commissioner Reardon regarding correction of the payroll federal tax rates.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:56 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: ADVISORY -- MAYOR MIRO WEINBERGER: Weinberger to Announce Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment Action Plan

Just FYI, no need to respond.

From: Mike Kanarick [mailto:mike@burlingtonvt.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:13 AM
To: Mayor's Office
Subject: ADVISORY -- MAYOR MIRO WEINBERGER: Weinberger to Announce Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment Action Plan

OFFICE OF MAYOR MIRO WEINBERGER
City Hall | Burlington, VT 05401 | [802.865.7272](tel:802.865.7272)

ADVISORY

January 7, 2013
Contact: Mike Kanarick
802.735.7962

**Mayor Miro Weinberger to Announce Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment
Action Plan**

Burlington, VT – Mayor Miro Weinberger will announce the creation of the Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment Action Plan.

WHAT: Press conference to announce creation of the Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment Action Plan

WHEN: *Today, Monday, January 7, 2013 @ 1pm*

WHERE: Water filter room, Francis J. O'Brien Water Treatment Building (between Coast Guard and Moran)

#

Mike Kanarick
Assistant to the Mayor
Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger
City Hall | 149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802.865.7275 (desk)
802.735.7962 (cell)
mike@burlingtonvt.gov

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:34 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7 (FINAL):

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Frozen in time

Town agrees to buy hydro power credits

ZEKE WRIGHT

Staff Writer

BENNINGTON — With slight revisions not expected to complicate matters, Bennington town officials approved a net metering agreement to buy credits from a future local renewable energy source. The agreement doesn't have a financial implication one way or the other; rather, it's more a statement of support for the effort already underway at the former Vermont Tissue Paper site in North Bennington, which will soon be producing power under the name Carbon Zero, LLC.

"It's essentially a passthrough," Zoning Administrator Dan Monks told Select Board members Saturday. With the board's conditional approval, the town became a member of the hydroelectric project's "net metering group."

The group is one method of producing hydro power under state law, according to project developer William Scully, who bought the former mill property with his wife, Maria, for hydro development purposes in 2009. Other stakeholders already signed on for local juice include Powers Market and Allegro Restaurant, and also Pangaea Restaurant, the North Bennington eatery owned and operated by Scully.

Local municipalities and businesses are being targeted for the group, and offers have gone out to Bennington College and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. Scully said he would be meeting with North Bennington village officials this Tuesday, and he likened the resulting group to an "energy co-op."

"(We're) trying to take an old site that wasn't really doing anything," Scully said, "try to bring the building back ... as an occupied space (and) come up with a renewable energy source."

The existing dam (there are actually two) at the Paper Mill Village Covered Bridge hasn't produced power since 1958, but Scully said by telephone Sunday that work could start soon to get the project operational by late summer to early fall. A comment period for a federal license ends Jan. 17.

The project will use a 360kilowatt capacity generator, resulting in estimated annual power production of 1.454 gigawatts given river flow.

Because of the site's unique river channels, the future hydro project is being designed to improve water quality and fish habitat. "We sat down with ... (various permitting agencies and) Vermont Fish & Wildlife, and we asked: 'What do you want?'" Scully said the hope was to serve as a model for future hydro projects, which can often face opposition on environmental grounds. "It's going to (create) stronger fisheries," he said, through work to a new permanent reach for fish.

An earlier agreement with the town of Bennington will also allow public safety officials to open a flood gate as a safety measure in a state of emergency. (Carbon Zero would never have that authority itself.) The property was previously

designated a Brownfields site because of industrial pollutants including dioxin and PCBs, which have since been cleaned up to residential standards, allowing the former mill building to someday be converted into dual industrial/residential use.

Scully said hydro was the sole renewable power source not subsidized under Vermont state law. "We don't make our own energy" in Vermont, he said. "I just think it's time we started making our own energy."

Analyst says it's 'Unlikely' Entergy will continue Vermont Yankee

BOB AUDETTE

Brattleboro Reformer

BRATTLEBORO — An equity analyst at UBS Investment Bank has concluded it may not be in Entergy's best financial interests to continue to operate its Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.

"It looks increasingly unlikely that they would opt to do so," said Julien Dumoulin-Smith.

The white paper issued by UBS is meant to advise its customers prior to making investment decisions, he said, adding Entergy stock has been given a "neutral rating" by UBS.

He was quick to add that he is not privy to all the information Entergy might have at its fingertips when making decisions on what actions would best benefit its bottom line.

Nonetheless, said Dumoulin-Smith, his reading of documents such as Entergy's quarterly reports, lead him to conclude that Entergy's market nuclear power plants — such as Ya n k e e — are unlikely to generate "any meaningful cash in '13/'14, with cash deficits projected for '15/'16" following the expiration of purchase price agreements negotiated prior to the recent boom in natural gas production.

Rob Williams, a spokesman for Yankee, said he had no comment on the contents of the report.

"Our nuclear units are important sources of clean, reliable power, and we remain fully focused on the safe operation of our plants today and into the future," said Williams. "As a matter of policy, Entergy does not comment on the financial performance of individual plants."

Dumoulin-Smith focuses on utility stocks and issues reports on whether or not UBS' customers should consider buying, selling or reducing their stake in certain companies.

"We track issues with Vermont Yankee, looking at what is the financial value of the company, what it makes," he said. "If you aggregate across various business segments for Entergy, Vermont Yankee is a very small piece."

Entergy's merchant plants, those that sell directly to market and are not regulated by a state utilities commission, are a particular sticking point for Entergy's profitability, said Dumoulin-Smith.

"How profitable is the nuclear segment? It's not very. Entergy's nuclear portfolio doesn't generate a lot of cash."

Along with Yankee, Entergy's other merchant plants include Fitzpatrick and Indian Point in New York, Pilgrim in Massachusetts, and Palisades in Michigan.

"There are certain plants that don't seem to generate much of anything by way of cash," said Dumoulin-Smith.

"Notably, we believe both its NY Fitzpatrick and Vermont Yankee plants are at risk of retirement given their small size," stated the report.

Dumoulin-Smith said that Entergy will most likely continue to pursue the continued operation of Indian Point, just north of New York City in the Hudson Valley, because of its access to the lucrative power market of the metropolitan area.

"Power prices are higher in more congested areas," he said.

The New England market, however, of which Yankee is a part through its affiliation with ISO New England, is not a particularly constrained market, said Dumoulin-Smith, meaning the 2 percent Yankee contributes to the grid could be replaced from an alternate source rather easily.

Dumoulin-Smith was also quick to note that even though there has been a lot of talk about the natural gas renaissance, one major factor may contribute to Entergy's decision to keep Yankee open.

"New England has a lot of gas capacity on paper, but does it have enough pipeline and infrastructure to meet the increased demand? There's not an obvious answer anymore. That may ultimately become a limiting item for future plant retirements of any sort in New England."

There is also the question of whether ISO New England, which, according to its website oversees and ensures "the fair administration of the region's wholesale electricity markets," would even allow Entergy to close Yankee.

"If push came to shove, would ISO New England let Vermont Yankee retire with the uncertainty over gas supply?" asked Dumoulin-Smith.

Another factor Entergy will be considering is legislation that was passed last year in the Vermont Statehouse that increased the revenue generation tax that Entergy pays from \$5 million to \$12.5 million a year. Entergy has filed a federal lawsuit against the state contending the state is violating the U.S. Constitution.

"If this plant is breaking even, a new tax will decisively make it unprofitable," said Dumoulin-Smith, who said he believes the legislation was crafted to force Entergy to close Yankee. "It's a tax that is unpalatable."

What could keep Entergy from shuttering the plant is liability costs related to the decommissioning of the plant, he said, and whether it would have to immediately begin cleaning up the site upon closure or if it could mothball Yankee until the decommissioning fund accrues enough cash to get the job done.

"If push came to shove, would ISO New England let Vermont Yankee retire with the uncertainty over gas supply?" asked Dumoulin-Smith.

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: Youth in Corrections

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

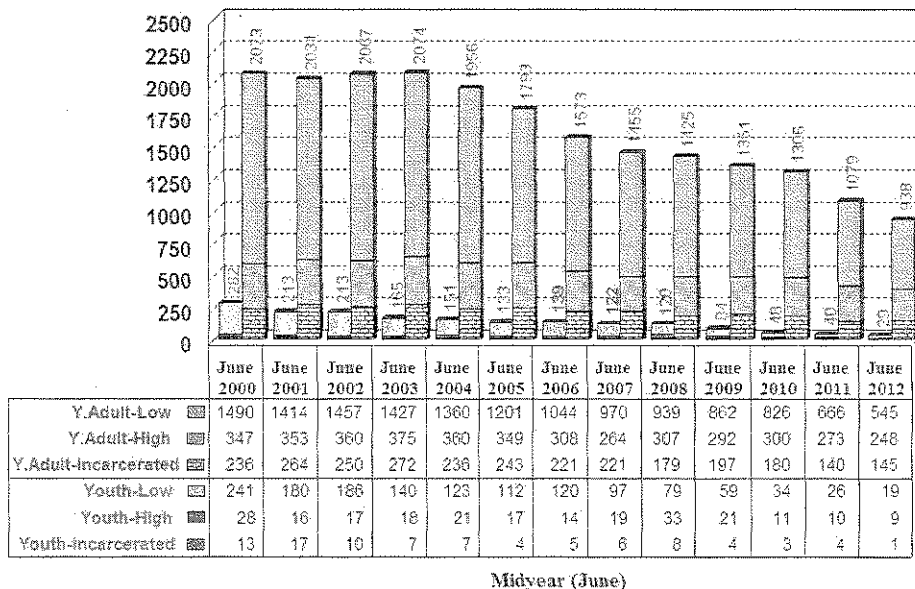
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pallito, Andy" <Andy.Pallito@state.vt.us>
Subject: Youth in Corrections
Date: January 3, 2013 8:00:37 AM EST
To: "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "Porter, Louis" <Louis.Porter@state.vt.us>

Here is the data that I referred to yesterday.

Youth & Young Adults in Corrections

Youth (under 18) & Young Adults (18-21)



Source: VTDOC Snapshot database, June 30ths. A person was only counted once in the most restrictive placement (i.e. "Incarcerated" over "High field supervision" over "Low field supervision").

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:29 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

Law enforcement groups hesitant on marijuana, driver's license bills

The associations representing the Vermont police chiefs and the state sheriffs both hope legislators do not rush into decriminalizing marijuana or issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants without hearing about the possible negative aspects .

MIKE DONOGHUE

The associations representing the Vermont police chiefs and the state sheriffs both hope legislators do not rush into decriminalizing marijuana or issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants without hearing from law enforcement about the possible negative aspects to both proposals.

"We want to make our position clear, as law enforcement officers serving the citizens of the state of Vermont, we do not support these legislative actions," the joint letter signed by Brandon Police Chief Chris Brickell and Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark states.

"We have historically not supported legislation that based on our experience, education, and training puts the lives and safety of Vermonters at risk," the two association presidents wrote.

With the Legislature not convened or any testimony scheduled, Brickell and Clark wrote that they were miffed to read media reports and statements from legislators indicating the two bills are likely to pass this year. The Legislature opens Wednesday.

"We have a number of talking points that we would be glad to talk about. We are tired of hearing reports about what is going to pass and they have not yet met. There has been no reach out to law enforcement," Brickell told the Burlington Free Press.

The chief said he expects the two issues will be among the main topics when the police chiefs and state sheriffs have their annual legislative luncheon with House and Senate members on Jan. 16 in Montpelier. He said police also are available to testify before the appropriate committees or meet with legislators individually.

"These are issues we believe will have significant and negative impacts on public safety and the citizens we serve," the presidents wrote.

The Vermont Legislature declined to take action on the marijuana issue last year, partly because House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, opposed it. Smith has said he will consider allowing discussion this year and Gov. Peter Shumlin has said he favors possession of a small amount of marijuana being a civil offense like a traffic ticket instead of a criminal charge.

(Page 2 of 3)

The letter from the two presidents notes decriminalization of marijuana will lead to increased use by Vermont teens, a group rated among the highest users in the country based on a Vermont Health Department report.

Clark and Brickell said they are worried the proposed driver's licenses for undocumented migrant workers would create a legal form of identification for persons illegally in this country.

"Providing a license that is accepted as proof of identification without proper supporting documentation is a dangerous step backwards for homeland security and the citizens of Vermont," the letter said.

"Driving is a privilege in Vermont, not a right. To cheapen the standard of our operator's license would create public safety issues," they said.

Supporters of immigrant farm workers that are in the country illegally say it is essential for them to have proper identification and to have a license so they can drive. A state committee has been studying the issue this summer to determine if Vermont will become the fourth state to grant a driver's license for those here illegally.

"We should be having open dialogue about the wide ranging impacts these changes will have on the citizens of Vermont. From our perspective it appears these bills are being introduced to appease vocal special interest groups and do not take into account the need to keep all Vermonters safe," Brickell and Clark wrote.

Brickell heads an association representing the interests of more than 50 municipal police forces scattered throughout the state from one-member departments up to Burlington with an authorized strength of 100 officers.

Clark, who could not be reached for comment, heads an association for the 14 county sheriffs.

One of the biggest arguments supporters for decriminalization claim is: "We don't want to ruin their chances for going to college" for a first-time offense for simple possession, Brickell told the Free Press. But that's not always true.

Brickell said some legislators may not understand that people charged in criminal court with possession of a small amount of marijuana often have been caught previously and received a free pass through the state's Court Diversion program and/or local reparative justice boards. Police officers also sometimes opt not to press forward on a case with a tiny amount of marijuana and instead they have the person scatter the joint or small amount along the roadside, Brickell said.

(Page 3 of 3)

The chief, a 28-year police veteran, also noted that prosecution for possession of small amounts of marijuana is often not the primary offense in a court case. The charge is often included as a secondary offense, like when officers stop a motorist for drunken driving or some other criminal act and the marijuana is in plain view.

He said some talking points used by pro-marijuana supporters are misleading or not based on reality. He said in reality nobody is sent to jail in Vermont just for simple possession of a tiny amount of marijuana.

Brickell said the chiefs also have a serious concern about being able to properly test drivers operating motor vehicles after smoking marijuana.

"It will also lead to more impaired drivers on our highways, in a state that already suffers from impaired drivers and prescription medication abuse. Unlike alcohol, science has not yet determined a presumptive level for marijuana nor has it developed a roadside testing procedure," they wrote.

They noted that besides the detrimental health related issues and highway safety concerns, marijuana is still an illegal substance under federal law.

In the end, law enforcement will enforce any new laws.

"Whatever they decide to pass we will enforce," Brickell said.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

And will this wind be so mighty as to lay low the mountains of the earth?

by: jvwalt

Mon Jan 07, 2013 at 03:01:06 AM EST

The title is an homage to a classic "Beyond the Fringe" skit, which is not only fall-down funny, it's also a pretty good depiction of your typical anti-wind demo.

Something's been bugging me for quite a while now, but it hadn't quite crystallized until I read the following paragraph a few days ago in a VTDigger story about a three-year moratorium on new utility-scale wind projects in Vermont, proposed by Senators Joe Benning and Bob Hartwell:

The proposal comes one year after the Senate shot down a similar draft legislation Benning sponsored, which called for a two-year moratorium on projects 2.2 megawatts or greater. Since then, opposition to wind projects has grown, with a Montpelier demonstration in autumn drawing nearly 200 protestors.

The key phrase: "Since then, opposition to wind projects has grown."

Really?

By what objective measure? What facts, what pattern supports that conclusion?

The only proof cited is a single demonstration that drew "nearly 200." Is that really sufficient proof of the assertion? Seems pretty damn thin to me, even if VTDigger did wrongly choose to characterize that gathering as a "throng."

I see no evidence of an anti-wind groundswell. What I see is a small group of very determined activists who've leveraged a great deal of media coverage. Let's look at the available data.

jwalt :: And will this wind be so mighty as to lay low the mountains of the earth?

In May of 2012, a Castleton Polling Institute survey showed 70% support for wind power, 17% opposition, and 13% not sure.

During the 2012 campaign, Governor Shumlin made no secret of his support for wind energy. Randy Brock tried to capitalize on anti-wind sentiment, while anti-wind activist Annette Smith launched an ill-fated campaign for Governor -- first as a Prog, then as a write-in. But in spite of Digger's claim of growing opposition, the anti-wind crowd had no discernible effect on the November election. Smith drew no more than a few hundred votes, and Shumlin sailed to an easy victory.

It was, to return to that Beyond the Fringe skit, "not quite the conflagration we were banking on."

None of this proves that anti-wind sentiment has stayed pretty much the same -- a concern of a small minority -- but it certainly runs counter to VTDigger's assertion that opposition to wind power is on the rise.

I've been an observer of politics since the late 1960s, and I have never, ever seen a protest movement get so much coverage out of such small crowds. The notorious "throng" of 200 was, by far, the largest anti-wind gathering in Vermont. The others have attracted somewhere between a handful and a few dozen.

And every single one of them has attracted generous media coverage. As has every permit filing, every groundbreaking, every complaint of excessive noise or other alleged problems, every court case or threatened lawsuit, and (most absurd of all) every transportation of turbine parts toward construction sites.

So why has the media given so much coverage to such a small movement? I have a few theories.

-- Many of the protests are picturesque. A demonstration on a mountain or in the forest makes pretty pictures and good video for the 6:00 news. Much better than the same number of people carrying signs in front of the Statehouse (yawn).

-- There's something Vermonty about the whole thing. Salts of the earth, sons of the Green Mountains, garbed in flannel, fleece, or down, seeking to preserve smallness against the assault of the Big. It speaks to some of our most cherished myths about ourselves and our state.

Yes, I said "myths."

-- Some reporters are favorably inclined to the anti-wind cause. I've heard this, off the record, from some media folks. It's sometimes fairly obvious in their coverage ("throng," indeed). And I'm sure the ill-advised prosecution of Chris Braithwaite didn't exactly endear wind developers to the state's journalists.

-- Some media outlets tilt to the right, and the right tends to be anti-wind. Not because they're environmentalists, but because (1) they're pro-business and anti-climate change, (2) a lot of rich people own rural property and don't want turbines messing up their views, and (3) they'll use any handy issue to slam the Shumlin Administration.

-- Monkey see, monkey do. If some media outlets are covering anti-wind protests, then others will follow. And actually, that's the only objectively provable momentum in the anti-wind movement: the year 2012 saw an increase in coverage of anti-wind protests.

It also didn't help that most Vermont environmental groups have treated anti-wind protests as John Kerry did the Swift Boaters in 2004 -- ignoring rather than confronting. I was glad to see several of them (including VPIRG, VNRC, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the Vermont Sierra Club) come out in opposition to the wind moratorium last week, and I wonder where the hell they were all of last year. They should have been out front with their own positions and their own scientific information.

Another thing I'd like to see happen: I'd love it if the media actually examined the anti-wind movement. How many people are really involved? Where do anti-wind organizations like Energize Vermont get their money? They aren't legally required to report their donations, donors, membership numbers, spending or budgets, and they haven't volunteered to do so. Also, it'd be good if some enterprising reporter took a look at the "scientific studies" used by the anti-wind folks. Some anti-wind activists, and some alleged scientists, get their support from the fossil fuel industry.

And one final factor in the media's overestimation of the anti-wind folks: The Comments section. Whenever anyone posts a story about wind energy, there's a flurry of comments -- many of them from the same small number of anti-wind hardliners. Online comments, however, are no reflection whatsoever of a website's overall readership. The vast majority of online readers never post a comment, and most never even read the comments. But when a reporter or a media outlet sees a long string of comments, it tends to affect their thinking. In this case, makes them overestimate the size of the anti-wind movement.

Which is, I say again, small. And only as influential as their outsized reputation allows them to be.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

New faces in '13 as some officials step down By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO — Some of Brattleboro's longest serving elected officials will be stepping down this year as the deadline nears for candidates to get their names on the 2013 Town Meeting Day ballot.

Tim O'Connor, who has been moderator for Brattleboro's town meetings, will not run for re-election in March.

Selectboard Chairman Dick DeGray has also announced that he will not seek another term on the board after serving for seven years.

And Dora Bouboulis, who was first elected to the Selectboard in 2007, said she will not have her name on the ballot when voters go to the polls on March 5.

O'Connor had to miss Representative Town Meeting last year due to health concerns and he said he has been weighing his options. He said he recently decided that he will not seek a 23rd term as Brattleboro's moderator.

"I'm not sure if I am any wiser, but I am older," he said during a recent telephone interview. "I think it's time for the town to get a different perspective. It will be nice to be able to sit on the sidelines and watch."

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 28, to file a petition with at least 30 signatures with the town clerk.

The elections will be held on Tuesday, March 5.

Brattleboro's Annual Representative Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23.

Along with O'Connor's one year moderator seat, there will be three open seats on the Selectboard this year.

And with DeGray and Bouboulis both announcing that they will not run, the Selectboard is sure to get some new faces in 2013. The three-year seat that Bouboulis had is open and there are two, one-year seats also up for grabs this year.

DeGray said last year that he was not going to run but he decided to get his name on to the ballot for one final time to help finish up the wastewater project and also to try to get the policefire stations project approved.

With the wastewater project expected to be completed this year, and the police-fire renovations slated to start in the spring, DeGray said he is ready to step down from serving on the Selectboard.

Voters will also elect two oneyear seats and a three-year seat on the town school board and a three-year seat on the Brattleboro Union High School board.

There will also be elections for first and second constable, a lister and a three-year seat on the Trustees of Public Funds.

Town meeting representatives in all three districts will also be chosen by the voters on March 5.

Chris Chapman's one year seat on the Selectboard is also up for grabs this year.

When reached this weekend Chapman said he is keeping his cards close to the vest, though said he will announce soon his intentions for the coming year.

For Bouboulis it has been an onagain, off-again relationship with the board since first being elected five years ago.

Bouboulis won a one-year seat on the board in 2007 and then lost the next year. She was appointed to the board after former board member Richard Garant resigned in November 2009 and then she won a three-year seat again in 2010.

Bouboulis says she will remain active in town politics and hopes to continue representing Brattleboro on the boards for the Windham Regional Commission and the Windham Solid Waste Management District.

"Five years is a good amount of time," she said. "I've got other projects I will keep working on. I will still continue to stay involved in local politics as a citizen activist."

Hoping for a compromise

Newfane wants independent review of AT&T plan

By MIKE FAHER

Reformer Staff

NEWFANE — In the continuing debate over a proposed cellphone tower, the Newfane Selectboard is looking for more time and hoping for a compromise.

In drafting a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board Thursday, Newfane officials did not ask that the state approve or reject AT&T's tower project in South Newfane.

Instead, officials requested an extension of the Public Service Board's comment period to allow for further, independent review. And they pushed for a solution that will satisfy AT&T and residents while bringing much-needed cell service to the town.

"We are requesting that the PSB ensure that the means of providing this coverage optimally balances (cell-signal) propagation with homeowner concerns," the Selectboard's letter says.

"We are hoping for a solution that will satisfy AT&T's need for a cost-effective solution and the Town of Newfane's need to enhance cell coverage without undue hardship to homeowners."

AT&T in November notified the town of the company's intention to build a 130-foot tower on Oak Hill Road. Company representatives have said they want to provide consistent cell-phone coverage in the Dover Road corridor.

On Thursday, Selectboard members disclosed two new developments: First, AT&T has accepted a recommendation from Windham Regional Commission that the tower be built, as others in the area have, with false pine branches attached to ease aesthetic impacts. Second, officials said AT&T on Dec. 20 submitted its formal tower application to the Public Service Board under the state's Section 248a permitting process. That triggered a 21-day comment period, two-thirds of which already had passed when Selectboard members gathered Thursday evening.

"We're not really in a position to kind of 'wait and see,'" Selectboard Chairman Jon Mack said.

The board's resulting letter makes several points in what Mack dubbed a "balanced" approach to the tower controversy: — The tower, as AT&T has acknowledged, violates height and setback requirements in a town ordinance passed in 2007. While the Selectboard did not say so explicitly in its letter, the company has chosen to bypass the town's ordinance and apply directly to the state.

— Board members noted that "several residents whose property is in close proximity to the proposed location vehemently oppose it" based on concerns about property values, "unpredictable long-term health effects" and "unacceptable levels of noise pollution during generator operation."

— There are concerns that "AT&T has not exercised sufficient due diligence in seeking alternative locations that are not in such close proximity to multiple dwellings," the letter says.

— However, the board also wrote that many residents — including some near the proposed tower location — "have expressed strong support" for the project.

"In addition to convenience and potential business advantages of being able to use cell phones in their homes and cars, they have repeatedly stressed the importance of cell-phone accessibility in an emergency situation," the letter says.

— Selectboard members also noted that the town's conservation commission, after initially voicing concerns about the tower, dropped its objection after a balloon test showed that the structure would not be visible from a lookout on the town trail.

The board's letter concludes with two main requests.

Newfane officials want to "ensure that due consideration" is granted to tower sites situated outside a half-mile radius from the Oak Hill Road property — a perimeter the company had imposed on alternate sites.

The Public Service Board could require AT&T to pay for an independent consultant to examine such possibilities "under the Town of Newfane's supervision," the Selectboard suggests.

Or, the state's consultants could be directed to weigh optimal cell coverage against "minimal neighborhood disruptions," the board wrote.

Additionally, the town wants an extended comment period "to ensure that the Selectboard has time to consider the independent consultant's findings."

The Public Service Board is not required to agree to such an extension or to order additional study of AT&T's tower plan.

Mack said the Selectboard is doing what it can but lacks the authority to exert any stronger influence on the project.

"We are allowed to have input, and that's what we're attempting to provide," he said.

Sheriff lobbies for Newfane tower

By MIKE FAHER

Reformer Staff

NEWFANE — Having made his case to Newfane officials, Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark is taking his push for a new, 150-foot tower directly to town residents.

Clark has launched a public campaign in support of the tower, which would be built by Vermont Telephone Co. Inc. for wireless broadband but also would host the sheriff's emergency-radio equipment.

One way or another, Clark warns, the department needs a new tower at its Newfane Village headquarters. The VTel proposal, he says, makes the most sense and saves taxpayer money.

"We're just trying to put out as much information as we can and keep the discussion going," Clark said.

Springfield-based VTel in December disclosed plans for a 150-foot tower that would stand 18 feet beyond the north wall of the sheriff's office on Jail Street in historic Newfane Village.

It is part of a state-supported and federally funded effort allowing VTel to expand its wireless-broadband network by about 180 sites across Vermont. Governor Peter Shumlin has pledged to spread high-speed Internet access to every home by the end of this year.

The tower, while not presently geared toward cell-phone service, would have room for cellular providers to collocate.

And by hosting the sheriff's radio equipment, it would allow Clark to replace his aging communications tower — an 87-foot structure attached to his office — with a new, taller tower at no cost to the sheriff's department.

"Without the tower, we lose a key piece of our communications with my deputies. Radio communications were integral during our response to Tropical Storm Irene when cell phone circuits were overloaded," Clark wrote in a recent press release.

"This system allows my deputies to communicate with my dispatch; it enables deputies to respond promptly, maintain officer safety and get dangerous drivers off the road," he added. "Without this tower, my dispatch loses the two-way capability of our radio system."

In that same release, Clark asked Newfane residents to "contact their Selectboard representatives to voice their support of the replacement of our tower."

At the Selectboard's Thursday meeting, officials did not say much about the VTel proposal. The company has not yet applied for a permit from the state Public Service Board.

Selectboard Chairman Jon Mack said the potential project touches both the town and the village as well as the county and those who are interested in historic preservation.

"It's a complex issue that involves more than this Selectboard," Mack said, adding that "there's some time to consider this and see what people think."

Clark said he has heard no strong objections to the project.

"I've only received one e-mail against the tower," he said. "I have received a couple phone calls in support of it."

Clark also said he is hoping residents rally behind the VTel plan.

"I really would like to think that the community my office sits in supports my department," he said.

He has posted tower-related documents, including plans and simulated photos, on the sheriff's website: www.windhamsheriff.com. They are available by clicking on the "sheriff's corner" link.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:22 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

VTDIGGER (Con't):

In This State: A banker with a conscience makes his mark safeguarding Vermont's landscape

Editor's note: This week's In This State column is by Tom Slayton, a Montpelier freelance writer and editor emeritus of Vermont Life magazine. In This State is a syndicated weekly column about Vermont's innovators, people, ideas and places. Details are at <http://www.maplecornermedia.com/inthisstate/>.

BURLINGTON – When John Ewing came to Vermont as a young lawyer in 1956, the University of Vermont's back yard was farmland, and the site of the Sheraton Hotel on Williston Road was a dairy farm.

Today, Route 2 in South Burlington is a 5 mile commercial strip, a sprawling array of gas stations, fast food outlets, motels and shops that goes all the way from UVM to the huge complex of big box stores at once rural Taft Corners in Williston.

Much of what drew Ewing to Burlington from northeastern Pennsylvania a half century ago has obviously changed.

Yet much of Vermont's uniqueness – away from the bright lights and traffic jams of South Burlington – survives. And although he has escaped the limelight, on purpose, John Ewing has for decades been a force in preserving the essence of Vermont.

He is, as one acquaintance has said, "a banker with a conscience."

The forces of change are still at work, and Ewing, now 80, is still working to protect the Vermont he fell in love with.

"Vermont is still Vermont," he said in a recent interview. "But there's always going to be a struggle to keep it."

The young attorney John Ewing arrived in that earlier, more rural Chittenden County looking for a job. He quickly found one with a local law firm, and subsequently had a successful career in legal work and banking. From 1972 to 1995, he was general counsel, vice president, secretary, and finally president of the Bank of Vermont.

That would seem to be enough for any man. Yet it is likely that Ewing will be longer remembered for his other career: as an advocate for the Vermont environment.

For more than 40 years he has worked effectively, often in unpaid, volunteer positions for causes ranging from the Vermont Audubon Society to the Vermont Forum on Sprawl (later Smart Growth Vermont), which he founded. There are few aspects of Vermont environmentalism that he has not been involved in.

Last fall that lifetime of environmental activism was recognized when the Vermont Natural Resources Council presented Ewing with the prestigious Art Gibb Award. VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe said, in announcing the award: "John Ewing has helped us all understand the vast social and environmental costs of scattered, low-density development and the need to develop better models for Vermont. He also has an unusual talent for working with a wide variety of people and developing consensus."

Ewing's home sits perched above a sweeping bend of the Winooski River, just downstream from the Winooski Valley Park District, which he helped establish, some 40 years ago.

Burlington's busy North End is not far away. But the river flows quietly along, much as it has for the past few millennia. It's a tranquil, almost rural view.

The Winooski Valley Park District was one of the first projects he worked on, back in the 1960s as attorney for the Vermont Audubon Society. Development was already growing outward from Burlington, suburbanizing the lower Winooski Valley.

Ewing and UVM Prof. Fred Sargent became concerned that several important natural areas along the river would be lost, and began meeting with others who were similarly concerned. Today, the park district manages 16 parks in seven Chittenden County towns. Much of the lower Winooski remains naturally unspoiled.

Ewing was an early supporter of the Vermont Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, working with both Hub Vogelmann, a founder of the Vermont chapter, and Robert Klein, its first and current executive director. He also helped found the Lake Champlain Land Trust, to help conserve environmentally sensitive islands in the lake. He wrote an important section of Act 250 that banned development above 2,500 feet. And he has served on the boards of many environmental organizations – perhaps most loyally, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, of which he was a member and staunch defender for 14 years.

"John is a banker with a conscience," says Klein. "He was always helpful and always right there. He's very modest," Klein adds, "but not at all shy about going after something and making it happen."

During the 1960s and '70s, Ewing's law practice focused on municipal planning and zoning. He began representing several of the towns around Burlington as they developed town plans. "Always," he noted, "with a mind toward some of the conservation elements."

That work gave him knowledge of the development pressures that were shaping towns across Chittenden County. The experience would serve him well later, when, with Elizabeth Humstone, he established the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, which aimed to stem the growth of development in rural areas around Vermont's small cities.

Although the battle to stop sprawl in South Burlington was largely lost, the organization is credited by environmentalists with helping to pass legislation encouraging growth in downtowns instead of open countryside.

"John understood and helped us understand the importance of maintaining the Vermont brand by preserving and enhancing the vitality of Vermont's small cities and villages," says Elizabeth Courtney, former executive director of VNRC. "His understanding of the connection between the economy and the environment, his love for this little state, and his quiet activism are lasting gifts to the Green Mountain State."

Ewing's current concerns? Ridgetop wind towers, a huge development complex planned for the Northeast Kingdom, and his continued crusade to convince Vermont's movers and shakers that the environment and the economy do not have to be at odds, that they are, in fact, complementary.

"I don't think it's jobs against conservation." He said. "You can grow, but in a way that respects the culture and the landscape of Vermont."

The struggle is a reality, and Ewing remains on the front lines.

The latest hot environmental fight in Vermont is probably over industrial-scale wind towers on mountaintops, notably the 21 towers atop the Lowell range.

"I'm really opposed to huge wind towers in Vermont," Ewing said. "Vermont doesn't need them. They're miniscule in terms of solving the problem. Georgia Mountain (in Chittenden County) might be a good site. But the Northeast Kingdom – terrible!"

It was typical of his approach that despite his own strong feelings on the subject, in 2012 he convened a group of environmental leaders from around the state, who called for a state commission to help resolve the issue in a reasoned way. Gov. Peter Shumlin's appointment of a special siting commission, which is now meeting, was a result of the group's work.

"Collaboration instead of fighting is what I prefer," Ewing said.

Despite the immense pressures for change and unplanned development, Ewing is guardedly hopeful about the future of Vermont.

"I don't think it (Vermont) has been lost. But, boy, it's always touch and go," he said, looking out at the snow-covered Winooski River.

"It doesn't take long to fall in love with Vermont," he added. "Everything I've done since my earliest years here has been motivated by the fact that I just love this state."

State paid \$2.4 million for psychiatric hospital site in Berlin

Anne Galloway

The state paid \$2.4 million for the 6.5 acre site for the new Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center in Berlin.

The town of Berlin valued the Fisher Road properties, which are owned by members of the Lague family, at about \$1 million in 2008 at the height of the pre-recession real estate market. The Lagues made \$2.1 million total on 5.7 acres and two houses; the deal, which includes four parcels, was finalized in December. The purchase is included in the total cost of the \$28 million Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center.

The state also purchased two houses and 0.75 acres owned by Peter and Gaila Rossiter for about \$300,000.

The 25-bed care center will be part of the replacement system for the Vermont State Hospital at the Waterbury State Office Complex, which was damaged in August 2011 by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Irene. Last year the Legislature and the Shumlin administration put a plan for a regionalized, 48-bed mental health care system in place. The Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center in Berlin is the lynchpin of the new decentralized system. The 47,400 square foot project is on a fast-track construction schedule that will begin this year with an estimated completion date in 2014. Mental health experts and state officials are operating under some urgency as the state does not have enough treatment options for patients with severe psychiatric conditions.

State officials — lawmakers and members of the Shumlin administration — made it known when they drafted Act 79 (the enabling legislation for the new system) a year ago that they wanted a location adjacent to the Central Vermont Medical Center. The hospital also had a keen interest in the Lague properties, and held an option to purchase one of the Lague parcels.

These two factors put the state in a weak bargaining position, according to Jeff Lively, general counsel for the Department of Buildings and General Services. Lively responded to a public records request for documents associated with the sale.

"You have to know much of this was publicly out there and having the mental health facility next to the hospital was all part of the legislative discussion," Lively said. "It

doesn't put the state in best negotiating position. It's really tough when the executive branch or the Legislature gets out in front."

As part of the agreement, the Lagues must vacate the two houses immediately. That also put the properties at a premium, Lively said.

"The reality is, there are very, very few sites co-located next to a hospital," he added.

Larry Cassidy, a special assistant to the Shumlin administration who handled the negotiations, did not respond to calls for comment. Cassidy, a personal friend of the governor's and the proprietor of Bast Investment Co., a real estate investment firm, also helped the state obtain leases for office space after Irene.

Members of the Lague family — Henry Lague III and Henry Lague, Jr. — did not respond to requests for comment.

The average \$368,000 per acre pricetag is not out of the ballpark for commercial property, according to Tim Heney, principal broker at Heney Realtors. He described the Lague properties as a superior location.

"It's not out of line," Heney said. Similar properties in the Central Vermont area have recently sold for about \$400,000 an acre, he said. "That's a big piece of land in that kind of location with water, power and phone lines up on the hill. It's developed and all those things are there."

Gov. Peter Shumlin and members of his administration will dedicate the site at a ceremony at 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

The nickel in play this legislative session

Prospect of 5-cent increase in property tax rate among legislative challenges

NANCY REMSEN

The prospect of a nickel increase in the school property tax rate — for residents, businesses and vacation homeowners — is sure to rattle lawmakers this winter.

They are always sensitive to the burden the property tax places on Vermonters and businesses, but will likely be especially attentive this year as the state continues to struggle to emerge from the recent recession.

State Tax Commissioner Mary Peterson advised legislative leaders in December that based on the statewide growth projected for school spending — an average 4.8 percent — the base tax rates for all properties would have to jump by a nickel per \$100,000 of assessed value.

A nickel increase on a home valued at \$250,000 would add \$125 to next year's tax bill.

The Legislature could do something about this looming increase — if the state treasury overflowed with extra cash — by upping the amount of non-property tax dollars it transfers to the Education Fund from the planned amount of \$288.9 million.

"There will likely be pressure," House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, acknowledged. "We certainly don't have a lot of money to do that, and my view is we are spending enough per pupil."

"The governor and the Legislature have recognized there is pressure out there, but we don't have additional funds," Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding said. "We have to live within our means."

The governor wrote education officials in November urging them to hold school budget increases to the rate of inflation — 2.2 percent — to lessen the likely increase in the tax rate.

Washington West Supervisory Union offers a window into why many school boards are finding it difficult to tighten their budget belts for yet another year.

The draft budgets for the seven schools in Washington West propose spending increases ranging from 2.2 to 8.2 percent academic next year, according to Michelle Baker, director of finance and operations.

"Every school in our district has a different story," Baker said. Thatcher Brook Elementary in Waterbury, for example, had to hire a new kindergarten teacher because of the unexpectedly high number of young children who enrolled this fall, a cost that will ripple forward.

(Page 2 of 6)

Statewide, the student count continues to decline as it has for the past 15 years. In some Washington West schools, declining enrollment is increasing costs per pupil.

Some Washington West schools deferred replacement cycle investments and maintenance of infrastructure during the deepest part of the recent recession, Baker said. "Now a lot of those things need to be addressed," she noted, citing, for example, the need for a new driver's education vehicle.

Rising health insurance costs, increasing fuel expenses, wage increases and technology investments are other factors driving up school spending, Baker said, "It has been one of the most difficult budget seasons I have experienced."

Baker, working in a school supervisory union that covers communities still reeling from the punch delivered by Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011, said she recognized the multiple financial challenges lawmakers will face.

"I think this is going to be one of the most difficult years in the Legislature ever, given all the competing needs," she said. State officials agree.

The Shumlin administration and legislative leaders don't anticipate there will be any extra cash in the state treasury this year, and they see many other financial demands that will compete for spare dollars with property tax relief. Here's a sampling of those competing pressures:

- Revenues are projected to remain nearly flat. The big worry is that congressional action to reduce the federal deficit would have big repercussions at the state level.
- Caseload is increasing in several human service programs — including a doubling of demand to help the homeless — as the effects of the recession linger.
- The administration and Legislature have made a commitment to stick to a plan to shrink a \$1.2 billion unfunded pension liability, which is the gap between the amount of money promised to state, municipal and school retirees and the amount that will be available.
- Advocates plan to pressure policymakers to reduce the sticker shock some low- and middle-income Vermonters will face when they have to start buying their health insurance through the state's federally mandated health insurance exchange.

(Page 3 of 6)

- There's an ongoing challenge to fund a more decentralized mental-health system and cover the capital costs for the facilities that are replacing the state's psychiatric hospital that Tropical Storm Irene flooding closed a year ago.
- Transportation revenues will fall far short of the amount that needs to be invested to maintain the state's roads and bridges and address the maintenance backlog and Irene damage.

Despite signs that the state is "rebounding from the Great Recession," Secretary of Administration Spaulding said, "The budget pressures have not been reduced, and we have as much uncertainty as we had before."

OverviewWhen new lawmakers gathered in November for orientation, Tom Kavet, the Legislature's economic consultant, painted a partly sunny, partly cloudy picture of the state's finances.

The good news, he said, is that tax revenues are coming in on target. "Unfortunately, right now, I don't think we are looking at any big revenue upgrade," he said.

Kavet and Jeff Carr, the Shumlin administration's economic adviser, will update their revenue projections for state policymakers Jan. 23.

Without a growth spurt, the administration and the Legislature will have to wrestle in writing next year's budget with how to meet new needs — such as investments in job-creating initiatives, which the governor has made his priority or supplementary spending on mosquito control following two deaths from equine encephalitis.

Secretary of Administration Spaulding noted that budget writers in his shop and at the Statehouse start the process needing to use about \$45 million of any new revenues to cover expenditures that were met in the current budget using dollars "we don't think will be reoccurring again."

The Legislature's financial advisers have estimated that projected expenditure growth — caused by factors such as increased fuel costs and increased program utilization — will outstrip projected revenues by \$50 million or more.

Veteran budget writers such as House Appropriations Chairwoman Martha Heath, D-Westford, said earlier this fall when presented with the gap estimate that at least it was smaller than the \$150 million gaps lawmakers faced annually throughout the recessions years.

(Page 4 of 6)

"My sense is it is likely manageable," Speaker Smith predicted.

To lawmakers and the Shumlin administration, manageable means balancing spending and revenues without raising a broad-based tax such as income or sales — a pledge Gov. Peter Shumlin is sure to make either in his state-of-the-state address Thursday or budget address on Jan. 24.

Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell, D-Windsor, left the door for a tax increase open a crack.

"I don't want to look at broad-based taxes at this point," Campbell said. However, if the social services faced severe impact as a result of federal cutbacks, he would reconsider. "It would be irresponsible to tell you I certainly wouldn't consider looking at additional revenues if people were going to be placed in dangerous positions."

Put people first At noon Wednesday, the first day of the new legislative session, the Vermonter Workers Center has scheduled a rally to spotlight their demand that budgets "put people first."

"Rather than adjusting the budget to match a revenue estimate, the budget would start with an assessment of people's fundamental needs and then seek to fund the services required to meet those needs. The focus is on the people rather than the money," the center wrote in a Dec. 7 document proposing a new approach to budget writing.

Lawmakers last year enacted into law statements that declare that the purpose of the state budget is to "address the needs of the people of Vermont in a way that advances human dignity and equity." The law required hearings this fall, but these disappointed advocates of a people-first budget process.

"The governor continues to put money over people in his approach to the budget," the Workers Center budget proposal declared.

Secretary of Administration Spaulding disputed the assertion that the Shumlin administration is putting money before people. He noted that the midyear budget revisions presented to the House Appropriations Committee last week, "we are making multimillion-dollar adjustments" to programs for the developmentally disabled and low-income, jobless families.

(Page 5 of 6)

"We are doing our best dealing with the needs that are out there," Spaulding said. He argued, however, that "the governor does realize that most Vermonters expect government to live within its means, just as they do."

Spaulding also defended the existing budget process as one that provides the public with many opportunities to comment on spending. Lawmakers hold hearings and can be contacted directly, he noted.

"There is probably no one who speaks to more Vermonters than the governor," Spaulding added. "The idea that we aren't listening to the people needs to be questioned."

Rebounding from Irene Tuesday, Gov. Shumlin will dedicate the site for the state's new psychiatric hospital, a 25-bed facility in Berlin that will replace some of the acute care capacity lost when the Vermont State Hospital closed in August 2011.

The state is proceeding with an array of plans to replace the state's 54-bed psychiatric facility in Waterbury even though big funding questions loom for lawmakers. The biggest unknown is how much of the \$43 million cost of the new hospital in Berlin the federal government will cover.

The state also has continued planning how it will replace and refurbish the office complex in Waterbury that has been closed since Tropical Storm Irene's floodwaters sloshed through the dozens of buildings. The project — which would involve remodeling the historic bones of the complex and demolishing some buildings and replacing them with a new flood-resistant structure — has a \$125 million price tag.

The state expects to borrow to cover its share of the cost of these projects, but has only a limited amount of borrowing capacity: \$159.9 million for the next two years. That capacity also has to cover big government maintenance projects, water cleanup and school construction.

Lawmakers expected to be able to plan how to pay for the projects this year — until administration officials surprised them in July with information that the Federal Emergency Management Agency wouldn't be able to provide even a range for the amount of aid the state would receive for the state hospital and office projects for months.

(Page 6 of 6)

The state halted plans to demolish buildings at the Waterbury complex so as not to put some federal aid at risk, but Gov. Shumlin decided in September to push ahead with planning for both projects.

"I believe we are making more progress with FEMA than most people realize," Spaulding said in a recent interview. He expects FEMA will share some numbers for lawmakers to work with early in the session.

House Speaker Smith also said he remained confident FEMA would come through for the state.

Transportation challengeNone of the state's pots of money are without challenges. The Transportation Fund has been headed for crisis for years because revenues from the tax on gasoline and diesel are failing to keep pace with ballooning expenditures needed to keep up the state's roads, bridges, rail system and airports.

As cars and trucks get better gas mileage or when gas prices spike and drivers cut back on trips, state gas tax revenues shrink, noted Senate Transportation Chairman Richard Mazza, D-Chittenden/Grand Isle.

The problem was masked during the recession, thanks to millions in federal stimulus dollars. The Irene catastrophe also produced extra dollars.

Now those infusions largely are done, but the state still faces a backlog of paving projects and what House Transportation Chairman Patrick Brennan, R-Colchester, calls the bridge bubble. Many bridges built in the aftermath of the 1927 flood are reaching an age when they need to be rebuilt or replaced.

A recent study suggests that state tax revenues coupled with projected federal transportation funding will fall \$240 million short of the amount needed annually to maintain the state's transportation system.

The Shumlin administration has hinted the state might have to leave \$20 million in federal funds on the table because it can't come up with the match.

"We have never left money on the table before," Brennan said.

Mazza talked about the consequences of shrinking the paving budget, for example, from the \$100 million spent in recent years. "If we drop down to \$70 million in paving, we are going to get behind," he said. "It is easy to postpone, but where does that get you? I certainly don't want to start slipping backwards."

"We do have a problem there," Spaulding said. "We have a real gap between our revenues and our need." As lawmakers return, the administration has yet to come up with a solution. "We are still working on that one."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:18 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

VTDIGGER:

Budget adjustment redux: More demand for human services programs; tax receipts down by \$11 million; Fish and Wildlife addresses accounting anomalies

ANNE GALLOWAY

The state's mid-year profit and loss statement is in and once again the Department of Finance and Management has found ways to bring the net losses and gains as close to zero as possible.

The difference between the budget as passed and the mid-year correction? It was widely reported, based on information from the Shumlin administration, that the increase is a one-half of 1 percent. Or, a \$3.88 million uptick on an overall budget of \$5.013 billion.

The Joint Fiscal Office told lawmakers on Friday that the differential is more nuanced once spending on federally funded programs is taken into account. The increase is about \$6 million or 4.8 percent on the \$1.4 billion General Fund budget. The upward pressure on the total budget (\$5.013 billion) is \$21.6 million, which represents a 6.7 percent increase on top of a 6.3 percent rise in spending for fiscal year 2013.

However you look at the difference, the budget adjustment details belie a troubling undercurrent of caseload growth in human services.

The state is spending \$30 million more than anticipated on human services, including mental health, developmental services, child care reimbursements, programs for needy families and elderly and housing for the homeless. By comparison, general government departments saw increases of about \$6 million. The Agency of Human Services budget represents about 25 percent of all state spending, or about \$1.3 billion.

What saved the day for AHS was a reduction in Medicaid expenditures of \$53 million.

Jim Reardon, commissioner of the Department of Finance and Management told lawmakers last week: "This is extremely alarming to me. The projections are even higher than this for fiscal year 2014. I hope the Legislature will look carefully at this because it's not sustainable."

General Fund revenues meanwhile were downgraded by \$10 million for fiscal year 2013. The tax receipt losses were covered by one-time funds: about \$5 million in settlements from the Vermont Attorney General's office; renter rebate savings of about \$1.37 million; and a transfer of \$4.77 million in reserve funds.

The caseload increases are of particular concern to the Shumlin administration and the Legislature in the context of budgetary uncertainties in fiscal year 2014, namely plans for closing a \$50 million to \$70 million budget gap, possible federal cuts, the impact of the fiscal cliff on state revenues, a projected Transportation Fund shortfall, an Education Fund deficit and undetermined FEMA reimbursements for the Waterbury State Office Complex and Vermont State Hospital.

JFO Chief Fiscal Officer Stephen Klein. VTD/Josh Larkin

Reardon presented the annual Budget Adjustment Act proposal to lawmakers last week in an unusual prelude to the legislative session. Typically, the mid-year correction is rolled out after the session starts, but this year, because Rep. Paul Poirier dropped his quixotic bid for House Speaker and there are no major changes to the House Appropriations Committee, the House leadership of the three parties — Republicans, Democrats and Progressives — agreed to move ahead with the budget adjustment process in light of new fiscal pressures in FY 2014. (There is only one new member, Rep. Peter Fagan, R-Rutland, who replaces Joe Acinapura, a longtime member of the committee.)

As of Friday, the budget adjustment bill was tentatively set to go on notice on Jan. 18. The House leadership hopes to pass the bill before Gov. Peter Shumlin gives his budget address on the 24th.

Shumlin was originally scheduled to give his address on the 17th, but the annual unveiling of the administration's priorities for the Big Bill was delayed — not because of fiscal cliff impacts as was widely reported, which won't be known until sometime in February at the earliest, but because the administration is waiting on the latest revenue reports from the state's economists at the Emergency Board meeting set for the 23rd.

Human services caseload on the rise

Services for low-income, mentally ill and disabled Vermonters are in higher demand than last year, even as the economy slowly inches toward recovery. The state has blown its fiscal year 2013 budget for housing for the homeless, welfare, developmental services and mental health treatment.

Expenses for General Assistance have doubled since July 1. Lawmakers put about \$2 million into the program, which provides emergency housing for homeless Vermonters, in last year's appropriations bill. Now the state is looking at an additional expenditure of \$2.2 million on the program.

Costs for development services could also be twice what officials anticipated next year.

The Shumlin administration has asked the Legislature to approve new language that would require the developmental services program to manage costs within its current budget and take steps to modify the State System of Care Plan for individuals accordingly. Modifications to the plan may include revising "the definition of imminent risk to the individual's personal health or safety" and making a budget rescission.

Here is a breakdown of the increases by program:

- \$20 million in adjustments for mental health services, including \$8.3 million in additional spending
- \$2.2 million in temporary housing for General Assistance
- \$4.7 million in Reach Up costs
- \$3.9 million for developmental services
- \$2.1 million for increased childcare reimbursements under the STARS certification program (there has been an increase in the number of qualifying providers and a cut in federal funding)
- \$8.8 million for LIHEAP from special Emergency Board funds

Mental health spending mounts

The largest spending increase in this year's proposed Budget Adjustment Act is a \$20.3 million requested by the Department of Mental Health.

Of that amount, \$12.3 million is considered "net neutral." Most of these costs are shifted from one of the agency's departments to another, in this case the Department of Mental Health.

The Department of Vermont Health Access is transferring \$6 million from its budget to mental health for children's services. The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Department of Children and Families are shifting a combined \$4 million to mental health for various programs.

One "net neutral" item, however, would come from program growth. The department asked for an additional \$2 million to meet growing demand for child behavioral interventionists, school-based clinicians and funding for specialized schools via the Success By Six program.

Heidi Hall, director of finance for the Department of Mental Health, said the other \$8.3 million the department is seeking would cover administrative and other unforeseen costs associated with children's mental health programs and personal support for people who are severely functionally impaired.

In October, then Mental Health Commissioner Patrick Flood told the Mental Health Oversight Committee that his department projected a \$1.5 million deficit.

None of the additional spending in fiscal year 2013 would go directly to the construction and operation of a range of new mental health facilities called for by the Legislature in Act 79, passed last year. The cost of implementing and operating those facilities is slated to drop \$230,863 in FY 2013, from \$39,909,145 to \$39,678,282.

But in FY 2014, when the new 25-bed state psychiatric hospital in Berlin is up and running, those costs are expected to rise \$6.8 million to \$46.7 million total. This proposed increase would require an extra \$2.7 million from the General Fund.

In December, the department submitted to legislators a budget sheet for Act 79, which showed a \$20 million hike in expenditures to operate the new mental health system in FY 2014. Hall said the department soon identified the mistake due to a spreadsheet error. Media outlets brought the issue to the department's attention, she said.

Hall also qualified that none of these requests are final without Gov. Peter Shumlin's approval.

"Until the governor approves the Agency of Human Services proposals, all of these numbers for FY13 and FY14 are simply projections," she said.

Judiciary faces \$2.5 million deficit

The state is anticipating about \$6 million in adjustments in other areas of the budget.

The state's Judiciary, which manages state courts, faces a \$2.5 million budget shortfall in fiscal year 2013, and is seeking an additional \$2 million from the state.

From July 2011 to 2012, not enough employees left the Judiciary to meet a budgeted savings target related to vacant positions, meaning that the Judiciary ended the year about \$1.5 million short. A \$420,000 spike in security costs for sitting judges, along with a handful of smaller costs for unemployment compensation and labor negotiations, among other costs, brought the total spending excess to \$2 million.

Combined with an ongoing operational deficit of \$500,000, this leaves the Judiciary \$2.5 million in the red. But it plans to make spending cuts of about \$500,000 in FY 2013, increasing to \$800,000 in cuts for FY 2014.

According to a memo from court administrator Robert Greemore to the House Appropriations committee, this shortfall comes despite restructuring efforts in past years which have cut the Judiciary's workforce by 40 employees.

Although plans to digitize case management paperwork meant that significant staff slimmings could be accommodated, a functioning new computer system has so far failed to materialize, with the Judiciary currently negotiating with IT vendor New Dawn Technologies.

Greemore said he couldn't comment on the ongoing negotiations, which started since the Judiciary's last payment to New Dawn in March 2011.

The memo also says that cutting spending by increasing layoffs or furloughs wouldn't work, while closing courts or cutting down on probate judges were other cost control options, rejected in earlier years for other reasons.

Speaking to the House Appropriations committee, Vermont Supreme Court chief justice Paul Reiber said: "Frankly there was little we could've done along the way to have adjusted out and balanced the budget, even if it had been on our radar screen a year ago."

He added that any permanent financial solution for the Judiciary, beset by a lack of technological progress, a recent backlog of cases thanks to too few judges, and excessive temporary employees, remained unclear.

Court administrator Greemore put the Judiciary's total annual budget at about \$37 million, of which about \$2 million is federal funding.

Accounting anomalies at Fish and Wildlife

The Department of Fish and Wildlife faces a \$492,000 deficit in fiscal year 2014 and a \$125,000 deficit in budget adjustment for 2013 because of accounting anomalies.

Those numbers had been much higher — \$3.2 million and \$600,000 respectively — until the department hired an outside accountant to conduct a forensic audit and brought in an Agency of Natural Resources expert to get to the bottom of the problem, according to Patrick Berry, commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.

The forensic audit found that the department had not adequately tracked federal grants, had not created realistic revenue projections and had not been planning for decreases in federal grants. A simplistic budgeting process compounded the problem. The combination of factors over time pushed the department's budget into the red, Berry explained to members of House Appropriations.

"Revenues and expenditures crossed each other before we took over," Berry said.

For a number of years, until fiscal year 2010, a fund from excess license revenue receipts was used to top off the budget each year, he said. In 2011, about five months after Berry took over the department, Fish and Wildlife had to borrow to make its budget because the fund was depleted.

Meanwhile, the department lost \$600,000 in Dingle Johnson fisheries money that it uses to pay for the cost of running the state's hatcheries.

The total amount the department is requesting for the budget adjustment in 2013 is \$428,000. Part of this total is a carryforward liabilities from fiscal year 2012, including: \$193,000 in unfunded purchase commitments for snowmobiles; a \$125,000 deficit; an \$82,000 payback to the federal government for uncoded expenses for a storage building (the department is slated to pay an additional \$82,000 in fiscal year 2014); and a bill back of \$14,000 to Forests and Parks for gas pump use. The department is still maintaining five vacant warden positions.

Other government spending changes

The state will spend an additional \$1 million on the Vermont Attorney General's litigation costs associated with the state's failed IMS case, which went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011. The state paid out \$3 million toward the settlement with the pharmaceutical company last year.

The attorney general's office is requesting \$190,000 in additional funds to cover the costs of hiring outside counsel from Washington D.C., for a federal lawsuit brought by Entergy against the state alleging an unfair tax or levy. Entergy is now appealing the lower court's initial decision. Sorrell said to lawmakers that most of the case work was done in-house, but that more technical areas of the law warranted help from Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orsek, Unterreiner & Sauber, the firm advising the state.

The AG's office is also asking for \$142,000 to replace funds formerly received in interdepartmental transfers. Sorrell said the office didn't increase any of its budgetary expenses, and that this shortfall was simply due to changes in funding at the Department of Labor and the Department of Public Safety.

The tax department is requesting an extra \$150,000 to prepare for potential litigation against TransCanada over property valuations of dams in five towns.

The state needs an additional \$220,000 for mosquito control efforts in the wake of an outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Addison County last fall that killed two people.

An expenditure on a new building for the Vermont State Colleges in Brattleboro was transferred from the General Fund budget to the Capital Budget, which is used to pay for the state's construction projects and infrastructure improvements.

The Shumlin administration wants to allow corporation registration monies to flow through the Secretary of State's office where the registry is created. The office would derive its budget from these receipts and any overflow would be available for state spending through a special fund.

Legislative preview: Human services committees will look at elder abuse reporting, children and family services **ALICIA FREESE**

A pair of dark clouds will loom over any legislative discussion of human services this session— the \$50 million to \$70 million budget gap forecast for the General Fund and the prospect of cuts in federal funding. The Agency of Human Services is no stranger to budgetary woes, but the state's shortfall together with uncertainty about federal funding, may cause a greater degree of discomfort for the agency.

The state's mental health system will be at the fore of this year's legislative agenda, as the state trudges onward toward a community-based model.

Leaders from both the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Human Services say they'll take another stab at a bill Shumlin vetoed last session. The legislation — H.290 — would have required that the Adult Protective Service (APS) division report to the Legislature on elder abuse on a monthly rather than annual basis. It was introduced in response to a backlog in investigations of elder abuse that had bogged down the Adult Protective Services (APS) division and prompted a lawsuit filed by Vermont Legal Aid.

Doug Racine, the secretary of human services, said the law would impose an undue burden on the agency and create a "distraction" from its actual investigations. Gov. Peter Shumlin vetoed the bill.

Sandy Haas, vice chair of the House Committee on Human Services, said she and other lawmakers who worked on the legislation were surprised by the governor's veto. "We were amazed by that. Since they [members of the Shumlin administration] sat with us at the table and, item by item, said they could do it."

Susan Wehry, commissioner of the Department of Aging and Independent Living, told the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday that APS has eliminated the backlog by hiring additional investigators and adapting to a more sophisticated data reporting system.

Sen. Claire Ayer, who hopes to head the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare again, and Haas both say they will still seek more timely reports of abuse. "Every single reporting requirement is an off-the-shelf standard requirement for that software," Ayer said. The new bill will closely resemble the previous proposal.

H. 290 also called for an independent \$75,000 study of how APS carries out its investigations. "All we are looking for is to get updated information on what is happening with reports of abuse and also to get information that would help us revisit the law," Haas said.

Both the House and Senate committee will pay particular attention to the needs of the Department for Children and Family Services. The focus for the past two years on overhauling the state's health care and mental health systems has meant this department "has gotten the short end of the stick," according to Ayer. The Senate committee plans to take a broad look at the challenges the department has faced in addressing its caseload. Haas says her committee will look at how Act 168, which was passed in 2008 and enables the department to provide services prior to substantiation of abuse, has affected the caseload.

The Senate committee will devote a substantial chunk of time to examining Choices for Care, a program within DAIL's division of Disability and Aging Services that provides support for senior citizens. The department reinvests savings that come from providing at-home programs instead of nursing home care into other community-based services. Ayer says current statute does not clearly define what these savings are or where they should be redirected. In fact, current law allows the savings to be reinvested in nursing home services. "We're going to revisit that and try to give the department more clear directions," Ayer said.

Haas said another of the House committee's priorities is to improve coordination between family courts and probate courts in dealing with issues like divorce and child abuse. The system has not been comprehensively evaluated in decades. Haas says they will look to improved coordination between these courts based on the recommendations of a working group report on the issue.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:14 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

RUTLAND HERALD/TIMES ARGUS (CON'T):

Many pay tribute to May at service

By Susan Smallheer

SPRINGFIELD — Edgar May was remembered Sunday for his passion and compassion, whether it was exuberant yodeling on a ski lift at Magic Mountain, or his determination to help people who didn't have a voice.

May, 83, of Springfield, who died late last month at his winter home in Arizona, was an author and journalist, a beloved brother and uncle, and the most eloquent state senator in the state's history, said Gov. Peter Shumlin.

"Bar none," said Shumlin for emphasis.

May was a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter, the first deputy director of VISTA, the domestic Peace Corps, a Springfield state representative and senator from Windsor County, and a force of nature. And a lover of fine red wine, more than one person recalled.

He was a Democrat back when Democrats were in short supply in Republican-rich Vermont.

People from all walks of life came to remember May, who they said was a loyal friend, a good cook, an untiring advocate for those without advantages, and a passionate talker.

The memorial service Sunday afternoon, held at the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, attracted people from all over Vermont and from many different backgrounds and walks of life. Many current and former legislators attended who knew May from when he was in the Vermont House from 1974 to 1982, and in the Vermont Senate from 1983-1990. There were judges, loggers, and retired social workers.

May was lauded by two governors — including his sister, Gov. Madeleine May Kunin — a congressman, a nephew, a former sister-in-law, and a close friend.

They sat on folding chairs on a special plywood floor erected over the children's pool, one of the three pools in the center, and recited Jewish prayers of mourning in honor of May as late-winter sun streamed into the room's big windows.

Shumlin, a Democrat, said he first met May in 1976. The governor said May brought "a sense of fun and adventure to everything."

May, the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was also known for his way with words, Shumlin said.

May came to the United States as a child, fleeing the Nazi Holocaust knowing only three words, "'yes,' 'no,' and 'bathroom,'" recalled a friend, George Lamb of Springfield.

May and his sister fled Europe when they were 10 and 6 years old with their widowed mother, and Kunin led a virtual toast to her brother, who died Dec. 27 at a Veterans Administration hospital in Tucson, Ariz., near his winter home.

Kunin said her older brother was both her mentor and substitute father, since their own father had died in Switzerland when both were young.

She recalled how competitive they could be when both were serving in the Vermont House, and roll call meant Kunin was called ahead of May.

Her brother turned the tables on her, she said, when he got the roll call reversed one day and M came ahead of K, finally.

But both lived by their mother's credo: "Anything is possible in America," she said.

She said they shared a lot. "We got mad at the same things and laughed at the same jokes," said Kunin, who said her brother never viewed himself as a lifelong politician.

He loved to work with his hands, whether it was some repair job at Muckcross, his Springfield home, or cooking, later studying at the New England Culinary Institute to be a pastry chef.

May's former sister-in-law, Maggie Breason Lockridge of Rancho Mirage, Calif., recalled her sister Louise's meeting with the exuberant yodeler at Magic Mountain in Londonderry back in 1961.

His joie de vivre struck the two sisters, who later that morning met the stranger at the ski tow. Her sister was working in New York City for Voice of America, and May was also living in New York at the time.

Lockridge said she viewed the yodeler as the perfect cure for her sister's disappointment over a broken engagement, and she gave a friendly push, which collapsed the future couple on top of each other, spawning a romance and marriage three years later.

Lockridge said she and her family remained close to May, despite her sister's death after only two years of marriage. Her children were named after her sister and Edgar, she said.

"Edgar celebrated life every single day," she said.

After his 16 years in Montpelier, Lamb said May then began his longest campaign, to raise money for the health and recreation center. The center was built and financed with a combination of state, private and corporate funds.

Shumlin recalled one time when the state budget was all but finished, and \$100,000 toward the nonprofit center had been cut at the last minute. May got on the phone with Shumlin, then the Senate president, and then May came to Montpelier to plead his case. He got the \$100,000, Shumlin said.

U.S. Rep. Peter F. Welch, D-Vt., who represented Windsor County along with May in the 1980s, recalled May's ability to defy the laws of gravity — and the state's billboard law — with his giant campaign sign on top of his old Saab.

May, who first came to the Springfield area in the 1950s as a rookie reporter at the Bellows Falls Times, later married a Springfield woman, Louise Breason, in the 1960s, bought his beloved home Muckcross, and endured tragedy after a car crash killed his wife and put him in the hospital for months.

But friends in high places — Sargent Shriver, then-U.S. Ambassador to France and his former boss in the Johnson administration in Washington, got May out of the hospital and working at the embassy in Paris, where May met his

second wife, Judith. They returned to Vermont in the early 1970s, and May began his political career in his adopted hometown. The Mays divorced in 2001.

After politics came the pool, so to speak, and May devoted more than 10 years of his life to the project, which he saw as promoting good health in Springfield for generations to come.

May raised millions of dollars for the center, which opened its doors in 2006, after more than nine years of planning, fundraising and some political infighting. It was named in his honor in 2009, to honor his 80th birthday.

Christian Craig, the executive director of the center, said after the service that May's idea was to help people regain health and stay healthy, and enjoy life.

Craig said Springfield resident Bill Newman, 89, had recently started taking water aerobics classes at the center, and his doctor wondered at his improved health and circulation.

"He has a hard time getting into the pool, but when he's in, he's like a fish," Craig said.

Newman attended the service, along with other center regulars.

Craig said 400 people each day use the center.

"Ten years ago, this was just a vision," said Craig. "Now there's a swim team here, practicing four days a week and it's a hub of activity."

"Edgar was spot on," Craig said.

WCAX:

Legislature begins 2013 session this week

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont lawmakers are preparing to gather for the start of their 2013 session this week.

It's a session expected to touch some major hot button issues, including physician-assisted death and the decriminalization of marijuana. Lawmakers also have to address a projected shortfall of \$50-70 million in the 2014 budget.

Wednesday, the House and Senate will meet to elect their top officers -- and activists announced they're holding a rally at the statehouse that day to push an agenda with items such as affordable health care and environmental concerns.

NH facing mental health treatment access crisis

CONCORD, NH - Mental health experts say New Hampshire is facing what they're calling a crisis when it comes to access for treatment.

Since 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services says some 60 beds for psychiatric patients have been closed in the state and now many with mental health issues are taking up beds at hospital emergency rooms.

The Granite State Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness says the situation faced by those stuck in the crisis is ethically, medically, and legally wrong.

The state recently announced a new \$10 million plan to open up more beds.

Hunting preserve arrests raises questions

FAIRLEE, Vt. - The commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says recent allegations of an illegal hunting preserve in Fairlee shows a need for tougher penalties.

51 year old Steven Hill and 21 year old Chiaki Ito of Fairlee are accused of operating an unlicensed captive hunting facility there. Prosecutors say they charged customers up to \$6,000 to hunt exotic animals.

But, the pair only currently face about \$7,000 in penalties. Fish & Wildlife officials say that's not enough.

"Most of the feedback that I have received since we pressed these charges, and since this has been out in the press, have been folks who are concerned that these are woefully inadequate penalties for an action like this and I would agree with those folks," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry.

As part of the Fish and Wildlife department investigation, two under-cover game wardens paid \$750 to hunt a Spanish goat and wild boar.

About 200 animals remain at the "Hunt the Ridge" facility.

The couple is due in court in February.

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

The Week Ahead: January 7-13, 2013

Posted by Andy Bromage

Here's what's happening in Vermont news and politics this week — the first of the 2013-14 legislative session. Got something newsworthy for next week's calendar? Email by Friday to submit.

Monday, January 7

- At 7:30 a.m., the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation hold a joint 2013 legislative breakfast at the Sheraton in South Burlington. Gov. Peter Shumlin and Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger will address the biz crowd.
 - Gov. Shumlin holds a rare Monday morning press conference, 11 a.m. on the 5th floor of the Pavilion Building in Montpelier.
 - At 1 p.m., Burlington Mayor Weinberger holds a press conference on an unannounced topic.
 - The Burlington City Council meets at 7 p.m. On the agenda: a proposed city ordinance banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines like the ones used in the Newtown school massacre. Also, Mayor Weinberger will ask the council to approve extending Paul Sisson's appointment as interim chief administrative officer while hizzoner takes more time to search for a permanent CAO.
- Rest of the week after the break...

Tuesday, January 8

- At 1 p.m., Gov. Shumlin will attend a "site dedication ceremony" for the Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center in Berlin, a 25-bed mental health facility that will partially replace the Vermont State Hospital.
- At 6 p.m., Burlington takes another stab at avoiding a lawsuit by approving a federally mandated plan to redistrict its wards when the City Council's Special Committee on Ward Redistricting meets in Contois Auditorium.

Wednesday, January 9

- It's opening day for the Legislature! The Senate convenes and is sworn in at 9:30 a.m. The House convenes and swears in members at 10.

- "The Mark Johnson Show" broadcasts live from the Statehouse starting at 9 a.m. Guests will include Gov. Shumlin and House Speaker Shap Smith, along with assorted other politicians Mark snags as they make their way to the cafeteria. Listen on WDEV 96.1 FM.

- At noon, the Vermont Workers Center's "Put People First" campaign holds a big Statehouse rally to unveil its "People's Agenda."

- It's not all state politics. Live at 5:25 p.m., Burlington City Councilors Bram Kranichfeld (D-Ward 2) and Chip Mason (D-Ward 5) take your calls live on CCTV Channel 17.

Thursday, January 10

- At 11:30 a.m. in the Senate chamber, Vermont's sole statewide Republican — Lt. Gov. Phil Scott — will be sworn in for a second term.

- At 11:45 a.m., Gov. Shumlin attends the Former Governors Luncheon at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. At 1:30 p.m., the gov is sworn in for a second term and delivers his inaugural address in the House chamber in Montpelier. Also being sworn in are State Treasurer Beth Pearce, Secretary of State Jim Condos, Auditor of Accounts Doug Hoffer and Attorney General Bill Sorrell. Watch it live on vpt.org or listen live at vpr.net.

- Want to hear the conservative perspective on this important political week? Hear it live at 5:25 p.m. when CCTV Channel 17 airs "True North Reports."

Friday, January 11

- At 8:15 a.m., the Burlington Business Association holds a business summit at the Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington. Shumlin is a guest speaker.

- Vermont's "Irene Recovery Office" has organized an all-day conference at Norwich University in Northfield to assess the state's ongoing recovery from Tropical Storm Irene. The fun starts at 9 a.m.

- Also at 9 a.m., "The Mark Johnson Show"'s guest is Lt. Gov. Scott.

- At noon, Gov. Shumlin is the guest on Vermont Public Radio's "Vermont Edition."

- The Vermont Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission — the panel Gov. Shumlin created to deliberate on where energy projects such as wind towers should and shouldn't go — will hold its first "deliberative" session today from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Department of Public Service in Montpelier.

- As always, catch all the week's politics with Stew Ledbetter and crew on "Vermont This Week," 7:30 p.m. on Vermont Public Television.

Saturday, January 12

Sunday, January 13

- "You Can Quote Me" airs at 11 a.m. on WCAX-TV.

- In case you missed it, watch the rebroadcast of "Vermont This Week" at 11:30 a.m. on VPT.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:06 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD (CON'T):

A different view: Shumlin's politics shaped by dyslexia

KEVIN O'CONNOR

Ask Gov. Peter Shumlin for a preview of this week's inaugural address and he'll reveal one surprising fact: He won't spell out a thing.

It's not because he's dodging. It's because he's dyslexic.

To understand this "word," your brain must register "wah-ur-dah" and recognize the result as a building block of language. As a child, Shumlin saw the individual letters. But like an estimated 15 percent of Americans — including fellow Gov. Dannel Malloy of Connecticut — he couldn't sound out something as simple as "cat" or "dog."

"I had a very hard time learning how to read," Shumlin recalls, "but once they figured out how to teach me, I eventually could put a sentence together just as quickly as anybody else."

That said, the 56-year-old's dyslexia still affects him in and out of the office. Take the speech he'll present Thursday to start his second term.

"I still can't spell," he says. "I stayed away from computers for years because I knew if I typed on one and someone saw, they would think they were dealing with someone who's not ready for prime time."

As a result, Shumlin is crafting his address using a voice-activated dictation system. He was one of the first to discover Dragon speech-recognition software that advertises, "You talk, and it types." This lets him dictate, shuffle and subtract words, sentences and paragraphs, then print them out for posterity. It's just one way he's plugging into technology — and governing more in person than on paper.

'How I survived'

When Shumlin speaks of his youth, he usually talks about growing up in the same Putney hills as the late, legendary Vermont statesman George Aiken. But upon his swearing-in two years ago, he revealed a less celebrated memory.

"I remember well in second grade being called into the principal's office with my parents to have them be told what I already knew, but hoped beyond hope that they would never find out," Shumlin said in his 2011 address. "That with all the good efforts of my teachers they could not teach me how to read; that the prospects of my being a successful student and going onto college were unlikely."

Then one instructor — the late Claire Ogelsby, subject of the 2000 documentary "The World in Claire's Classroom" — "slowly and creatively" taught him to read.

"What I remember best about Claire," Shumlin said in his speech, "was no matter how difficult the challenge, no matter how innovative she had to be or how hard she had to work, she never gave up on me and therefore neither did I."

(The governor's teleprompter was a different story — it stopped before he started, forcing him to turn to a paper printout.)

Scientists believe neurological short circuits in an otherwise normal brain deter dyslexics from easily deciphering the written word. With early intervention, Shumlin learned to read well enough to not only juggle English and government studies but also graduate with honors from Wesleyan University. Even so, spelling remains a high hurdle for someone who, writing phonetically, can turn specifics into "spa-sif-fiks."

"I went to college before computers. When I could write a paper and get someone else to correct the spelling, I was in great shape. But when I had to do an exam, my professors would say, 'The content's great, but you're joking, right?'"

As a result, Shumlin prefers to communicate by speaking. He doesn't carry a briefcase but a smartphone that allows him to send voice-activated texts and emails.

"You'll notice I hardly ever read a speech. It's not because I can't — it's because I taught myself to think verbally. When you suddenly realize your peer group is comprehending something that you're not, you want to do everything you can to hide it or think of ways you can compensate."

The stumbling student morphed into a skilled speaker — for some, too much so.

"Some people have said I come off as sounding kind of slick. The fact of the matter is I'm not — I'm able to very quickly express thoughts because it's how I survived."

'A real gift'

Because dyslexics think less in-line than out of the box, they're often seen as creative problem solvers. Shumlin was a Putney selectman when he stopped a plan to turn the town's shuttered Windham College into a 500-bed prison. Instead he persuaded Landmark, the nation's first college for students with dyslexia, to take over the property.

Even with annual fees of \$48,000 that pay for specialized help and a ratio of one instructor for every five students, only about 30 percent of the school's 500 enrollees graduate within three years — a figure that shows the magnitude of the obstacles Shumlin overcame with the support of his own teachers, family and technology.

"Spell-check for me is like a prime rib to someone's who's hungry," he says. "It saves me every day from embarrassing myself."

Shumlin remembers when fellow politicians discouraged him from such revelations.

"I was told in my earlier years in public service I shouldn't talk about my dyslexia because people wouldn't vote for someone who's ..."

He won't repeat the "r" word that others used.

The governor, speaking at the most recent commencement of Massachusetts' Eagle Hill college preparatory school for dyslexics, told graduates to channel the heat of their toils into helping others.

"I bet there isn't a one of you that hasn't been bullied, teased or harassed because of your learning style," he told students. "The pain we have felt getting where we are today has given us tremendous compassion."

That's the main reason, Shumlin adds today, why he fought for same-sex marriage.

"You can't go through an experience in life where you are ridiculed and questioned without having huge empathy for those who are also different, for those who are struggling, for those who don't have a voice. Having felt removed from the mainstream, I tend to connect to issues like that."

And then to campaign for change. Shumlin is one of three current U.S. governors — along with Malloy and John Hickenlooper of Colorado — to grapple with and, in his view, grow from dyslexia.

"After all the challenges you face as someone who learns differently, there are actually some real benefits for the job that I do right now," the Vermonter says. "People who learn traditionally can sit back and let it happen. If you're dyslexic, you have to train your brain to anticipate what lies ahead. In government, if you can do that, you tend to be a strong leader. I now see it as a real gift. It has helped me become who I am."

Fletcher Allen has two new facilities

PLATTSBURGH — Fletcher Allen Partners, the parent organization of Fletcher Allen Health Care and Central Vermont Medical Center, received approval from the New York State Department of Health to partner with two health care facilities in northeast New York.

The affiliation between Fletcher Allen Partners and Community Providers Inc., which operates CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Elizabethtown Community Hospital, took effect Jan. 1, and now awaits confirmation by the New York Supreme Court.

"Fletcher Allen Partners holds incredible potential for the patients and communities located within the boundaries of this innovative regional approach to addressing health care needs," said Stephens Mundy, president and CEO of CVPH Medical Center.

The affiliation was finalized following nine months of state and federal regulatory reviews that began last March after the organizations gave their initial approvals to proceed. Fletcher Allen Partners has governing powers over all of its members including approval rights over budgets, strategic plans and major financial decisions.

"The affiliation also will foster the academic mission," said Dr. John Brumsted, president and CEO of Fletcher Allen and chief executive officer of Fletcher Allen Partners. "With an integrated health care system, we have an opportunity to train the next generation of physicians, nurses and other providers in a clinical environment of the future — one that emphasizes coordination and integration — and to provide expanded opportunities for clinical research."

Under the proposed affiliation, the four hospitals would participate with Fletcher Allen Partners in developing and implementing system-wide initiatives and programs to increase access and improve the quality of health care services.

Each health care institution will retain its own board, management and medical staff.

Vt. Air Guard hopes for jet, but others fear noise

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Plans on where to base the U.S. military's next-generation fighter jet, the F-35, concern people in communities from California to Florida to Maine who worry the aircraft are too loud.

In Vermont, where the Air National Guard has flown planes from Burlington International Airport for more than 60 years, opponents are especially vocal. But in other communities, even some long accustomed to the roar of military aircraft, the noise of the F-35 has been an issue.

South Burlington City Council President Rosanne Greco, a retired Air Force officer, said she favored bringing the F-35 to her community until she read the draft environmental impact statement released last spring.

The F-35s “will have incredibly significant negative impact on up to 10,000 people who will be unfortunate enough to be in the noise contour zone that the federal government deems unsuitable for residential use,” Greco said. “For me it’s become a clear-cut analytical choice. The facts say this is harmful to our environment.”

The report, she said, considers exposure to average aircraft noise greater than 65 decibels (about the sound of a vacuum cleaner about three feet away) “not considered suitable for residential use.” Another section discusses the potential long-term health impacts of exposure to aircraft noise.

The plane’s supporters say Greco is exaggerating the number of people who would be affected by the noise contour zone. And they believe she and others are cherry-picking information from the report without providing its full context. There is a section of the report that discusses long-term health effects, for example, but it concludes there aren’t any significant health impacts.

The Air Force already has chosen where it will base the F-35s, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter, for training. The next step is to decide where to base the first operational planes, those that would be ready for war.

“Vermont is the most vocal, but Vermont is the preferred alternative for the Guard unit,” Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said. “But it’s not the only alternative.”

Plans are to base 18 to 24 of the new aircraft in South Burlington by 2020. The military’s final decision on the first round of operational bases is expected next spring.

How much louder the planes are than other aircraft is debatable. Opponents cite Air Force charts indicating the F-35 can be at least twice as loud as the F-16 now flown out of Vermont. Others say that’s an unfair comparison because measuring sound involves everything from how the planes are flown to weather conditions, the time of day and how long people are exposed.

F-35 supporters in Vermont say the opponents — who have a Facebook page and a separate website — are a small group of activists who number maybe 300. The city of South Burlington, home to the airport, opposes the planes, mostly because of the noise.

Gov. Peter Shumlin and the state’s congressional delegation favor bringing the F-35 to Vermont. There are three pro-F-35 Facebook pages and one business group has collected almost 11,000 signatures in support.

If the 18-plane option for Vermont is chosen, considered most likely, the F-35 isn’t expected to bring new jobs to the area but it would guarantee about 1,100 well-paying jobs already here. Six additional planes would add about 250 more jobs.

If the Vermont Guard isn’t chosen, Col. David Baczewski, commander of the Vermont Guard’s 158th fighter wing and a veteran F-16 pilot, said there would be no immediate impact on the current F-16 operations in Burlington.

He said he worries that if the Department of Defense orders another round of base closings, Vermont could be forced to compete against other guard units to keep its role as a front-line fighter base.

"I'd rather separate myself from the pack, be the leading-edge, top fighter wing that we are (and) get named (to fly) the F-35 right off the bat and secure the future," Baczewski said.

Noise concerns have followed the F-35 since it first began flying. Pegged at about \$130 million each for the Air Force version, it is the military's most expensive procurement program ever. The F-35 is designed to be the nation's supersonic and most advanced fighter through mid-century, with different models for the Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Despite its cost and noise concerns, there is no other alternative as the plane, nicknamed the Lightning II, is intended to replace fighter planes mostly designed in the 1970s.

In California, the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is slated to get F-35s in several years, but environmental groups have already questioned the potential impact on endangered species. Neighbors have said they don't want the plane rattling their windows.

Noise concerns also have been raised in Arizona, where the Marines and Air Force are basing F-35s in Yuma and Phoenix, about 185 apart.

In Florida's Panhandle, an area long-accustomed to the sounds of military aircraft, a lawsuit by the city of Valparaiso in part over noise concerns prompted the Air Force to change the Eglin Air Force Base runways the F-35s would use, in most instances, to avoid flying over the city.

Air Force and Marine pilots at Eglin began F-35 training missions last March. Since then F-35 pilots have flown about 600 sorties, with about 2 percent generating noise complaints, a number the base considers small.

Some of the complaints come on days the F-35s are not flying, said base spokesman Mike Spaits.

"We empathize with their plight, but the reality is there does seem to be some level of hysteria involved with the noise complaints on the F-35," he said.

Maine is home to one of the Northeast's largest aerial training areas, the 4,000-square-mile Military Operation Area Condor, which extends into northern New Hampshire. Concerns about the noise of the F-35 play into long-running mistrust among some in Maine about low-level military training flights.

Current plans call for the F-35 to be operated above 7,000 feet over Maine, but there are special low-level corridors.

Some Maine residents seem resigned to the prospect that the louder F-35s will be operating over Maine, said Tom Mauzaka, a retired Air Force colonel, who lives in the western Maine town of Strong.

"This plane is loud," said Mauzaka. "It would be loud at 7,000 feet."

Little, if any, opposition has come from the other two Air Guard bases seen as suitable for operating the F-35s, Jacksonville, Fla., Air National Guard base and McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C. But in another area of South Carolina, plans to base the F-35 at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort have brought complaints about potential noise.

Back in Vermont, Winooski Mayor Michael O'Brien, whose city is about a mile from the north end of the runway, traveled to Eglin Air Force Base last month with Shumlin and other officials to listen to the F-16 and F-35 fly over, one after another.

Winooski opposes basing the F-35 at the South Burlington airport if the planes are significantly louder than the F-16s. O'Brien said he was at one end of an Eglin runway while the different planes went over in a number of different configurations.

"They are both loud, but it was hard to really get a handle on just how much louder," O'Brien said. "It didn't blow my socks off, the difference."

'Put People First' rally on Wednesday

MONTPELIER — Vermont lawmakers convening in Montpelier this week will hear from a range of activists joining in what they're calling a "Put People First" movement.

Leaders of several organizations say they'll gather at noon Wednesday to push an agenda including affordable health care access for all, accessible transportation, a healthy environment and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Organizers say they expect hundreds of people to attend the rally and will deliver thousands of postcards to lawmakers demanding that their agenda be attended to.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 5:59 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, JAN. 7:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Gun-control article may be on March ballots

NORWICH — A group of residents has finalized a draft warning article calling for gun control measures that members hope to see debated on Town Meeting Day across Vermont.

Gun control has been a hot-button topic in the Upper Valley, as it has been nationally, since a gunman killed 20 first-graders and six teachers in Newtown, Conn.

Across the area, residents and officials have kick-started discussion groups to address the issue.

In Hanover, N.H., a separate group has organized a forum to discuss gun policy Sunday with state legislatures.

At the same time, SAU 70 Superintendent Frank Bass is weighing an offer from the Hanover Police Department to equip schools with surplus bullet-proof vests. Bass, however, noted that bullet-proof vests are not a high priority at this time for school personnel.

Norwich resident Laurie Levin organized a discussion group five days after the Newtown shooting in the basement of Norwich's Tracy Hall. Within an hour, the group decided it wanted to place a warning on town meeting ballots that would demonstrate to state senators and representatives how Vermonters feel about gun control.

And if it passes?

"Then our next job would be to say to our Legislature and our governor and our federal and state representatives, here is what your citizens have said. Here's a mandate," Levin said.

The warning article Levin's group drafted calls for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and requiring criminal background checks for all gun purchases. It also calls for making gun trafficking a federal crime, with stiff penalties for "straw" purchases — those buying guns on behalf of convicted criminals.

Levin knows it's a lofty goal to try to get the warning article placed on every town meeting ballot statewide, and she'd be happy with at least 50.

Levin finalized the warning and petition this week and now she and other members of the group will begin making contacts in other towns to find people willing to take them up.

Residents from Norwich, Thetford, Hartland, Strafford and Windsor have shown interest in the project, and Levin said she expects people to start volunteering to gather signatures in their towns. Members of the group will also start to reach out to schools and churches in various towns to find volunteers for the petitions.

"They will have our petition so they won't have to recreate the wheel," Levin said. "We're presenting them with a product that is ready to go."

Levin and at least one other volunteer also plan to travel to Montpelier on Wednesday with their petitions and attempt to make contacts in various towns.

But Levin and the group of volunteers will have to move quickly. The deadline to get signatures to place a warning on a town meeting ballot is Jan. 24, and town's must get 5 percent of the registered voters to sign the petition. In Norwich, 5 percent of registered voters is about 165 signatures. Once the necessary signatures are acquired, the Select Board must give final approval.

Snow creates ripple effect on businesses

BRUCE EDWARDS

KILLINGTON — What a difference a year and 2 feet of snow can make.

Leading up to the Christmas holiday, business at the Basin Ski Shop was on par with a year ago — until two days after Christmas when the state was blanketed by the first major storm of the season.

Not only did Killington and other downhill and cross-country areas see a jump in skiers, but those same skiers also opened their wallets and pocketbooks at local inns, ski shops and restaurants.

"Very, very good," said Ron Torrey, the Basin Ski Shop manager. "The snow came just in time."

Torrey said the shop on Killington Road had a solid holiday with skiers buying everything from skis and snowboards to clothing and accessories.

"People were spending money and buying very expensive items," he said.

Bill Bauer, who owns the 45-room Summit Lodge, said snow makes all the difference.

"Snow is always the No. 1 factor for the success or lack of success," Bauer said.

Occupancy at the hotel is up 12 percent from this time a year ago with advance reservations way ahead of previous years, Bauer said.

"I've had three or four solid, solid weeks," he said.

Johnny Boy's Pancake House did a brisk business over the holidays, serving a near-record 832 meals on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, owner LuAnne Petrone said.

Killington Resort reported that business levels from skier visits to lodging were up an average of 14 percent from a year ago.

Chris Karr, president of the Killington Chamber of Commerce, said the storms that dumped more than 2 feet of snow over the state helped unleash a lot of pent-up demand "from a lackluster winter last year."

Karr owns several businesses in town, including the Pickle Barrel nightclub and his new venture, The Foundry restaurant (formerly the Grist Mill).

He said both businesses did well over the holiday period.

Because business is always slower midweek during the ski season, Karr said having the holidays fall on a Tuesday this year helped boost business by extending the holiday weekends.

In and around Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, it was an identical story.

Bruce Schmidt, Okemo's vice president and general manager, said the resort came close to breaking its single-day records for skier visits.

"Skier service departments saw some records with culinary doing very well here at Okemo," Schmidt said in an email. "Several culinary outlets set records with revenue or meals served. Our retail was strong during the days of snow and colder weather."

The resort had a ripple effect on Ludlow-area businesses.

"People haven't seen this kind of traffic in 10 years," said Marji Graf, the CEO of the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Graf said traffic at times was bumper to bumper through Ludlow.

She said the lodging in town was near overflowing with the chamber sending overnight visitors to nearby Chester and Weston.

Jim Kubec of The Governor's Inn in Ludlow said business was good over the holiday but didn't take off until the day after Christmas when the first snowstorm was on its way.

"All of a sudden everybody was really excited," said Kubec, who has owned the eight-room bed and breakfast with his wife Cathy for 14 years. "I don't think we've had as many last-minute reservations in our brief history here."

As president of the Killington Chamber, Karr said if the momentum from the holidays continues this could be "one of the best winters we've seen in years."

"I think what we have now in our economy, when people choose to go out they go out, they go out and spend freely," he said. "It's just getting them to choose to go out."

Vt. paper company sold to New Jersey business

PUTNEY — A Vermont paper company has been sold to a New Jersey business.

Soundview Paper Co. of Elmwood Park, N.J., recently announced the purchase of the 130-employee Putney Paper from APC Paper Holdings.

John McLean, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Soundview, said the acquisition gives Soundview a broader range of commercial towel manufacturing capability into its finished paper products — tissues, towels and napkins.

"We are very enthusiastic about this important addition to Soundview's 'Away-from-Home' business and the synergies created by putting these enterprises together," McLean said in a release announcing the purchase.

"Putney is recognized for its high quality commercial towel products and has a heritage of making tissue from 100 percent recycled paper, fitting perfectly into the family of Soundview and Marcal brands," he added. "With the addition of Putney, we now offer our customers an even broader product array of towel and tissue products in the 'Away-from-Home' segment.

Details of the acquisition, including the purchase price, were not released.

Soundview Paper Company ,LLC, is part of Atlas Holdings which owns and operates more than 70 facilities with nearly 9,000 employees worldwide.

Its businesses are engaged in a broad spectrum of industries, including pulp and paper manufacturing, food and agriculture, wood products and building materials, packaging, capital equipment, and industrial and business services.

Vt. Farm Show returning to Essex

The 81st annual Vermont Farm Show returns to the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction from Jan. 29 to Jan. 31.

Last year was the first year the show was held at the Expo fairgrounds. Previously, it was hosted by the Barre Civic Center. The new, more spacious venue provided a better experience for guests in 2012, according to Farm Show management.

The Farm Show is Vermont's largest agricultural showcase. For agriculture professionals, it is an opportunity to meet with vendors, preview products and machinery, attend trade association meetings and network within the farm community.

With tractors, farm animals and agricultural products on display, the show also holds wide appeal for the general public.

This year Consumer Night will be held Jan. 30. Show hours will be extended until 7 p.m. that evening.

Food enthusiasts will enjoy the Buy Local Market, which will showcase foods and products from Vermont farms.

The "Capital Cook-off" — an Iron Chef-type competition in which teams from the Vermont House of Representatives, Senate, and Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will face off in a battle of culinary skills — will take place again this year. Teams will have 90 minutes to create a dish using Vermont products bought at the Buy Local Market.

There is no cost for parking or admission, but attendees are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food donation for the Vermont Food Bank.

For more information, including a list of scheduled 2013 exhibitors, visit www.vtfarmshow.com.

Vt. green groups to fight for wind

MONTPELIER — If a proposed three-year moratorium on wind power in Vermont starts to pick up support in the Legislature, several environmental groups will be ready to pounce.

Sen. Robert Hartwell, D-Bennington, and Sen. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia, proposed such a moratorium on large-scale wind projects on Vermont's mountains last week. Among their complaints is that the projects damage the environment.

But environmental groups including the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Conservation Law Foundation and Vermont Public Interest Research Group are already on the record opposing a moratorium.

The groups say Vermont needs wind power among its strategies to fight climate change by reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 10:50 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Reardon, Jim; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; Johnson, Harriet
Subject: Re: mtg re: positions

Thank you, Shana. We will make this work.

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

On Jan 6, 2013, at 10:33 PM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

> How would 3:30 on the 8th work?

>

> Sent from my iPhone

> Shana Trombley

> Scheduler

> Governor Shumlin

> 802-371-7488

>

>

> On Jan 6, 2013, at 9:12 PM, "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>> Thanks. The first half of the week would be ideal.

>>

>> Jeb Spaulding, via mobile

>> Secretary of Administration

>> State of Vermont

>>

>>

>> On Jan 6, 2013, at 8:32 PM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

>>

>>> Hi Shana: Jeb suggested, and I agree, that we should get on schedule a 20 min mtg with GPS re: the position requests of the agencies and depts. Jim Reardon should attend too. I believe Jeb thinks the meeting would be most helpful if it occurred this week as Jim finishes the FY14 request; if that isn't possible on the schedule let us know.

Thanks! Liz

>>>

>>> Elizabeth H. Miller

>>> 802-522-3090, cell

>>> elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 10:34 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth; Reardon, Jim; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: mtg re: positions

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Sent from my iPhone
Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor Shumlin
802-371-7488

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> Secretary of Administration
> State of Vermont

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>> Elizabeth H. Miller
>> 802-522-3090, cell
>> elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:13 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Trombley, Shana; Reardon, Jim; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: mtg re: positions

Thanks. The first half of the week would be ideal.

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

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> elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

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Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 8:32 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Cc: Spaulding, Jeb; Reardon, Jim; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
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Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 6:04 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: no staff mtg tomorrow

No, that would be perfect. Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2013, at 5:50 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Absolutely. Tuesday too late?

>

> On Jan 6, 2013, at 4:41 PM, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>> Bill,

>> Can we have a brief gathering sometime before Thursday with everyone to discuss the inaugural events?

>>

>> I only need 5 minutes.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>> On Jan 6, 2013, at 1:37 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>>

>>> There's a lot going on tomorrow, so we're going to postpone staff meeting. We will definitely reschedule for later in the week – you're not done with me yet!

>>>

>>>

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 5:51 PM
To: Kunin, Lisa
Subject: Re: no staff mtg tomorrow

Absolutely. Tuesday too late?

On Jan 6, 2013, at 4:41 PM, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us> wrote:

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> Sent from my iPhone
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>>

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: no staff mtg tomorrow

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London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 1:38 PM
To: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: no staff mtg tomorrow

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London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 1:38 PM
To: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: no staff mtg tomorrow

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London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 7:02 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 6 (FINAL):

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

Senate Dems Pick Baruth for Majority Leader, Ayer for Assistant Majority Leader

Posted by Paul Heintz

For the drama-prone Senate Democratic caucus, a Saturday meeting to elect its leadership went remarkably smoothly.

Huddled around a conference table at Montpelier's Capitol Plaza, the 23-member caucus selected Sen. Philip Baruth (D-Chittenden) as majority leader and Sen. Claire Ayer (D-Addison) as assistant majority leader. Both were elected by voice vote — without opposition.

Baruth's selection as the party's consensus-seeker and enforcer signaled a remarkable turnaround for a relatively junior and liberal member who distinguished himself last session — his first — as a voice of opposition and, at times, obstruction. But Baruth's fellow senators appeared to accept the Burlington Democrat's pledge to put the priorities of the caucus before his own.

Oh, and nobody else wanted the job.

After nominating Baruth for the post, Sen. Bobby Starr (D-Essex/Orleans) — a longtime conservative Democrat from the Northeast Kingdom — said that despite their philosophical differences, he believed Baruth to be "a great guy" and "a great communicator."

"Most of you know that Phil's a little more liberal than I might be. Just a little," Starr said, prompting chuckles from around the room. "But over the two years, I can honestly say we never had an argument over an issue. We had great discussions, debate. But in the end, Phil was willing to compromise. I was willing to compromise. And that's what this process is all about."

Even after securing his new position, Baruth sought in brief remarks to allay his colleagues' concerns that he might use it to rock the legislative boat.

"I certainly feel strongly about what I believe in. Like everybody else, I want to implement changes. That's why I got elected," he said. "That said, my priority every single day will be the caucus and not what I happen to be thinking of that morning for myself and my agenda."

Baruth, an English professor at the University of Vermont — not to mention a novelist and recovering political blogger — will be joined in the leadership ranks by Ayer, a registered nurse from Weybridge. Ayer had initially sought and secured the majority leader position, but backed out last week in favor of retaining the chairmanship of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

The two succeed former majority leader Bill Carris and assistant majority leader Hinda Miller, both of whom left the Senate after the conclusion of last year's term.

Baruth and Ayer will likely serve as numbers two and three in the Senate to John Campbell, a Quechee Democrat who is expected to retain his position as Senate President Pro Tem when the body formally elects its officers Wednesday.

Immediately after his election, Baruth got a taste of the job to come as he presided over a two-hour discussion of the caucus' legislative priorities in the coming months. Near the end, he sought to forge consensus over the timing of the Dems' weekly meeting during the legislative session.

As chaos erupted, Starr piped up to warn Baruth of the perils of striving for consensus.

"You gotta remember, Phil, you're the boss," he said.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Congratulations, Philip!

by: Jack McCullough

Sat Jan 05, 2013 at 15:24:04 PM EST

Congratulations to Chittenden County Senator and fellow blogger Philip "Phil" Baruth.

Paul Heintz at Seven Days is reporting that this morning Philip was elected Senate Majority Leader by his fellow Democrats.

Hometown boy makes good, going from a simple novelist and UVM prof to a VPR commentator and blogger, a State Senator, and now this.

We've supported Philip's political rise over the years, and I can say that I'm glad he'll be in this leadership position.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS:

Vermont teacher surrenders Bushmaster rifle, placed on leave from school after angry YouTube rants and emails

By Victoria Cavaliere

A popular Vermont high school teacher has been placed on leave after surrendering a Bushmaster semi-automatic rifle to police who became "alarmed" over his angry rants about his job.

Steven Davis was briefly hospitalized this week for a mental health evaluation on the recommendation of Bennington police. By Saturday, Davis had been discharged from Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, a hospital official told the Daily News. She would not provide any other information.

Davis voluntarily surrendered the Bushmaster AR-15, the same rifle used in the Newtown, Conn. massacre, as well as two high-capacity magazines on Monday, said Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette. Police later seized about 500 rounds of ammunition during a search of Davis' home.

Alarmed neighbors called police when they saw Davis walking to his car with the rifle.

Described as as a well-liked math and science teacher at Mount Anthony Union High School, Davis had recently become disgruntled with his job, posting a series of videos to YouTube in which he criticized the school's administration and union.

In one video, said he had plans for retribution.

"This is all planned and very well thought out ... I've studied military tactics and this is the way to go. It's all going to hit so hard, so fast and shut that school system down til they get things straight."

He did not give any details of the plan.

In his most recent video post, Davis was seated in a hospital bed. "I think the school system is sick and needs to be healed," he told viewers, according to WNYT. That video has since been pulled from YouTube.

Davis had also sent out a series of concerning emails to fellow teachers and school officials.

During an interview with police, Davis "started going on about reading CIA manuals and he talked about looking into military training and things like that, I became alarmed," said Doucette.

"My staff became even more alarmed and we became concerned about the safety of the teachers at the school and the safety of the community," he said.

Davis told police he had never shot the Bushmaster, which he purchased in 2009. Police said the gun does not appear to have ever been fired.

His wife and children have gone to stay with a relative and she has since sought a restraining order, the Bennington Banner reported.

Davis was on administrative leave by the school district from his teaching position.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 6:55 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 6:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

Consultants' report says Burlington International Airport must make strategic changes

JOHN BRIGGS

An airport management consultant firm hired by local business leaders says Burlington International Airport needs to professionalize and streamline its management structure in order to remain a thriving regional airport.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger told the Free Press that the consultants' report was generally on target, was taken seriously and that it was one of the factors which led his administration to make improvements to the airport administration a top priority.

Steven Baldwin Associates of Albany, N.Y. produced a "white paper" on the airport last spring. A presentation was made last fall to the Airport Strategic Planning Committee created by the Burlington City Council at Weinberger's behest. The committee was asked to "chart a course for the future success of the airport."

Weinberger said local Realtor Ernie Pomerleau, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce President Tom Torti and "other respected business leaders" commissioned the report.

Weinberger said he read it with interest. "It was one of the factors that led me think this is the time for a broad strategic look at the airport's future," he said, adding that the fact of the concern for the airport by the business leaders underlined the importance of making sure the airport runs well.

Gene Richards, the interim director at the airport, said the report "makes us think. It makes us stop and look at the things we're doing every day."

He said Burlington is "lucky to have a business community which cares enough about the airport to commission this study. That's a gift," he said.

He said the creation of the Airport Strategic Planning Committee "alone validates the report. The report was successful," he said, "and the business people should be happy. The airport is in much better shape now because of the report."

He noted that the airport's debt, including for the additions to the parking garage, have now been consolidated in a \$24 million bond "at a very affordable interest rate."

The Baldwin report pulls no punches. It says the airport has failed to reach its "full potential" because its governing structure is inefficient and it lacks "qualified management resources."

(Page 2 of 4)

It notes that the airport hasn't had a permanent manager for more than two years "due to political reasons."

The City Council didn't agree to the hiring Scott Carr, the candidate selected by former Mayor Bob Kiss, and the result has been a prolonged period of interim management. Longtime airport Director of Planning and Development Bob McEwing replaced Director Brian Searles as interim director after Searles became Vermont's transportation secretary in Nov. 2010, and Weinberger appointed former Airport Commission Chairman Gene Richards last summer as interim director to replace McEwing.

The report says that even with a permanent director, unless its management structure is changed, "the airport would still lack the ability to be managed ... in a manner consistent with ... the transportation and economic development needs of the greater Burlington region and the state."

It says the airport has been poorly managed in several respects. It "does not maintain adequate programs and management expertise in the areas of property management, marketing, air service development, economic development, strategic planning and financial management."

Additionally, it says the airport's slashed credit rating was lowered in part because of the inability of the city to repay \$17 million used by the Kiss administration to sustain Burlington Telecom. "Of the '98 publicly rated airports by Moody's Investor Services, Inc.," the report says, "Burlington Airport is rated in last place with a current bond rating of Ba1. No other publicly rated airport in the country has a lower bond rating."

Weinberger said the report, while hard-hitting, is a snapshot of the airport as it was in 2011 and early 2012, and some of the issues are being addressed. A new marketing position is in the works, he said, the city's financial office is closely involved now in monitoring airport finances and delivers accurate and timely reports to the Airport Commission, and "airline recruitment" is a top priority. He also noted that Moody's and Fitch Ratings, though neither upgraded the airport's credit rating, did note improvements in airport administration in their last reports. "The airport has come quite a distance since 2010," he said.

(Page 3 of 4)

He said the problems he saw at the airport while on the Airport Commission from 2003 to 2012 influenced his decision to run for mayor.

The airport's health is vital to the region and the state, the report emphasizes, with more than 1,600 jobs at the airport delivering "a direct payroll of \$56 million." It estimates that indirect jobs from airport activities totals 10,250, and says total economic "effects of direct and multiplier impacts equals approximately \$992 million annually."

Burlington International Airport is owned by the city of Burlington, and is overseen by a commission and by the city council, which must approve the mayor's choice of directors, a process the Baldwin report calls "cumbersome."

The Airport Commission, the report says, has been "largely ineffective" in overseeing airport operations and policy. It says that while it is expensive to hire professional managers, that expense could be recovered by an enhanced business structure at the airport. "The airport," it says, "is an enterprise fund and needs to be managed as closely as a business as possible."

And currently, the report says, the airport has weak or "in some cases, non-existent" connections with "local, regional and state-level economic development agencies...."

It says that while thorough studies don't exist which allow comparison of the performance of municipally-operated airports such as Burlington International with those governed by a regional authority, "conventional wisdom" favors the regional authority model. Burlington, the report says, would benefit from a change to a regional model. With that structure, it says, "problems with respect to management and adequacy of airport programs could be more effectively addressed," and the political influence on management would be minimized.

If the city plans to change the way the airport is managed and overseen, the report says, it will need to proceed in a "positive and business-like manner" and with the approval of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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Weinberger said it is premature to decide that a new form of airport governance is necessary.

"I would like the committee to weigh in on that," he said, adding, "I read that part of the report with interest, (but) it's not obvious to me that the governance model led to the problems." He added, "I think there's no doubt there are things that need to be done better, (but) there's no simple overnight solution."

Richards said that a major difference these days is that "this administration does listen to the airport director and the financial team. That's the difference. They listen and they implement the changes."

Committee Co-Chairwoman Karen Paul, I-Ward 6, said the committee has heard from a number of consultants, including Baldwin and has "discussed regionalization and a private-public partnership in addition to other alternatives such as keeping the commission structure but expanding its authority.... It is one of our committee's goals to recommend a governance structure we collectively feel is best for the airport going forward."

The Airport Strategic Planning Committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the airport to continue its review of airport issues, including those highlighted in the Baldwin report.

Lawrence Pyne: Law hits sportsmen where it hurts

Ask any game warden, and they'll tell you the same thing: The most effective deterrent to violations of fish and wildlife laws isn't a fine or even the remote possibility of jail time. It's the suspension of hunting and fishing license privileges.

Paying a fine that usually does not amount to more than a few hundred dollars is one thing. But losing your right to hunt or fish for one or more years? That takes the pain to a whole new level. Which is why the teeth behind Vermont's wildlife laws just got a little sharper.

On Jan. 1, Vermont became the 39th member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, which recognizes license suspensions by member states. That means any person whose license privileges are suspended in one state will also have his or her privileges suspended in all other member states.

In other words, if you lose your license privileges in Vermont, it's no longer simply a matter of heading to any other state and buying a license that will let you continue hunting, fishing or trapping.

The idea behind the IWVC was hatched by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and is modeled on a similar interstate compact for driver's licenses. Colorado, Nevada and Oregon became charter members in 1991, and the IWVC has since spread rapidly across the West, Midwest and South.

It has been slower to take hold in the Northeast, but that is changing. New York joined the compact in 2006 and Pennsylvania did so in 2010. Vermont is the only member from New England, although Maine has taken the first step toward joining. At least three other states are in the process of joining, and most observers believe it is only a matter of time before all 50 states are members.

In order for Vermont to join the IWVC, the General Assembly had to pass enabling legislation last year, which was strongly supported by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. State wildlife officials then moved quickly to make the administrative changes needed to be accepted into the compact by the start of the new year.

"We didn't want to be one of the last islands where bad actors from other states can come and play," said Col. David LeCours, chief game warden for Fish and Wildlife. "The geography of the Northeast being what it is, it's very easy to move on to another state (if your license is suspended). In a lot of cases, it's only a couple hours drive."

At the same time, LeCours noted, joining the IWVC "provides an added deterrent" to Vermonters who might be tempted to violate fish and wildlife laws – both at home and while visiting other states.

"There have been some unfortunate cases where (Vermonters) have gone elsewhere and acted with impunity, because they knew if they were caught violating wildlife laws it would not impact them at home," he said. "Now, that's no longer true."

A good example is the seven Franklin County men who pled guilty in May to illegally taking up to 11 deer in Pennsylvania and had their hunting privileges there suspended for one year. Because their sentencing occurred before Vermont joined the IWVC, however, their license privileges at home were not effected. But under similar circumstances in the future, their licenses would also be suspended in Vermont for a like amount of time.

Not all out-of-state suspensions will automatically result in a suspension in Vermont. The bill passed by the Legislature in 2012 requires that in order for one's license privileges to be suspended in Vermont, the violation that resulted in the out-of-state suspension must have also resulted in a suspension had it occurred in Vermont.

So if your license privileges are suspended for, say, a wanton waste violation in Alaska (which has some of the strictest wildlife salvage laws in the country), it would not result in a suspension in Vermont, because Vermont does not have a wanton waste law. But in the vast majority of cases, LeCours said, a license suspension in another IWVC member state will result in a suspension in Vermont, and vice versa.

As a rule, only the most egregious violations in Vermont result in automatic license suspensions, which can range from one to five years. Yet even relatively minor infractions can result in a suspension if they occur frequently enough, because in the 1990s the state adopted a point system for fish and wildlife violations, similar to what is used for minor motor vehicle violations.

"It's been a very effective deterrent to habitual offenders," LeCours said. "People are much more likely to think twice when they could have their license suspended. They'd much rather just pay a fine."

Central Vermont TU meeting The Central Vermont Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Best Western Windjammer Inn and Conference Center on Williston Road in South Burlington. The guest speaker will be Vermont Fish and Wildlife commissioner Patrick Berry. Non-members are welcome.

Ski company joins forces with Stowe shop to create 'The Vermont Ski'

STOWE — Skiershop.com has teamed with ski manufacturer, Bomber Ski, to produce and manufacture a ski built for Vermont that embodies skiing in the Northeast.

The Vermont Ski will be exclusively available through Skiershop.com's website and the Skiershop Store located on the Mountain Road in Stowe, Vermont.

Bomber Ski Company is an official supplier of the U.S. Ski Team and Canadian Ski Team. Bomber Skis are hand built in Italy. The Vermont Ski is designed and tested in the mountains of Vermont and features Austrian Edges, an Italian world-cup base, and solid wood core construction.

The Vermont Ski is designed to be a traditional camber all mountain ski, tailor specifically for skiing in New England. Its 77mm waist, Austrian steel edges and extreme torsional rigidity are aimed at providing better edge hold on icy or hard-packed conditions. Despite its torsional rigidity, the ski also incorporates flex for easier turn initiation and arc.

The Vermont Ski is available in three lengths (162cm, 172cm and 182 cm) and retails for \$1,749.

Skiershop.com will donate 10 percent from each sale to a non-profit organization. Customers who purchase a pair of The Vermont Skis can choose between the U.S. Ski Team, The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum or the Wounded Warrior Project, all non-profit companies that promote skiing.

The Vermont Ski can be purchased online (<http://www.skiershop.com/bomber-vermont-skis-2013>) or at the Skiershop's flagship location on the Mountain Road in Stowe.

Voice of Vermont: Shumlin's chance to lead on education

Gov. Peter Shumlin got his wish on public education. Now he must deliver.

The Legislature last year granted the governor's wish to add public schools to his administration's portfolio. The creation of the Agency of Education means Shumlin must become the state's chief advocate for public schools.

The advocacy must go beyond the usual focus on a narrow definition of student performance and costs.

The Agency of Education has become a part of Shumlin's administration with a secretary appointed by the governor, and replaces the more independent department overseen by the state Board of Education.

Shumlin convincingly argued that the change would make for a more effective execution of education policy.

Shumlin has become an advocate for an increased focus on the sciences in math in education to better prepare

Vermont's young people for the workplace. A workforce that matches employer needs is seen a key driver of prosperity for the state.

But our public schools have a much deeper mission than to teach job skills, or otherwise prepare students for the workplace.

At its best, schools foster curiosity and creativity, bolster the capacity to learn for a lifetime -- a preparation .

As important, schools are an important part of young people's education about community, civic engagement and good citizenship. The schools also have become the venue for delivering broad range of social services to children and families. That's a lot to ask for school systems largely run by volunteer local school board members facing tight budgets and rising costs.

The state is also under budget pressures, with persistent talk about in the Legislature that could affect how much money will be available for schools.

Simply asking homeowners to continually pay more in property taxes to fund public education is hardly a sustainable path.

None of these challenges are new.

That the new secretary of education, Armando Vilaseca, is the last commissioner of education will certainly help smooth the transition from department to agency. Vilaseca says he'll stay on for a year. The governor says he plans a nationwide search for the next secretary, the same announcement he made back in August when he began the process of filling the post for the first time.

Vilaseca's relatively short tenure is no excuse for inaction.

A smooth transition is important, but more important is facing the challenge of making sure Vermont's public schools continue to prepare students for the future, theirs as well as the state's.

The governor asked for more power to direct the state's education policy. The Education Agency gives Shumlin the authority he sought. Now is the time to show leadership on a difficult and critical issue.

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Baruth elected majority leader in Vt. Senate

Posted on January 5, 2013 by Terri Hallenbeck

Senate Democrats elected Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, as majority leader at a meeting Saturday in Montpelier.

The group, which had previously recommitted to electing Sen. John Campbell, D-Windsor, as Senate president pro tempore, also elected Sen. Claire Ayer, D-Addison, as assistant majority leader.

The majority leader helps marshal the caucus' priorities and manage the flow of legislation during the session, which starts Wednesday.

Ayer had been preparing to become majority leader, but decided to stay on as chairwoman of the Health & Welfare Committee instead. Working as assistant leader would allow her to still be chairwoman.

Baruth is a second-term senator who often conflicted with Campbell during his first term over issues that leadership blocked from reaching a vote. This year's changes could mark a shift toward opening up the power ranks of the Senate to more members.

Baruth said members Saturday also broke up into groups to start discussing priorities, which will continue into the early part of the session with the goal of avoiding late-session procedural battles that gripped the Senate last year.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 6:49 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 6:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD IS NOT ONLINE TODAY.

WCAX:

Democratic caucus in VT senate

KYLE MIDURA

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The Democratic caucus in the state senate selected its leadership.

Chittenden County Democrat Phil Baruth was unanimously elected majority leader. Addison County's Claire Ayer will be the assistant majority leader for the Democrats. Committee choices will follow next week. The Agriculture, Economic Development and Finance committees will all have new chairs this year.

The Republican senators have not yet set a date for choosing their leadership.

FOX44:

VT. Health Dept. Says Flu 'Widespread'

BRITTNEY HIBBS

BURLINGTON, Vt. - (AP) - The Vermont Health Department says the flu is widespread and influenza-like illnesses have been confirmed in all areas of the state.

Officials said Friday it's the first time this season that flu activity has been characterized as "widespread."

State epidemiologist Patsy Kelso says everyone age 6 months and older should be vaccinated against seasonal flu.

She says flu can be a serious illness, especially for the very young and very old, and a typical season can last well into March.

People can be vaccinated by their health care provider, at a local pharmacy, or, for children up to age 18, at no charge at the Health Department's 12 district offices.

VALLEY NEWS:

Hartford Considers Chief Changes

JON WOLPER

Hartford — The town's budget crunch may lead to the elimination of the vacant police chief position in favor of having one person head both the police and fire departments.

A newly created “public safety director,” as Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg explained to the Selectboard last month, would oversee the administrative side of Hartford’s police and fire departments by working with budgets, setting departmental policies and providing centralized leadership.

And the job would most likely go to fire department Chief Steve Locke, according to Selectboard members with knowledge of the situation, even though he doesn’t have any police experience. Rieseberg, as the town’s top administrative officer and the person to whom the chiefs of the police and fire departments report, is entitled to structure the offices as he sees best.

Rieseberg did not confirm that Locke would be appointed to the role, though he agreed Locke “might be a good choice.”

Several town officials said last week that the Selectboard is willing to go along — at least on a trial basis — with Rieseberg’s proposal.

The impetus for the change is largely financial, supporters said. This year’s budget has to take into account a 3 percent decline in the town’s property values and health insurance premiums that shot up \$235,000.

Rieseberg estimated that the consolidation of departmental functions under a single person would save roughly \$90,000 annually.

“We are facing some extraordinary challenges, and I think this makes a good contribution to help us respond to these new financial challenges,” Rieseberg said. “I don’t see it as a big change, to tell you the truth,” he added.

But the proposal also comes after Hartford conducted an unsuccessful search to replace former Police Chief Glenn Cutting, and as the town and police department are being sued by Wayne Burwell, a Wilder man who in 2010 was pepper-sprayed and beaten by Hartford police inside his home.

Cutting, who resigned from his post at the end of March, spoke to Selectboard members after last month’s budget workshops, saying he feared it would be too big a change for Hartford’s 14-officer force.

Selectboard Chairman Ken Parker said it has not yet been officially decided to consolidate the administrative functions of both the police and fire departments under a public safety director — there are budget workshops set for Tuesday and Thursday, during which the board could change funding levels to kill the role before it begins — but he hasn’t seen any notable opposition on the board’s part.

“At this stage it seems to be something that’s moving forward,” Parker said.

According to Selectboard Vice Chairman F.X. Flinn, it is “definitely happening.”

If Locke is selected as the new the public safety director, he would become the third in the state of Vermont — only Bennington and Barre use the model.

Under Rieseberg’s plan, the public safety director would supervise two police department administrators: one who would deal with internal administrative activities, and one who would deal with patrol and uniformed staff.

Locke said he is up to the task if chosen.

“I think my time as a fire chief allows me to be qualified and to serve administrative functions, which I believe the primary responsibility will be,” he said.

The public safety director, however, would not be a deputized officer permitted to wear a badge or carry a gun. Nor would the individual rush to crime scenes or have arrest powers.

Locke's lack of police experience initially gave Parker pause. But he said that concern was resolved when he had more time to learn the actual role of the public safety director.

Now, he said, the Selectboard is willing to give it a try.

Flinn agreed. "He may not have direct experience as a police officer," he said, "but he's got an enormous amount of experience in emergency services and he's worked closely with police with his entire career."

Frederick Peyton, president of the officers' union, did not return a request for comment.

In Barre and Bennington, the departmental shuffling went in the opposite direction. About three years ago, both the city and the town named their police chiefs to lead the police and fire departments.

Bennington made the move to public safety director to unite a full-time police force with a volunteer fire department. Town Manager Stuart Hurd said the move has been successful, even if it took a while for the two departments, which are prone to the usual turf wars, to see eye-to-eye.

"Over the years, I think it's become very positive for Bennington," Hurd said.

Barre, on the other hand, created the position to save money in the wake of a resigning fire chief. State Rep. Paul Poirier, I-Barre, who has served on the City Council since before the change, said the city saved about \$60,000.

But the police chief who became public safety director, Tim Bombardier, is a former state trooper who worked as an arson investigator, which Poirier said gives him the ability to lead both departments, even if his role ostensibly is administrative. When there's a major fire, Bombardier can go to the scene and take command, Poirier said.

"In our situation, we had the person that made it easy for us to make this change," he said. "I probably would have been nervous about it if we didn't have that person."

Some of that trepidation has hit Hartford, as well. Cutting worried that a police department without a dedicated chief would have trouble staying on top of events, especially considering Hartford handles 10,000 cases a year.

Also, he's not persuaded that town residents would get behind the public safety director idea — Hartford has had a police chief for the past 50 years — and said there should be more of a public discussion.

"To not have a police chief is one thing," he said, "but it should be debated, it should be discussed, it should be public."

A search for a new chief following Cutting's retirement left the town empty-handed — there were no long-term candidates, Rieseberg said, and the police department needs continuity.

"I know that he feels like we should set up a big public hearing, and tell everybody about it and go through a decision-making process that would, in (Cutting's) mind, result in the town basically telling the Selectboard and the town manager that they wanted a police chief," said Flinn, who exchanged emails with Cutting after Rieseberg first floated the idea to the Selectboard. "And the town may wind up telling us that. But I don't think they will once we've given this a shot."

Parker said he expected plenty of discussion over the issue, along with other tabled items from previous budget workshops, during the meetings on Tuesday and Thursday. He agreed that there hasn't been enough discussion yet, but there's plenty more on the way.

"I think that there will be debate about it because the issue is still there, very prominently," he said.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Train to gain: The governor renews quest for jobs and qualified workers

The governor is pushing for tailoring education to help Vermont businesses find workers. But business owners say there are many other factors standing in the way of growth.

TERRI HALLENBECK

MONTPELIER — Gov. Peter Shumlin and legislative leaders say they hear it all the time from business owners: They can't find workers with the right training for the jobs that are available.

So as the 2013 legislative session begins this week, state policy-makers say they are looking at making stronger links between schools and employers.

"The biggest challenge Vermont faces now is between the work employers have and the skills employees have," Shumlin said in a recent interview with the Burlington Free Press. "I see Vermont on the precipice of a pretty vibrant recovery. Two things stand in the way: Federal government's inaction and Vermont not having the ability to train its workforce." In virtually every public comment about the upcoming legislative session, Shumlin emphasizes jobs and prosperity, phrases also oft-uttered by his predecessor. "My goal is to continue to make progress growing jobs and growing prosperity for Vermonters," Shumlin said.

That, he said, will come from his previously promised statewide coverage of high-speed Internet by year's end, by continuing to build in-state renewable energy, by developing the nation's first single-payer health care system, and finally, by boosting the state's education system to give employers the help they need.

Shumlin said he plans to expound on the specifics of his job-education ideas in his inaugural address to the Legislature on Thursday. Some of the plans, he said, he's not even shared with legislative leaders yet.

Few would argue against doing more to help Vermonters find jobs, but plenty of people have different opinions about whether this is the biggest challenge standing in the way of job creation in Vermont. Some wonder whether schools really can prepare students for specific work when the market and technology is constantly changing.

Ask 100 business owners what help they need and you are likely to come up with at least 90 different answers. Some say that yes, they have a tough time finding qualified workers and that the state's education system holds the key to economic success. Others say they have no problem finding good workers right here at home.

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What some say is the biggest inhibitor to job growth is something Shumlin and the Legislature aren't planning to do this year: Tell them how they're going to fund a single-payer health care system they plan to launch in 2017.

Some businesses could end up paying less, some more to insure employees under a new system, but without some sense of how much and by what means it will be paid, businesses don't know how to plan, said Lisa Ventriss, president of the Vermont Business Roundtable.

"The thing that would benefit job creation in the new year is helping business feel more secure around this issue of health care," Ventriss said. "Businesses have been reluctant to invest in their human capital."

Shumlin, by contrast, argued that a single-payer health care system will be a job creator by reducing the cost of health care and taking the burden of administering insurance coverage off the backs of employers. He said it's too early to come up with a financial plan for the system.

"We have two years to have a very transparent conversation about how to move from an unsustainable system to one that we can afford," Shumlin said.

Education, meet jobsShumlin offered a hint of what he has in mind for helping to link Vermonters with jobs at a news conference last week in which he announced some staffing appointments.

Susan Bartlett, a former state senator who has been special assistant to the governor for the last two years, will shift to the Agency of Human Services to work as special projects coordinator. Her job will include making sure that low-income Vermonters have access to the skills and education they need to find jobs at a decent wage, she said.

Other pieces of the plan will likely include the way secondary schools and colleges prepare students for the workforce. House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, said his Commerce and Education committees will hear from Vermont State Colleges and the secondary-education technical schools about what they are already doing in that vein.

He said he also wants to know what businesses are doing to train their own employees. He said legislators will be asking, "Are you doing anything more than complaining or are you working with these institutions?"

(Page 3 of 6)

Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell, D-Windsor, said the issue is also on the Senate's radar. He said he's interested in making it easier for students to get the job training they need without incurring crippling debt.

"Kids who don't want to go to college need more two-year programs," Campbell said. "People can focus on learning a specific job with half the debt."

Tom Torti, president of the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce, said his members are finding that students are graduating without basic skills needed to do the jobs that are available.

Torti said employers don't necessarily need a worker who knows a specific computer program. "We want people who can critically solve problems and have basic math skills," he said. "Employers are telling us that people who are showing up are not competent to do the job."

Torti said he will be asking state leaders for more rigor at the high school level, possibly with an assessment of skills required during junior year so the student and school can focus on anything that's lacking during senior year. Those who've mastered the skills can restructure their senior year to take college classes, he said.

Bill Stritzler, managing director of Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville, said he sees the education system as the state's single-greatest economic development tool. A member of the Vermont Business Roundtable, he said, "We are convinced that's the answer. The best way to raise income is to raise the education level."

Paul Millman, founder of Chroma Technologies, which makes optical filters in Bellows Falls, said that though his company's work is technical, the thing that stands out as lacking to him among some job prospects is "they can't speak or write English very well. I'm very much in favor of everybody learning to read and write well."

"We demand a lot of our employees," Millman said, as the company is employee-owned. "We expect our people to be good problem solvers."

Another challenge, he said, is his fairly rural location. "Single people like to live in a bigger environment than Bellows Falls."

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Dan Smith, director of community relations and public policy at Vermont State Colleges, said the colleges already are working with employers to understand what kind of jobs are available.

His best advice for a solution to the issue of turning out more prepared employees: Money. Vermont has long rated near the bottom for state support of its public colleges and university.

"Part of my hope is that people realize the chronic complaint is the byproduct of over the last 30 years we've slowly divested in our colleges," Smith said. "I hope people begin to see the connection. Our hope is that we see some support targeted to more students enrolling and completing college."

Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding hinted the administration's budget would include some extra money for higher education. "We are interested in trying to end four years of level funding of higher education."

Stephan Morse, chairman of the state Board of Education, said that on the secondary school level, he thinks there is room for schools to better prepare students for the workforce. That's something the board has been looking at, he said, and he expects will produce recommendations for changes in graduation requirements this spring. That could pair with Shumlin's push for statewide math requirements in high school.

Cairn Cross, co-founder of FreshTracks Capital, a Shelburne entity that invests in Vermont companies, warned against trying to prepare students for specific jobs. "That's an impossible task," he said. "The job needs, particularly in the technology sector, change so dramatically."

To encourage job growth, he recommended instead some other moves. Among them, he said, is that the state should steer clear of imposing the sales tax on "cloud computing," or software accessed remotely. The House supports the tax, saying it's only fair to tax all products the same. Cross argued that many of Vermont's most robust new companies — Dealer.com, MyWebGrocer and Inntopia — are coming from that sector of business, have a worldwide audience to allow for further growth and should not be discouraged by a sales tax not charged in some other states.

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Cross also recommended state law be changed to allow those receiving unemployment to work on starting their own businesses. "We don't do a lot to encourage people who've lost their jobs to start their own businesses," he said.

Art Woolf, a University of Vermont economics professor who leans conservative, said the best thing the state can do to foster job growth is create a fertile economic climate through reasonable taxes and predictable regulations. That will allow entrepreneurs to generate jobs that the market will fill, he said.

He argued that Vermont doesn't have that due to its tax structure, relatively high energy and housing costs, and tight regulations.

By contrast, the liberal-leaning Public Assets Institute argued in an article published last week that the state is creating the right environment. The old ways of offering tax credits and relaxing regulations don't work, the group said, but laws passed in 2011 to shift the focus to how policy is impacting Vermonters' well-being will help.

"They acknowledged that tax and spending policies should be weighed by how well they meet Vermonters' basic human needs," Paul Cillo and Jack Hoffman of Public Assets Institute wrote.

There are signs that Vermont's economy is moving forward, like a train that has chugged its way uphill and finally reached the crest.

Reservations were up at Smugglers' Notch Resort even before the skies dropped buckets of powder the last couple weeks, Stritzler said. The company is opening new lodging and adding employees to staff it, he said.

Overseas demand is spreading for Chroma Technology's optical filters, Millman said.

Vermont Business Roundtable's survey of business last fall indicated that 43 percent expect to increase employment, compared to 33 percent earlier in the year.

There are also signs that Vermont's economy is not all it could be. Woolf pointed out that the state's population declined from 2011 to 2012, joining only Rhode Island in that category, according to U.S. Census Bureau numbers released in late December.

(Page 6 of 6)

"That's not a sign of a robust economy," Woolf said.

Still, he said of the state's economy, "We turned a corner maybe three years ago. The last few years we have been growing."

Whether the state can do something to nudge business growth further remains to be seen.

Betsy Bishop, president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and a former economic development commissioner in the Douglas administration, said no single solution spurs jobs. "Job creation is not a science," she said.

Bishop said her members are looking to the state for greater certainty — on health care, on taxes and on regulations. On tax policy, she said, there has been a lot of uncertainty in recent years as the state ramped up its efforts on compliance.

"We are just headed out of a recession. Our hope is that the Legislature does not add any new regulations or taxes or new programs," Bishop said.

Ventriss said the Vermont Business Roundtable will push the Shumlin administration and Legislature to come out earlier with funding plans for the proposed single-payer health care system the system. She said, however, that she worries that a host of social issues that legislators and the governor have on their lists, from physician-assisted death to unionizing child care workers, could soak up all the energy.

"Every one of them could consume a legislature for an entire year," Ventriss said.

Not true, argued House Speaker Smith, Senate President Campbell and Gov. Shumlin, who set the priorities for the legislative session.

"They can juggle a lot of balls," Shumlin said. "The only thing standing in the way of progress is fear."

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 12:14 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Inauguration

Liz,
Thanks. I've been talking with Tricia Coates.

Welch is seated on the House floor with dignitaries. Will add Rogan, but not next to Welch.

Lisa

Congressman

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 5, 2013, at 10:50 AM, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us> wrote:

> ...plus Bob Rogan on list...

>

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

> From: Rogan, Bob [mailto:Bob.Rogan@mail.house.gov]

> Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:49 AM

> To: Miller, Elizabeth

> Subject: Re: Inauguration

>

> Thanks, Liz. I am planning to come up and will be with Peter. See you soon

> -----

> Sent using BlackBerry

>

>

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

> From: Miller, Elizabeth [mailto:Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us]

> Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:33 AM

> To: Rogan, Bob

> Subject: RE: Inauguration

>

> Great! The inauguration is at 1:30; best to arrive enough ahead of time to work through the crowd to seating (will of course make sure he is on seating list). There is a later open house at the state house, a bit after the inauguration itself. All is well; had a nice holiday vacation in New Zealand and now settling in, to the extent that is possible in this new job...Liz

> From: Rogan, Bob [Bob.Rogan@mail.house.gov]

> Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:26 AM

> To: Miller, Elizabeth

> Subject: Inauguration

>

> Hi Liz -- Wanted to let you know that Peter would like to come to the inauguration. Let me know what time he should be there. Best of luck with the speech and festivities. Hope you are settling in there. Best, Bob

> -----

> Sent using BlackBerry

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: Inauguration

...plus Bob Rogan on list...

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

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Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:49 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Inauguration

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Sent using BlackBerry

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Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:33 AM
To: Rogan, Bob
Subject: RE: Inauguration

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Sent using BlackBerry

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:29 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: Inauguration

Hi guys: I'll let Bob know tight away that the speech is at 1:30 and that Peter should arrive a bit before that; if I may/should give him details re: private reception or anything else let me know...Lisa, add him to seating if not already on list...!

From: Rogan, Bob [Bob.Rogan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 10:26 AM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Inauguration

Hi Liz -- Wanted to let you know that Peter would like to come to the inauguration. Let me know what time he should be there. Best of luck with the speech and festivities. Hope you are settling in there. Best, Bob

Sent using BlackBerry

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 9:19 AM
To: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth; Porter, Louis
Subject: Fwd: Leahy photo show
Attachments: ATT00001.htm

Senator Leahy will be displaying his photos at the VT Supreme Court beginning next week. There will be a reception on Weds., January 9th at the court. It begins at 5:00 PM.

John Goodrow forwarded the attached release and asked me to extend an invitation to our staff.

Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Goodrow, John (Leahy)" <John_Goodrow@leahy.senate.gov>
To: "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>
Subject: Leahy photo show

Hi Lisa,

Here's the release on the photo show. Have a good weekend.

John

"THE EYE OF SENATOR LEAHY" — A FRONT ROW SEAT TO HISTORY
Unique Photography Exhibition at the Vermont Supreme Court

MONTPELIER, Vt. – U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy has served Vermont for 38 years in the Nation's Capital -- years that have given him a front row seat to innumerable historic events and extraordinary access to the world's most remarkable leaders and cultural icons. At every opportunity, his camera was close at hand to capture the moment. A personally selected collection of his unique images, entitled "The Eye of Senator Leahy," will be exhibited Jan. 2 through Feb. 28 at the Vermont Supreme Court in Montpelier. The public is invited to an opening reception on Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m., when Senator Leahy is scheduled to give a guided tour of the exhibition.

From the Senator's over-the-shoulder image of President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Act (protecting women from hidden pay discrimination) to his poignant portraits of Tibetan lives, the candid images in the collection present a wide spectrum of many of our time's most important and fascinating people, while conveying a universal sense of humanity. Senator Leahy's images have been featured in such leading publications as The New York Times, U.S. News, USA Today, Newsweek and Time.

“As the son of a printer in Montpelier,” Senator Leahy recalls, “I learned early about the power of the printed word and the printed image, and a lifelong interest in photography was born the first time I picked up a camera. Photographs can at once be both timely and timeless. They enhance our understanding beyond the ability of words alone. They can bridge the gap from generation to generation and breathe life into our history. The essence of leadership and life sometimes is better captured by the lens than by the pen.”

Beyond the movers and shakers of our times, the Senator’s eye has also documented the hopes and dreams of “just plain folks” from around the globe.

“When I have been fortunate enough to visit with Presidents or Popes, or spend time with locals in another country, sometimes I have also been fortunate enough to have my camera along at just the right moment,” says Senator Leahy. Being at the right place and right time is particularly apparent in the Senator’s favorite image from the collection: a Tibetan man who literally risked imprisonment by publicly showing him a photo of the Dali Lama.

“The Eye of Senator Leahy” provides a rare opportunity for visitors to witness history unfolding from an insider’s perspective. The Supreme Court building is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The court is closed on all state holidays.

#####

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 7:41 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 5:

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Vets Home must try to close \$\$ gap
Finance commissioner says internal adjustments must come first
NEAL P.GOSWAMI

BENNINGTON — The state's finance commissioner says the Vermont Veterans Home must make internal adjustments before seeking additional state funding to address what the state believes is a \$1.7 million budget deficit.

Home Administrator Melissa Jackson and Board of Trustees President Joseph L. Krawczyk Jr. said on Thursday that the home was taking steps to reduce spending and increase revenue. They said the budget gap for the current fiscal year ending in June was over \$1 million and would likely require additional funding from the state to balance the books.

On Friday, Department of Finance and Management Commissioner James Reardon said he received more detailed financial information from officials at the home on Thursday. "I was aware that they were continuing to operate at a loss over the last several months but I didn't really have a concrete discussion until just recently," he said. "It appears that the budget gap may be closer to \$1.7 million at this time."

Additional state funds will not be forthcoming at this point, Reardon said. Reardon, on behalf of Gov. Peter Shumlin, has already presented the annual budget adjustment recommendation to lawmakers. It does not include any relief for the home, he said.

"I think it's premature at this point in time to recommend any budget adjustment for the veterans home. In fact, in our budget instructions that we send out every year regarding the budget adjustment, we always put in bold that the first recourse is to redirect resources within your existing funding. I think we need to look at the veterans home and see what they can do to close that gap," Reardon said.

The home purposely kept the 150-bed facility's census low following a near-loss in September of its provider agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The federal funding from CMS, which accounts for the majority of the home's \$19 million annual budget, was in jeopardy unless several deficiencies identified by state inspectors were corrected. The home passed a lastchance inspection in September but is now under closer scrutiny.

The census has dropped to 118 residents as the home focused on correcting the deficiencies and training staff. Reardon said efforts will now be made to bring the census closer to capacity. "We need to kind of think about trying to increase that census to generate more revenue," he said.

Expenses must also be reduced, though. Reardon said variable costs, including food, should have decreased with the census. Other efforts will be made to ensure the home is receiving payment from federal insurance programs for residents as warranted.

"I think we need to first of all look at ways to close that gap internally at the Vermont Veterans Home before we start a discussion about providing any further relief," he said. "I don't think we've done all of our homework that is necessary."

Reardon said it is likely the home will close the fiscal year at the end of June with a loss on the books, which is allowed under state law.

"I think it will be very difficult to close that gap between now and the end of the fiscal year," he said. "We're taking this seriously. It is a concern to myself and other members of the administration. We're going to look at ways to close that gap and put the home on a financially sustainable path and we're going to be doing that in the near term. As a result of that, we will then determine what are the next appropriate steps. We're just not there yet."

The administration could still seek additional funding for the home in next year's state budget, according to Reardon, if work on the budget adjustment for the current fiscal year is completed before a review of the home's finances is complete. Reardon said such a move is not unprecedented. Any language in next year's budget would be retroactive to this fiscal year, he said.

Meanwhile, Reardon said he maintains full confidence in the leadership team in place at the home.

"I'm absolutely confident with the management down there. Melissa and Joe, the new incoming board president, have some pretty significant challenges that, quite frankly, aren't always within their control," Reardon said. "I have confidence in Joe as the president of the board and Melissa Jackson as the administrator."

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

The Week of Three Pressers, pt. 3: The dull drudgery of good government
by: jvwalt

Fri Jan 04, 2013 at 13:54:58 PM EST

As with previous installments in this series, I'm posting a brief version now and a longer update later today. Governor Shumlin's third news conference in three days was the shortest and most boring of them all. The subject matter was important, mind you -- but there was no sizzle, as there was on Wednesday with the Jim Deeghan case or on Thursday with Shumlin playing rope-a-dope on gun control.

Nope, today we were talking government transparency, and two new features of the State of Vermont website designed to fulfill Shumlin's goal of maximum "accountability and transparency."

One feature is "The Governor's Dashboard." It allows people to find the latest information on Shumlin's top priorities and goals, and measurables on progress made (or not). The second is "Spotlight," which is a one-stop destination for details on the state's finances -- budget, spending, revenues, grants and contracts, and audit reports.

The information on Dashboard and Spotlight isn't new, but these web features are designed to provide one-stop access, without having to visit numerous state websites or pore through stacks of documents.

Both websites look well-designed and very useful. The real test will be keeping them accurate and up-to-date.

On another transparency-related subject, Shumlin called for a change in state law to allow greater public access to records of criminal cases and investigations. Current state law has been defined as providing absolute and indefinite confidentiality of criminal records. Shumlin would like the Legislature to adopt federal standards for releasing such information.

Will Entergy cut bait?
by: Sue Prent

What should we make of this?

'Digger is reporting that Entergy's poor economic outlook might portend the closing of Vermont Yankee. This, according to UBS Securities of Switzerland.

They suggest there are strong indications that Entergy might consider resolving some cash-flow issues by closing both Yankee and another relic of happier times, NY Fitzpatrick.

On the face of it, this looks like good news; and the sooner the better.

But then there is that small matter of a decommissioning fund that is significantly inadequate to handle the thirty-year job of reclaiming Yankee from its toxic past.

"Entergy guidance clearly illustrates no cash generation from nukes"

If Entergy is hemorrhaging cash with little prospect of improvement on the nuclear horizon (something that comes as no surprise to readers of GMD); and if the company was prepared to drag the State of Vermont through multiple appeals only to pull the plug all by itself; that same perversity will undoubtedly see Entergy move heaven and earth in order to slide out from under its decommissioning obligations.

Soon dawns the certain knowledge that nuclear energy is anything but cheap and clean.

As if that isn't enough provocative news on the nuclear front, 'Digger carries another related story about Vermont and New York teaming up to ask the NRC to take a closer look at spent fuel storage at facilities on their soil.

This request has been made in light of a 2011 court decision which effectively negated the long-standing rule allowing on-site storage of spent fuel, pending further investigation related to the findings from Fukushima.

The NRC wasted no time in extending VY's operating license in the immediate wake of Fukushima. Now that undo haste is coming back to haunt them.

'Just another nail in the coffin of Entergy's future commitment to Vermont Yankee.

VNRC Opposes Wind Moratorium

by: Sue Prent

The premier voice on environmental policy in Vermont, the Vermont Natural Resource Council, has just issued a position statement against the proposal for a moratorium on wind projects.

The opening lines of the statement recognize the good intentions of proponents for the three-year moratorium; however, the VNRC does not believe that the moratorium serves the best long-term interests of the state.

A point-by-point rundown of the reasons for this conclusion includes the urgency of the need to cut fossil fuel consumption; the responsible and timely efforts now underway in Vermont to develop effective guidelines for siting wind projects; and the fact that

Many of the environmental concerns commonly associated with wind energy development - including habitat fragmentation and stormwater runoff - are widely associated with a range of land use and development activities both at high and lower elevations that are subject to much less stringent - or no - state regulation and oversight. A moratorium on wind energy facilities does not address the vast majority of land use impacts on forest and habitat fragmentation and water quality.

In conclusion, this summary observation is offered:

VNRC believes that carefully sited renewable energy generation facilities - including wind turbines - coupled with aggressive energy conservation and efficiency strategies, are a responsible response to climate change, peak oil and the need for an independent, clean energy economy.

The topic of wind has been a thorny one in Vermont, and will no doubt continue to be; but the VNRC can be credited for its effort to show the environmental community a path out of the thicket by reminding us that we can ill-afford to make an achievably better environment the victim of an impossibly perfect one.

The full text of the VNRC statement is reproduced here, "under the fold."

Sue Prent :: VNRC Opposes Wind Moratorium

VNRC opposes the proposed three-year moratorium on wind energy development in Vermont. While VNRC appreciates that the motivations of the moratorium's sponsors are well intentioned and grounded in a desire to protect Vermont's mountaintops and ridgelines, a moratorium is not in the best long-term interest of the state. VNRC's position is based on the following considerations:

Climate change and fossil fuel scarcity are major threats to Vermont and the world. Deployment of a full range of available renewable energy technologies, including well-sited wind power, is among the many important strategies to reduce those threats.

The Vermont Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission, appointed by Governor Shumlin this past October (at the urging of VNRC and other conservation and environmental organizations), is currently engaged in an aggressive process of identifying improvements to the siting and permitting process for energy facilities in the state. Their work is scheduled for completion in April 2013.

There are no pending applications for wind generation facilities. There is a pending proposal for a meteorological wind testing tower (Newark), a very recently approved met tower application (Windham) and one potential project - Grandpa's Knob - that would have to meet significant hurdles before it could proceed.

That all adds up to providing ample time for the Legislature to act on the recommendations of the Energy Siting Commission prior to any likely submission of a new application.

Wind energy can, and should, play an important role in meeting Vermont's goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050. It is the most affordable, reliable renewable resource in Vermont, and the state is currently undertaking serious steps to mitigate or avoid the impacts of wind development.

Vermont can develop some upland areas for wind energy generation safely and without undue adverse environmental impacts. Many of the environmental concerns commonly associated with wind energy development - including habitat fragmentation and stormwater runoff - are widely associated with a range of land use and development activities both at high and lower elevations that are subject to much less stringent - or no - state regulation and oversight. A moratorium on wind energy facilities does not address the vast majority of land use impacts on forest and habitat fragmentation and water quality.

A moratorium on wind projects in Vermont - regardless of one's view of such an initiative - more broadly undermines other efforts both here in Vermont and across the country to address climate change because it has the effect of minimizing the threat.

VNRC believes that carefully sited renewable energy generation facilities - including wind turbines - coupled with aggressive energy conservation and efficiency strategies, are a responsible response to climate change, peak oil and the need for an independent, clean energy economy.

VALLEY NEWS:

Vermont Officials Seek to Open Police Files

MARK DAVIS

Montpelier — On the eve of a new legislative session, top state officials are supporting a change in the law that would require police to release files from their investigations, potentially shedding light on key records that law enforcement have traditionally kept secret from the public.

The legal change, which has long been sought by open-government advocates, gained momentum yesterday when Gov. Peter Shumlin swung his support behind it during a press conference in which he announced several “transparency” initiatives. Under the governor’s proposal, the law would change to assume that records of criminal investigations should be disclosed unless officials could demonstrate a specific “harm” that their release would cause. Under the current law, police generally assert a blanket right to keep the records sealed, which critics say allows police to operate with little public oversight.

“This is all about accountability,” Shumlin said. “Government (officials) should have nothing to hide and if they do we should know about it.”

Shumlin is not the only state official to support the change. Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell, whose office has routinely fought in court to keep records sealed, said in recent weeks that he supports a limited version of Shumlin’s proposal. And State Sen. Dick Sears, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said making records open is one of his priorities for the upcoming session, scheduled to open Wednesday.

Vermont’s public records law, which generally allows citizens to access all manner of government records, contains an exemption for records of “detection and investigation of crime.”

That exemption has routinely been invoked by law enforcement authorities to refuse to turn over — to journalists and open-government groups — files from cases that have been closed, or never resulted in criminal charges. For example, Hartford police, backed by Sorrell’s office, declined to release files from two incidents in which officers were alleged to have used excessive force against citizens who were later found to have committed no crime.

In addition, the Vermont State Police have refused to release records of their investigations into local police officers accused of misconduct.

Critics say the current law allows the police to operate with little oversight, and results in the Vermont Attorney General’s Office clearing officers of criminal wrongdoing without showing the public how they reached those conclusions. Several legal experts who, at the request of the Valley News last year, reviewed a file of a Vermont State Police investigation into Hartford police officers accused of assaulting a naked and unconscious Wilder man said that state police appeared to soft-pedal the inquiry and only spotlight facts that made the police officers look good. (The Valley News obtained the file from confidential sources — police declined to release the file, citing the legal exemption.)

The American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations have argued that police are misapplying the current law, and have pushed to re-write it to mirror a federal standard, which has been adopted by 21 states and requires disclosure of records absent harm, which could include privacy or jeopardizing criminal prosecutions. Shumlin’s proposal would do exactly that.

“It’s not only the public that’s hurt by secrecy, it’s the good people in the police department that are hurt by the deeds of a small number of officers,” Vermont ACLU Executive Director Allen Gilbert said. “We hope there is a bill and we hope it passes.”

In an interview this week, Sears said he supports adopting the federal standard for releasing documents.

And Sorrell, whose office has fought to keep records sealed, wrote a letter to Sears in December in which he voiced support in releasing files from investigations of other police. Sorrell, who came out in favor of such a plan during a close primary challenge last year, did not support such a change for investigations involving citizens.

"The vast majority of public discussion and debate about transparency relating to such files concerns access to files relating to investigations of on-duty conduct by police when no criminal charges are filed," Sorrell wrote to Sears on Dec. 20. "There are also some who believe that prosecutors, even when the facts warrant a prosecution, show favoritism to police by not filing charges. To attempt to effect greater respect for the integrity of the criminal justice system ... I propose that the current confidentiality of closed criminal investigative files be changed when the investigation has focused on on-duty conduct of law enforcement officers and a decision has been made that no criminal charges be filed."

State Sen. Dick McCormack, D-Bethel, said he has been collaborating with Sorrell and plans to introduce a bill that would follow Sorrell's recommendations.

"Investigations of the police should be public," McCormack said. "Cops are doing a difficult, dangerous job in the public interest and they're constantly subject to criticism. (But) we allow the police to carry guns, to kill people, to arrest people; the kind of power we give the police means they ought to have a level of accountability greater than the average Joe."

Both Gilbert and Shumlin administration officials said this year's legal push was sparked in part by a Vermont Supreme Court opinion last year in which Justice John Dooley said that the exemption for investigative records was "overly broad," and urged lawmakers to "re-examine" the ruling.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 7:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 5:

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

In the Vermont Senate, the Real Fight is for Chairmanships

Posted by Paul Heintz

When Democratic state senators meet Saturday in Montpelier, they'll elect the caucus' next majority leader.

But with seemingly just one candidate in the running — Sen. Philip Baruth (D-Chittenden) — the real behind-the-scenes jockeying appears to be elsewhere: namely, committee chairmanships.

With the retirements of Sen. Sara Kittell (D-Franklin) and Sen. Vince Illuzzi (R-Essex/Orleans) last year, the chairmanships of the committees they led — agriculture and economic development, respectively — are up for grabs.

On top of that, Sen. Ann Cummings (D-Washington), the longtime chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee, says she's giving up her chairmanship. Cummings, who unsuccessfully challenged Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell for his leadership job last year, cited health issues in her decision.

"My health right now is fine, but the last two years have been very high-stress for me," she says. "Both myself, my family and my doctor thinks that the stress of the last two years during the session played a role in my health issues."

Exactly who will fill the vacant committee leadership spots is anybody's guess. The decision will be made next week by the three-member "Committee on Committees," which will likely consist of Campbell, Republican Lt. Gov. Phil Scott and Sen. Dick Mazza (D-Grand Isle).

"We have definitely not made any commitments, and we're still going over the list to see who will fit best in what position," Mazza says. "We have some very capable folks, and we want to make sure they get into positions they enjoy and would be good at."

Adding to the palace intrigue is the possibility that sitting chairs could be bumped from their posts or reassigned to other committees, thereby launching a game of musical chairs. Mazza says it's too soon to say whether that will happen.

"We've taken every position, every chair, and we're looking at it to see if there's any job they could do a better job at. But at this point, I don't see anyone — as of yesterday — who's definitely losing their chair," Mazza says. "But there might be some shifting around."

While Sen. Bobby Starr (D-Essex/Orleans) is expected to regain the chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which he once held, it's hard to say who will take over the powerful Senate Finance Committee job.

One possibility? The committee's vice chairman and longtime member, Sen. Mark MacDonald (D-Orange), who says he's actively seeking the post.

"No one has more experience on the issue than I do," he says. "That's where my experience and background is."

Another? Sen. Tim Ashe (D/P-Chittenden), though he did not immediately return a call seeking comment. (Neither, for that matter, did Campbell.)

The jockeying for chairmanships may have something to do with the relative dearth of candidates for majority leader, which is perceived to be a rather thankless — and less influential — job. Though Mazza says there's no hard rule against it, most members believe they'd be out of the running for a chairmanship if they won the majority leader post. And with the majority leader election slated for Saturday — before chairmanships are settled upon — few seem willing to risk it.

Baruth — a second-term senator who would be unlikely to win a chairmanship regardless — says he put his hat in the ring only after others backed out. Ashe and Sen. Sally Fox (D-Chittenden) both expressed interest in the position last year. And Sen. Claire Ayer (D-Addison) had all but locked up the post before backing out last week to remain chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, as the Burlington Free Press' Terri Hallenbeck first reported.

Former senator Bill Carris held the position last session, but he announced last summer he planned to drop it — and resigned from the Senate late last year, shortly after winning reelection.

"There were a number of people that I thought made more immediate sense than I did, so I was going to back them, but none of them decided to run," Baruth says. "I'm offering myself as a candidate and not really counting votes — just making my case."

Baruth says he hasn't exactly been beating the bushes for votes, but he says Campbell supports his bid. He says if others with more interest or experience step forward, he would step aside.

So why does Baruth think he's the only taker?

"It's a service position and you spend most of your time trying to make life easier, better, more stable for other people," he says. "I think that's the reason not everybody wants to do it: You're putting the caucus' priorities over your own and you're serving the needs of 29 other senators."

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

State: Fairlee pair operated illegal captive hunting facility

Authorities say Fairlee pair operated illegal captive hunting facility including buffalo, boar, moose and sheep

TERRI HALLENBECK

Two men were charging hunters up to \$6,000 apiece to come to a 129-acre hunting facility in Fairlee and bag animals including buffalo, boar, moose and sheep, state fish and wildlife officials say.

The problem: The operators had no permit to run the captive hunting facility, state Fish & Wildlife Maj. Dennis Reinhardt said Friday afternoon.

Two of the facility's customers turned out to be undercover game wardens who paid \$750 each to hunt Spanish goat and wild boar, Reinhardt said.

Steven Hill, 51, and Chiaki Ito, 21, both of Fairlee, were accused Friday of seven counts of operating an unlicensed captive hunting facility. They face up to \$1,000 in fines for each count and could lose hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for up to three years.

The two men ran the Hunt the Ridge facility in Fairlee, officials said. Beyond the two undercover game wardens, some of the other customers provided information to authorities, officials said.

Reached at a phone number listed for Hunt the Ridge, Hill said, "I can't comment right now."

Reinhardt said Hill's reaction was similar when game wardens cited him. "I think the content was, 'You need to talk to my lawyer,'" Reinhardt said.

The state regulates hunting facilities partly out of concern for the spread of disease, including chronic wasting disease. For that reason, permitted facilities are required to keep an inventory of where the animals came from, Reinhardt said — something that Hunt the Ridge did not seem to have done.

Reports came out Friday of the spread of chronic wasting disease in Ohio and Wisconsin, said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry, reminders of the importance of protecting native species.

Berry said a captive-hunting-facility permit was unavailable to Hunt the Ridge because, as of 2008, no more permits may be issued. Two existing captive hunting facilities were allowed to continue operating as long as they meet the permit requirements, he said.

One is Wild Hill Preserve, also in Fairlee, Berry said, and that facility is operating legally. He said Hill used to work for that facility.

(Page 2 of 2)

The other is Big Rack Ridge in Irasburg, a facility that attracted attention a few years ago after becoming home to Pete the Moose, an animal that had been adopted from the wild by a local man. State officials initially said the moose and all native animals inside the fence had to be killed to prevent the risk of disease spreading from non-native animals in the facility, but spared the moose after there was public outcry. The moose died in 2011.

Although Big Rack Ridge was slated to close, the facility remains open, Berry said, but the native whitetail deer that are at risk of disease have been killed off, and the native moose are permitted to be killed. A few allowable species remain, he said.

Berry said Hill also had done some work as a guide for Big Rack Ridge.

Berry said of captive hunting facilities, "Vermont hunters don't view these facilities as hunting facilities. They have a lot of out-of-state clients."

State officials received a tip that Hunt the Ridge was operating a captive hunting facility, Reinhardt said.

Reinhardt said the facility had fences about 8 feet tall. "There's a lot of visible animals around," he said. "Chances for success are quite high."

Fish and Wildlife says the facility included buffalo, elk, wild boar, Spanish goats, Texas dall sheep, moose and whitetail, sika and fallow deer.

With some 200 animals still on the property, Hill and Ito were ordered to cease operating the facility without a permit. They are due Feb. 27 in Vermont Superior Court in Chelsea to answer the allegations. Authorities said additional charges are possible.

An Internet search reveals that Hunt the Ridge is listed on various business sites as offering hunting of exotic animals, but its own website is not active.

Assault-weapon ban: a local, national debate

JOEL BAIRD

A proposed ban on assault rifles in Burlington is poised for debate at Monday's night's meeting of the City Council.

Already, sponsors and skeptics disagree heartily over such a ban's effectiveness or constitutionality.

But they hover over a single question: To what extent might the virtues of "going local" extend to firearms regulation?

Burlington's ban is from the outset in the slow lane. It likely wouldn't be put to a public vote until 2014, Council President Joan Shannon, D-Ward-5, said last week.

If it clears that hurdle, the ban (a city charter change) would still be subject to approval by the Vermont Legislature — and that body has shown little inclination to stray from the state's guidelines for gun ownership, which are among least restrictive in the country.

But Shannon has nonetheless signed on as a co-sponsor of the proposed ban.

The reason she gives — and it's echoed by other advocates: Burlington's strong stance might just nudge public safety up a notch; and more importantly, it would deliver a message to state and ultimately, Vermont's Congressional delegation and federal regulators.

"A local measure might shake loose some of that inaction," Shannon said. "It does force the discussion."

Opponents of the ban, like Councilor Paul Decelles, R-Ward 7, and Burlington gun collector Ian Galbraith, agree that any meaningful policies that restrict access to firearms must take place at the state and national level.

Why, they ask, waste time and effort with patchwork legislation that will likely be superseded by federal law?

Monitoring danger

Decelles favors a wider-ranging discussion that would include local and state officials from local and state law enforcement, the mental health community and schools.

"This might simply be something to get the conversation started," Decelles said. "If that's the plan, it's the wrong way to go about it. Why spend a lot of time, and rile up the community — for something that probably won't make a difference, anyway?"

Easy access to any number of other guns, and too-easy access to schools, Decelles added, would remain as gaping, lethal loopholes.

"If a ban on assault weapons goes through, someone might not be allowed to walk up to a school with one over his shoulder, but he would be able to go up there with six handguns in his bag," Decelles said.

For Galbraith, the appeal of assault weapons lies in their unique design and ease of customization — and not in self-defense; nor because they inspire aggression.

"There's nothing about these guns that keeps them from being used in a safe and responsible manner," he told the Burlington Free Press. "The vast majority of owners demonstrate that."

Galbraith said he'd comply with a local ban on his semi-automatic AR-15 — probably by leaving it with friends living beyond the city limits until his next trip to a firing range.

Vt. Rep. Chris Pearson, P-Burlington, agrees that a local gun control measure would be largely symbolic; and notes that the Queen City already has an ordinance on the books against the discharge of firearms.

"We shouldn't fool ourselves that Burlington will really be protecting its citizens with a ban," Pearson said. He said he thinks the ban has value.

"Local and state governments can play a role by indicating their interest, and Burlington has a long tradition of speaking up about national and even international issues," he added.

Invisible issues

Burlington's measure, authored primarily by Councilor Norm Blais, D-Ward 6, proposes a "substantial fine" against those in possession of semi-automatic weapons with high-capacity clips, and allows seizure of the weapons by police in cases where they present a risk to the public.

Councilors Bryan Aubin, D-Ward 4; Kevin Worden, D-Ward 1; and Sharon Bushor, I-Ward 1, have joined Shannon as co-sponsors.

Although a supporter, Bushor voiced reservations shared by skeptics of the ban: that ultimately, prevention of gun violence must reach marginalized members of society.

"Something has to change — but I also know the hardest problem to deal with is undiagnosed and untreated mental illness and how it contributes to the overall problem," Bushor said.

On Friday, Blais outlined his best-case scenario for the assault-weapon ban:

- Majority approval by the city council on Monday would send the proposal to the Charter Change Committee, where its legal language would be tightened up to conform with state statutes.
- It would return to the council for two public hearings — and another council vote — before being placed on a citywide ballot in 2014.
- Passage on the ballot would direct the measure to the Vermont Legislature, which has a final say over whether Burlington can regulate what sorts of firearms its residents may own.

A starting point or dead end?

Blais said Friday he's hopeful of the proposal's passage by the council.

Vt. Rep. Kurt Wright, R-Burlington and a former city councilor, said he's puzzled by the measure, given its unlikely inclusion on the 2013 March ballot.

The Vermont Legislature, he added, could not be depended on to approve a gun control-related charter change; it turned down a similar proposed by Montpelier.

"This sounds like something that begs to be studied," Wright said. "I'm not sure what it would accomplish. Are we trying to say we're really doing something? And are we really doing anything?"

Police Chief Michael Schirling, who has been on vacation and only recently read the proposal, said he welcomed its presence as a catalyst for discussion.

Schirling added: "It's a starting point for conversations — important conversations — about how we can make this a safer city, relative weapons of all kinds — not just assault weapons."

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Brattleboro's bright future

"Every few years Brattleboro reinvents itself, and it feels like that is going on right now."

Christian Clines spoke those words to a Reformer reporter shortly after purchasing Maple Leaf Music on Elliot Street, last year. While we haven't officially ranked, by importance, our top stories of 2012, as we worked on the compilation one story kept sticking out to us again and again: the renovation of Brooks House on Main Street into a consolidated college campus. Smack dab in the middle of downtown Brattleboro, no less.

In the wake of 2011, with its shootings and fires and floods, it was clear the county, as a whole, was eager to turn the page and forge ahead. In many ways, the re-envisioning of the Brooks House goes beyond development; it's a symbol of all the recovery our region has faced and continues to face.

But unlike many of the individual victories we have been privileged to report on — rebuilt homes and bridges, roads and culverts — Brooks House seems like so much more. When you consider what it means when a house or bridge is rebuilt,

that action of rebuilding is a return to the status quo. In the case of the Brooks House, the rebuilding is not simply a return to form — it's a representation of moving forward.

When Gov. Peter Shumlin made the announcement, early last year, of the creation of a consolidated campus for the Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College in Brattleboro, it was a welcome surprise to the region. The addition of the colleges will infuse new life and energy to the downtown area, and is already eagerly anticipated by many local groups looking to evolve with the new development.

"This is really going to make Brattleboro's downtown come alive," Martha O'Connor, a member of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees, told us this week. "I've never seen anything in my lifetime that people have been so excited about."

Or perhaps Craig Miskovich, a partner of Mesabi, LLC, which was formed to find financing for the rehabilitation of the Brooks House, said it best: "Brattleboro will become the college town it's always wanted to be."

It seems that every so often Brattleboro is able to reinvent itself through new energy. Following World War II, you had Blanche Moyse and other founding members of the Marlboro Music Festival move to the area, along with the founding of Marlboro College. In the late '60s and early '70s, the back to the land movement brought many communal farming folks to the area. Following the tech bubble burst in the late '90s, during the last recession, new innovations like the New England Youth Theater and the roots of Strolling of the Heiffers were taking shape.

Each time these "movements" left an imprint on the community. And while we'll try to not get too excited, this feels like another one of those times.

Change is coming ... and it feels good.

Gun violence and children: Remove barriers to mental health treatment **By DR. ROB SIMPSON**

As I listen to the national gun control debate following the tragic shootings in Newtown, I know in my heart this is not the right strategy. The real discussion should center on how our nation will embrace decades-old strategies to end the stigma surrounding mental illness and give the required resources to prevent and treat mental illness. This strategy is not only the most cost effective; it's also the most humane. Our nation must provide leadership in protecting children.

The U.S. averages 2,200 child homicides by gun per year. A thousand more youngsters die annually by suicide using a gun. Yet as a country we have become strangely inured to these personal tragedies. Perhaps it takes a dramatic and very public event such as Newtown to make us realize our society has become complacent in protecting children.

Where our children are at risk, re-shuffling our spending priorities is the fundamental issue to address. It is far less expensive to promote mental health, implement preventive strategies, and treat existing illness than it is to allow stigma to drive us to other solutions that do not target the primary problem. Mental illnesses are real health conditions that are defined by alterations in thinking, mood or behavior — all of which are mediated by the brain. Psychiatric treatment involves a complex blend of psychology, biology and compassion. It means never giving up on someone struggling for relief from unbearable pain. It is deciphering when an individual cannot care for him or herself and how to intuit danger and protect others while caring for our children, our communities and ourselves.

In 2006 the Institute of Medicine reported that mental health and physical health efforts are often fragmented and of uneven quality for children and again recommended a "public health network linking services to respond to the growing recognition that mental health is dependent on good physical health." In 2009, the Institute of Medicine took things a step further stating, "We recommend attention to areas that have heretofore been neglected, such as effectiveness in real-world situations, cost-effectiveness, integration of genetics and neuroscience with intervention research, and the

careful monitoring of rates of disorder and present risk factors to assess whether population-based improvements can be achieved. Without adequate surveillance, what the burden of disorder is for the society or where best to direct national resources will not be fully known."

Yet in any given year less than one in five children in the U.S. who need mental health care will receive it. This statistic has been consistent since the first Surgeon General's report on mental illness in 1999 that stated: "We are now facing a public health crisis in mental health care for children and adolescents in which the systems of care created to take care of the needs of these children are failing them instead."

The nation has been admonished now for several decades by high level governmental and private organization reports that for children the promotion of mental health and the prevention of disorders must be tied to strategies that integrate mental health and physical health with a public health design that links families, health care providers and schools in an inclusive and de-stigmatizing approach.

Why is stigma so strong despite better public understanding of mental illness? The answer appears to be fear of violence, as people with mental illness, especially those with psychosis, are perceived to be more violent than the general population. Yet research suggests that the overall likelihood of violence from people suffering from mental illness is low. In fact, evidence from many sources including the Journal of Public Health (2002) underscores that social risk factors such as substance abuse, being a victim of violence during childhood, or living in high crime neighborhoods is more predictive of violence than having a mental illness.

In fact, the overall contribution of mental disorders to the total level of violence in society remains exceptionally small. But when it does occur it is highly visible due to stigma and fear. Yet the general public remains poorly informed about the nature of mental illness, further isolating those with mental illness.

A 2011 study by Leong and Kalibatseva demonstrated that more than half of all adults in the country will experience a mental illness during their lives: "But for members of ethnic and racial minority groups, the road to treatment is often blocked by cultural views of mental illness and therapy, lack of insurance and access to appropriate care, and a critical deficiency of studies pertaining to nonwhite populations."

Our efforts should be focused on removing the stigmatization of mental illness and deliver on the promise of decades of research and evidence that promoting mental health and treating mental illness is a very effective strategy to reduce violence. We must embrace common sense solutions such as providing mental health insurance coverage on par with medical care, supporting full implementation of the Affordable Care Act's coverage requirements that ensure all American access to the full range of mental health and addictive services while guaranteeing adequate funding of treatment services.

We cannot bring back the lives of the children lost in Newtown. But this strategy holds more promise than any other being debated in the political arena today to begin to dramatically decrease the number of deaths by guns of children. We should embrace the decades of scientific work that underscores that no matter the number of children killed by guns in a given year or in a given event, providing mental health prevention services at all levels of society will help us move away from violence as a solution to conflict and unmet emotional needs and replace it with critically needed professional and personal support.

Dr. Robert E. Simpson, Jr., is the president and chief executive officer of the Brattleboro Retreat. He has worked in the field of mental health as a clinician and an administrator for more than 40 years.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 7:23 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, Jan. 5:

FOX44:

Assault Weapons Ban Proposed

MATT AUSTIN

BURLINGTON, Vt. - On Monday, the Burlington City Council will debate whether to outlaw semi-automatic weapons in the city.

"No one has convinced me that these weapons serve a useful purpose," says Norman Blais, D-Burlington city councilor.

Blais says he was motivated after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School where a gunman killed 20 kids.

Now Blais wants a ban in the city of multiple ammo clips and semi-automatic assault weapons.

"Their killing potential is so awesome. I mean in a matter of a few seconds you can spray out a number of bullets and kill a number of people," says Blais.

Blais says many details of the plan, including if it would affect current gun owners, can be worked out later.

Even if the resolution passes on Monday, because it's a charter change, it still has a tough fight ahead. It would also need the approval of voters in Burlington and legislators in Montpelier.

There has already been backlash.

A pro-gun website called Ammoland.com encouraged people to contact city councilors.

Blais says he's received more than 100 emails with a common complaint.

"Do you feel at all that it impinges on the second amendment?" asked FOX 44/ABC 22.

"Well sure it does. I mean but there's no constitutional right that is unfettered or unregulated," says Blais.

On Monday, people can weigh in on the proposed ban. A public hearing is part of the city council meeting which starts at 7:30pm.

VERMONT DIGGER:

Governor urges lawmakers to open criminal investigation records

by Nat Rudarakanchana

Gov. Peter Shumlin wants to provide better access to criminal investigation records.

Under current state law, records created during a criminal investigation are absolutely and indefinitely confidential, and are generally unavailable to the public or the press.

The governor is urging state lawmakers to adopt the more liberal federal standard governing the release of state records.

In a Montpelier press conference on Friday, Shumlin proposed allowing public access to criminal investigative records unless the state's lawyers can prove in a given case that disclosure will harm a specific person.

Gov. Shumlin stands behind his administration secretary Jeb Spaulding on Friday as they outline measures aimed to boost the transparency of state government. Photo by Nat Rudarakanchana
The standard for the federal government's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests has been adopted by 21 other states.

"Our hope is that such a law would result in greater transparency without compromising the effective investigation or prosecution of criminal cases," said Shumlin in a statement.

Shumlin's general counsel, Sarah London, explained that the impetus for the administration's call came from a Vermont Supreme Court decision last year, in which judges interpreted state statute as categorically denying access to criminal investigative records, in the Rutland Herald v. Vermont State Police case.

London explained that in that case justices "concluded that the existing language [V.S.A. 317c5] creates a categorical and indefinite exemption from the public records act. That's what this will most directly change."

The question of access to state records has become a heated topic in recent years, with critics questioning the impartiality of investigations of police misconduct, overseen by police and state prosecutors, in which investigative records invariably remain secret.

Although Shumlin favors open records for all criminal investigations, Attorney General Bill Sorrell argues that access should be limited to cases in which law enforcement personnel are accused of misconduct on duty. That would protect the privacy of citizens mentioned in case files and saves strained state prosecutors the burden of applying for exemptions, he told VTDigger.

"I think we should be more respectful of the personal privacy of average Vermonters," said Sorrell. "My proposal is to open up the files as it relates to police officer on-duty cases or investigations of police conduct on duty. ... For average citizens, the Legislature has it right. This isn't a case where the federal government has it right."

Sorrell said he wouldn't revise his position in light of the governor's stance, but would wait and see what legislators decide in coming months.

Legislation is already being discussed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, as an exchange of letters between Sorrell and committee chair Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, indicates (Sears to Sorrell and Sorrell to Sears). Sears is tentatively in favor of the federal standard, though he wants to hear more testimony; a draft bill is sure to come up for review, he said.

Transparency advocate Allen Gilbert of the ACLU-VT welcomed Shumlin's proposal today, saying that it would enhance public confidence in the integrity of police conduct. He expected any opposition to come mostly from the law enforcement community, especially from prosecutors, rather than from political quarters.

Because of the secrecy around criminal records, said Gilbert, there's a public perception that it's impossible to make informed judgments about how well police are doing their jobs, in the rare cases where police may have acted questionably.

"Police have been damaged by the exemption and the way it's been used, because of the public's perception that they're trying to hide something," Gilbert added.

Shumlin also unveiled a newly revamped website which details the state's finances, called SPOTLIGHT. He billed the website as a further step towards transparency and public understanding of the government's use of taxpayer funds.

In 2012, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group gave Vermont a D- grade for fiscal transparency, an issue which surfaced during the race for state treasurer.

Vermont has consistently scored low on national ratings for government accountability, a point state officials acknowledged on Friday. The Center for Public Integrity gave the state a D+.

Shumlin said addressing the criminal records exemption, one of more than 200 ways the state can deny access to records, would be the fastest way to make progress on public records reform, given a legislative committee's failed attempt to address the topic comprehensively.

DIGGER ran a **correction** to a story that ran yesterday incorrectly stating that Governor was open to a moratorium on wind power development. Correction: Gov. Peter Shumlin said on Friday that he is still completely against the idea of a moratorium.

Tax Department prepares for TransCanada property disputes by Nat Rudarakanchana

The Tax Department is asking state lawmakers for an extra \$150,000 to prepare for potential litigation by TransCanada against five towns on the Connecticut River, where the hydroelectric giant is disputing 2010 state property valuations.

Tax Commissioner Mary Peterson explained to the House Appropriations Committee that the extra funds would go to defend a 2010 statewide appraisal of the dams, which cost \$200,000. If necessary, the funds would cover the expenses of expert witnesses in court.

If the dams are overvalued, TransCanada will pay a higher and unjustified level of property tax. If the dams are undervalued, these five towns and the state will lose out on deserved property tax revenue.

Peterson said the contingency planning wasn't particularly unexpected, because "utility appraisals are just complex. Their incomes are based on what the markets are doing at any given time."

The department's director of property valuation, Bill Johnson, said that the maximum potential loss to the state stands at \$4.3 million in total, on the highly unlikely assumption that the value of all five dams drops to zero.

It's too early to tell how much the state would realistically lose, since it's unclear how much of a devaluation of their dams TransCanada is asking for, Johnson said.

The Tax Department prefers to negotiate settlements between TransCanada and the towns, Johnson said, because if TransCanada prevails in the courts, it could move forward to dispute property valuations in 21 other towns in Vermont where it owns property.

"I suspect that if they got reductions in most or all of these [five] towns, they'd probably look for similar types of reductions in lots of the other towns that have TransCanada properties," said Johnson.

The company has successfully fought utility appraisals in court before, in Concord in 2009. It disputed the valuation of the Bellows Fall dam last summer.

Litigation costs are likely to be borne mostly by the towns, which would probably be the primary defendants in any suit. The state wants to aid towns in shouldering those expenses, if need be.

The five towns where TransCanada has appealed property valuations in local superior courts are Waterford, Barnet, Newbury, Rockingham and Vernon. The \$150,000 being requested would come from the state's education fund.

Senate Democrats to hold caucus on Saturday

Anne Galloway

The Senate Democrats are holding a caucus on Saturday to select a new majority leader and assistant majority leader. Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, D-Quechee, was reinstated as the caucus top pick last month after a runoff with Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Montpelier.

Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Burlington, is running for the second-in-command slot. Earlier this week, Sen. Claire Ayer, D-Addison, dropped out of the running for majority leader. The seat was left vacant when Bill Carris of Rutland resigned from the Senate last month for health reasons. Sen. Anthony Pollina, D/P-Washington, is putting his hat in the ring for the assistant majority leader slot.

Both senators are part of the more liberal wing of the Democratic Party, while Campbell and Sen. Dick Mazza, D-Grand Isle, are considered to be more moderate Blue Dogs.

The caucus will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

WCAX reporter Susie Steimle takes job in Providence

Alicia Freese

A familiar figure on Channel 3 News is leaving Vermont. Susie Steimle, a reporter for WCAX, is headed to Providence, R.I., where she will serve as a reporter and occasional anchor for the NBC affiliate station WJAR. Steimle has reported for WCAX since February 2011. As the station's Montpelier bureau chief, she covered politics and government.

"Leaving this beautiful state is certainly bittersweet," Steimle said, but she is looking forward to an "opportunity to work in a larger market and a chance to further my career in this industry." At WJAR, she'll report live during the mornings and contribute to evening newscasts.

Steimle worked for two and a half years as a reporter, anchor and producer for KOMU in Columbia, Mo., before she came to WCAX. She is a native of Kalamazoo, Mich., and holds a bachelor's degree in radio-TV journalism from the University of Missouri.

PRESS RELEASE:

Vermont Public Television to webcast and broadcast Gov. Shumlin's inauguration

On Thursday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m., Vermont Public Television will offer a live webcast of Gov. Peter Shumlin's inauguration to his second term as governor of Vermont and his address to the joint assembly of the Legislature at the Statehouse in Montpelier. Chris Graff will host.

The event will be streamed live on vpt.org. It will be broadcast at 7 p.m. that day on the VPT World channel, with a repeat broadcast on VPT World Saturday, Jan. 12, at 9 p.m. It will also be archived on vpt.org for viewing on demand.

VPT World is at the .4 broadcast position on VPT's channels statewide and is carried on all Vermont cable systems.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m., VPT will webcast Gov. Shumlin's budget address and broadcast its coverage that evening at 7 p.m. on VPT World:

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 7:12 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 5:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD (CON'T):

Heat helpers

By Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

(SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS)

Heating a home during a cold Vermont winter is expensive. To help ease the pain, many are turning to weatherization projects. The Central Vermont Community Action Council has five crews working year-round to button up homes in our area. These services are free of charge to central Vermonters who meet income qualifications. Others can hire these trained crews for audits and renovations. People who go through the process typically save 30 to 35 percent on their heating fuel usage. On Friday, a CVCAC crew was at the home of Linda Morse in Williamstown. Above, Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, right, and Craig Fullerton, of East Randolph, blow loose cellulose insulation into the attic of Morse's home. Scott was on the job as part of his "Vermont Everyday Jobs Tour." Left, Zach Green, of Northfield, caulks around a new 3-inch insulated basement door. Below, Brian Mudgett, of Cabot, installs weather stripping around a door frame.

City challenges stormwater regulations

By Gordon Dritschilo

Vermont's Environmental Court will be called on to decide whether the sun or the rain keeps trout out of Moon Brook.

Rutland has appealed the new state stormwater permit as it applies to Moon Brook, arguing that the regulation would require the city and private property owners to spend millions of dollars without addressing the root problem of the impaired watershed.

At the heart of the dispute is the question of just what is impairing Moon Brook. Impairment is determined by measuring the biota (small-scale plant and animal life) necessary for the brook to function as a trout habitat.

The state holds that storm runoff and associated pollution and sediment entering the brook is the problem, and calls for the creation of ponds, holding tanks and other infrastructure to keep the stormwater out.

The city, on the other hand, notes that temperatures in the brook are regularly too high for trout to survive, and Mayor Christopher Louras pointed a finger at Piedmont Pond and Combination Pond, where water sits and grows warm before flowing through the rest of Moon Brook, as the culprits.

Louras said the city has an estimate putting the cost of various stormwater mitigation work at \$25 million to \$40 million and that the city would likely need to take on a full-time stormwater management staff.

"While the city wants to see water quality standards met, we can't afford to address both the temperature issue and the stormwater issue," he said. "We could reduce the stormwater runoff to zero and the standards still might not be met. It would be a monumental waste of private and public money."

Peter LaFlamme, director of the Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Management Division, said that while there were clearly elevated temperatures in the water coming out of Combination Pond, it was cooler downstream and that, in all likelihood, the brook's impairment was due to a combination of temperature and runoff.

"We've been back and forth with the city over a number of years on this and we disagree with the city's position," he said.

LaFlamme also pointed out that stormwater issues can lead to temperature issues.

"You have your classic August day, hot and baked pavement, and then you get a storm," he said. "The runoff can heat the brook."

Anthony Iarrapino, a staff attorney focusing on water quality issues at the Conservation Law Foundation, said the state's track record was such that if the state disagreed with a town on an environmental issue, it likely means the state has a sound position.

"In my experience, (the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources) is overly conservative in deferring to municipalities," he said. "It runs very counter to the experience of water quality advocates that ANR would be overreaching when it comes to a municipality as important as Rutland is in the state."

While the city was the sole municipality to have filed an appeal as of late Friday afternoon — the deadline was 4:30 p.m. Friday — Louras said he intended to reach out to Rutland Town about having them join in the appeal.

WCAX:

Shumlin urges greater access to criminal case info

SUSIE STEIMLE

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Gov. Peter Shumlin wants to make all records related to criminal investigations public.

The Vermont Supreme Court ruled this past year that all criminal and investigative records can be withheld from the public. The American Civil Liberties Union says this damaged public trust of law enforcement, something the governor hopes to reverse. The governor says current Vermont law is stricter than federal law when it comes to this type of access.

"The federal guidelines make sense, there's a lot of reasons why we should accept the federal guidelines in criminal cases, the first is they have been more transparent than many areas of state government," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

"The public feels it doesn't have the access it needs to be able to judge how well police are doing their jobs. On the other hand, police have been damaged by this exemption and the way it has been used because of the public's perception that they're trying to hide something," said Allen Gilbert of the Vermont ACLU.

Gilbert says he supports this proposal, but the devil is in the details. The Legislature will have to determine when some records should still be kept secret in specific cases, for example: If the public's right to know interferes with an individual's right to a fair trial or violates someone's privacy and threatens their safety.

As you can imagine, these notions change on a case by case basis making a comprehensive bill a difficult thing to draft.

New website for transparency in Vt. Government

SUSIE STEIMLE

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Gov. Peter Shumlin says he wants to give you the opportunity to check up on state government.

Among a series of transparency proposals in Montpelier Friday, the governor announced a new state government database-- Spotlight.Vt.gov. It provides Vermonters with information on all aspects of state government so they can see

for themselves what programs are working, how much money they're costing taxpayers and how they've changed over the years.

"There are two things I feel strongly about as governor-- accountability and transparency. I've said many times government should have nothing to hide and if they do we should know about it," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

Shumlin says Irene shows federal help process

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin says the state's experience in getting federal assistance in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene makes him sympathetic to efforts by people in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut to get help after Superstorm Sandy.

Shumlin said Friday that getting federal help to recover after the August 2011 storm was vital to the state's ongoing recovery, but "getting federal help is a long bureaucratic process."

Vermont is continuing to rebuild after Irene, which caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.

Shumlin said he also agreed with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who criticized the last Congress for not passing Sandy aid before adjourning.

On Friday, the new U.S. House passed a bill to pay Sandy flood insurance claims.

Vt. wins preliminary approval for health care exchange

SUSIE STEIMLE

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont has preliminary approval to start enrollment for its health care exchange by October.

The Vermont Health Connect, as it will be called, is one of 19 other state blueprints just approved by the federal government. Vermont faces 40 more milestones before October to get the program off the ground, creating the government-run insurance marketplace. The state says this is an important indicator that Vermont is on the right track.

"It represents the federal government's expression of confidence that we'll be ready to have the exchange working on October 1st, 2013, so people can begin shopping," said Mark Larson of the Vermont Health Access Department.

All companies with 50 or fewer employees will be mandated to enter the exchange by January of next year.

UVM gets on board with online degrees

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The University of Vermont has its eye online.

"What's exciting that we are involved in is moving toward online education," said Domenico Grasso, vice president for research and dean of the graduate college at UVM.

The university is working to get a number of online degree programs off the ground for the first time. But transitioning from a bricks-and-mortar education to one that's centered on the web can come with hurdles, like concerns about quality.

Students, faculty and alums protested at the University of Virginia last summer when trustees pushed for a faster move online than the measured approach its president wanted. UVM watched the debate closely and is aiming for the latter.

"We're working very closely with our faculty senate here and working with faculty members here to make sure that we do a similar, thoughtful approach to moving into online education, making sure that it is high quality education, something that is value-added and reaches an important population," Grasso said.

Online degree programs in business, IT and health care have been underway at Champlain College since the 1990s.

"We believe online really offers the working adult a chance to advance in their career, offers communities a chance to have access where education fits within their life, fits within what they're juggling and also allows them to really apply it to their workforce," said Jayson Boyers, the executive director of continuing and professional studies at Champlain College.

Boyers says about 800 people are enrolled online at anytime and that having the option is allowing his students to find success in an environment that suits them best.

"I think it common sense that this is part of the portfolio of higher education. I am always reluctant to say that one is better than the other," Boyers said.

UVM says it plans to start with programs in health and environmental leadership. It will have to spend money to get them going, but is confident the effort will turn a profit. It can't say when or how much they'll be charging new online learners.

"Now that you are dealing in a marketplace that is in the cyberworld, you are competing with other schools that are priced in a very different competitive market. Some schools offer degrees at the same rate of their residential program, others don't," Grasso said.

UVM hopes to get the new online effort up and running within the year.

UVM says an additional challenge to making the move online will be to train faculty in how to transition from the classroom to the web.

WCAX ALSO REPORTED ON THE RAID OF THE ILLEGAL HUNTING RESERVE, THE SOUTH BURLINGTON METHADONE VOTE, LAUZON CALLING FOR LIMITS ON GUN SALES AT THE GUN SHOW.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 7:00 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 5:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Shumlin calls for opening some police files

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday that he wants to increase public access to records dealing with police investigations.

An exemption in Vermont's public records law has long hampered citizens' access to documents related to criminal probes. But Shumlin has asked lawmakers to adopt a federal standard that allows police to withhold records only when their disclosure would cause some kind of specific harm.

Shumlin said the exemption related to criminal investigations is "the area of state government where we often have the greatest challenges."

"And I can understand why," he said. "It's a complex area when you're trying to bring justice."

But Shumlin said Vermont's blanket prohibition against the release of any documents related to a criminal investigation, active or not, unduly restricts the public's right to know.

Allen Gilbert, executive director of the Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, cheered the announcement.

A number of recent cases in Vermont — including a pending one in which the Rutland Herald is seeking records dealing with an investigation at the Rutland City Police Department — have highlighted the media's inability to investigate fully the work of the police they cover.

Gilbert said the restrictive records laws have fueled an unhealthy, and usually inaccurate, public perception of police.

"Because of the current exemption, the public feels that police activities are not on the up and up," Gilbert said. "The public feels like it doesn't have the access it needs to judge how well police are doing their jobs."

Attorney General William Sorrell has said he supports expanding public access to criminal investigation records only in probes that focus on law enforcement officers. Sen. Dick Sears, a Bennington County Democrat and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Sorrell's stance reflects legitimate concerns about preserving the integrity of criminal cases as well as the privacy of those involved with them.

Sears said he believes this part of public records law needs more clarity but that he wants to review the governor's proposal to ensure it won't have unintended consequences.

"We want to protect people that are the subject of criminal investigations to the extent they may be innocent, and you also have an obligation to some of the people that agree to cooperate with police in an investigation," Sears said. "So I'm mindful of all sides of this."

The federal standard allows police to withhold documents in criminal investigations when their release would interfere with a fair trial, reveal a confidential informant or investigative technique, violate someone's privacy, or threaten someone's safety.

State: Facility ran illegal hunts

FAIRLEE — The Department of Fish and Wildlife says wardens have broken up an unlicensed captive hunting facility in Fairlee where people paid up to \$6,000 to hunt exotic animals such as buffalo, sika deer and Texas Dall sheep.

The state said it charged 51-year-old Steven Hill and 21-year-old Chiaki Ito, both of Fairlee, in the case Friday after two undercover game wardens paid \$750 each to hunt a Spanish goat and wild boar.

Hill and Ito are charged with operating the Hunt the Ridge facility. The state says about 200 animals remain on the property.

Hill and Ito are to appear in court next month in Chelsea.

Lauzon targets 'assault firearms' at gun show

By David Delcore

BARRE — Mayor Thomas Lauzon has asked organizers of next month's Central Vermont Gun Show to ban the display and sale of "military-style assault firearms" and high-capacity magazines at the popular two-day event, where plainclothes security will be stepped up.

"For me it's really just about being respectful and sensitive in light of recent events," Lauzon said, referring to the school shooting that claimed 26 lives — including 20 young pupils — in Connecticut last month.

"Gun control is a very emotional issue, and I don't want to add to that emotion," Lauzon said, defending the ban he suggested to the Barre Fish and Game Club, which has been holding the annual gun show for the past 30 years.

Lauzon stressed he isn't issuing any ultimatums but said he believes the club should take his advice.

"For the sake of the gun show this is the best move they could make," he said.

Lauzon said he sent a letter to the club's board of trustees and has spoken briefly with John Simanskas, who is organizing the gun show to be held at the Barre Civic Center complex Feb. 9 and 10.

According to Lauzon, a more formal conversation with Simanskas — one that will include Chief Tim Bombardier — is set for Monday morning.

Though the city owns the civic center, Lauzon acknowledged its ability to restrict the display and sale of firearms and accessories that are legal is probably limited.

"I don't know that we can 'require' ... and I'm not ready to do that," he said.

Contacted for comment Friday, Simanskas agreed with the mayor's assessment.

"Legally they really can't tell us what to do up there (at the civic center)," he said, suggesting the club is probably in the same boat with the show's participants — most of them licensed gun dealers.

"It's up to the vendors," he said. "They rent table space. It's a gun show, you know."

Simanskas said he would wait until after meeting with Bombardier and Lauzon next week to make any additional comments, but he expressed frustration over the fallout from the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"It's unfortunate some idiot did what he did in Connecticut and now the whole gun world is getting blamed for it," he said.

Lauzon said he understood Simanskas' frustration and appreciated the work of the fish and game club. He described his call for a ban on the display and sale of the type of weapons and accessories used in the Connecticut shooting as a "simple gesture of respect and sensitivity."

Lauzon, who recalled taking his hunter safety course at the Barre Fish and Game Club more than 40 years ago, said he believed in the organization and its mission.

"I do support legal and responsible firearm ownership, and I value the Barre Fish and Game Club," he said.

"I absolutely support the gun show because it promotes the legal sale of firearms and accessories in a controlled and monitored setting," he added.

This year, Lauzon said, that setting will be monitored more closely than usual.

"We're going to make undercover officers available, and they will be controlling the parking lot," he said, noting officers will be on the lookout for the illegal sale and transfer of weapons.

According to Lauzon, Bombardier has reached out to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and planned to make the requisite forms available so private collectors and others who aren't licensed to sell guns can conduct those transactions without breaking the law.

"The forms and the mechanism will be available to do that," he said.

According to Lauzon, Bombardier plans to request that registered gun dealers in the show display their federal licenses.

In Rutland, where a gun show will open at the Howe Center at the end of March, Mayor Christopher Louras said he wouldn't intervene in the event unless extraordinary circumstances existed.

"Unless a public safety professional like the police chief felt there was a compelling reason to get involved then I would take no role in their affairs," Louras said. "Frankly, I think there are better ways to expend energy and address issues with firearms."

For starters, he said, he wants to see Vermont pass legislation similar to a federal law that makes it a crime for a person convicted of a felony — or at the least convicted of a violent felony — to possess a firearm.

Moreover, Rutland's mayor said he wants to see greater emphasis on what he calls the "common denominator" in rampage shootings like the one at Sandy Hook: issues of mental illness.

"It's no less a tragedy for someone to walk into a school and murder six kids with a revolver than to go in and kill 20 with an assault weapon," Louras said. "It's just as much a tragedy caused by a person with a mental health issue who was allowed to possess a firearm weapon. Until we address our failed mental health system, the problem isn't going to go away."

Police: Risk at Harwood was remote

DUXBURY — Police suggest that the posting of a deputy sheriff at Harwood Union Middle/High School this week was more to ease concerns than because of any imminent danger.

A former Harwood student caused the school's administration to request a deputy sheriff at the school this week.

A potential threat came from a minor who was at a "secure facility," and a deputy sheriff was at the school Wednesday as a precaution for the security of students and staff, Washington County Sheriff W. Samuel Hill said Friday.

"Oftentimes even though there may not be a huge potential for the threat because the person may be incarcerated, it's the security and the overall feelings that it makes people feel safer," Hill said.

The minor was enrolled as a student earlier this school year, said Vermont State Police Lt. Paul White.

Although top school officials said the incident involved a restraining order, state police said they issued only a no-trespass order to the former student and provided a copy to that person's parent Dec. 24.

The former student was scheduled to move out of state with a family member, Hill said. School officials said they confirmed later Wednesday the person was no longer in Vermont.

Follow the money on state website

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Stung by a D-minus rating for government transparency last year by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the Shumlin administration has launched an online information center where it says citizens will be able to find out what Montpelier is doing with their tax dollars.

Gov. Peter Shumlin said the new website — www.spotlight.vermont.gov — offers a portal into the inner financial workings of state government.

"Any citizen can go in there and see how revenues come into the state, how their money is spent and what we're doing with their tax dollars," Shumlin said.

His office has also launched an online "dashboard" — www.governor.vermont.gov — that aggregates key quality-of-life metrics in a single website. Shumlin said the public can use the dashboard to judge his progress on things like job creation, rates of recidivism, unemployment and highway fatalities.

"This is all about accountability," Shumlin said.

The administration said the new tools are a work in progress. For instance, under the "Economy" section of the governor's dashboard Friday morning, the website said Vermont had the fourth-lowest unemployment rate in the nation. In fact, its 5.2 percent seasonally adjusted jobless rate in November ties it for seventh lowest in the country, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"It'll be corrected before the end of the day," said Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding.

And it was. The site by early afternoon reflected the accurate figure.

The fiscal transparency site for the most part aggregates graphs, charts and spreadsheets already being compiled by various state departments and the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office. By providing residents with a one-stop shop for information they might otherwise have to spend hours combing the web to find, Shumlin said, the site will let them hold government to account.

Deputy Finance Commissioner Sue Zeller has spearheaded the transparency effort and said the site has been designed around the criteria used by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group to rate states.

Shumlin also unveiled a "State of Vermont 2012-2015 Strategic Plan" that he said charts the core mission of state government over the next four years. It is available online at <http://aoa.vermont.gov>.

VT, other states criticize NRC handling of waste storage

SUSAN SMALLHEER

MONTPELIER — The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission isn't doing enough to assess the environmental and safety concerns of storing high-level radioactive waste at nuclear power plants across the country, the state of Vermont said Thursday.

Vermont, joined by New York and Massachusetts, again have formally criticized the way the NRC is handling the issue of high-level radioactive waste. Filing the comments were Attorney General William Sorrell and the Shumlin administration, in the form of the Department of Public Service and the Agency of Natural Resources.

"The NRC staff is working on an Environmental Impact Statement to address deficiencies identified by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals," Sheehan wrote in an email.

In comments filed with the NRC Wednesday, Vermont said the NRC was not following a ruling last year by the District of Columbia federal circuit court that ordered the NRC to do a better job evaluating sites for the long term storage of the radioactive waste.

Currently, there are 2,507 fuel assemblies stored on site at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon in its five-story spent fuel pool, with another 884 fuel assemblies in 13 concrete and steel casks outside the reactor building.

Sorrell said Thursday that the NRC was "taking the very long term storage way too lightly, and the D.C. circuit (court) agreed with us."

"Despite the DC circuit really reading the riot act to the NRC, we're saying in this filing that the NRC hasn't listened very closely. We're saying, 'We're going to be watching,'" Sorrell said in a telephone interview.

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said Vermont, New York and Massachusetts, and Nye County in Nevada — the home county of the proposed and currently rejected Yucca Mountain federal repository — were the only states to file comments by Wednesday, although he said it was possible other states filed but sent their comments by mail.

Sheehan said the NRC had received about 700 comments on its proposed plan for dealing with the so-called waste confidence rule. He said it would be next year before the NRC responds to all the comments.

Entergy Nuclear spokesman Jim Sinclair said Thursday that Entergy had not filed individual comments, but was relying on a filing by the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, to support the NRC's plans and timetable.

Sorrell said that in this case, the state was not prohibited from raising questions about nuclear safety at Vermont Yankee, since the state was commenting on federal regulations.

"We can certainly express our opinions," said Sorrell, who said the three states believed the NRC was "dropping the ball" on the issue of storage.

According to the Vermont filing, any federal solution to the conundrum of storing the spent fuel rods from nuclear power plants — which remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years — is decades away. And moving the existing nuclear waste from individual sites to any repository will take 20 years.

Vermont Yankee ran out of storage about five years ago, and got approval from both Vermont and the NRC to build its so-called dry cask storage facility.

Even anti-nuclear activists support the building of dry cask storage facilities, saying the concrete and steel casks are safer than the spent fuel pool.

Sorrell pointed out that the federal appeals court in the nation's capital had also questioned the "reasonableness" of the NRC approving new nuclear plant or extending nuclear plants' licenses until the storage of radioactive waste issue is resolved.

The relicensing of Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire, Indian Point Energy Center in New York and Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania — among others — is on hold until the issue is resolved, Sheehan said.

Sorrell said he believed that the 20-year license extension granted to the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in 2011 should be "revisited," in light of the federal court ruling.

Sheehan said the draft environmental impact statement might be available by August 2014.

South Burlington upholds permit for methadone clinic

SOUTH BURLINGTON — The South Burlington Development Review Board has voted to uphold a permit for a proposed methadone clinic for heroin and prescription drug addicts.

The board voted 4-2 on Friday to deny an appeal from the school district, which argued that the facility could bring crime and traffic to the proposed site near the city's high school and middle school.

The HowardCenter wants to open the clinic as soon as possible to serve more than 650 clients.

The center would close two other smaller clinics in Burlington and South Burlington.

London, Sarah

From: Ellen Kahler <ellen@vsjf.org>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 5:20 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Philip A Conroy
Subject: VT Tech January 15 Summit - Governor available?
Attachments: GrndWk-Conf3 electronic version.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Bill,
You indicated before the holidays that there was a good chance that the Governor would not be able to make opening remarks at the upcoming VT Tech event on January 15. The summit -- entitled *Connecting Education with Employers* -- will highlight the results of a statewide research project that identifies gaps between food system education and the needs of today's farm and food businesses. Ample opportunity will be given to the education and employment communities to meet and discuss the recommendations of this study and find action items for moving forward. This is the first of what is hopefully many conversations between educators and employers as we strive to prepare our students with the skills they need to have a successful career or business in Vermont's food system.

Now that the budget address has been put off a week, I'm wondering if it might be possible after all? If so, please let us know so I can get an executive summary of the research findings to you and some talking points.

If he still cannot attend, then we'd like to see if he'd be ok with us inviting someone like Mateo Kehler from the Cellars at Jasper Hill to provide the opening comments -- or if you'd like to have someone else from the Administration to speak. Our thinking about Mateo is that he is a young business owner, with a growing business, who has been struggling to find good cheese-makers to hire. Cheese-makers are one of the jobs that we highlight in the report as being a high growth potential in the coming years and there is a need for the education community to do more to create educational pathways towards this career opportunity.

But, of course, if the Governor would prefer to have someone from the Administration address the gathering instead, just say the word. We'd just like to get this firmed up because we're only 10 days out and we need to move on a Plan B if the Governor cannot attend.

Please advise. Thank you and have a great weekend!

Ellen Kahler
Executive Director
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
3 Pitkin Court, Suite 301e
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-5320
www.vsjf.org

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 5:19 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Jan. 6 - 11

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Jan. 6 - 11

Sunday, Jan. 6

2:00 p.m. Attend and speak at memorial service for Edgar May
Springfield Recreation Center, 140 Clinton Street

Monday, Jan. 7

7:30 a.m. Speak at GBIC/LCRCC 2013 Legislative Breakfast
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington

11:00 a.m. Press Conference, 5th Floor Conference Room
Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier

5:00 p.m. Speak at the Home Builder & Remodelers Assoc. of Northern VT
Annual Membership Meeting
Doubletree Inn, South Burlington

Tuesday, Jan. 8

1:00 p.m. Speak at Site Dedication Ceremony
Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center
394 Fisher Road, Berlin

Wednesday, Jan. 9

9:30 a.m. Appear on the Mark Johnson Radio Show

12:15 p.m. Speak at Vermont Commission on Women's Education and Research Foundation
Luncheon
Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
100 State Street, Montpelier

Thursday, Jan. 10

11:45 a.m. Former Governors' Luncheon
Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
100 State Street, Montpelier

1:30 p.m. Swearing In Ceremony and Inaugural Address
House Chamber, Vermont State House

4:30 p.m. Inaugural Open House, State House

Friday, Jan. 11

8:15 a.m.

Burlington Business Association's Business Summit
"Visionaries in Business"
Echo Lake Aquarium & Science Center, Burlington

12:00 p.m.

Appear on Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 5:01 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Sunday, Jan 6 - Monday, Jan 7

Sunday, January 6th 2013 Schedule

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 5:14 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Schedule - Sunday, Jan 6 - Monday, Jan 7

We have a regular staff mtg at 10:00 on Mondays. Probably should move it to the afternoon, after he leaves the office (assuming he does leave the office instead of working w me on the speech, which he needs to do). We can hold off until Monday on making that call.

On Jan 4, 2013, at 5:01 PM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

Sunday, January 6th 2013 Schedule

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:51 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Can You Take A call

Happy to. Bye!

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:27 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Fwd: Can You Take A call

Could you connect w Anson on this?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Tebbetts, Anson" <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Date: January 4, 2013, 11:30:22 AM EST
To: "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: RE: Can You Take A call

Not at all
I have go ahead for breakfast.
Want all 5 secretaries in same room

From: Lofy, Bill [<mailto:Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Tebbetts, Anson
Subject: Re: Can You Take A call

I'm down in DC stuck in a meeting. Urgent?

From: <Tebbetts>, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Date: Friday, January 4, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Can You Take A call

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX-TV
PO Box 4508
Burlington, VT 05406
802-652-6360
Tebbetts@wcax.com
@wcax_anson
www.wcax.com

London, Sarah

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Subject: Can You Take A call

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News Director WCAX-TV
PO Box 4508
Burlington, VT 05406
802-652-6360
Tebbetts@wcax.com
@wcax_anson
www.wcax.com

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:23 PM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: Important Memo from Commissioner Reardon re: Payroll Federal Tax Rates
Attachments: Jan 2013 Payroll Memo.pdf

Important tax information from Commissioner Reardon in the attachment. Please read.

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: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:18 PM
Subject: Important Memo from Commissioner Reardon re: Payroll Federal Tax Rates

Please find the attached memo from Finance Commissioner Jim Reardon regarding payroll federal tax rates.

Thank you.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 4:18 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Reardon, Jim; Zeller, Susan; Reid, Martha; Obuchowski, Mike; 08 David Brotzman (VCGI); Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; Dindo, Charlene; Miller, Janet; 10 Luke Martland (Leg Council); 11 Stephen Klein (Leg Fiscal Officer); Brooks, Francis; Juhasz, Joe; Salmon, Tom; Pearce, Beth; Wisloski, Stephen; Noonan, Tim; Smith, Gregory; 19 Bill Griffin (AG); Sorrell, Willaim; 19 Susanne Young (AG); 20 Willa Farrell (Court Diversion); Valerio, Matthew; Greemore, Bob; Bernardini, Barbara; Flynn, Keith; Pigeon, George; 25 Thomas Drew (Military); 26 Judy Rex (CCVS); Provost, David; Donegan, Susan; Candon, Tom; 30 Brian Leven (SOS); 30 Jim Condos (SOS); Recchia, Chris; 31 Sarah Hofmann (PSD); Volz, James; Appel, Robert; Hogan, Mike; 38 Barbara Cimaglio (Health); Chen, Harry; Moulton, Mary; Yacovone, Dave; Cohen, Jeff; Murphy, Reeva; Donahue, Shaun; George, Camille; Pallito, Andy; Menard, Lisa; 44 Cary Brown (Com on Women); 45 Guy Isabelle (RSVP); Noonan, Annie; Fischer, John; 48 Alberto Citarella (UVM); 48 Clarence Davis (UVM); 48 Richard Cate (UVM); 49 Tim Donovan (VT State Colleges); 50 Tara Lidstone (VT Interactive TV); 51 Donald Vickers (VSAC); 51 Tom Little (VSAC); Johnson, Justin; Royar, Kim; Berry, Patrick; Snyder, Michael; Mears, David; Borie, Lou; Shems, Ron; Miller, Lawrence; MoultonPowden, Pat; Aldrich, Alex; 62 Alan Jordan (VSO); 64 Gus Seelig (VHCB); 65 Peter Gilbert (VTHum); 67 Howard Deal (DMV); Ide, Robert; Zicconi, John; Maheras, Georgia; 70 Ann Curran (VPT); 70 John King (VPT); Pope, Aimee; Ferland, Brad; Byrne, Emily; Aronowitz, Jason; Trautz, Otto; Hartrich, Toni; Beatty, David; Boes, Richard; Bothfeld, Diane; Collins, Lori; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Duffy, Kate; Gabel, Patricia; Gauthier, Richard; Hetzel, Christine; Hollar, Jennifer; Hudson, Mark; Jackson, Melissa; Johnson, Harriet; Kukenberger, Bradley; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Mackay, Noelle; Markowitz, Deb; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Peterson, Mary; Racine, Doug; Riven, Matt; Ross, Chuck; Scott, Phil; Searles, Brian; Smith, Megan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Tucker, David; Vilaseca, Armando; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wehry, Susan; Wood, John; Johnson, Harriet; Rousseau, Paul; 02 Ruthann Sullivan (DII); Morse, Linda; Schwartz, Harold; Blaisdell, Terri; Pinard, Jason; Harris, Joe; 08 Linda Ladd (VCGI); Carrier, Janis; Lavery, Nathan; Goss, Duncan; Metivier, Krista; Grassmann, Felix; Booth, John; Moz-Knight, Melinda; Cassani, Mary; Ford, Diane; Evans, Lora; Harrison, Carol; Mongeon, Jim; Pellerin, Jacinthe; Chadwick, Joanne; Hallenbeck, Richard; Hutchins, Judi; Tornatore, Rita; Williams, Gail; Gauthier, Richard; Hodgdon, Marcey; 29 David Cameron (DFR); Daley, Paul; Behrns, Ronald; Rockcastle, Sheri; Chamberlin, Brenda; 33 Trish Grant (E-911 Board); Duke, Heather; Brown, Christine L.; Giffin, Jim; O'Connell, Kevin; Alligood, Mary Ann; Donahey, Richard; 36 Shirley Dow (AHS); 36 Suzanne Santarcangelo (AHS); Hathaway, Carrie; Cummings, Diane; Mall, James; Clark, Leo; Thompson, Shannon; Hall, Heidi; Cohen, David; Kelly, Bill; Clark, Sarah; Aubin, Lori-Ann; 44 Janet Bullard (Commission on Women); Wawrzyniak, Chad; Talbott, Bill; Flanagan, Kathy; 48 Karen Meyer (UVM); 49 T. Robbins (VSC); 50 Tara Lidstone (VTC); Berry, Brenda; Chadwick, Steve; Yacono, Sher; Pallito, Joanna; Wheeler, Denise; Thayer-Gosselin, Kathy; Clark, Claudia; Macaskill, Lucie; George, Julie; 61 Elaine Dufresne (Arts Council); Carbo, Kelly; Duffy, Anne; 65 Linda Winter (Humanities Council); LeBlanc, Leonard; Cayia, Lori; Cross, Phil; Bordeaux, Renea; Neveau, Carmen; Kukenberger, Bradley; Beatty, David; Riven, Matt; Gonyea, John; Jones, Adrienne; Mullins, Jeri; O'Toole, Dawn; Stevens, JoAnn; Tauscher, David
Subject: Important Memo from Commissioner Reardon re: Payroll Federal Tax Rates
Attachments: Jan 2013 Payroll Memo.pdf

Please find the attached memo from Finance Commissioner Jim Reardon regarding payroll federal tax rates.

Thank you.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 1:59 PM
To: Emerson Lynn
Subject: Re: today's edit

Love it

On Jan 4, 2013, at 12:30 PM, "Emerson Lynn" <emerson@samessenger.com> wrote:

Not to bore you but...

Gov needs to take wind out of proposal

Vermont legislators this session will be asked to place a three-year moratorium on wind power. The bill is in response to the passion generated by those opposed to the turbines along the state's ridgelines and a testament to their skills in being able to manipulate the opposition of the minority to challenge the majority.

The sponsors of the legislation cloak their intent with words intended to soothe. They want to investigate as to whether wind power is cost effective. They want evidence as to its promise to supply power. They want a debate as to whether it is environmentally suitable.

Noble sentiments all.

However, if Vermont has an interest in strengthening its renewable energy portfolio, it has little option but to include wind as one of its key sources of power.

It's also disingenuous to pretend that a moratorium is anything but a mildly clever way to make the generation of wind power in Vermont a lost cause.

The generation of wind is a business. Obviously. Telling an industry that it needs to hibernate for three years is akin to telling them to go elsewhere. It's also ridiculous to suggest that Vermont's permitting process is anything less than exhaustive and prohibitively expensive.

Please. Do other states have permitting processes that are more restrictive than ours? Doubtful.

If this legislation is to be the litmus test for all renewable power, then we can resign ourselves to a depleted renewable portfolio.

Wind power cannot be defended on a cost basis, if that means a source of energy that does not need to be subsidized. Nor can solar. Or bio-mass. Or, for that matter, the building of a new nuclear power plant.

The purpose of a subsidy is to allow a technology to develop a toe-hold in a market dominated by traditional fuel sources. [Which we also still subsidize.] If legislators intend to wax indignant as to the public's subsidizing of wind, then it must apply the same level of indignation to subsidies in general.

It would be difficult for legislators to carry forth with this argument and still contend that they are interested in renewables.

If legislators want to test the suitability of wind turbines in an environmental sense, then they must also consider the opinions of those who don't like acres of solar panels or forests mined for timber. And that becomes purely subjective. If that's the intended course, then perhaps it would be best to have a plebiscite and allow the public's will to reign.

Our bet is that more people favor wind power turbines than oppose them. And by a good margin.

The most ill-advised part of the proposed legislation is stripping the Public Service Board of its authority to permit in-state electric generating plants. The bill would instead grant that authority to Act 250 District Environmental Commissions and to those within communities who deal with land use issues.

That would not only invite local divisiveness but paralysis. If approved, the legislation would enshrine the Not-In-My-Backyard mentality that cripples projects intended for the broader good.

The strength of the Public Service Board approval process is that it is largely apolitical. Projects are reviewed according to merit and according to how the projects fit with the state's energy needs. A local Act 250 environmental commission would be subject to the intense pressure of advocates, thereby would be more susceptible to the influence of a vocal minority, whereas the PSB is not.

This proposed legislation would put the state's energy policy at risk.

The politics of the issue are understandable. We get it. Representatives need to be seen as being responsive to their constituents. But the politics of the few should not be allowed to be interpreted as the politics of the many. This legislation should not enjoy broad support.

Politics aside, the policy aspects of this proposed legislation, while understandable, are not defensible. They would hurt the cause, not help it.

The governor can be open to the conversation. All voices should be heard. He should not, however, be open to this radical change in state policy. He should make that known before the proposed legislation takes air.

by Emerson Lynn

London, Sarah

From: Maguire, Jo Ann on behalf of Minter, Sue
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Minter, Sue
Cc: Rapaport, Dave; Lisa Scagliotti
Subject: Media Advisory: Irene Recovery Summit - January 11th

FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

Minter, Irene Recovery Officer

January 4,

2013

828-3333

Contact: Sue

802-

"Irene and Beyond" Summit Will Gather Irene Recovery Leaders to Assess Accomplishments, Strategize for Remaining Work, and Plan for the Future

Approximately 100 set to meet Jan. 11 at Norwich University

MONTPELIER, Vt – The Irene Recovery Office, along with a host of participants in the long-term recovery effort from Tropical Storm Irene, has organized a daylong recovery summit for Friday, Jan. 11, at Norwich University.

"Irene & Beyond: Continuing Vermont's Recovery, Shaping Our Future Resilience" will bring together representatives from many organizations and agencies working on disaster recovery for individuals and families affected by Tropical Storm Irene and other severe storms in 2011. Members of long-term recovery committees from affected regions of the state, emergency management planners, funders for recovery projects, case managers, construction coordinators and leaders of volunteer organizations assisting with recovery will gather to map out the work that remains to complete assistance for many Vermont households.

The daylong event will allow participants to share best practices and compare notes on the remaining recovery work while looking ahead at ways to preserve the recovery network for future disaster response needs. The general schedule for the day is:

- 9 a.m. Welcome. Panel discussion with representatives of recovery groups, agencies, etc.
- 10:45 a.m. Small-group sessions on work flow, communications, allocating resources.
- Noon-1:15 p.m. Lunch and keynote address.
- 1:15-2:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions on fundraising and overcoming compassion fatigue.
- 2:45-4 p.m. Closing session focusing on the home stretch of Irene recovery and devising ways for Vermont to be better prepared to recover from future disasters.

The news media are invited to attend.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 12:37 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Inauguration on VPT Jan. 10

From: Curran, Ann [mailto:acurran@vpt.org]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 10:35 AM
Subject: Inauguration on VPT Jan. 10

PRESS RELEASE

For release 1/4/12

Contact: Ann Curran at (802) 655-8059, acurran@vpt.org
or Jeff Vande Griek at (802) 655-8062, jeffv@vpt.org

Vermont Public Television to Webcast and Broadcast Gov. Shumlin's Inauguration

On Thursday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m., Vermont Public Television will offer a live webcast of Gov. Peter Shumlin's inauguration to his second term as governor of Vermont and his address to the joint assembly of the Legislature at the Statehouse in Montpelier. Chris Graff will host.

The event will be streamed live on vpt.org. It will be broadcast at 7 p.m. that day on the VPT World channel, with a repeat broadcast on VPT World Saturday, Jan. 12, at 9 p.m. It will also be archived on vpt.org for viewing on demand.

VPT World is at the .4 broadcast position on VPT's channels statewide and is carried on all Vermont cable systems.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m., VPT will webcast Gov. Shumlin's budget address and broadcast its coverage that evening at 7 p.m. on VPT World.

###

London, Sarah

From: Emerson Lynn <emerson@samessenger.com>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 12:30 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: today's edit

Not to bore you but...

Gov needs to take wind out of proposal

Vermont legislators this session will be asked to place a three-year moratorium on wind power. The bill is in response to the passion generated by those opposed to the turbines along the state's ridgelines and a testament to their skills in being able to manipulate the opposition of the minority to challenge the majority.

The sponsors of the legislation cloak their intent with words intended to soothe. They want to investigate as to whether wind power is cost effective. They want evidence as to its promise to supply power. They want a debate as to whether it is environmentally suitable.

Noble sentiments all.

However, if Vermont has an interest in strengthening its renewable energy portfolio, it has little option but to include wind as one of its key sources of power.

It's also disingenuous to pretend that a moratorium is anything but a mildly clever way to make the generation of wind power in Vermont a lost cause.

The generation of wind is a business. Obviously. Telling an industry that it needs to hibernate for three years is akin to telling them to go elsewhere. It's also ridiculous to suggest that Vermont's permitting process is anything less than exhaustive and prohibitively expensive.

Please. Do other states have permitting processes that are more restrictive than ours? Doubtful.

If this legislation is to be the litmus test for all renewable power, then we can resign ourselves to a depleted renewable portfolio.

Wind power cannot be defended on a cost basis, if that means a source of energy that does not need to be subsidized. Nor can solar. Or bio-mass. Or, for that matter, the building of a new nuclear power plant.

The purpose of a subsidy is to allow a technology to develop a toe-hold in a market dominated by traditional fuel sources. [Which we also still subsidize.] If legislators intend to wax indignant as to the public's subsidizing of wind, then it must apply the same level of indignation to subsidies in general.

It would be difficult for legislators to carry forth with this argument and still contend that they are interested in renewables.

If legislators want to test the suitability of wind turbines in an environmental sense, then they must also consider the opinions of those who don't like acres of solar panels or forests mined for timber. And that becomes purely subjective. If that's the intended course, then perhaps it would be best to have a plebiscite and allow the public's will to reign.

Our bet is that more people favor wind power turbines than oppose them. And by a good margin.

The most ill-advised part of the proposed legislation is stripping the Public Service Board of its authority to permit in-state electric generating plants. The bill would instead grant that authority to Act 250 District Environmental Commissions and to those within communities who deal with land use issues.

That would not only invite local divisiveness but paralysis. If approved, the legislation would enshrine the Not-In-My-Backyard mentality that cripples projects intended for the broader good.

The strength of the Public Service Board approval process is that it is largely apolitical. Projects are reviewed according to merit and according to how the projects fit with the state's energy needs. A local Act 250 environmental commission would be subject to the intense pressure of advocates, thereby would be more susceptible to the influence of a vocal minority, whereas the PSB is not.

This proposed legislation would put the state's energy policy at risk.

The politics of the issue are understandable. We get it. Representatives need to be seen as being responsive to their constituents. But the politics of the few should not be allowed to be interpreted as the politics of the many. This legislation should not enjoy broad support.

Politics aside, the policy aspects of this proposed legislation, while understandable, are not defensible. They would hurt the cause, not help it.

The governor can be open to the conversation. All voices should be heard. He should not, however, be open to this radical change in state policy. He should make that known before the proposed legislation takes air.

by Emerson Lynn

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:50 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: computer

Janis thought you weren't taking Mac and I could go ahead and use it as of next Friday - but is that right? If you need it either longer than next week or are planning to take it I can get a different computer (my psd one won't come with me).

Elizabeth H. Miller
Commissioner, VT Public Service Dept.

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:30 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Can You Take A call

Not at all
I have go ahead for breakfast.
Want all 5 secretaries in same room

From: Lofy, Bill [mailto:Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Tebbetts, Anson
Subject: Re: Can You Take A call

I'm down in DC stuck in a meeting. Urgent?

From: <Tebbetts>, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Date: Friday, January 4, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Can You Take A call

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX-TV
PO Box 4508
Burlington, VT 05406
802-652-6360
Tebbetts@wcax.com
@wcax_anson
www.wcax.com

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Tebbetts, Anson
Subject: Re: Can You Take A call

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From: <Tebbetts>, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Date: Friday, January 4, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: Can You Take A call

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www.wcax.com

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 11:26 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Can You Take A call

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX-TV
PO Box 4508
Burlington, VT 05406
802-652-6360
Tebbetts@wcax.com
@wcax_anson
www.wcax.com

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*** NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: Dana.Thompson@maryland.gov***

Dana J. Thompson • Director, Federal Relations • Office of Gov. Martin O'Malley • State of Maryland • 202.624.1430 (o) • 202.783.3061
(c) • Sign Up for Governor O'Malley's E-Newsletter • *This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.*

--

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 10:17 AM
To: Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Morning social media

Looks good - only suggestion is change the noon tweet to "The Governor has made information about key progress indicators available to all Vermonters on the Governor's Dashboard: [website]"

On Jan 4, 2013, at 10:08 AM, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us> wrote:

Twitter – January 4, 2013

11:00 am Gov. Shumlin is holding a press conference at his Pavilion office in #Montp. #vtgov

11:15 am The Governor has announced initiatives for expanding #transparency in state government. #vtgov

11:30 am Gov. Shumlin has released the state's strategic plan, identifying the administration's priorities and goals: [http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5 Dec 17 2012.pdf](http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5%20Dec%2017%202012.pdf)

11:45 am The Governor has unveiled the newly revamped #SPOTLIGHT financial transparency website: <http://spotlight.vermont.gov/>

12:00 pm Additional transparency related information may be accessed on the Governor's Dashboard: <http://governor.vermont.gov/govdash>

12:30 pm Gov. Shumlin called on lawmakers to expand public access to records in criminal cases. #transparency #vtgov

1:00 pm The Governor's proposal would do away with existing Vermont law that provides absolute & indefinite confidentiality of records related to criminal investigations.

Facebook – January 4, 2013

11:15 am Governor Shumlin has released the state's strategic plan, which identifies Administration priorities and goals, such as strengthening the economy, holding down health care costs, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and focus on renewable energy, and modernizing state infrastructures. [http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5 Dec 17 2012.pdf](http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5%20Dec%2017%202012.pdf).

7:00 am (Sat) Governor Shumlin has unveiled the newly revamped SPOTLIGHT financial transparency website. The page allows citizens to see "Where the Money Comes From" that is used to operate State Government and "Where the Money Goes" when it is spent. www.SPOTLIGHT.vermont.gov/

6:00 pm (Sat) In an effort to increase transparency in state government, the Governor has launched the Governor's Dashboard. The page is updated on a regular basis with information about issues Vermonters care about, such as the rates of unemployment, high school graduation, highway fatalities, job growth, and more. <http://governor.vermont.gov/govdash>

10:00 am (Sun) quote graphic: "The legislature should increase access in criminal cases by adopting the federal standard under which records of criminal investigations can only be withheld if disclosure would result in specific harm. Our hope is that such a law would result in greater transparency without compromising the effective investigation or prosecution of criminal cases

Leigh Appleby

Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin

109 State Street, Pavilion

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: (802)828-3333

Fax: (802)828-3339

Cell: (802)279-6825

leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 10:09 AM
To: Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Morning social media

Twitter – January 4, 2013

11:00 am Gov. Shumlin is holding a press conference at his Pavilion office in #Montp. #vtgov

11:15 am The Governor has announced initiatives for expanding #transparency in state government. #vtgov

11:30 am Gov. Shumlin has released the state's strategic plan, identifying the administration's priorities and goals: [http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5 Dec 17 2012.pdf](http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5%20Dec%2017%202012.pdf)

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Leigh Appleby
Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin

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Office: (802)828-3333
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Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:44 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: In case you were wondering what I was doing with my weekend...
Attachments: image001.jpg

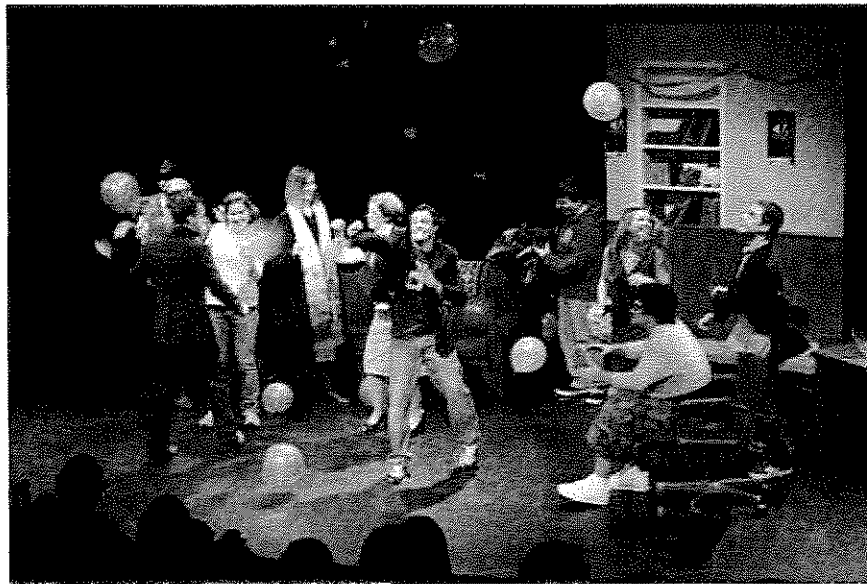
awesome!

From: <Wesley>, Carolyn <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>
Date: Friday, January 4, 2013 9:39 AM
To: "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us>, "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>, "Burke, Ashley" <Ashley.Burke@state.vt.us>, "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>, "Gilbert, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Gilbert@state.vt.us>, "Hayes, Todd" <Todd.Hayes@state.vt.us>, "Johnson, Harriet" <Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>, "Kunin, Lisa" <Lisa.Kunin@state.vt.us>, Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>, "Lunge, Robin" <Robin.Lunge@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, "McGarvin, Shawn" <Shawn.McGarvin@state.vt.us>, "Murray-Clasen, Madeline" <Madeline.Murray-Clasen@state.vt.us>, "Porter, Louis" <Louis.Porter@state.vt.us>, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>, "Roessle, Drusilla" <Drusilla.Roessle@state.vt.us>, "Scrodin, Chris" <Chris.Scrodin@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us>, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us>, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us>, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us>, "Wilborn, Jimmy" <Jimmy.Wilborn@state.vt.us>
Subject: In case you were wondering what I was doing with my weekend...

...which you probably weren't. From the Rutland Herald:

- Shakespeare unrehearsed: 'The Taming of the Shrew'

By Mary Gow
Arts Correspondent | January 03, 2013



Back in Shakespeare's day, actors who performed his plays worked on a tight schedule. At the Globe Theatre – 1599-1613 – a different play was typically performed each day; any one production might not be repeated again for a couple of weeks. In that pre-copyright era, full copies of scripts were not freely distributed and plays were not extensively rehearsed. Actors were given their "sides" – the lines for their assigned characters, with a couple of cue words from the preceding part.

This original Elizabethan style came into broader modern awareness with the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre in the 1990s. Understanding this cue-script approach also shed fresh light on some of the Bard's choices of words and technique. An actor playing Hamlet, for example, knew to pounce when other characters wrapped up their statements with "my lord."

On Saturday and Sunday, the Alumni Association of New England Youth Theatre will present "Shakespeare Unrehearsed: The Taming of the Shrew" at the NEYT theater in Brattleboro.

Directed by alumnus Ben Stockman, the actors' preparation for "The Taming of the Shrew" follows traditional Elizabethan fashion. Members of the cast received their "sides" two weeks ago and have learned their characters' lines and cue lines. They have not worked with the full script and are performing with minimal rehearsal together.

The production is a fundraiser for NEYT's scholarship program, Angels in the Wings. It features 16 NEYT alumni, ages 18 to 28, all returning home to Brattleboro for one weekend to mount this play in just 24 hours. Founded in 1998, NEYT offers conservatory-style acting training for young people. With a combination of classroom and performance work, its programs serve beginning through advanced students.

“We are all coming from different places in the country and in our lives. Some are in college – some for theater, some not. Some are past college – some are working in theater, some not,” said Stockman, who recently graduated from Lesley College. “One of the great parts of this is that we already have this foundation of trust from our shared experience with NEYT.”

“What really makes it special is that we won’t see each other for a year, but when we get together things just click. We have done plays together and know how we can react off of one another,” said Carolyn Wesley, who graduated from Saint Olaf’s College and is back in Vermont working in the governor’s office in Montpelier, and still involved in theater. She is playing Petruchio this weekend.

“There’s a sense of company ensemble. Some of the kids who are in the play are seven or eight years younger than me but we have some of the same NEYT background and training and can work together very quickly.”

“The Taming of the Shrew,” with its problematic gender issues, provides interesting opportunities to the NEYT veterans. Shakespeare’s comedy follows the relationship between Petruchio, a brash young man from Verona with an eye to advancing his financial position. Sight unseen, he agrees to marry Katherine, the strong-willed daughter of a wealthy Padua merchant, who brings a hefty dowry into the bargain. As the older daughter, Katherine needs to be married off before her sister, who is greatly in demand, can be wed.

From the moment of their vows, Petruchio “tames” his bride.

“Talking with friends, we were trying to decide if there is a way to perform this that is interesting and not insulting to the audience in the archaic way it portrays gender and particularly the institution of marriage,” said Stockman. “To make it interesting would be to be honest about the offensiveness of it – finding a way to portray the questionable material honestly and still be funny.”

“I always thought that Katherine’s actions are not very funny. Her reactions are sort of appropriate reactions to injustice. But the actions of the men are pretty hilarious. The deck is stacked in their favor, but they over-complicate things over and over again,” Stockman said

To bring out this humor, this NEYT production is cast with some gender changes.

“Certain men in the play will be portrayed by women who are lampooning the comedic hypocritical aspects of masculinity,” Stockman explained.

Presenting the play with the cue-script approach aims to bring a freshness to it.

“One of the things that is especially interesting about this approach is that the play is truly in the present,” said Stockman. “The actors and truly listening to their scene partners: They are listening for their cues and are really engaged in the dialogue.”

New England Youth Theatre

The Alumni Association of New England Youth Theatre will present “Shakespeare Unrehearsed: The Taming of the Shrew” at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, at the NEYT theater, 100 Flat St. in Brattleboro. Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested), which benefits NEYT’s “Angels in the Wings” scholarship fund. For information, go online to www.neyt.org.

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828 5366
Visit Governor Shumlin’s Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:44 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Porter, Louis; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Latest press release for today (Jeb has edited it):

Looks good. Sorry I can't be there for prep but obviously you ..

He will be asked again about that topic

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 4, 2013, at 8:40 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

For Immediate Release
Jan. 4, 2012

Contact: Susan Allen
802-828-6463

Gov. Shumlin calls for expanded public access to criminal records
Highlights his administration's transparency efforts

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin today showcased his initiatives for expanding transparency in state government, demonstrating three online sites for Vermonters to easily access extensive information on state government that is updated on a regular basis. In addition, the Governor called on lawmakers to expand public access to records related criminal investigations.

Gov. Shumlin and Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding released the state's Strategic Plan, which identifies Administration priorities and goals, such as strengthening the economy, holding down health care costs, supporting the success of our families and safety of our communities, making Vermont The Education State, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and focus on renewable energy, modernizing state infrastructures, and improving the effectiveness of state government. The strategic plan provides a valuable management tool for government and extensive information for Vermonters.

Vermonters can access the Strategic Plan at [http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5 Dec 17 2012.pdf](http://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/S-W%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20V5%20Dec%2017%202012.pdf).

In addition, Gov. Shumlin and Susan Zeller, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Management, showcased the newly revamped "SPOTLIGHT" financial transparency website, sponsored by the Agency of Administration and maintained by the Department of Finance & Management. The page, which is available at WWW.SPOTLIGHT.vermont.gov/, allows citizens to see "Where the Money Comes From" that is used to operate State Government and "Where the Money Goes" when it is spent. The SPOTLIGHT site is part of the State's ongoing efforts to bring greater transparency about government operation to Vermont's citizens and other interested parties.

SPOTLIGHT focuses specifically on financial transparency and contains financial information, presented in charts, graphs, tables, reports and pdf format on the State of Vermont budget, appropriations,

revenues, expenditures, financial statements, audits and more. Our goal in creating this website was to consolidate existing financial information in one easy-to-find, easy-to-access and user-friendly website, and to educate and inform Vermonters.

Finally, additional transparency related information may be accessed on the Governor's Dashboard, which can be accessed at www.governor.vermont.gov/ and clicking on the Dashboard site on the right. The page is updated on a regular basis with information about issues Vermonters care about, such as the rates of unemployment, high school graduation, highway fatalities, job growth, and more.

Gov. Shumlin also called on lawmakers to expand public access in criminal cases by adopting the federal standard under which records of criminal investigations can only be withheld if disclosure would result in specific harm. The list of harms includes interference with enforcement proceedings, interference with the defendant's right to a fair trial, revelation of a confidential informant or investigative technique, violation of someone's privacy, or creating a threat to someone's safety.

This proposal would do away with existing Vermont law that has been interpreted as providing absolute and indefinite confidentiality of records related to criminal investigations. Instead, if the federal language is adopted, Vermonters will benefit from a limited list of instances in which police records can be withheld. Agencies and courts will benefit from greater clarity as well as existing federal case law to help guide implementation and construction of the language. Meanwhile, the proposal preserves existing language that provides public access to management of law enforcement agencies, as well as arrest records and similar records.

"Our hope is that such a law would result in greater transparency without compromising the effective investigation or prosecution of criminal cases," Gov. Shumlin said.

####

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:42 AM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Carrier, Janis
Subject: Re: Today

no worries - the show must go on! have fun. liz

Elizabeth H. Miller
Commissioner, VT Public Service Dept.

On Jan 4, 2013, at 8:50 AM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

I'm headed home this weekend to perform in an "unrehearsed" version of *Taming of the Shrew* (we've all memorized our lines ahead of time, will do a read-through tonight, rehearse all day Saturday, and perform Saturday night).

I thought our rehearsal today was at 5 so I was going to duck out a bit early, but it turns out it is at 2 so I will have to leave the office at noon. Sorry not to give you more advanced notice.

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828 5366
Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

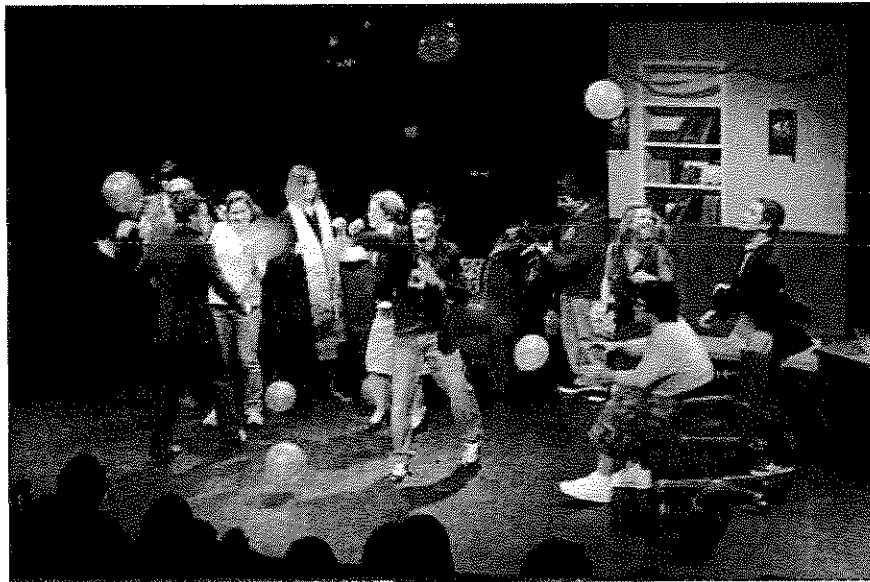
London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:40 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Bartlett, Susan; Burke, Ashley; Carrier, Janis; Gilbert, Elizabeth; Hayes, Todd; Johnson, Harriet; Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; Lunge, Robin; MacLean, Alex; McGarvin, Shawn; Murray-Clasen, Madeline; Porter, Louis; Richards, Alyson; Roessle, Drusilla; Scrodin, Chris; Spaulding, Jeb; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Wesley, Carolyn; Wilborn, Jimmy
Subject: In case you were wondering what I was doing with my weekend...

...which you probably weren't. From the Rutland Herald:

- Shakespeare unrehearsed: 'The Taming of the Shrew'

By Mary Gow
Arts Correspondent | January 03, 2013



Back in Shakespeare's day, actors who performed his plays worked on a tight schedule. At the Globe Theatre – 1599-1613 – a different play was typically performed each day; any one production might not be repeated again for a couple of weeks. In that pre-copyright era, full copies of scripts were not freely distributed and plays were not extensively rehearsed. Actors were given their "sides" – the lines for their assigned characters, with a couple of cue words from the preceding part.

This original Elizabethan style came into broader modern awareness with the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre in the 1990s. Understanding this cue-script approach also shed fresh light on some of the Bard's

choices of words and technique. An actor playing Hamlet, for example, knew to pounce when other characters wrapped up their statements with “my lord.”

On Saturday and Sunday, the Alumni Association of New England Youth Theatre will present “Shakespeare Unrehearsed: The Taming of the Shrew” at the NEYT theater in Brattleboro.

Directed by alumnus Ben Stockman, the actors’ preparation for “The Taming of the Shrew” follows traditional Elizabethan fashion. Members of the cast received their “sides” two weeks ago and have learned their characters’ lines and cue lines. They have not worked with the full script and are performing with minimal rehearsal together.

The production is a fundraiser for NEYT’s scholarship program, Angels in the Wings. It features 16 NEYT alumni, ages 18 to 28, all returning home to Brattleboro for one weekend to mount this play in just 24 hours. Founded in 1998, NEYT offers conservatory-style acting training for young people. With a combination of classroom and performance work, its programs serve beginning through advanced students.

“We are all coming from different places in the country and in our lives. Some are in college – some for theater, some not. Some are past college – some are working in theater, some not,” said Stockman, who recently graduated from Lesley College. “One of the great parts of this is that we already have this foundation of trust from our shared experience with NEYT.”

“What really makes it special is that we won’t see each other for a year, but when we get together things just click. We have done plays together and know how we can react off of one another,” said Carolyn Wesley, who graduated from Saint Olaf’s College and is back in Vermont working in the governor’s office in Montpelier, and still involved in theater. She is playing Petruchio this weekend.

“There’s a sense of company ensemble. Some of the kids who are in the play are seven or eight years younger than me but we have some of the same NEYT background and training and can work together very quickly.”

“The Taming of the Shrew,” with its problematic gender issues, provides interesting opportunities to the NEYT veterans. Shakespeare’s comedy follows the relationship between Petruchio, a brash young man from Verona with an eye to advancing his financial position. Sight unseen, he agrees to marry Katherine, the strong-willed daughter of a wealthy Padua merchant, who brings a hefty dowry into the bargain. As the older daughter, Katherine needs to be married off before her sister, who is greatly in demand, can be wed.

From the moment of their vows, Petruchio “tames” his bride.

“Talking with friends, we were trying to decide if there is a way to perform this that is interesting and not insulting to the audience in the archaic way it portrays gender and particularly the institution of marriage,” said Stockman. “To make it interesting would be to be honest about the offensiveness of it – finding a way to portray the questionable material honestly and still be funny.”

“I always thought that Katherine’s actions are not very funny. Her reactions are sort of appropriate reactions to injustice. But the actions of the men are pretty hilarious. The deck is stacked in their favor, but they over-complicate things over and over again,” Stockman said

To bring out this humor, this NEYT production is cast with some gender changes.

“Certain men in the play will be portrayed by women who are lampooning the comedic hypocritical aspects of masculinity,” Stockman explained.

Presenting the play with the cue-script approach aims to bring a freshness to it.

“One of the things that is especially interesting about this approach is that the play is truly in the present,” said Stockman. “The actors and truly listening to their scene partners: They are listening for their cues and are really engaged in the dialogue.”

New England Youth Theatre

The Alumni Association of New England Youth Theatre will present “Shakespeare Unrehearsed: The Taming of the Shrew” at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, at the NEYT theater, 100 Flat St. in Brattleboro. Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested), which benefits NEYT’s “Angels in the Wings” scholarship fund. For information, go online to www.neyt.org.

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828 5366

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:22 AM
To: MacLean, Alex; Miller, Elizabeth; Lofy, Bill; Porter, Louis
Subject: FYI from Heinz today:

At Shumlin's Request, NRA Releases Gov's Endorsement Questionnaire

Posted by Paul Heintz

A newly-released questionnaire filled out by Gov. Peter Shumlin last fall as he sought the National Rifle Association's endorsement shows how little room there is between the gun lobby's positions and his own.

In the 25-question endorsement survey filled out during his 2012 reelection campaign, Shumlin appeared to side with the NRA in all but one case: he disagreed that the mourning dove should be classified as a game bird — "not on principle," he wrote in the margins, "but because Vermont does not have a viable hunting population of doves, and they are primarily found in backyards and roadsides."

On every other issue, though, Shumlin was all in on gun rights:

Does he want to close the gun show loophole in Vermont? No.

Would he support a state ban on assault weapons or high-capacity magazines? No.

Does he support mandatory gun locks? No.

Does he believe Vermonters should be restricted to buying one gun a month? No.

Does he believe guns or gun-owners should be licensed in Vermont? No.

Shumlin's answers help explain why he earned a 92 percent rating from the NRA last fall and a \$2500 campaign donation. (Shumlin may have lost points for the 'mourning dove' question and for leaving two others blank.)

Seven Days has been seeking a copy of Shumlin's answers to the survey since December 17, shortly after a gunman opened fire on a school in Newtown, Connecticut, killing 20 young children and six teachers.

Shumlin's campaign manager said at the time she did not keep a copy of the questionnaire. The NRA did not respond to a request from Seven Days to provide it. But after the paper asked Shumlin this week to request a copy from the NRA himself, his staff obtained it and passed it along to Seven Days.

Here it is — after the jump:

Gov. Peter Shumlin's 2012 NRA Endorsement Questionnaire

Shumlin's position on gun rights became the topic du jour Thursday during a press conference he held to announce several cabinet and staff changes.

Clearly irked by a story penned Tuesday by the Burlington Free Press' Terri Hallenbeck, Shumlin brought up the topic himself — and then found himself answering questions on a subject he's sought to avoid discussing for the remainder of the press conference.

In Hallenbeck's story, she notes that Shumlin has argued on nearly every issue — from health care to same-sex marriage to nuclear power to marijuana — that Vermont should lead the way on progressive legislation, regardless of what the federal government or other states do.

"He disregards cross-border complications with the argument that Vermont can send a message to other states, show how things are done," Hallenbeck wrote. "This argument seems to transcend all issues except gun control. That, Shumlin says, is a federal issue."

When Hallenbeck asked Shumlin a totally unrelated question on education policy during Thursday's press conference, the governor shot her a look and said, "I just want to point out I just pointed out that the federal government can lead on some areas of government, like taxation."

[Awkward pause]

"But not on all?" Hallenbeck responded.

"I just want to point out that I'm consistent," Shumlin said.

Asked if he was referring to Hallenbeck's story — and whether he disagreed with its thesis — Shumlin said he was and he did.

"Listen, there are areas where a governor must lead and areas where the federal government must lead. And what I feel very strongly is that it's up to me to lead when the federal government isn't," Shumlin said. "The federal government is not leading on single-payer health care. They won't even say the word. They are not leading on renewables. So most of them don't believe climate change exists down there in that House of Representatives, as I understand them."

Are they leading on gun control?

"Well the last I saw, the president of the United States held a press conference, asked the vice president to lead a group that would come up with a national policy to deal with the crisis that we have before us and get results," he said. "So I have confidence in them to do their job. They're addressing it."

Asked later whether Vermont should lead the way if the feds fail to address gun violence, Shumlin said no.

"The problem... is that the single state-by-state solution, in this case, won't work," he said. "In the case of health care, we can actually get single payer health care for Vermonters. The rest of America will wish that they were we. We can actually build renewables and have a cleaner carbon footprint — and, frankly, in the future, I believe, cheaper, more reliable energy. The rest of the states might not choose to do that. In the case of this challenge, if you can buy a gun in another state or on the Internet or at a gun show, Vermont does not have the power to solve the problem. It's that simple. It's common sense."

[If you're still confused about when Shumlin believes Vermont should lead and when he thinks it should follow, be sure to read this transcript of the press conference exchange dutifully typed up by Green Mountain Daily's John Walters. Warning: It may leave you even more confused.]

Shumlin also briefly addressed the NRA survey he filled out during his reelection campaign, saying he stood by all his answers. While that questionnaire asked whether he supported an assault weapons ban at the state level, it did not ask any questions relating to federal policy.

In a round of interviews with Vermont reporters last week, Shumlin indicated that he would support whatever recommendations come out of a presidential task force on gun violence led by Vice President Joe Biden. Those recommendations are expected to include a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Vermont Public Radio's Bob Kinzel, understandably, extrapolated that to mean Shumlin, too, backs a federal assault weapons ban.

But Shumlin appeared to walk that back Thursday. Asked whether he supported such a federal ban, he said, "If it applied to all 50 states and was sensible, I'd obviously consider it. But since I don't vote on federal bills — I'm not a member of Congress, I'm not the President of the United States — it's not something I spend a lot of time worrying about."

You'd consider — or you'd support? I mean, that's different.

"I want to see what they come up with," Shumlin said.

London, Sarah

From: McGarvin, Shawn
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:17 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; Lofy, Bill; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa
Subject: 1/4/13

Det. Trooper Shawn McGarvin

*Vermont State Police
Executive Protection Unit
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609*

shawn.mcgarvin@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Porter, Louis; Trombley, Shana; Kunin, Lisa; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn; Burke, Ashley
Subject: FW: EMHS Duty Officer Report- 4 January 2013
Attachments: EMHS DO_Status Report 1413 JG.pdf

From: VEM Daily Report Distribution List [mailto:VEMDAILYREPORT@DPS.STATE.VT.US] **On Behalf Of** Gosselin, Jason
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:54 AM
To: DPS - VEMDailyReport
Subject: [VEMDAILYREPORT] EMHS Duty Officer Report- 4 January 2013

Good Morning,

Please find the DEMHS Duty Officer Daily Report attached and a brief narrative below.

Sincerely,

Jason

HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005

**VERMONT DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AND HOMELAND SECURITY
DAILY SITUATION REPORT**

Friday, January 04, 2013

CURRENT SITUATION

Duty Officer: Jason Gosselin

Report Covers: 1/3/2013 0700 hrs to 1/4/2013 0700 hrs

Next Scheduled Report: 1/7/2013 0830 hrs

**VERMONT STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
CURRENT ACTIVATION STATUS:** Level 1

HAZMAT-RELATED INCIDENTS:

Fuel tank rollover in Interstate 89 – between Milton, VT & St. Albans, VT. As of this report, crews are on scene to assist with transfer of heating oil. No spill is being reported at this time.

RESOURCES DEPLOYED:

State HAZMAT Chief and on call HAZMAT Crew Chief on scene to assist and provide recommendations regarding the rollover of the fuel tank rollover mentioned above.

CURRENT DECLARATIONS:

DR 4066

- To date, all 70 project worksheets (PWs) have been written and entered into EMMIE by FEMA – 66 small projects and 4 large projects.
- To date, 69 PWs have been through the State Queue and obligated.
- Federal share obligated (at 75%) is at \$816,896.
- For more information on Public Assistance, contact Ben Rose, Vermont Emergency Management Public Assistance Officer at (802) 585-4719.

DR 4022 (IRENE)

- Tropical Storm Irene was federally declared as DR4022 on Sept. 1, 2011.
- There were 344 applicants for Public Assistance. 292 were deemed eligible.
- To date, 3,292 project worksheets (PWs) have been written and entered into EMMIE by FEMA, of which 3,153 have been obligated.
- Federal share obligated to date (at 90%) is \$132,290,859.
- Scope change, improved project, and time extension requests and appeals are currently being received, reviewed, and conveyed to FEMA JFO by VEM Public Assistance Team.
- For more information, contact Ben Rose, Public Assistance Officer, Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE:

None

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: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:54 AM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: First 2013 Check and W-2 Data Information

FYI, Important, read below.

From: Fuller, Stephanie
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:05 AM

Subject: FW: First 2013 Check and W-2 Data Information

I've been getting a lot of calls regarding our first pay check for 2013—Please share this with all employees.

From: VISION - Payroll
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 7:57 AM
To: SOV - Payroll Officers
Cc: Pepin, Ruth; Browning, Nathalie; Connelley, Amy
Subject: First 2013 Check and W-2 Data Information

First 2013 Pay Check:

The FICA (social security) Rate for 2013 has increased from 4.2% to 6.2%. This federal rate increase applies to income paid in 2013 regardless of when you earned it. You will notice the rate increase in your January 10, 2013 pay. The increase will be reflected on the "Fed OASDI/EE" line of your pay advice.

The 2013 Federal Tax Tables are in effect with this pay check and will affect your net pay based upon these new rates. The 2013 Vermont Tax Tables have not been updated as of this time, but when available, we will update those as well.

Information Regarding 2012 W-2:

The Department of Finance and Management is in the process of creating 2012 W-2 Forms. Important information is below.

- W-2 Mailing date: No later than 1/31/2013
- Mailed to: The address that appears on your electronic pay advice
- Address change deadline for W-2: Must be changed in the payroll system by Finance and Management before 1/16/2013 for your W-2 to be sent to the correct address
- Address change form: Is located on the Finance and Management website, http://finance.vermont.gov/emp_addr_chg

An explanation of the information on your W-2 is located on the Finance and Management website, <http://finance.vermont.gov/payroll/w2info>.

REPRINTS:

W-2 reprint requests for any year will not be processed until after February 22, 2013. All requests for reprints of your 2008 through 2012 W-2 forms must be submitted through our new online submission process located at <http://finance.vermont.gov/payroll/w2info>. For years 2007 and earlier, submit request by email to the Department of Finance and Management at Vision-Payroll@state.vt.us. Please include your email address, employee number, the last four digits of your social security number and the address where the form is to be mailed.

Reprint requests will not be processed until after February 22, 2013.

Departments/Supervisors and Managers who have employees without access to e-mail are responsible for making this information known to them. Please print and post or print and distribute as required.

EXPENSES:

Please remind employees that an expense report can only cover one calendar year. If there are expenses for both 2012 and 2013, two expense reports must be submitted. Please make sure the year is correctly indicated in the Date section. The Field Audit Guide located <http://finance.vermont.gov/payroll/expenses> is available for reference.

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:50 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Cc: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Today

I'm headed home this weekend to perform in an "unrehearsed" version of *Taming of the Shrew* (we've all memorized our lines ahead of time, will do a read-through tonight, rehearse all day Saturday, and perform Saturday night).

I thought our rehearsal today was at 5 so I was going to duck out a bit early, but it turns out it is at 2 so I will have to leave the office at noon. Sorry not to give you more advanced notice.

Carolyn Wesley
Constituent Correspondent
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828 5366
Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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London, Sarah

From: Emerson Lynn <emerson@samessenger.com>
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 8:18 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Thursday edit

Selling Vt. Us.

Gov. Peter Shumlin is a salesman. And, like any good salesman, he believes in his product, which is why he is perpetually searching for ways to improve it. A better product is easier to sell.

With few exceptions, that "better product" is us. Each of us.

We can debate the merits of health care reform, and talk endlessly about the need for a more efficient government, or herald the promise of renewable energy, but when everything is stripped away, it still gets down to who we are and how we fit within the context of today's world.

In Vermont, that's a challenge complicated by demographics. We're getting older faster than almost any other state, and a large number of our youth are leaving to attend school elsewhere, or to find better employment opportunities. Our growth rate is anemic, to say the least.

The governor's sales pitch is becoming more difficult.

And he can't be expected to do all the selling on his own. When the legislative session begins next week, he needs to enlist them into the cause. And the cause is education.

What the governor needs are some allies who understand that education writ large is the state's primary driver of all things that last and are of value. They need to understand that our educational system, preK-16, is a vastly underutilized resource, one that should be viewed as the indispensable cog in any plan for the state's economic future.

Here's what we don't do that we can no longer afford:

- We don't work collaboratively with the University of Vermont or the State College System to maximize opportunities.
- We don't pursue ways to reduce the cost of higher education through dual enrollment.
- We haven't addressed opportunities to keep Vermont graduates here through aggressive tax-forgiveness programs.
- We subsidize Vermonters attending UVM without regard to income levels, which – long term – puts the school's tuition model at risk.
- We countenance low college attendance levels despite the fact that we have one of the country's best high school graduation rates.
- We spend more per student than almost any other state [\$17,400 versus national average of \$10,800] yet, overall, our standardized test scores have not improved in over a decade.
- Our student population has dropped from 104,000 to 85,000, but our costs continue to rise and we have not addressed how that spare capacity could best be utilized.
- We continue to operate on the same agrarian calendar that is more than a century old.
- We continue to ignore the vast potential of intensifying our focus on early education.
- We allow our poorer students to languish, which compounds the challenges for them and for society as they age.
- And, finally, what we don't have is a comprehensive plan that puts all this in the context of a strategic initiative that explains why it's important, who is responsible, and how it all

is to be addressed.

It's a task that is beyond any single person.

But it's a task that holds more potential than any other initiative underway, or being considered.

We also have advantages no other state has. The things listed as challenges are also blessings. We spend more on education than most others, but that also means we value the process. Higher education is the second largest sector in the state's economy, which means that we have a disproportionate number of citizens invested in higher education.

We don't have to change people's minds about the importance of an educated populace.

What we must do is to harness this good will while it exists.

It will require state government to reorder its priorities. Part of that task begins with the new Commissioner of Education position, which this month will become part of the governor's cabinet. As that happens, Commerce and Human Services will need to consider changes as well. The overarching goal will be the need to strip down the individual silos that define today's educational establishment and, in its place, institute defensible goals that can be articulated, met, and then sold. Everyone will have a role.

This cause must be embraced by the governor and it should be the common denominator theme that runs through most discussions in Montpelier. But he can't do it alone. The Legislature needs to make the same level commitment.

Without it, we don't move.

by Emerson Lynn

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:57 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

Vilaseca keeps Vermont's top education job, now as secretary

As Gov. Peter Shumlin oversees education for the first time, he sticks with the same leader, but only for a year

TERRI HALLENBECK

MONTPELIER — Armando Vilaseca will become the state's first secretary of Education, but only for a year, Gov. Peter Shumlin says.

Vilaseca, who has been education commissioner for four years, will remain in charge as the department — overseen by the state Board of Education — makes the transition to an agency overseen by the governor this year. The state, meanwhile, will conduct a new search for a longer-term secretary, Shumlin said.

"It's my responsibility to do what I can to make this transition smooth," Vilaseca said.

Shumlin said he and Vilaseca have "almost identical views on education," but Shumlin said he won't reveal his educational plans until his inaugural address next week. It remains unclear as Shumlin gains more control over education what his imprint will look like and how he'll balance his often-expressed defense of local control with requirements from Montpelier.

The move to keep Vilaseca, one of several staffing announcements Shumlin made Thursday, won praise from those who have worked with him but surprise that it will only be for a year.

"I'm thrilled to be able to continue working with him," said Martha Allen, president of the Vermont-NEA teachers union.

"He understands the political climate, he understands the teacher climate, and that is so important," said Jay Hoffman, Vermont's reigning teacher of the year, who works at Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington. "He's always been a great advocate for teachers; he's always been a super advocate for kids."

"Armando's been a good commissioner," said Stephan Morse, chairman of the state Board of Education, which recommended three candidates, including Vilaseca, to the governor.

The process put Vilaseca in the position of applying for his own job, which he acknowledged last summer was "awkward for everyone involved." The other finalists were Daniel French of Manchester, superintendent of the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union; and Brent Kay of Randolph, superintendent of the Orange Southwest Supervisory Union.

(Page 2 of 3)

Vilaseca previously had worked as superintendent of schools in Colchester, Essex and Fairfax.

As commissioner, Vilaseca championed school consolidation, but he joined a line of administrators who made little headway in achieving it amid longstanding local opposition. He opted against pursuing federal Race to the Top funding partly because of strings attached, including linking teacher evaluations to test scores. He also opted not to take action against schools that chronically under-performed on standardized tests.

If Vilaseca had wanted to stay longer, he wasn't letting on Thursday.

Vilaseca, 57, of Westford said he told Shumlin he went into the job as education commissioner thinking he'd commit to five years. Working one more year fits that plan, he said. Asked what he would do next, he said, "I am Cuban, and I like warm weather."

Board of Education Chairman Morse said, however, that Vilaseca never mentioned to him that he was interested in staying on for only one more year.

Morse said the one-year appointment is not a bad thing, however, as the transition from department to agency involves a lot of unknowns, and the continuity should help. It also should allow the state to open up the application process, he said.

"We didn't get a huge number of applicants," Morse said. "We certainly didn't get a lot of out-of-state candidates."

Shumlin chose Vilaseca from among three finalists after the Board of Education oversaw a months-long application process. The Legislature in 2011 voted to elevate education from a department to an agency with a secretary who is part of the governor's cabinet, giving the governor more direct control of the one section of state government that had not been in the executive's direct purview.

The state board remains in place, but Morse said some issues have yet to be resolved concerning the board's role versus the governor's role in overseeing the agency.

Morse said the Legislature specifically noted that the board was to remain intact with sufficient staffing, but when he went to submit a budget for next year, he was told the board's budget would be within the agency, not separate. That surprised him, he said, and could become a problem someday if the board and governor were to have a strained relationship.

(Page 3 of 3)

Morse said the law that turned education into an agency also made it clear that the board remains in charge of education policy. Yet, Shumlin said Thursday, he believes the change to an agency will give him more say in pushing for changes to the school curriculum, including requiring students to take algebra and geometry.

Shumlin said he will be searching for a new education secretary next summer, with an expected transition by the next legislative session.

Personnel moves Among the other changes Shumlin announced Thursday:

- Spokeswoman Sue Allen will also be deputy chief of staff, replacing Alex MacLean, who had previously announced she was leaving.
- Sue Minter returns to the Agency of Transportation as deputy secretary from a stint as the state Tropical Storm Irene recovery officer. Dave Rapaport, who had been working with Minter on Irene, will become recovery officer as the state continues to negotiate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on flood relief for state buildings.
- Former Rep. Lucy Leriche of Hardwick will become deputy secretary of commerce, replacing Patricia Moulton Powden, who previously announced her departure. The Agency of Commerce will hire a separate economic development commissioner after the job had been merged with housing and community development for several years.
- Former Rep. Floyd Nease of Johnson will work in the Agency of Human Services as director of systems integration in hopes of streamlining access to social services. That was something the Douglas administration attempted several years ago.
- Susan Bartlett, special assistant to the governor, will shift to the Agency of Human Services as special projects coordinator to focus on linking low-income Vermonters with the education they need to earn more money.

Voice of Vermont: Wind policy needs nuanced adjustment

The push to impose a two-year moratorium on large-scale wind power developments is the policy equivalent of taking a 20-pound sledgehammer to tap in a few protruding nail heads.

Striking the proper balance between the state's energy needs, environmental and climate policy, and local community rights requires a more nuanced approach.

One such approach is the governor's decision to review the process for approving energy projects.

There's also the idea put forward by the Vermont Electric Cooperative for holding off on any new mandates requiring power companies to buy electricity generated from renewable sources.

Taking the foot off the mechanism that accelerates demand for renewable power would likely have an effect on the pace of power project developments.

At its worst, a moratorium could send the message that Vermont is uninterested in renewable energy development. The ripple effect could erode the state's green reputation and dissuade investments in technology sure to be a growing force in the economy.

The moratorium has the backing of people unhappy about wind development atop Vermont mountains. One complaint is that the current process through the Public Service Board provides for inadequate opportunity for public input.

Inadequate public input is a complaint often heard from people when a regulatory process fails to go their way. It's the flip side of the complaint by developers that Vermont's permit process is too "unpredictable," meaning the process gives citizens the power to challenge development projects.

The push for a moratorium sounds like an attempt to change the rules after losing the game.

Big wind remains controversial in Vermont. Communities are divided about the impact of wind turbines on the environment and people's health. Wind companies, like most of the energy industry, prosper thanks to government help.

But when you get right down to it, there is little that comes along in Vermont without controversy. We are an argumentative place.

Yet the nation's energy challenges are real. Both climate change and the outlook for the global supply and demand for energy argue for an aggressive search for a post-fossil fuel solution.

Renewable power generation -- including wind -- will be a part of the answer. A moratorium would remove Vermont from the conversation while the rest of the nation, and the world, moves forward toward a solution.

My Turn: Sub-standard Irene repairs costly in long run

SUE MINTER

In a recent published opinion piece, the lead FEMA Official in Vermont stated "there appears to be a misperception among some in the public that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is refusing to pay for larger culverts. This is simply not true." Unfortunately, far from being a misperception, this is precisely the situation that towns across Vermont are currently confronting as they receive news that FEMA will not pay for the larger culverts and bridges that they must build to meet state standards intended to protect against future hazards.

The toll from Tropical Storm Irene was high: 225 Vermont towns were impacted by Irene, with 90 municipal bridges and 963 town culverts damaged statewide. Small Vermont towns heroically managed crisis after crisis: families lost homes, farmers lost land, businesses lost buildings and municipalities lost infrastructure. From the early days of the recovery, Governor Shumlin declared that Vermont would "build back stronger than Irene found us," including rebuilding transportation infrastructure in a manner that will reduce the risk of damage from future flooding.

Unfortunately, FEMA is rejecting its obligation to fund the full cost for town infrastructure repair projects that incorporate pre-disaster state and federal standards for stream crossings. Our state Public Assistance Office receives continuous inquiries from frustrated towns, facing serious financial straits, due to this situation.

Due in part to FEMA's narrow reading of its rules, in the past some towns have replaced sub-standard structures after past flood events rather than replacing with more robust structures that can withstand future storms. Take the Northeast Kingdom town of Charleston, where the same culvert has been blown out three times in three separate floods. In Northfield, a culvert replacement funded by FEMA blew out the same year (2011). In both cases and many others, FEMA has only funded replacement of the same inferior structure. And if a culvert is blown out but not destroyed, the town must put the same inadequate pipe back in -- even when it is sure to fail again.

(Page 2 of 2)

Irene showed us what happens when our culverts and bridges are inadequate: the high volume flow washes out our roads, cuts off our communities, and puts our homes and businesses at risk. The standards for repairing bridges and culverts established by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the size and type of culverts and bridges were in place when Tropical Storm Irene arrived. They were developed by experienced river scientists and engineers to ensure that all of the water, sediment, and debris that comes roaring down a brook or river following a heavy rain goes through, not around or over, a culvert or bridge.

Our current state and federal codes include requirements to build structures to withstand future disasters. This is the same common sense principle underlying FEMA's guiding statute, the Stafford Act (named after Vermont's U.S. Sen. Robert Stafford), which authorizes FEMA to pay for the cost of replacing inadequately designed bridges and culverts with ones that will stand up to future flood events, as long as the community installs them according to a consistently applied set of federal, state, or local pre-disaster standards.

The state of Vermont is now challenging FEMA's refusal to pay for culvert and bridge repairs that meet eligible state and federal standards aimed at reducing future risks. These repeated decisions by FEMA to disallow Vermont ANR and U.S. Corps of Engineers standards are also inconsistent with other relevant federal laws and policies. The Federal Highway Administration understands what FEMA does not: in both disaster and non-disaster times, the Federal Highway Administration helps fund bridges and culverts on state highways that will better withstand future disasters.

The state of Vermont is committed to helping towns get fair compensation from FEMA. The appeals process established by FEMA requires Vermont communities, and the state, to appeal first to the FEMA Region One Office in Boston, and

then to FEMA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Vermont will take our appeals to Congress if necessary. With the help of Sens. Leahy and Sanders and Congressman Welch, we intend to make our case that FEMA should follow the letter and purpose of its guiding statute and its own regulations. Vermont's communities should not have to bear the costs of doing what the law -- and common sense -- requires.

Vermonters support being frugal with our federal tax dollars -- and being frugal in this instance means installing the right type and size of culverts and bridges. The long term savings of doing this work properly to mitigate against future loss far outweighs short term costs. If towns are supported to do the job right this time, we may not have to ask FEMA for reimbursement next time.

VTBUZZ BLOG: Call for wind moratorium draws crowd from all sides

Posted on January 3, 2013 by Terri Hallenbeck

There weren't enough corners in the Cedar Creek Room at the Statehouse for all the people who wanted to be at a news conference about a wind moratorium but who wanted to pretend they weren't really there.

That tells you how many people are worried about a wind moratorium gaining momentum.

The news conference was called by a group of legislators who say they will introduce a bill calling for a three-year moratorium on wind projects in Vermont in the legislative session that starts next week. Sen. Joe Benning, a Caledonia County Republican who is about to start his second term in the Senate, is the leader of the pack.

Benning has already become nearly a rock star to wind opponents, about 50 of whom traveled to Montpelier to cheer him on.

"We totally ignore this kind of destruction," Benning said, showing photos of turbines, their concrete pads and the road leading up to them on Lowell Mountain. "The Romans had their Coliseum. The Greeks had their Parthenon. This generation has just left this on a mountainside for the next 1,000 years."

By his side were both Republicans and Democrats -- Sens. Bobby Starr and Bob Hartwell and Sens.-elect John Rodgers and Norm McAllister, and Rep. Vicki Strong.

Indications are that a wind moratorium might just pass in the Senate, where it has support from Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott. Curiously, though Campbell and Scott were in the Statehouse at the time, neither had been enticed to attend. A moratorium has less of a chance of passing the House and, if it did, would stand a very strong chance of being vetoed by Gov. Peter Shumlin.

On the fringes of the room were an unusually large number of others interested in the outcome of this debate that pits a drive for increased renewable energy against complaints that the turbines are destroying ridgelines and the quietude of those who live nearby. Pro- and anti-wind legislators were among those taking in the show without taking the stage.

Representatives of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Renewable Energy Vermont, Green Mountain Power Corp. and Vermont Natural Resources Council were also among those attending who want to nip that moratorium talk in the bud.

"We're going to do our best to stop a moratorium," said Paul Burns, executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group. "We're taking it seriously."

Next door, Shumlin was unwavering in his support of renewable energy. "I'm just a convert," he said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:45 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

ST. ALBANS MESSENGER:

ANR eyes dam, causeway removals

Written By:

Michelle Monroe

Stormwater management part of basin discussions

ST. ALBANS — Previously controversial issues and new initiatives tied into lake quality improvements are being raised as part of state planning for the Missisquoi River Basin.

Discussion of the Swanton dam and the Missisquoi Bay Bridge and Carry Bay causeways are part of a draft plan for the basin that was created by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). The primary goal of the plan is to improve water quality within the basin.

Other topics in the basin plan include the development of stormwater management plans for communities which lack them, the use of best management practices to handle runoff from roads, and an end to illicit discharges in four communities including Enosburg Falls, Richford, and Swanton.

The implementation practices included in the plan fall into three broad groups: managing and reducing stormwater from developed lands, reducing runoff from agricultural lands, and restoring and protecting the flow of rivers and streams.

ANR will hold three meetings to solicit input for the plan. Meetings are scheduled for Enosburg and North Troy tomorrow evening and Swanton on Tuesday.

There will be a short presentation and then a discussion. "We would love to hear from people how they would like to help us or their community to improve water quality," said Karen Bates, watershed coordinator at the Dept. of Conservation.

Included in the plan is information on what communities, organizations and individuals can do to improve water quality in the basin, resources and funding sources.

The plan specifically calls for a study to remove the unused Swanton dam to restore fish habitat and for removing all or part of the Carry Bay and Missisquoi Bridge causeways.

While previous studies would seem to indicate that causeway removal is unnecessary, it has continued to receive public support.

The Missisquoi Bridge causeway is home to the spiny softshell turtle, a threatened species in both Vermont and Quebec. A study funded by the International Joint Commission (IJC) found that removal of the causeways would have a minimal impact on water quality in Missisquoi Bay. In Carry Bay the level of phosphorous would be reduced by only 1 to 9 percent while the impact on phosphorous levels of removing the Missisquoi Bridge causeway was determined to be negligible.

Removing the causeway would only dilute the problem, mixing more polluted waters and less polluted waters without removing any pollutants, explained Bates.

"The solution is to reduce the source," said Bates.

Nevertheless, the ANR plan includes searching for a way to remove all or part of the causeways while still protecting the threatened turtle species. Like the IJC, which endorsed the removal of the causeways despite the minimal benefits, ANR is supporting the removal simply "to avoid continuing distraction from other needed actions to reduce phosphorus inputs," in the words of the report.

High on ANR's priority list is the removal of the Swanton dam. That topic last year caused some heated debate as Swanton Village officials and a group of residents touted both the historic value and potential energy generating potential of the dam.

However, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removing the dam would result in a 300-fold increase in spawning grounds for the endangered lake sturgeon. The spawning ground for the walleye, popular with fishermen, would also increase by at least 65-fold.

"The primary objective is fish population," Bates said when asked if there are issues of water flow and river alteration with the dam. "It can open up eight miles of spawning area. That's huge," she said.

In the past there has been opposition to removing the dam from local residents. A 2011 study commissioned by the Swanton Village Trustees found that a modern dam at the site could generate electricity for 250 homes.

Runoff

One of the tasks listed—assisting municipalities with developing a stormwater management plan that identifies and prioritizes potential stormwater projects — is already underway in several communities. The Friends of Northern Lake Champlain and Stone Environmental are working with several area communities on creating a list of potential stormwater projects, including potential benefits and costs. The report specifically mentions developing stormwater plans for Highgate, Swanton, Enosburg and Richford.

The plan also includes retrofitting the stormwater systems in those same communities, as well as Sheldon Springs and Montgomery.

On agricultural land, the plan calls for continuing to work with farmers, the Agency of Agriculture, the University of Vermont Extension Service, and watershed groups to promote a range of agricultural practices that reduce the amount of nutrients getting into rivers and the lake while improving soil quality.

The critical source area study of the Missisquoi Bay, unveiled last year, will be used to identify those lands most likely to have significant runoff because of the topography, soil type and other factors. ANR and its partners will reach out to those farmers and landowners first to discuss practices and projects to minimize runoff.

The Swanton dam is not the only dam ANR plans to examine. The plan calls for evaluating all of the dams in the watershed and identifying those with significant public benefit. ANR would then look for ways to minimize the damage from dams with public benefit and removing those without significant public benefit.

Dams alter the manner in which rivers flow. Because interrupting the flow of rivers increases erosion and flooding, ANR has made it a practice to restore the natural flow of rivers wherever possible.

The plan also calls for protection of shorelines and flood plains which are still undeveloped and restoration of those areas where possible. Access to flood plains minimizes the damage from flooding and creates places where the flow of water is slower, allowing sediment to settle out of the water before it reaches one of the region's lakes.

The first local discussion of the plan will be held, Thursday, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Enosburg Emergency Services Building. The Swanton meeting will be held at the village complex on Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m.

ADDISON INDEPENDENT:

Lawmakers cite priorities for 2013

JOHN FLOWERS

MONTPELIER — Local lawmakers will return to the Statehouse next week to tackle an agenda they said will include tough budgeting, further health care reforms, growing jobs, Lake Champlain cleanup, promoting renewable energy, battling drug crime and addiction, and perhaps some gun control measures.

"Money, money and money," Rep. David Sharpe, D-Bristol, answered in response to what he believed would be the top three concerns during the 2013 session.

The Legislature's job was rendered a little less chaotic than it could have been with word on Jan. 1 that Congressional leaders and the White House had struck a deal to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff" — at least for now — as a result of some agreed-upon tax hikes primarily on the wealthiest Americans. Lawmakers had feared that a potential \$50 million shortfall in state revenues for fiscal year 2014 (which begins July 1) would get much worse had Congressional leaders come up with a fiscal cliff solution that included substantial cuts to health care and other federal entitlement programs.

Still, the task at hand will be a formidable one, acknowledged Rep. Willem Jewett, D-Ripton, who was recently elected by his party as the new House majority leader.

"There will be a lot of pocketbook issues" to deal with, Jewett said, adding to that list continued recovery from Tropical Storm Irene and potential increases in public school taxes.

But the shortage of funds should also present incentives for Vermont to invest in the future in order to help residents save money in the long term, according to Jewett. For example, he believes the state should ramp up programs to help Vermonters better weatherize their homes and seek out renewable energy alternatives in view of the increasing costs of fossil fuels.

Other priorities cited by Jewett: cleaning up Lake Champlain, devising a comprehensive "approach to addressing the scourge of drugs in our communities" and adopting new protocols for search and rescue of lost/stranded hikers. That search-and-rescue legislation is being prepared in the wake of the tragic death of 19-year-old Levi Duclos of New Haven while hiking in Ripton a year ago.

RAISING STATE REVENUE

As a veteran member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Sharpe figures to be a significant player in the looming discussion about state finances. It is in the Ways and Means Committee that the state's tax policies are crafted.

"I suspect we will have to raise some revenue one way or another," Sharpe said.

He believes that will be the case due to a confluence of tough financial developments.

First, state officials are indicating it may be necessary to raise the statewide education property tax rate (for homesteads) by 5 cents, from the current 89 cents per \$100 in property value to 94 cents. That's because school districts are forecasting on average a 5-percent increase in education spending next year — due in large part to an anticipated increase of 14 percent in teachers' health insurance costs — occurring at the same time that local grand lists are not growing.

"I know our committee will work hard to minimize that, but it's a big challenge," Sharpe said.

Second, Sharpe said the health care exchange that Vermont must establish as part of the federal Affordable Care Act will ironically "pinch" some of the state's own longstanding insurance programs for low-income individuals and families, including Catamount Health and the Vermont Health Access Program (VHAP).

"These (clients) could see some dramatic increases in their insurance (premium) costs," Sharpe said. "What our state has done in the past is ... try to minimize the negative effects of federal legislation on Vermonters. I am sure we will look at doing that, but I think that's another \$18 million to hold harmless those Vermonters who have been getting their health care through VHAP and Catamount Health."

Add to this scenario a projected \$50 million shortfall for the state's general fund — due largely to expected reductions in federal dollars for Vermont's Medicaid program — and you have a prescription for financial trouble, Sharpe noted.

While Sharpe did not mention the prospect of raising broad-based taxes to generate more revenues, he said the state could consider an excise tax on sweetened beverages. The notion of taxing such drinks has earned support from 37 health advocacy groups who point to sweetened beverages as a leading cause of obesity, according to Sharpe. The excise tax could generate more than \$20 million to help stem dramatic increases in Catamount and VHAP premiums, he said.

"The governor is not on board on this yet, but I think the governor is going to be forced to either propose some draconian cuts or find some new revenue," Sharpe said.

HEALTH CARE IN VERMONT

Sen. Claire Ayer, D-Addison, is chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. As such, she will be at the forefront of discussions about changes to the state's health care landscape.

Ayer and her committee will spend much time this session making sure the state sets up its federally mandated health care exchange, which will be Vermont's platform for dispensing health coverage.

"That will involve a lot of (information technology)," Ayer said of setting up the exchange.

At the same time, Ayer's committee will closely track any health care savings Vermont experiences through its ongoing reforms. Substantial savings will be needed if Vermont is to ultimately transition to a universal health care system, Ayer noted.

Insurance isn't the only health care angle the Legislature will need to address.

"I think in health care, we are going to be looking very closely at the mental health system, which sort of washed away a year and a half ago," Ayer said, alluding to Irene's impact on the state hospital complex in Waterbury. That emergency prompted state officials to design new infrastructure for Vermont's mental health system, one that is to be more predicated on services delivered in community settings rather than at a central hospital.

"We are behind schedule and beyond budget in our progress so far," Ayer conceded. "We are hearing good things, but we are still in a crisis situation in many cases."

Until adequate new infrastructure is put in place, hospital emergency rooms are being pressed into service to work with mental health agencies in serving patients that might otherwise have been taken to the state hospital in Waterbury, Ayer explained.

"That is the worst possible place for someone who is suffering a terrible breakdown to be locked up in an emergency room with guards," Ayer said. "It is a crisis situation, still."

Ayer also cited school safety, Lake Champlain cleanup, Irene recovery, a "death with dignity" bill, the proposed decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana and gun control as other topics that would likely join the budget on the legislative docket.

Ayer will have a new colleague in the Senate — New Haven Democrat Chris Bray, who won the second seat representing the district that includes Addison County, Huntington and Buel's Gore.

Bray is no stranger to the Statehouse. He recently represented the Addison-5 district for four years. And he agrees that it will be a tough session due to financial constraints.

"It will be another challenging year to deliver good services to Vermonters and contain costs," Bray said. "We always seem to be dealing with tight dollars."

While Bray anticipates many of his colleagues will propose spending cuts, cutting services or a combination of both, he plans to advocate for an alternative approach: Look at opportunities to grow the state's economy to expand the revenue stream so the state can pay its bills and introduce more innovative programs. Bray served his previous four years on the House Agriculture Committee, championing such causes as Farm-to-Plate legislation aimed at harnessing Vermont's agricultural know-how and products to spawn new, related businesses and jobs.

Bray is also drafting what he calls a “strategic trades and professions” bill as a means of training and retaining young Vermonters to work in fields that are currently undermanned — such as meat processing and large-animal veterinary services.

At the same time, Bray would like the Legislature to look at its unemployment insurance rules, which he said include high rates that are currently discouraging businesses from hiring new workers.

Bray said he would like to be assigned to the Senate Agriculture and Finance committees.

“I’m very excited to be returning to the Legislature,” Bray said.

eye on THE UNKNOWNNS

Rep. Harvey Smith, R-New Haven, agreed with his Democratic colleagues that health care reform and the budget would be two overriding issues to tackle during the coming session. But Smith hopes the Democratic majority does not take the state too quickly down the health reform effort it has mapped out. He’s concerned there remain too many unknowns in the ongoing health care debate.

“We should have answers now on how health care costs will be covered and where the financing will come from,” Smith said. “It is hard to make decisions without answers to those kinds of questions.”

Smith is also concerned about a trend of increasing state programs at a time when revenues are increasingly in jeopardy. And he recalled hearing a recurring refrain while on the campaign trail last year — household budgets are getting tighter and more and more people are worried about being able to pay their property taxes.

“We know the feds are tightening the (purse) strings,” Smith said. “We will have to take a hard look at our programs and see if we can deliver them as efficiently as we can.”

Economic development and job growth are other priorities Smith pledged to bring to the Statehouse this month.

Rep. Paul Ralston, D-Middlebury, believes utility regulation and energy policy will be the legislative topics that will have the greatest impact for Vermont and Vermonters.

“We have never had the discussion in our state about how much more Vermonters are willing to pay for renewable energy and who should receive the financial benefit from that extra cost,” said Ralston, a member of the House Commerce Committee. “With the economy still in a precarious place, we need to seriously consider the effects of artificially escalating the cost of energy to Vermont homes and businesses.”

Ralston added that “as the balance of power shifts in the energy sector, we need to reform how Vermonters are represented in the regulatory process to ensure that all parties have access to the proceedings and can afford to be heard. There will be an attempt to challenge local and regional control of the energy planning process, and that is likely to be a very contentious issue. Folks in the Northeast Kingdom will be asking for a short moratorium on large-scale, ridge-top wind development while the impacts of the recently completed projects are assessed.”

Vermont, according to Ralston, has an opportunity to grow in another energy segment — the technology of smart grid management.

“Vermont doesn’t have the geographic resources to support enough utility-scale electric generations, but Vermont can and should become a center for emerging energy technology,” Ralston said. “There is a major economic development opportunity in these technologies and pursuing them will not compromise our wild places. Just as efficiency is the cheapest electricity, efficient management of electrical systems can profit producers and consumers alike.”

Rep. Betty Nuovo, D-Middlebury, will be returning for her 27th year as a state representative. She hopes to again be assigned to the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. There, she plans to ask for a progress report on all of the state's energy and recycling programs and make some changes, if necessary.

Nuovo said health care reform would likely be the biggest issue the Legislature will tackle this year, and perhaps during the next few years.

"It's a process that needs to be done one step at a time," Nuovo said.

Nuovo wants the Legislature to take more steps to prevent the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs. She will also file a bill at the request of local law enforcement to set up a licensing requirement for caretakers of the elderly. The initiative, Nuovo said, is being driven by reports of some caretakers taking financial advantage of their senior charges.

Ferrisburgh officials lukewarm to land lease for solar

ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — The town of Ferrisburgh was presented in November an offer to lease about 3.5 acres of its 34.9-acre parcel next to Vergennes, an offer that according to the company making it could be worth about a half-million dollars over its 20-year term.

But the selectboard has yet to carefully study whether that claim is accurate or enter into serious negotiations with Encore Redevelopment, the Burlington firm proposing to lease the land and put a solar panel array on it that would produce 700,000 kilowatts a year.

The board was set to sit down again with Ferrisburgh energy coordinator Bob McNary this Wednesday and discuss the proposal, but chairwoman Loretta Lawrence said last week board members are in no hurry to move on Encore's offer or meet with company representatives.

"We want to meet one more time, but we haven't set that time up yet," Lawrence said. "We're taking our time ... Our intent is to meet with Encore at some point."

Encore has proposed to pay \$10,000 a year for the land and another roughly \$2,000 a year in taxes, and to sell the electricity to Ferrisburgh at current prices for the duration of the lease. Ferrisburgh would also have the right to buy the array at lease's end, or to request Encore to remove it.

Given that power prices have risen by an average of 3 percent, Encore's Chad Farrell estimated that savings for town buildings and Ferrisburgh's share of the Vergennes Union High School bill would come to about \$255,000 over 20 years.

McNary, who provided some information on Ferrisburgh's power usage to Farrell to allow him to make the estimates, said he is puzzled by the selectboard's slow pace in exploring the offer.

"I don't understand why they're not jumping all over this," McNary said.

MARKETABILITY

The land is part of the town-owned parcel at the intersection of Routes 7 and 22A that the town has tried to sell for \$375,000 over the past two years. Of the land's 34.9 acres, 23.3 acres are subject to conservation easements that limit its uses; some of that land is also wet. On the remaining 9.7 acres, other easements restrict its building envelope to 4.5 acres.

Encore — a five-year-old firm that has done or is doing business with the towns of Middlebury, Milton, Burlington and South Burlington and with Middlebury College, among other entities — intends to use land on the northwest corner away from the building envelope.

McNary said the solar array would be several hundred feet from the marketable building envelope and that the solar array would be screened.

Lawrence said one of several “reservations” the selectboard has is that the solar array would make it harder for the town to sell the rest of the land.

“There’s a large concern with the marketability of the property. Does someone want to move in next to a solar array?” Lawrence said.

One who does not share that concern is Ferrisburgh real estate broker Carl Cole, who has been advising the selectboard on the sale of the town parcel.

Cole suggests there may be problems, but that the selectboard cannot know that unless it authorizes more research into Encore’s proposal.

“On the surface of it I don’t see any drawbacks, but as they say the devil’s in the details,” Cole said.

Cole said he suggested the selectboard form a committee to explore the possibility, a suggestion that McNary also made on Dec. 4, but according to board minutes was ignored.

“That was my advice to the selectboard the last meeting I went to,” Cole said. “It costs nothing to find out. It will take a little volunteer time from qualified people.”

Encore’s Farrell also weighed in on the marketability question. He said in a Dec. 29 email that Encore has seen no impact on property values near its solar arrays.

“We are not aware of any evidence out there that would support a diminution in marketability for a property due to the presence of a nearby solar array, especially for a property that is zoned for commercial or industrial use,” Farrell wrote.

REAL SAVINGS

Selectboard members also questioned the estimates on energy savings.

“We haven’t had anyone give us that information other than Bob. That’s just a citizen writing up those figures,” Lawrence said.

McNary said he was frustrated to hear that. He claimed he told the board the calculations had come from Encore after McNary had supplied the company with simple kilowatt use figures, as well as the town’s percentage of students at Vergennes Union High School.

“That’s absolutely incorrect. That information is from Chad Farrell,” McNary said.

Dec. 12 and Dec. 19 emails from Farrell to McNary show calculations made by Farrell that assumed average rate increases of 1, 2 and 3 percent over the next 20 years.

TRACK RECORD

Lawrence said the selectboard is also concerned about Encore's long-term health and the feasibility of alternative energy projects, given that board members believe they are now strongly supported by federal grants and tax credits.

"If we do go ahead and after a year this project bellies up, does the town want to be responsible for picking up the pieces? We'd have to come in and clean up this solar array ... Would it cost \$10,000 or more?" Lawrence said. "The board does have some reservations. This company has been in business five years, and it looks like they came into business when this renewable money came from Washington five years ago."

McNary and Cole both pointed to Encore's business history and client list as evidence of its reliability.

"They've got a pretty good track record," Cole said.

Farrell called the board's reservation a "fair enough question." He made several points in his email, including:

- "We have partnered with a larger solar financing company (that is) aligned with some larger national banks, including Wells Fargo and PNC. Our financing partner in this project is Enfinity America Corporation."
- "The incentives associated with this project are one-time tax credit benefits that are taken at the time of construction and available through 2016. They are not drying up anytime soon."
- "The town would be further protected by a number of clauses in the site lease agreement which would require the system owner to perform decommissioning."

Farrell said Encore would not withdraw the lease offer while Ferrisburgh makes up its mind, but that the state now has a 4 percent cap on net-metering projects like the one Encore is proposing, and that "Once that cap is met, there is no guarantee that any additional projects will be built."

Meanwhile, Lawrence maintains the selectboard does not have "a clear picture of what they (Encore) want to do or that we want to participate" in a lease arrangement.

"We just aren't ready to pursue it at this time," she said. "That doesn't mean we aren't interested. We aren't sure we want to get into a lease."

But Cole and McNary said the board should learn more now.

"Personally, I don't know if I'm convinced about this alternative energy," Cole said. "But that's neither here or there. If it turns out to be good for the town it ought to be seriously considered."

McNary said town officials should keep exploring the possibility until a reason is found to say no.

"The total savings plus lease payment to the town will be well over \$500,000," McNary said. "I'm going to quote (Vergennes City Manager) Mel Hawley. That's real money."

Middlebury zeros in on economic development post

JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A committee charged with recruiting Middlebury's first-ever business development director will soon interview a fifth and final candidate before narrowing down the field and introducing a new hire as soon as Town Meeting Day.

"I think we are on a good path," said John Tenny, a member of the Middlebury Business Development Fund Advisory Board.

"I think we have some very good candidates."

It was on Town Meeting Day last March that Middlebury voters agreed to establish a business development fund that would be used to stimulate business growth in town. Voters OK'd the fund for a term of five years, bankrolling it with a penny on the property tax rate (to raise \$72,000 per year); another \$72,000 annually from Middlebury College; and \$36,000 from the local business community per annum, for a total of \$180,000 each year. The main expense of the fund is to pay the salary, benefits and other supports for a business development director to woo new businesses and good paying jobs to Middlebury, while also helping current local businesses remain stable and expand.

The Middlebury selectboard established a seven-member Development Fund Advisory Board to devise a job description for the business development director and raise financial contributions from the business community.

Advisory board members have thus far interviewed four candidates for the business development director post. A final hopeful will be interviewed on Jan. 7, according to Tenny.

G. Kenneth Perine, president of the National Bank of Middlebury and also a member of the advisory board, said all five of the applicants are from Northeast, with a "good sampling of people from Vermont."

After Jan. 7, the advisory board will meet and pick the strongest two or three candidates for face-to-face interviews in Middlebury later this winter. If everything proceeds smoothly, Tenny said the new business development director could be on board by early March.

Once in place, the development director will work with the Middlebury College alumni database and other resources to attract new businesses to Middlebury. The town has been working aggressively to expand its grand list, create new jobs and reverse some discouraging trends. According to town records, Middlebury lost 415 manufacturing jobs between 2005 and 2009. The industrial proportion of Middlebury's grand list has remained at 3.1 percent since 2008. Retail Vision and eCorp English both announced the closing of their respective businesses in 2012.

The Development Fund Advisory Board recently established a list of first-year expectations for the development director. Among them:

- Conduct 55 visits to business leaders/employers and 10 visits to business/civic groups.
- Attend 12 Middlebury College alumni events and make follow-up contacts (an estimated 150).
- Send 650 letters or e-mails to the target audience and follow up personally with each contact.
- Visit 12 business owners/prospects at their business or residence and host six qualified business owners/prospects in Middlebury.
- Close with one business owner/prospect.

Most local business owners have been supportive of the Development Fund, according to Tenny and Perine. The business community has thus far made pledges totaling \$32,000 toward the annual goal of \$36,000, Tenny said.

"I am confident we will close out the last \$4,000 to reach our goal," said Tenny, who added several contributors have already made a pledge toward next year's \$36,000 campaign.

"We have been very pleased with the response from the business community," Perine said. The most common reaction, he said, has been, "We're so glad you've undertaken this initiative, we support you, and we congratulate you for taking the bull by the horns."

Middlebury weighs in on natural gas pipeline plan

JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Members of the Middlebury selectboard last month signed a letter of support for Vermont Gas Systems' proposal to extend its natural gas pipeline from Chittenden County to Middlebury and Vergennes.

The \$72 million project, if approved by the Vermont Public Service Board and built out as planned by 2015, would save the approximately 2,100 eligible residential and business customers in Middlebury a combined total of \$5 million per year compared to what they are currently paying for fuel oil, according to the company.

Local business leaders in particular are bullish on the Vermont Gas project, which would primarily follow the Vermont Electric Power Co. right of way. But opponents of the project have voiced concerns that the pipeline would present safety and environmental concerns, as well as forestall society's transition to green energy options. More than 100 Monkton citizens have signed a petition opposing the project for the disruption it would cause to local roads and residential properties during construction.

"The Middlebury Planning Commission intends to work constructively with you on details of the project plans as these are developed," reads a portion of the selectboard's letter to Vermont Gas. "In a separate letter it has described the unique interest that the town of Middlebury has in the project, stated its concerns, and offered some initial recommendations. The Middlebury selectboard has this interest, shares these concerns, and endorses the planning commission's recommendations. Public safety is another important concern; accordingly it is the selectboard's expectation that to insure optimum public safety Vermont Gas will employ state of the art measures in planning and constructing the pipeline."

In other recent activity, the Middlebury selectboard drafted a memorandum of understanding with the Battell Park trustees to manage a 38.3-acre parcel of land on Chipman Hill that the town is poised to purchase from Cooperative Insurance Companies for \$150,000.

That land, to be conserved, is located adjacent to the already protected Chipman Hill Park. The 38.3-acre parcel was once considered for a major subdivision. The funds to purchase the property are being drawn from the town's conservation fund.

Editorial: Opportunity can be found in state's limited budget

We know this legislative session will again be limited by tight budgets, challenged by tweaks to the state's nascent health care reform and harassed by both sides of the aisle on hot-button issues such as "death with dignity," how to fight drug-related crime, finding a solution to search and rescue procedures, potential statewide increases in the property tax rate, and possibly raising taxes to cover more cuts in federal aid.

But let's also keep these challenges in perspective. Arguably, the Legislature has faced such challenges since the Great Recession and this year we're in better shape than we have been since 2009-10. For the past two years, the state has faced deficits of more than \$100 million and \$70 million respectively, and during which the governor and Legislature ushered in a new era of health care, overcame the trials thrown at us by Tropical Storm Irene, and endured even more dramatic federal cuts across the board.

Yes, this year's budget reductions will present hardships. As in the past, we'll have to sharpen the budget knives and be efficient in our state programs and expenditures. No doubt, as Rep. David Sharpe of Bristol said when asked what the top three priorities will be of the upcoming session, "money, money, money" will be the overarching concern. (See story, Page 1A.) But this is also the new normal, and a refreshing perspective will be to take these limitations (as any business owner does) and imagine the opportunities available with the resources we have.

Our most obvious liabilities are readily defined: we're looking at a projected \$50 million deficit (due largely to expected federal cuts in Vermont's Medicaid program); health care costs for teachers are projected to increase 14 percent at a time when local grand lists are not growing, thus putting pressure to raise the state property tax (for homesteads) by 5 cents; and we have obligations in the pipeline to pay for a new mental health care facility in Waterbury that did not qualify (as yet) for FEMA funding.

Our assets are a flexible and creative Legislature that is not bedeviled by partisanship, a bold governor and a can-do attitude in Montpelier that is not afraid of tackling tough issues. With a budget of \$5.01 billion, the state has adequate resources to meet basic needs, create new opportunities and get the job done.

The first order of business, therefore, is to start with an offensive — not defensive — agenda that focuses as much on job expansion and improved performance in our schools as it does racheting down on expenses in other areas of government.

One way to do that, as Sen. Chris Bray, D-Addison, suggested, was to look at the state's unemployment insurance rules, which he rightly says currently discourage businesses from hiring new workers. Bringing Vermont's rules more in line with other states could be a boost to businesses and stimulate job growth without costing taxpayers a cent. Sen. Bray is also drafting a "strategic trades and professions" bill that would train young Vermonters in undermanned fields such as meat processing and large-animal veterinary services, and to continue pursuit of food-related businesses and industries to take advantage of Vermont's wholesome brand. Both are areas of potential job growth that fit Vermont's needs and strengths.

Rep. Paul Ralston proposes pursuing the technology of smart grid management within the energy sector as a way to grow a new industry in the state. "Vermont doesn't have the geographic resources to support enough utility-scale electric generations, but Vermont can and should become a center for emerging energy technology," he said. "There is a major economic development opportunity in these technologies and pursuing them will not compromise our wild places." Perhaps Vermont's state and private colleges could join with UVM to forge a statewide initiative that might foster incubator businesses in this field supported by scholastic research.

We don't dismiss the significant hurdles that we will face this legislative session, but if we approach the session as if it's an opportunity to excel, rather than a slugfest to protect what has always been and bemoan the inevitable loss of funds, it'll be a lot more fun — and more productive. The "we" in the previous sentence means all of us, including those institutions and *(SORRY, FOLKS, THE EDITORIAL IS CUT OFF HERE)*.

Shelter, landlords work together to help homeless

JOHN FLOWERS

VERGENNES — It was only a couple of months ago that Dave Huntley was jobless, homeless and living out of his car.

"I'd been working on a farm in Barton," Huntley said during a recent interview at the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter in Vergennes, where he eventually landed. "There weren't too many farm jobs out there."

But thanks to the efforts of the shelter, other area nonprofits and a Vergennes landlord, Huntley is now a rent-paying tenant at a local residence.

It is a success story that shelter Executive Director Elizabeth Ready hopes to keep replicating in 2013. To that end, the shelter has set goals with the Addison County Community Trust (ACCT) and the Counseling Service of Addison County to transition a combined total of almost 30 people from homelessness to permanent housing during the coming year. If successful, the program is in turn expected to free up more beds in the shelter, which includes 25 beds that are currently full.

The ACCT currently owns and manages 240 affordable housing units in Addison County. The organization has signed a memo of understanding with the shelter to make a dozen of those units available to homeless people looking to establish themselves in permanent housing. And the ACCT has also pledged in the memo to set aside 10 percent of any net, new units created in the future.

"One of the things housing developers around the state have been trying to do is support the local homeless shelters so that when people get stabilized in the shelter, there is a place for them to go," said ACCT Executive Director Terry McKnight.

And the new tenants, like Huntley, get more than a place to stay. Shelter counselors and other human services providers work with them to impart household budget skills and make sure they have other supports in place to ensure they are reliable rent payers.

"This is something that's really been supported by the (Vermont) Housing Finance Agency and by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board," McKnight said.

That support has only grown in recent years with the closing of the Vermont State Hospital and the death of a homeless Middlebury native in Burlington last winter. Homelessness touches all demographics, noted Ready, who said the shelter's current occupants range in age from a few days old to 74 years old.

"We have vulnerable people here," Ready said.

Shelter officials try to take in all comers, but there are some people whom the facility can't accept for reasons that include drug addiction.

"That's when people start to slip through the cracks," Ready lamented. "So we have been taking a close look at how we can forge some partnerships to make sure nobody is left outside."

So the shelter successfully negotiated the partnerships with ACCT and the Counseling Service, through Pathways Vermont. The CSAC partnership calls on the shelter to help find housing for individuals who may be struggling with mental illness. At this point, shelter officials hope to take on around 15 such clients in 2013, finding them apartments and the necessary wrap-around services to function well in their own apartment.

"The philosophy is, 'Everybody deserves housing, nobody deserves to be outside, and housing shouldn't necessarily be conditioned to certain behaviors or getting into treatment or jumping through certain hoops,'" Ready said.

Finding affordable apartments for people with limited means is tough under any circumstances, let alone for a population that is often unemployed and without a good credit history. That's how the ACCT and a group of private county landlords like Dave Venman and Jud Swenor of Vergennes have been trying to help out. Swenor is renting out three rooms at his West Street property and one of them is being occupied by Huntley.

Swenor explained he had a lot of spare room at his house and was happy to work with the shelter in taking in some tenants.

"I was there once; I lived in a tent one summer," Swenor said of his ability to relate to people who are at a low point in their lives. "If I have issues with anyone, I call (the shelter) and we figure it out."

He has provided some mentorship as well as a roof for his new tenants.

"I get along good with Jud; I couldn't ask for a better landlord," Huntley said.

Ready explained the shelter has several counselors and college interns available to help the transitioning homeless clients with tasks ranging from shopping to applying for veterans' benefits. The shelter in some cases also helps its clients raise the often obligatory first and last month's rent due at the signing of a lease. Ready and her staff raise money and apply for grants for rental assistance.

Now that the program is in place, all that is missing are the housing vacancies.

"We have a 240-unit portfolio that is completely full," McKnight said. "Our commitment to this program is that as others leave, we can put them in, but until they leave, we are banging up against it and (the shelter) still has a problem."

Ready has a family of six waiting to snap up a three-bedroom apartment as soon as one become available.

Shelter officials are reminding people that the Vermont Agency of Human Services provides a cold weather exemption and will house homeless people in a motel if the temperature or wind chill falls below 20 degrees Fahrenheit; or the temperature falls below 32 F with snow or freezing rain.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:37 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

VPR:

Vilaseca Named Education Secretary, As Shumlin Makes Other Appointments

JOHN DILLON

Governor Peter Shumlin has named Armando Vilaseca as Vermont's first secretary of education.

Vilaseca has been education commissioner since 2009. But a new law that expands the department into a full state agency went into effect this week.

The governor said he will highlight education issues in his upcoming state of the state speech next week.

"We have an incredibly ambitious agenda coming up and his willingness to serve as the first secretary of education is going to be a great distinction for the state of Vermont," he said.

Shumlin said that he and Secretary Vilaseca will push again for schools to require that students take more math and geometry courses.

The governor said he has more power to mandate curriculum reforms now that the agency has been elevated to cabinet-level status. He said Vermont students need math and science skills to compete in today's economy.

"If we don't require algebra in ninth grade and geometry in 10th grade how do you expect us to do well in 11th grade on math tests and evaluations if you haven't opened up a algebra book or geometry book?" he said.

Vilaseca will serve for up to one year. The Cuban-born educator said that was his choice. He said he had agreed to serve for five years when he first became education commissioner four years ago.

"One of the things I was hoping to do was to have some consistency in this position. We had had a revolving door of commissioners over the previous decade," he said. "One of the commitments I had made was to about five years. The governor asked me about that. I said I was still looking at that. Obviously, that is within my time frame."

Shumlin said he will launch a national search for a new education commissioner next summer. But he said for now, his focus is on implementing education reforms, with Vilaseca's help.

Shumlin also announced six other staff changes, including the appointment of former Hardwick Representative Lucy Leriche as deputy secretary of Commerce and Community Development.

Another former lawmaker, Floyd Nease from Johnson, was named a director of systems integration at the Agency of Human Services.

Nease, who has long experience in the field, said his job will be to reduce paperwork and barriers to service.

"For 30 years I've been complaining about the way human services are delivered on the ground to families," he said. "And what the governor has offered here is an opportunity to make a difference."

In other job changes, Susan Bartlett, who had served as special assistant to the governor, will also move to the Human Services Agency as special projects coordinator. In that post, the governor said Bartlett will focus on ensuring that low-income Vermonters have access to skills and education to find good-paying jobs.

Irene Recovery Officer Sue Minter will return to her post as Deputy Transportation Secretary.

She will be replaced by Dave Rapaport, who has served as Minter's deputy. And Susan Allen, who works as the governor's press secretary, will also assume the post of deputy chief of staff.

VALLEY NEWS:

Norwich Group Finalizes Draft Gun Article

By Sarah Brubeck

Norwich — A group of residents has finalized a draft warning article calling for gun control measures that members hope to see debated on Town Meeting Day across Vermont.

Gun control has been a hot-button topic in the Upper Valley, as it has been nationally, since a gunman killed 20 first-graders and six teachers in Newtown, Conn.

Across the area, residents and officials have kick-started discussion groups to address the issue.

In Hanover, a separate group has organized a forum to discuss gun policy on Sunday with state legislatures.

At the same time, SAU 70 Superintendent Frank Bass is weighing an offer from the Hanover Police Department to equip schools with surplus bullet proof vests. Bass, however, noted that bullet-proof vests are not a high priority at this time for school personnel.

Norwich resident Laurie Levin organized a discussion group five days after the Newtown shooting in the basement of Norwich's Tracy Hall. Within an hour, the group decided it wanted to place a warning on Town Meeting ballots that would demonstrate to state senators and representatives how Vermonters feel about gun control.

And if it passes?

"Then our next job would be to say to our legislature and our governor and our federal and state representatives, here is what your citizens have said. Here's a mandate," Levin said.

The warning article Levin's group drafted calls for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and requiring criminal background checks for all gun purchases. It also calls for making gun trafficking a federal crime, with stiff penalties for "straw" purchases — those buying guns on behalf of convicted criminals.

Levin knows it's a lofty goal to try to get the warning article placed on every town meeting ballot statewide, and she'd be happy with at least 50.

Levin finalized the warning and petition yesterday and now she and other members of the group will begin making contacts in other towns to find people willing to take them up.

Residents from Norwich, Thetford, Hartland, Strafford and Windsor have shown interest in the project, and Levin said she expects people to start volunteering to gather signatures in their towns. Members of the group will also start to reach out to schools and churches in various towns to find volunteers for the petitions.

"They will have our petition so they won't have to recreate the wheel," Levin said. "We're presenting them with a product that is ready to go."

Levin and at least one other volunteer also plan to travel to Montpelier on Wednesday with their petitions and attempt to make contacts in various towns.

But Levin and the group of volunteers will have to move quickly. The deadline to get signatures to place a warning on a Town Meeting ballot is Jan. 24, and town's must get 5 percent of the registered voters to sign the petition. In Norwich, 5 percent of registered voters is about 165 signatures. Once the necessary signatures are acquired, the Selectboard must give final approval.

A similar effort has started in Hanover, where Carla Bailey plans to bring together New Hampshire residents and legislatures to talk about gun policy.

Bailey is the senior pastor at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, where the event will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday. State Sen. David Pierce, D-Etna, and state Rep. Sharon Nordgren, D-Hanover, among others, have agreed to come to the forum, and Bailey wants it to be an opportunity for residents to ask questions of their legislatures.

Bailey said she wants to bring "sanity" to the gun control issue, and she plans to ask her legislatures what they need residents to do in order to bring about change. And while Levin's group focuses on Vermont, Bailey hopes to offer an outlet that will focus on New Hampshire.

"Ultimately, I'm really troubled about feeling powerless in the face of that kind of violence and feeling powerless against the NRA and any other gun lobby," Bailey said. "We're going to start with this meeting and see where it goes."

Dartmouth College students were invited, and Bailey plans to encourage people to split into groups if they have a topic in mind, such as concealed carry on campuses or safety measures in schools.

Many of these conversations are ongoing, including school safety. Bass, the SAU 70 superintendent, has been looking at school safety long before the Newtown shooting, and he's now looking at whether lock-down drills should be more frequent.

The district has also received an offer from the Hanover Police Department to provide the school with its used Kevlar bullet proof vests. But while Bass said he's considering the offer, he said the district isn't ready to make any decisions.

"We'll consider any that the police department has to make in consideration of our safety, but what we choose to do we have to sit down and think through," Bass said. "We haven't made up our mind."

He added that bullet proof vests are not a high priority, and he's more worried about securing the buildings to keep intruders out who might want to cause harm.

Bass said he plans present the school boards at the end of the month with more concrete ideas about how to use existing money in this year's budget, and how to allocate money in next year's budget, for safety.

Hanover Police Chief Nick Giaccone said the offer was made to the schools because every five years the vests are replaced as a result of wear. A new vest, which fits under clothing, costs more than \$1,000.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Analyst: 'Unlikely' Entergy will continue VY

By BOB AUDETTE
Reformer Staff

BRATTLEBORO — An equity analyst at UBS Investment Bank has concluded it may not be in Entergy's best financial interests to continue to operate its Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.

"It looks increasingly unlikely that they would opt to do so," said Julien Dumoulin-Smith.

The white paper issued by UBS is meant to advise its customers prior to making investment decisions, he said, adding Entergy stock has been given a "neutral rating" by UBS.

He was quick to add that he is not privy to all the information Entergy might have at its fingertips when making decisions on what actions would best benefit its bottom line.

Nonetheless, said Dumoulin-Smith, his reading of documents such as Entergy's quarterly reports, lead him to conclude that Entergy's market nuclear power plants — such as Yankee — are unlikely to generate "any meaningful cash in '13/'14, with cash deficits projected for '15/'16" following the expiration of purchase price agreements negotiated prior to the recent boom in natural gas production.

Rob Williams, a spokesman for Yankee, said he had no comment on the contents of the report.

"Our nuclear units are important sources of clean, reliable power, and we remain fully focused on the safe operation of our plants today and into the future," said Williams. "As a matter of policy, Entergy does not comment on the financial performance of individual plants."

Dumoulin-Smith focuses on utility stocks and issues reports on whether or not UBS' customers should consider buying, selling or reducing their stake in certain companies.

"We track issues with Vermont Yankee, looking at what is the financial value of the company, what it makes," he said. "If you aggregate across various business segments for Entergy, Vermont Yankee is a very small piece."

Entergy's merchant plants, those that sell directly to market and are not regulated by a state utilities commission, are a particular sticking point for Entergy's profitability, said Dumoulin Smith.

"How profitable is the nuclear segment? It's not very. Entergy's nuclear portfolio doesn't generate a lot of cash."

Along with Yankee, Entergy's other merchant plants include Fitzpatrick and Indian Point in New York, Pilgrim in Massachusetts, and Palisades in Michigan.

"There are certain plants that don't seem to generate much of anything by way of cash," said Dumoulin-Smith.

"Notably, we believe both its NY Fitzpatrick and Vermont Yankee plants are at risk of retirement given their small size," stated the report.

Dumoulin-Smith said that Entergy will most likely continue to pursue the continued operation of Indian Point, just north of New York City in the Hudson Valley, because of its access to the lucrative power market of the metropolitan area.

"Power prices are higher in more congested areas," he said.

The New England market, however, of which Yankee is a part through its affiliation with ISO New England, is not a particularly constrained market, said Dumoulin-Smith, meaning the 2 percent Yankee contributes to the grid could be replaced from an alternate source rather easily.

Dumoulin-Smith was also quick to note that even though there has been a lot of talk about the natural gas renaissance, one major factor may contribute to Entergy's decision to keep Yankee open.

"New England has a lot of gas capacity on paper, but does it have enough pipeline and infrastructure to meet the increased demand? There's not an obvious answer anymore. That may ultimately become a limiting item for future plant retirements of any sort in New England."

There is also the question of whether ISO New England, which, according to its website oversees and ensures "the fair administration of the region's wholesale electricity markets," would even allow Entergy to close Yankee.

"If push came to shove, would ISO New England let Vermont Yankee retire with the uncertainty over gas supply?" asked Dumoulin-Smith.

Another factor Entergy will be considering is legislation that was passed last year in the Vermont Statehouse that increased the revenue generation tax that Entergy pays from \$5 million to \$12.5 million a year. Entergy has filed a federal lawsuit against the state contending the state is violating the U.S. Constitution.

"If this plant is breaking even, a new tax will decisively make it unprofitable," said Dumoulin-Smith, who said he believes the legislation was crafted to force Entergy to close Yankee. "It's a tax that is unpalatable."

What could keep Entergy from shuttering the plant is liability costs related to the decommissioning of the plant, he said, and whether it would have to immediately begin cleaning up the site upon closure or if it could mothball Yankee until the decommissioning fund accrues enough cash to get the job done.

Mixed reaction to windmill ban

By MIKE FAHER
Reformer Staff

BRATTLEBORO — A proposed moratorium on commercial wind-power development in Vermont is spurring cheers from anti-turbine activists and howls of protest from multiple environmental groups. The possible ban has local importance: As two state senators announced their plans Thursday at a Montpelier press conference, Grafton resident Liisa Kissel was among those in the audience.

"People feel very strongly that we have gotten on the wrong path," Kissel said.

She spoke after state Sens. Robert Hartwell, a Bennington County Democrat, and Joe Benning, a Caledonia County Republican, had proposed a three-year ban on new development of commercial turbines. They also called for a more thorough review of energy projects.

The wind-power debate, which already had flared in other parts of Vermont, caught fire in Windham County last year as a subsidiary of developer Iberdrola Renewables sought and received state permission to erect windtesting towers in the towns of Windham and Grafton.

Depending on the weather data those towers produce, they could be the precursor to the county's first commercial wind-turbine site.

Grafton town officials have not taken a position on the matter, but Kissel has been leading a group of residents who are seeking to amend the town plan to ban industrial wind power.

She made the trip to Montpelier on Thursday to support moratorium efforts.

"We have gotten ahead of ourselves in the state of Vermont, and we should have investigated before we started installing these wind projects," Kissel said.

An Iberdrola spokesman on Thursday said the company had no comment on a possible moratorium.

But Windham town officials have fought Iberdrola's plans and have voiced support for a moratorium. On Thursday, they reiterated their view that there are many questions about the efficacy of wind power in Vermont and its potential impacts on people, property values and towns.

"These are but a few of the essential questions being ignored in our rush to build industrialscale wind in Vermont," Windham officials said in an e-mail to the *Reformer*. "Answers are available, but we need time to gather the information, learn from the experience of others and guide our regulators to a fact-based framework of public policy."

State Sen. Peter Galbraith, a Townshend-based Democrat, has his own doubts about wind power's place in Vermont.

"We are basically destroying our ridgelines for no environmental gain," Galbraith said.

Galbraith said he supports his Senate colleagues' moratorium proposal. He also plans to reintroduce legislation banning turbine development on state land and requiring "affected communities" to sign off on any wind project.

That could include not only the town that would host turbines but also neighboring towns.

"We should not be putting these projects where the people who would be living next to them don't want them," Galbraith said.

He believes his bill and the moratorium effort are compatible.

"It's a collaborative approach," Galbraith said.

However, news of a potential turbine ban led eight environmental groups to issue a lengthy, joint statement condemning the two senators' proposal.

"With storms like Irene and Sandy still fresh in our minds, and 2012 having broken all sorts of records for heat, droughts and floods, this is no time to retreat from Vermont's commitment to clean energy," said Paul Burns, executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

The groups argued that "it would be irresponsible to simply ask others outside of Vermont to bear the burden of producing power for our energy needs."

"Buying power from outside Vermont means we are exporting air and water pollution and environmental damage by continuing our reliance on large-scale hydro dams, dirty coal and oil and nuclear power," said Christopher Kilian, Vermont Director for the Conservation Law Foundation.

The groups pointed out that Vermont has adopted a plan calling for 90 percent of the state's energy needs to be met by renewables by 2050. Also, they cited polls showing that a majority of residents "support the development of local renewable energy resources."

And they noted that an Energy Siting Commission recently appointed by Gov. Peter Shumlin is examining the state's energygeneration permitting process and the public's role in it.

"The independent commission is hearing from virtually all interested parties at this point," said Brian Shupe, executive

director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. "We ought to give them a chance to do their job, which is scheduled to be completed by this April, and provide a comprehensive set of recommendations for improving how all energy facilities are sited in Vermont."

Also expressing concern about a wind moratorium were 350Vermont, Sierra Club Vermont Chapter, Citizens Awareness Network, National Wildlife Federation's Northeast Regional Center and the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance. In the groups' press release, Kilian characterized wind-power opposition as "the extreme voices of those who refuse to take responsibility for our energy future."

Kissel objected to that, saying those who packed Thursday's press conference in Montpelier were "a diverse group of Vermonters" who care deeply about their state.

"These are smart people," Kissel said. "These are concerned people who are good members of their communities."

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Vets Home running a \$1M deficit

NEAL P. GOSWAMI

Staff Writer

BENNINGTON — The Vermont Veterans Home is currently running a deficit in excess of \$1 million and is looking to cut costs and increase its census to bring in additional revenue, officials said Thursday.

Little discretionary spending

Home Administrator Melissa Jackson and Board of Trustees President Joseph L. Krawczyk Jr. said they have already begun taking action to cut costs, but there is little discretionary spending that can be cut. They said officials are looking for all ways to cut costs.

"We told staff ... don't print 20 copies of your email," Krawczyk said.

The state's only nursing home facility for veterans is still recovering from a near-loss of its provider agreement with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services in September, which provides the majority of the home's \$19 million annual budget. Several deficiencies identified by state inspectors required corrective action by the home. The home passed a last-chance inspection to preserve the federal funds, but it is now under closer scrutiny until it passes two more inspections without incident.

Staffing issues and expenses related to the home's response to the deficiencies have contributed to the budget gap, according to Krawczyk.

"Part of it is that we had higher than expected overtime, that we had to call people in because of call-outs and other reasons. For two months we had per diem nurses here to make sure we maintained minimum staffing. We had the consultant's fees because of the problems we had here three months ago. That cost us some money. That's where we are, plus, in my opinion, the Medicare and Medicaid funding, as you hear all over, is not adequate to take care of the patients," he said.

Additionally, Krawczyk said some residents are receiving care but the home is receiving no compensation because those residents are unwilling to sign certain paperwork. "We do have residents here that have the ability to pay but they won't sign this paperwork or whatever to be eligible for Medicaid," he said. "How can you throw a veteran out?"

The board of trustees has already voted to raise the cost of care for private insurance by the cost of living, which will help raise some additional revenue.

The home had been limiting the home's census while it worked to correct deficiencies and focus on training employees for future inspections.

"We made a conscious decision after being put back into compliance in September to limit our admissions to focus on those regulator issues and we knew when we made that decision there was going to be some financial impact. I wasn't anticipating the census to go as low as it had," Jackson said.

The lower census resulted in lower revenues, Krawczyk said. However, the home is on more secure footing with regulators, he said. "The risk we were running if we didn't do that was to lose our certification," he said. "So, there was a risk. I don't think it was a gamble, I think we made the right choice but there is a consequence."

Officials hope to boost the current census of 118 residents to at least 140 by February, which will draw down more federal funding. A recent flu outbreak in the home has prevented new admissions for more than a week, but admissions should resume by Monday.

"Our goal is to be in the 140s by February. That being said, that's not just a target number, there's a lot of thought that goes into that. I'm making sure that we're taking patients that are not medically intensive. You don't want to bring in 50 people on IVs," Jackson said. "We would still, most likely, operate at a loss but it wouldn't be at that level."

Krawczyk said the home will request additional funding from the state in the annual budget adjustment act that lawmakers have already begun work on. He said State Commissioner of Finance James Reardon is aware of the financial situation.

"We're not going to be able to close it totally. We're going to have to rely on the budget adjustment to give us some (additional funding)," Krawczyk said. "We know that's going to be tough at the state level."

Krawczyk said it will take involvement from everyone to close the budget gap.

"It's serious to where everybody has to pay attention from the administration, to the staff, to the board of trustees to the governor's office and the Legislature," he said. "We've got six months to try and make some corrections."

'Yes' to creating Village School

DAWSON RASPUZZI

Staff Writer

NORTH BENNINGTON — In the highest voter turnout yet, residents of North Bennington Graded School District Thursday narrowly voted for a third time to authorize the closure of the public elementary school and lease of the building to an independent school.

By a 326-298 margin, voters authorized the Prudential Committee to close North Bennington Graded School after this school year. By a 332-292 vote they authorized leasing the building to the Village School of North Bennington.

Proponents of the change, including the Prudential Committee itself, rallied behind the independent model as being more sustainable due to its ability to more easily attract tuition-paying students and raise private funds to enhance education.

"The validation for the third time is gratifying, but it is a win only in the sense that it gives us the opportunity as a whole community to face the exact same problem that we face today (of sustainability of an elementary school in North Bennington)," Prudential Committee member Matthew Patterson said following the vote.

The Village School still must be approved by the State Board of Education, which is expected to happen at its Jan. 15 meeting.

"We're looking forward to moving forward with the Board of Education and the approval, which we assume based on their comments last time will be forthcoming at the next meeting," said Eva Sutton, co-chairwoman of the Village School.

Thursday's vote followed a vote on similar questions that passed overwhelmingly in March to close the school last summer. Because the state board did not approve the independent school application by the Village School in time for the summer transition the Prudential Committee opted not to close the school.

Residents again approved questions specific to next school year in October, that time by just 26 votes. A petition calling for a reconsideration vote was submitted in November, which forced a third vote.

On Thursday about 60 more ballots were cast than in October when the school closure vote passed 294-268.

Sutton said she had some concerns the timing of the election on a Thursday would cause a low voter turnout because elections are usually held on Tuesdays, but she and Patterson said they were happy so many people showed up and got involved in this issue.

The debate to close the school created a divide among the small community as residents rallied behind both sides. Opponents to the change believe the public will not have the same control of the school because residents cannot elect the Village School trustees, attend trustee meetings nor access budget details or other information that is accessible from public schools.

In addition to sustainability, supporters have said independence ensures the state will never force the school to close or consolidate, which some believe the Legislature will try to do in the future. Closure of the public school also grants school choice to all families in the district — allowing public funds to pay a child's tuition to another private or public school.

Having now passed three times, Sutton said any question regarding the will of the community should be settled and everyone must now come together to make the independent school the best it can be for the community. "I think the hope is that everyone will now pull behind the effort since it's been three positive votes," she said.

Prudential Committee members offered the same sentiment.

"Today was about choosing a direction more than winning or losing," Glenn Chaney said.

Patterson said the Prudential Committee has not discussed when it will make a final decision when or if to close the school, saying there are still hurdles that need to be jumped. Of those will be state approval for the Village School to offer all special education services. The Village School's independent school application is only to offer three of the 12 special education categories, but the school plans to apply for every category after the application is approved.

The Prudential Committee has said it must be ensured every student who may attend the public school is able to attend the independent one for it to OK the change.

The Village School Trustees will be busy following the anticipated application approval from the state board. In addition to extending the special education services Sutton said it must appoint a full board of 10 to 15 members and address all of the transitional details, which will begin happening once its application is approved.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:28 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

PRESS RELEASES:

Progressive Party challenges other major parties to stand with them against the influence of money in Vermont elections

Contact:

Martha Abbott, Chair, Vermont Progressive Party

Phone: 802-373-1624

Email: marthavt@sover.net

On January 3rd, Vermont Progressive Party Chair Martha Abbott sent the attached letter to her fellow major party Chairs, calling on them to join the Progressive Party in refusing corporate donations and asking them to join in a pledge to ask Super PACs to stay out of Vermont elections. This letter follows up on a resolution passed by the Party's State Committee in November (also attached).

The letter challenges the Democratic and Republican Party Chairs to: (1) refuse all corporate contributions in the 2013-2014 cycle and (2) pledge to publicly ask Super PACs not to spend money on behalf of any of their Parties' candidates and encourage their candidates to do the same.

About the challenge, Martha Abbott had this to say: "In the 2011-2012 election cycle, Monsanto gave donations to both the Republican and Democratic parties. Fairpoint donated to both Democrat Peter Shumlin and Republican Randy Brock, running against each other for Governor. Perhaps more worrisome, companies who may be affected by health care reform gave generously to many candidates: Republican Randy Brock received donations from Northeast Delta Dental and the Vermont Radiologists PAC, while Democrat Peter Shumlin accepted donations from Healthdirect (a Division of Kinney Drugs) and First Newport Insurance Association of California. Drug conglomerate Pfizer gave to both the Republican and Democratic Parties. Over the coming months, we will be asking Vermont campaign donors to get involved in this effort by donating only to candidates and parties who have pledged not to accept corporate donations. Vermonters can set an example for the nation about how to work together to level the playing field even as we compete for votes."

Vermont Department of Financial Regulation issues Porter Hospital an amendment

MONTPELIER – Steve Kimbell, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation, announced today that Porter Hospital in Middlebury has been issued an amendment to its 2010 certificate of need (CON) that approved the installation and implementation of a health information and electronic medical records system (HIS/EMR).

The amendment addresses the project's cost overrun, which amounts to 63 percent or an increase from \$4.3 million to \$7.1 million.

Kimbell said the significant increase was unusual in Vermont.

"Other Vermont hospitals have successfully completed similar projects within budget," he said.

He also said that failing to complete the project would undermine the hospital's ability to provide proper health care to the community and therefore modifying the original certificate of need to reflect the cost overrun was the best course of action.

"It is impossible to order Porter to remove its HIS/EMR system and it is impossible to recover the money it has spent," he said, "and fining the hospital for its failure to adhere to the 2010 CON would be counter-productive."

Porter will be required to submit monthly reports to DFR on the progress of the project, which is now slated to be finished in 2014.

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

Shumlin Taps Vilaseca for Ed. Secretary, Announces More Appointments

Posted by Paul Heintz

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced a slew of new cabinet and staff appointments Thursday, including the state's first secretary of education.

That job goes to a familiar face: Armando Vilaseca, who has served as commissioner of education since 2009. Last year, at Shumlin's urging, the legislature elevated the state's top education job to a cabinet-level position, which is now subject to gubernatorial appointment.

"I can't tell you how grateful I am to Armando not only for his past service but for his future service," Shumlin said at a press conference on the 5th floor of the Pavilion State Office Building. "We have an incredibly ambitious agenda coming up and his willingness to serve as the first secretary of education is going to be a great distinction for the state of Vermont."

As Seven Days' Ken Picard wrote last August, Vilaseca (pictured above with Shumlin) was in the awkward position of essentially applying for his own job. He was one of three finalists for the position.

Oddly, the appointment is for just one year. Shumlin said he'll begin yet another national search for a more permanent secretary this summer and hopes to make that appointment a year from now.

Why the short contract?

"Like all of us in state government, including governors, I recognize that we ask commissioners and secretaries to work often seven days a week — sometimes six — long hours. We come in, we give it all we got, and then we tend to want to move on to new challenges. That's certainly the case with the secretary," Shumlin explained. "This is really an arrangement and appointment that meets the secretary's goals, as well as ours."

So does that mean Vilaseca didn't want a longer term?

"Sec. Vilaseca made clear to me that he really wanted the job. He wanted to continue the great work he's doing, but it was on a limited timeline," Shumlin said.

Asked if the temporary appointment made him a bit of a lame duck, Vilaseca said, "I consider myself a full secretary."

He elaborated: "I think in the past few months, I think that there was some uncertainty. But now I think it's clear that as a secretary and the voice of the governor — we have almost identical views on education and the direction we should be moving in — so I think that it's a perfect choice for the position."

Piped in Shumlin: "And I agree."

Vilaseca wasn't the only one standing behind the podium with Shumlin. Among the others getting promotions or new jobs:

Lucy Leriche — The former House Democratic majority leader from Hardwick was appointed deputy secretary of commerce and community development. Leriche resigned her House leadership position in May — though she retained her seat in the House through the end of her term — and took a contract with Green Mountain Power in June.

She said her six-month contract with GMP as the utility's community relations point-person at the Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell has been extended until the end of January, at which time she will formally move to state employ.

Asked if he thought Leriche's appointment signaled that the revolving door between Green Mountain Power and state government was operating smoothly, Shumlin at first simply said, "No."

He addressed the question again later: "I've worked with Lucy for many years. For a short time, she was an employee of Green Mountain Power, but she has many talents that are right for this job, and that's why I hired her."

Sue Minter — Shumlin's Irene recovery officer for the past year will return to her old job as deputy secretary of transportation. Minter, a former state representative from Waterbury, was plucked from her Agency of Transportation job early last year to lead the state's response to Tropical Storm Irene. Minter will be replaced as recovery officer by her deputy, Dave Rapaport.

Sue Allen — The governor's spokeswoman worked for years as a reporter and editor for the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, the Burlington Free Press and the Associated Press. She also served as former governor Howard Dean's spokeswoman. Now she's getting a promotion: from special assistant to the governor to deputy chief of staff (that job opened up in November with the departure of Alex MacLean). But, unfortunately for Allen, she'll remain spokeswoman and, thus, will still have to deal with us reporters.

Susan Bartlett — The former Lamoille County state senator and chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee — not to mention one of Shumlin's four rivals for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 2010 — will transition from special assistant to the governor to special projects coordinator at the Agency of Human Services.

Floyd Nease — Another former House Democratic majority leader, Nease was appointed director of systems integration at the Agency of Human Services. Most recently executive director of the Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, Nease will attempt to coordinate state support for those who need it most.

Calling Congress "Dysfunctional," Shumlin Voices Support for Fiscal Deal

Posted by Paul Heintz

Twice calling Congress "dysfunctional" at his weekly press conference Wednesday, Gov. Peter Shumlin said he's nevertheless relieved that the federal government managed to — at least temporarily — resolve its self-imposed fiscal impasse.

"We're all breathing a sigh of relief that they got something done down there," he said. "It's a huge help to us as we try to put together a 2014 budget... There's more uncertainty ahead, but we're more certain than we were on New Year's Eve and that's a step in the right direction."

Uncertainty over federal tax and spending laws has already delayed the Shumlin administration's own budget planning process. Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding said at a separate press briefing later Wednesday that the governor's annual budget address would be delayed until January 24, at which time the state expects to have a better sense of the impact of Congress' fiscal deal on state coffers.

Shumlin says he's grown used to "managing around" a Congress he says leaves every decision to the last minute.

"You know, this is a dysfunctional Congress. We saw it for the last two years. We're likely to see it for the next two. They seem to want to push the country to the brink every single time," he said. "I don't think Congress has met on New Year's Eve since the 1940s — or somewhere in that time period — when they were waging war against Korea. This is a dysfunctional Congress. We're stuck with them."

Actually, Congress held New Year's votes in 1970. And, uh, wasn't that war in the 1940s against the Germans and Japanese?

All that aside, Shumlin says he would have joined Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Congressman Peter Welch (D-Vt) in voting for the compromise measure that passed Tuesday.

"It's pretty clear that the dire consequences that would have been inflicted on the American economy had they not resolved this question would have been a real challenge for us," he said. "While it's not an ideal compromise, if I had been in the position of [Vermont's federal delegation], I would have done what they did and voted for it."

Leahy, Sanders and Welch — all of whom were somewhat mum about the bill in the immediate wake of its passage — each elaborated on their 'yay' votes later Wednesday.

Their take? It wasn't great, but it was necessary.

"It is not the agreement that I or any one of us would have written on our own, but it does include several important provisions that will benefit every Vermonter, our nation's economy and the nation," Leahy said in a written statement.

He pointed specifically to a year-long extension of long-term unemployment benefits, a permanent extension of lower tax rates for middle class families and a nine-month extension of the farm bill.

"The agreement at least temporarily eases months of needless uncertainty," Leahy added. "This was a made-in-Congress crisis imposed on everyone by factional obstructionism in the House."

Sanders agreed with the sentiment.

"The 'fiscal cliff' agreement was not a 'good' piece of legislation, but not passing the bill would have been much worse," the independent senator said in a written statement.

Sanders, who fought efforts to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits as part of the package, said he was pleased that entitlement programs — at least for now — were spared.

"In addition to making sure most Americans do not see an increase in their income taxes, and that two million workers will continue to receive their unemployment compensation, this legislation defeats efforts to cut benefits for Social Security recipients and for disabled veterans," he said. "Despite an eleventh-hour bid by Senate Republicans, the final bill does not include their proposed change in how cost-of-living adjustments are calculated."

In an interview Wednesday evening, Welch said, "It's far short of what we need, but it's a step, at least, in the right direction."

Welch would have preferred a "grand bargain" along the lines of what President Obama attempted to negotiate with House Speaker John Boehner before Christmas, rather than the narrow agreement Congress ultimately reached, which will necessitate further showdowns in the near future.

Welch said he was particularly disappointed that the deal raised taxes on families earning more than \$450,000 a year — rather than using the \$250,000 threshold President Obama and congressional Democrats have sought for years.

"The part, for me, that was the most difficult was to accept that we weren't going to be able to get the revenues that the president campaigned on. I mean, how often has a president actually campaigned on the argument of raising taxes for the top two percent? He did and he won. The Romney voters in exit polls supported that," Welch said. "A lot of us believe this was our best shot of getting revenues to be a substantial contributor to a balanced outcome. A lot on the Democratic side felt a little disappointed in that."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:19 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

VTDIGGER:

Wind moratorium bill unveiled at statehouse

ANDREW STEIN

As the 2013 legislative session rolls into view, a passionate battle over energy permitting and a three-year moratorium on large-scale wind development is kicking into high gear.

Flanked by both Democratic and Republican legislators on Thursday, Sens. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia, and Bob Hartwell, D-Bennington, announced their intent to introduce a bill next week — the first week of the session — that would establish such a moratorium on wind projects with a production capacity of more than 500 kilowatts.

At the unveiling of the 40-page draft bill, an audience of more than 100 Vermont residents, legislators, lobbyists and special interest advocates cheered and booed their way through the presentation in the Statehouse's cedar room.

Benning and Hartwell spearheaded the bill, as they feel the state should take time to assess how these projects are sited. They want to see if such projects are cost effective and environmentally appropriate for Vermont.

"We shouldn't permit ourselves to be pressured by corporate, mostly out of state entities, while we take that time," said Hartwell. "We shouldn't be allowing our cherished mountains, our cherished history to be destroyed while we take that time. We shouldn't involve ourselves in social upheaval while we take that time. For that reason, a bipartisan effort ... is being made to make sure we back up the train, set the reset button and redefine a conversation with Vermont's history and environmental proactivism involved in the discussion."

The proposal comes one year after the Senate shot down a similar draft legislation Benning sponsored, which called for a two-year moratorium on projects 2.2 megawatts or greater. Since then, opposition to wind projects has grown, with a Montpelier demonstration in autumn drawing nearly 200 protestors.

Gov. Peter Shumlin indicated in a press conference earlier this week that he's not completely against the idea of a moratorium. He has acknowledged local opposition to some large-scale wind projects and called for the creation of an energy siting commission in early October to analyze how electric generation projects are permitted in Vermont.

Benning and Hartwell's proposal also calls for stripping the Public Service board of its power to permit in-state electric generating plants and would give that jurisdiction to district environmental commissions and local land use authorities, except in the case of net metering systems. This component of the draft bill appears to run parallel to a bill Rep. Tony Klein, chair of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee, plans to put forward, which would call for a larger regional — rather than local — approach to planning and permitting such projects.

Passing the Benning-Hartwell bill is not going to be easy. For starters, Klein is vehemently against a moratorium, and House Speaker Shap Smith isn't keen on the idea, either. Klein has also said that the current energy generation permitting process doesn't need to be overhauled — just tweaked, if changed at all.

Many of Vermont's most influential environmental groups also oppose the proposal. Such groups include, but are not limited to, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), the Conservation Law Foundation, 350Vermont, the

Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Citizens Awareness Network, the Vermont chapter of the Sierra Club and many others.

Sens. Bobby Starr, left, and Joe Benning hold a press conference to promote a moratorium on wind project siting. Photo courtesy of Annette Smith

Opponents of the wind moratorium say that such a measure would be a step backwards in Vermont's push to be a global leader in environmental stewardship and renewable energy. After Tropical Storm Irene and other benchmark weather disasters, VPIRG Director Paul Burns said Vermont should be part of the climate change solution and not the problem. Others argue that a moratorium business and be irresponsible for a state that prides itself on local ways of life.

Christopher Kilian, Vermont Director for Conservation Law Foundation, issued a public statement panning the proposal.

"Buying power from outside Vermont means we are exporting air and water pollution and environmental damage by continuing our reliance on large scale hydro-dams, dirty coal and oil, and nuclear power," Kilian said. "These energy sources are extremely damaging from both an environmental and public health perspective; wind and other renewable energy produced in Vermont is a key part of the transition away from these dirty sources of electricity."

Residents and groups in favor of the moratorium — like Luke Snelling's Energize Vermont and Annette Smith's Vermonters for a Clean Environment, or VCE — argue that construction of large-scale wind is not so clean. They argue that leveling mountain tops and cementing long platforms for towering turbines is ruining Vermont's mountains and harming its wildlife. They also point to widespread local opposition to projects around the state, from Green Mountain Power's 21-turbine project in Lowell to a proposed 20-turbine project on Grandpa's Knob ridgeline in Rutland.

Smith says that large-scale wind projects are dividing the state and causing residents who live close to these projects to fall ill from vibrations and sound. She said the only solution is to ban large-scale wind projects in Vermont.

"We can't develop energy this way. We need to work together," she said. "It is absolutely essential that we don't let any more mountains be destroyed and neighborhoods be divided. This is a technology that doesn't belong in Vermont. We need to ban wind turbines from Vermont."

Shumlin reshuffles administration, re-establishes economic department

by Nat Rudarakanchana

Gov. Peter Shumlin reshuffled his leadership team and the state's administrative structure on Thursday. The governor also re-established a department that was eliminated by the Douglas administration.

Shumlin tapped former House Majority Leader Lucy Leriche as deputy secretary of Commerce and Community Development and promoted his press spokeswoman Susan Allen to deputy chief of staff. He also hired another former majority leader — Floyd Nease — to integrate services in the Agency of Human Services.

Leriche didn't run for re-election in November for her House seat, instead she picked up six months of contract work with Green Mountain Power, where she worked on the Lowell Mountain wind project.

Leriche told VTDigger that after she'd decided not to run for re-election, she wasn't sure whether she'd end up back in public life. Although she'd considered working for a nonprofit, she added, "I'm not surprised actually, to be back, to be in government."

She said she took the position because it fit well with her background in affordable housing and community development, noting also that her eight years of legislative experience, with four years split evenly between Assistant Majority Leader and Majority Leader, gave her helpful policy expertise.

Responding to concerns about a potential revolving door between GMP and state government, Shumlin lauded Leriche's legislative and affordable housing experience as key factors, saying, "I worked with Lucy for many years. For a short time, she was an employee of Green Mountain Power, but she has many talents which are right for this job, and that's why I hired her."

Economic Development Secretary Lawrence Miller clarified that there wouldn't be any overlap between Leriche's GMP work, finishing shortly, and her new role, which starts at the end of this month.

Shumlin also announced the re-establishment of a separate Department of Economic Development, now under the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Miller explained that a review requested by the Legislature showed a merging of the two departments overseeing economic development and housing and community affairs, under the Douglas administration during the worst of the recession, had been a mistake.

"The missions of the two areas, while similar, are not fully aligned," said Miller at the press conference. "The Department of Economic Development, rather than being a divisional level responsibility, really deserves top cabinet-level efforts."

The state is now searching for a new commissioner of Economic Development. The new position is key to Shumlin's job growth pledges. During the press conference, Shumlin identified Miller's agency as "the most important agency to my priority as governor, which is creating jobs and creating prosperity for Vermonters who have jobs."

In other changes, Shumlin tapped Susan Allen, his special assistant since January 2011, to become his deputy chief of staff, in place of former campaign manager Alex MacLean, who will move to the private sector. Allen will continue to handle communications for the administration, but now will also oversee policy co-ordination.

Susan Bartlett, a special assistant for the governor (and a former rival in the 2010 gubernatorial primary) will move to the Agency of Human Services to work on the issues of poverty and corrections. Susan Minter, the state's Irene recovery chief since early 2012, will return to her former post as deputy secretary of the Agency of Transportation. Dave Rapaport will take her place.

Former House Majority Leader Floyd Nease will also become director of Systems Integration for AHS, co-ordinating welfare benefits and reducing paperwork for needy families. The Department of Children and Families is currently mired in problems over a computer system designed to do just that.

Shumlin said that no additional costs to the state would come from these personnel changes, aside from the commissioner of Economic Development, a post not yet filled.

Congress prevents "dairy cliff," but solution is temporary **ANDREW SUOZZO**

In Tuesday's 11th-hour vote to avert the fiscal cliff, the U.S. Congress also passed a measure to avert the "dairy cliff," a major rise in dairy prices set for the first of the year.

Milking time at a Vermont dairy farm. Photo by Terry J. Allen

The rise in dairy prices was set to begin on Jan. 1, when, in the absence of a new five-year farm bill, American dairy policy would have reverted back to 1940s legislation that would have required the government to take inflation into account and to buy milk from farmers at about twice the current price of milk.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which passed the Senate Monday and the House late Tuesday, extended some 2008 farm bill programs — many of which expired on Sept. 30 — through September 2013, the remainder of the current fiscal year. Still, the measure does not extend all farm bill programs, which include nutrition assistance and conservation funding, among others.

In October, as it became clear that a new farm bill was unlikely to pass both houses, Vermont Farm Bureau president Clark Hinsdale expressed concern, noting that higher bulk milk prices could double the consumer price of milk, in turn reducing demand for American dairy both nationally and in export markets.

The farm bill extension also reinstates a dairy support program, the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) that expired with the farm bill on Sept. 30. The program monitors the price of bulk milk on the commodity markets, issuing supplemental milk payments to dairy farmers when the price falls below a certain margin.

Vermont farmers received more than \$11 million from the MILC program in 2012, but commodity prices rose from a low in Vermont of \$17.10 per hundredweight in June to a high of \$23.10 in November, and MILC payments to farmers would have been minimal during the time that the program was expired.

Current bulk milk prices are relatively high, but farmers report that their profit margins are still very low given the current high price of grain. Due to severe drought conditions that plagued much of the country in 2012, grain prices are expected to remain high.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., also helped to maintain a provision from the 2008 farm bill that takes the price of feed into account when calculating MILC payments. Current bulk milk prices are relatively high, but farmers report that their profit margins are still very low given the current high price of grain. Due to severe drought conditions that plagued much of the country in 2012, grain prices are expected to remain high.

In order to finance an extension of dairy supports, the California-based Public Health Institute notes that the act eliminates \$110 million in funding for nutrition education programs offered to those enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, or food stamps, though it does not make reductions to direct nutrition assistance.

The extension also does not include any of the reforms contained in the version of the 2012 farm bill that passed the Senate in June, which aimed to end what Senate Agriculture Committee leaders say are costly and ineffective crop subsidies. That bill included a major dairy overhaul that would require producers to reduce milk production when prices fall, limiting supply on the market and, in theory, driving prices back upward.

That bill hit a bump after the House Agriculture Committee passed its version, as Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, never brought the bill to the House floor for a vote.

Roger Noonan, New England Farmers Union president, noted that the temporary extension only extends select farm bill programs, not the entire bill.

“Programs that support renewable energy, farmers markets, beginning farmers, organic and specialty crop research were all stripped of mandatory funding for 2013,” he said.

In a statement, Senate Agriculture Committee chair Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., expressed her disappointment with the extension.

“Rather than embrace the Senate’s bipartisan Farm Bill which cuts \$24 billion in spending and creates certainty for our agriculture economy, Senator McConnell insisted on a partial extension that reforms nothing, provides no deficit reduction, and hurts many areas of our agriculture economy.”

While Vermont's congressional delegation voted in favor of the measure, Leahy stressed the need for a new five-year omnibus farm bill, not simply an extension of 2008 provisions. As Congress begins its 113th session, Leahy noted in a Jan. 1 press release, the Senate will need to once again take up the bill that it passed last year.

"But most importantly," he said, "House leaders need to allow a farm bill to be debated and brought to a vote."

Vilaseca named education secretary

ALICIA FREESE

Gov. Peter Shumlin appointed Armando Vilaseca, the state's education commissioner since 2009, as secretary of Vermont's newly formed Agency of Education. Legislation passed last year elevated the Department of Education to an agency, eliminated the post of commissioner, and launched a national search for a education secretary. The announcement was made on Thursday during a press conference in Montpelier. A State Board of Education search committee gave the governor three candidates to choose from.

The administration will start searching for a new education secretary next summer and plans to make an appointment by January 2014. Vilaseca said he sought the post for a year because he wanted to help make sure the major policy and structural changes associated with the creation of a cabinet-level agency went smoothly.

"With so much going on, and our close relationship right now, and with the change from a department to agency, and all the other work needs to be done, it is my responsibility to do whatever I can to help make this transition smoother," Vilaseca said. "To make sure the governor's vision and his priorities are front and center to whatever we do."

"It's the best of both worlds for the secretary, for me, and for state of Vermont," Shumlin said in reference to the brevity of the term. "We come in, do all our great work, bring all kinds of energy to it, and then it's good to have new blood. So this serves all of our interests."

Vilaseca said he and Shumlin had "almost identical views on education and the direction we should be moving in." Shumlin added that having worked with Vilaseca as commissioner strongly influenced his decision.

Shumlin said he'd announce major education policy priorities and changes next week. He declined to give further details.

Vilaseca has worked as an educator in Vermont for 30 years. He began as a teacher, served as principal at three different schools and superintendent of two different districts before becoming commissioner of education in 2009. During his tenure as education commissioner, Vilaseca has been a vocal advocate for dual enrollment legislation, school consolidation (on a voluntary basis), and adding 15 days onto the academic year.

UBS Securities: Closing Vermont Yankee could help Entergy Corp.'s grim future cash position

ANDREW STEIN

The Swiss financial services company UBS Securities released a report on Wednesday with a grim outlook for Entergy Corp.'s future cash flow from operating nuclear plants.

Under the heading "Entergy guidance clearly illustrates no cash generation from nukes," UBS notes that the corporation "is unlikely to generate any meaningful cash" from wholesale commodities in 2013 and 2014, and UBS projects deficits for the corporation in 2015 and 2016.

What could likely improve the Louisiana-based firm's fiscal outlook, according to the report, is the closing of two of the company's nuclear plants, one of which is Vermont Yankee.

"We believe both its NY Fitzpatrick and Vermont Yankee plants are at risk of retirement given their small size; while potentially negative to sentiment, an announcement to retire the units would likely drive positive FCF (or free cash flow) revisions," the report says.

Entergy spokesman Rob Williams said the company does not comment on the financial performance of individual plants.

The UBS analysis comes less than two weeks before Entergy and the state of Vermont duke it out in federal appeals court on Jan. 14.

Shumlin shed his security entourage for Italy trip

ALICIA FREESE

A public records request by VTDigger shows Gov. Peter Shumlin scrapped his security detail during a six-day trip to Italy last month.

Shumlin traveled to Italy to give a keynote speech at the International Conference of Progressive European leaders, held Dec. 14 and 15. He then tacked on four days to the trip for a personal vacation and returned to Vermont on Dec. 19.

Shumlin took flak for vacationing sans security during his first term. In March 2011, he took a trip to the West Indies without a security detail and without notifying the public. The governor's unannounced departure coincided with a major winter storm in Vermont, which stirred consternation among the public and government officials who were unaware of his whereabouts.

Upon his return, the governor defended his decision to stray from standard procedure — the state's governors typically take Vermont State Police officers with them when they travel out of state. Former Gov. Jim Douglas and former Gov. Howard Dean both adhered to this policy.

In 2011 Shumlin told reporters that security hadn't been necessary for the West Indies trip because it had been kept secret from the public. "Vermonters really appreciate common sense," Shumlin said. "As their governor, I'm supposed to exercise common sense. If I can go somewhere and not be known, it's common sense that I'm going to be pretty safe. No one knew who I was. If it had been in the newspapers in Dominica who I was perhaps the outcome would have been different."

Shumlin had a higher profile during his trip to Italy — he was invited as the keynote guest in his capacity as the freshly anointed head of the Democratic Governors Association, and the trip was announced at a press conference on Dec. 6.

After the West Indies hullabaloo, Shumlin wouldn't say whether or not he would fly solo again, but he asserted, "I would never go without security if I was traveling on state business."

Sue Allen, the governor's spokeswoman, told VTDigger that due to security concerns, "We do not discuss his security or his decisions."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 6:09 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

RUTLAND HERALD/TIMES ARGUS (CON'T):

GE Rutland awarded Navy contract

GE Aviation in Rutland was awarded an \$8 million contract to build engines for the Navy's EA-18G aircraft, the office of Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., announced Thursday.

The total contract of \$67 million is being divided among several GE plants. Rutland's share is 12 percent of the total award.

The Rutland plants have added 200 jobs over the last three years, bringing total employment to 1,100. The company also has invested more than \$75 million in the blade and vane plants over that period to increase productivity and efficiency and to handle a backlog in jet engine orders.

The latest contract follows a \$197 million Navy fighter contract awarded last month. The GE Rutland share for the 52 engines for the F/A-18E/F carrier-based fighter was \$23.7 million.

"The continued success of GE Rutland is a sign of the superior quality of the work done at the Vermont plant," said Leahy, the most senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Defense Subcommittee. "Each new contract awarded to the Rutland facility is a reminder of the economic value of GE to our state and of the trust our armed forces place in their products."

The Rutland plants on Windcrest Road and Columbian Avenue make compressor blades for both military and civilian aircraft, including parts for the new Boeing passenger plane, the 787 Dreamliner.

N. Bennington votes to close school

NORTH BENNINGTON — For the third time in a year, voters gave the school board permission to close the public North Bennington Graded School and reopen it as the independent Village School of North Bennington during a special election on Thursday.

Like the vote in October, the vote on Thursday was close. The vote to give the school board permission to close the school passed 326-298, with "yes" getting 52 percent of the vote. The vote to give the school board permission to create a lease agreement showed a little more support with a total of 332-292, giving the positive votes a winning margin by 53 percent.

Eva Sutton, co-chairwoman of the Village School's board of trustees, said she hoped the Vermont Board of Education would approve the application of the independent school this month so it could open this fall.

Matthew Patterson, vice-chairman of the school board, asked for comment said, "I'm not sure."

Voters had approved the same two question by about the same margins in October but a petition forced the reconsideration vote on Thursday. With the second positive vote, the question is expected to be resolved pending the certification of the vote results.

VT, other states criticize NRC handling of waste storage

By Susan Smallheer

MONTPELIER — The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission isn't doing enough to assess the environmental and safety concerns of storing high-level radioactive waste at nuclear power plants across the country, the state of Vermont said Thursday.

Vermont, joined by New York and Massachusetts, again have formally criticized the way the NRC is handling the issue of high-level radioactive waste. Filing the comments were Attorney General William Sorrell and the Shumlin administration, in the form of the Department of Public Service and the Agency of Natural Resources.

"The NRC staff is working on an Environmental Impact Statement to address deficiencies identified by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals," Sheehan wrote in an email.

In comments filed with the NRC Wednesday, Vermont said the NRC was not following a ruling last year by the District of Columbia federal circuit court that ordered the NRC to do a better job evaluating sites for the long-term storage of the radioactive waste.

Currently, there are 2,507 fuel assemblies stored on site at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon in its five-story spent fuel pool, with another 884 fuel assemblies in 13 concrete and steel casks outside the reactor building.

Sorrell said Thursday that the NRC was "taking the very long term storage way too lightly, and the D.C. circuit (court) agreed with us."

"Despite the DC circuit really reading the riot act to the NRC, we're saying in this filing that the NRC hasn't listened very closely. We're saying, 'We're going to be watching,'" Sorrell said in a telephone interview.

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said Vermont, New York and Massachusetts, and Nye County in Nevada — the home county of the proposed and currently rejected Yucca Mountain federal repository — were the only states to file comments by Wednesday, although he said it was possible other states filed but sent their comments by mail.

Sheehan said the NRC had received about 700 comments on its proposed plan for dealing with the so-called "waste confidence rule." He said it would be next year before the NRC responds to all the comments.

Entergy Nuclear spokesman Jim Sinclair said Thursday that Entergy had not filed individual comments, but was relying on a filing by the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, to support the NRC's plans and timetable.

Sorrell said that in this case, the state was not prohibited from raising questions about nuclear safety at Vermont Yankee, since the state was commenting on federal regulations.

"We can certainly express our opinions," said Sorrell, who said the three states believed the NRC was "dropping the ball" on the issue of storage.

According to the Vermont filing, any federal solution to the conundrum of storing the spent fuel rods from nuclear power plants — which remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years — is decades away. And moving the existing nuclear waste from individual sites to any repository will take 20 years.

Vermont Yankee ran out of storage about five years ago, and got approval from both Vermont and the NRC to build its so-called dry cask storage facility.

Even anti-nuclear activists support the building of dry cask storage facilities, saying the concrete and steel casks are safer than the spent fuel pool.

Sorrell pointed out that the federal appeals court in the nation's capital had also questioned the "reasonableness" of the NRC approving new nuclear plant or extending nuclear plants' licenses until the storage of radioactive waste issue is resolved.

The re-licensing of Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire, Indian Point Energy Center in New York and Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania — among others — is on hold until the issue is resolved, Sheehan said.

Sorrell said he believed that the 20-year license extension granted to the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in 2011 should be "revisited," in light of the federal court ruling.

Sheehan said the draft environmental impact statement might be available by August 2014.

Vt. police take weapon from teacher after comments

BENNINGTON — A Bennington high school teacher is hospitalized following a mental health evaluation that came after he was spotted carrying the same kind of assault rifle used in last month's school shooting in Newtown, Conn., and making a series of comments about the school where he works that some found disturbing; police said.

Steven Davis, a longtime science and math teacher at Mount Anthony Union High School, voluntarily went to the hospital on Monday after neighbors asked police to do a welfare check because he was spotted carrying the rifle to his car, said Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette. In addition to the rifle, a Bushmaster semi-automatic assault rifle, police recovered about 500 rounds of ammunition and two magazines. The rifle had apparently never been fired, Doucette said.

"This weapon was in a case. It has a trigger lock installed, but it was alarming to find two, 30-round, high-capacity magazines loaded," Doucette said.

Davis told police he was going to take the weapon to a storage unit.

After the welfare check Sunday, Davis' wife and children went to stay with a relative, the Bennington Banner reports. On Monday, she sought a restraining order. In the order, his wife said she was unaware that Davis owned a gun and she had noticed a change in Davis' personality over the last month.

On Monday morning, Davis began posting videos that criticized school administrators, the teachers union and co-workers, among a slew of other topics. Davis also sent a schoolwide email saying he would "remove the union and all of the teachers who are negatively affecting the children in this town."

"We were getting inundated with telephone calls from school teachers because he was sending out emails. He was posting stuff on Facebook and it became disturbing to some people," Doucette said.

In a phone message Davis left at The Bennington Banner on Wednesday, Davis said he did not intend to harm others.

"A very bad man recently used a similar rifle to hurt lots of boys and girls. Right now some people think I am like that bad man. I am not anything like that bad man," he said.

FOX44: HAS BENNINGTON TEACHER/GUN STORY; TWO SENATORS WANT WIND MORATORIUM

WCAX:

Methadone clinic decision today

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. - A decision is expected today on whether a methadone clinic can open in South Burlington near two schools.

The South Burlington Development Review Board must issue a decision today. On Wednesday, the board voted unanimously not to reopen a hearing on the clinic proposed for 364 Dorset Street. The facility would treat heroin and prescription drug addicts.

Supporters say the clinic will help meet the demand for treatment centers, but the school district argues it could bring crime and traffic too close to the city's high school and middle school.

Lack of emergency homeless shelter hits hard in winter months

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Pastor Jim Stewart of North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington says if it weren't for all the red tape -- homeless Vermonters would be sleeping inside his church Thursday night -- but parents find his proposal terrifying and say they're thankful they still have some time to fight it.

"We have on our consciences this fact, people are outside in the cold on a night like tonight and they may be on the brink of freezing to death or it might even happen tonight" Pastor Jim Stewart said Thursday. When a homeless community advocate asked him to provide space for a shelter he did as he believed Jesus himself would have done and said yes. "As Christians we are called to administer to the poor its something you see all throughout the bible all through the old testament and new testament," Stewart said.

The church has been around for 62 years, for the past 35 it operated a daycare out of the same building. The proposed space for the shelter is the church gymnasium, that's where four year old Eliana Chubb eats her snack every morning. "How do you justify bringing an added risk to a child's life?" Eliana's father, Walter Chubb said, imagining the change. He says he feels the church made up its mind without consulting parents, and if the church goes through with the plan as is he says he'll remove his daughter from the facility. He's one of many parents that feels this way which means daycare workers could lose their jobs.

"They're saying they're a church first and a childcare facility second but they take my money every week. They made a decision to become a childcare facility so now they're one and one in my opinion," Chubb said.

"Whichever way we go we are left in a very uncomfortable situation," Stewart said. He says he more than understands parents concerns but feels there are few other options. "If we are honestly going to be a church, real followers of Jesus Christ, we have no choice but to do this," Stewart said. "If this is honestly the last straw and all of these different organizations have honestly gone out there and questioned everybody and looked at every solution then we as a community are failing horribly," Chubb said.

One other option the church is considering is using the annex, where Sunday school is held, for the shelter. This plan would require them to reapply for zoning permits with the city. A process that could take several months and still leaves parents concerned loitering will be an issue.

Vilaseca tapped for Vt. education secretary

KEITH MCGILVER

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Gov. Peter Shumlin is adding to his cabinet and is turning to a familiar face to do it.

"The secretary wouldn't be secretary of education if we hadn't worked very closely together when he was commissioner of education," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

Thursday, Vermont Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca was named the state's first education secretary.

"It's a privilege and an honor to be the first secretary of education in Vermont," Vilaseca said.

The switch from commissioner to secretary aims to give the governor more control over education policy. Vilaseca will serve up to a year in the position and a search for a future secretary will begin this summer.

Reporter Keith McGilvery: We just completed a national search for this position, were you not pleased with the candidate pool that you saw? Why not seek someone for a longer term?

Gov. Peter Shumlin: Well, let me first say I was incredibly pleased with the three candidates the board sent to me.

The governor says he picked Vilaseca in part due to his focus on early childhood education and his commitment to boosting student achievement in math. The two agreed a 12-month appointment is what worked best. And Vilaseca says he'll move on after a year.

"I recognize that we ask commissioners and secretaries to work often seven days a week, sometimes six, long hours, we come in, we give it all we got and then we tend to want to move on to other challenges. That's certainly the case with the secretary," Shumlin said.

Vermont NEA President Martha Allen is pleased with the selection.

"We've been meeting on a monthly basis and working together on a variety of projects over the years and I am thrilled that we will be able to continue with that work," Allen said.

And Vilaseca's says he's no longer concerned about looking like a lame duck-- a concern he shared during the search process.

"I consider myself a full secretary and with the authority of the governor will continue to do my job as best I can," Vilaseca said.

The governor and secretary would not offer specifics about priorities moving forward, but both admitted there's plenty of work to do.

"Vermont has a wonderful educational system, but like any system, we can always improve," Vilaseca said.

"The opportunities are extraordinary and if we get it right, we prosper. And if we don't, we don't," Shumlin said.

The governor plans to outline shared goals with the secretary next week.

The two other finalists for the post were Brent Kay, the superintendent of the Orange Southwest Supervisory Union, and Daniel French, the superintendent of the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union.

Federal uncertainty means late Vt. budget address

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin and Vermont lawmakers have agreed to push the governor's annual budget address back a week, to give the fiscal situation in Washington a chance to become more clear.

Officials said Wednesday they had planned to have the governor outline his spending plan on Jan. 17, during the second week of this year's legislative session.

Instead, they'll wait until the following Thursday. Congress reached a compromise on New Year's Day to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff and its round of automatic spending cuts and tax increases.

But they left decisions about spending cuts for deliberations to come, creating uncertainty about federal aid to the states.

More than one-third of the money Vermont spends comes from the federal government.

Vt. paper company sold to NJ business

PUTNEY, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont paper company has been sold to a New Jersey business.

Soundview Paper Company of Elmwood Park, N.J., announced the purchase of Putney Paper from APC Paper Holdings on Wednesday.

The Brattleboro Reformer reports John McLean, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Soundview, said the acquisition gives Soundview a broader range of commercial towel manufacturing capability into its finished paper products - tissues, towels and napkins.

Vt. and NY seek more review of nuke waste storage

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The states of Vermont and New York are calling on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do a more thorough study of the impacts of storing spent nuclear fuel on the grounds of nuclear power plants.

The Wednesday federal court filing from the two states is part of a process by the NRC that is soliciting comments on nuclear waste storage.

Vermont is home to one nuclear power plant. New York hosts six reactors at four locations.

Last June, a federal appeals court said the NRC should complete a detailed environmental review of on-site storage or explain why one is not needed.

In their filing, the states argue the NRC should consider whether licensing and relicensing reactors makes sense in light of the long-term effect of onsite spent fuel storage.

Call for moratorium on wind power in Vt.

KEITH MCGILVER

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The debate over wind power in Vermont made its way to the Statehouse Thursday, with calls for putting the brakes on new development.

Legislators joined opponents to large-scale wind projects to support proposed legislation that calls for a three-year moratorium. The group pointed to the turbine project on Lowell Mountain as destructive to the environment and bad for Vermont's ridgelines.

Opponents to the ban say wind projects provide clean energy and are good for the economy.

"This moratorium effort is not intended to stop our progress toward effecting climate change, to the contrary all that we are doing is asking that in the case of this one particular tool is that the effort be done right," said Sen. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia County.

"It's stupid. It's the wrong thing to do. If you want Vermont to have jobs and actually have a vibrant economy it's the wrong message to give to the rest of the U.S.," said David Blittersdorf of Georgia Mountain Community Wind.

A 2012 survey by WCAX, WDEV and Vermont Business Magazine shows 69 percent of Vermonters said they support wind energy development on Vermont ridgelines, 17 percent opposed it and 13 percent said they were not sure.

Outage hits Northeast Kingdom as temperatures drop

ORLEANS COUNTY, Vt. - Thursday was an extra-chilly morning for some people in the Northeast Kingdom.

With temperatures dropping into the double digits below zero overnight, about 4,000 customers of Vermont Electric Co-op saw their power go out.

It happened at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday, hitting residents in 11 different towns in Orleans County.

VEC says everyone's power was back on about 90 minutes later.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 5:50 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 4:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Gay Red Cross volunteer steps down

By Eric Blaisdell

ORANGE — A local Red Cross blood drive coordinator has quit because he, as a gay man, is banned from donating blood, highlighting the controversy over a 30-year-old rule.

Bryon Doyle, of Orange, sent the Red Cross his resignation by email Wednesday. In the email, which he also sent to The Times Argus, he said, "After putting on three community blood drives and collecting over 100 pints of blood for the American Red Cross, I am ashamed to say I supported such an event that treated myself and others like we were are not good enough and that our blood is not worthy for your cause."

Banning gay men from donating blood is a policy of the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates the Red Cross. The FDA has had a ban in place since 1983 because of concerns that gay men may pass on HIV to those who receive their blood.

The current incarnation has been on the books since 1993 and says a man cannot give blood if he has had sex with another man since 1977, which the FDA considers the start of the AIDS outbreak.

The Red Cross and other blood collection organizations have opposed the ban in recent years. A representative of the FDA said in an email Thursday that the Department of Health and Human Services, of which the FDA is a part, is looking into a study on possible alterations to the ban that would let gay men donate blood.

All blood donations are tested for HIV and other diseases, and the department says the effectiveness of that testing, as well as public opposition to the ban, has prompted the investigation.

Doyle said Thursday that he had no idea the ban existed until he saw a post about it recently on Facebook. He had been organizing blood drives for the past year and a half in the Chelsea area and donated blood five times in the past. He said that when he filled out the screening form for donors, he checked "no" on the question about sex with other men because he felt it was none of the Red Cross' business.

When Doyle contacted the Red Cross to verify the ban and to disclose he is gay, he said, he was told he could no longer donate blood.

Doyle said that before he found out about the ban, he knew about 25 gay men who were ready to be first-time blood donors, but now the Red Cross will lose out on their donation "because they like guys instead of girls."

The chief medical officer of the American Red Cross, Dr. Richard Benjamin, said Thursday he was sad to hear that Doyle had quit because of the ban. He cited a 2010 joint statement by the Red Cross, America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks to the FDA that recommended a change in criteria for male blood donors and reaffirmed a statement by the three organizations in 2006 that called the ban "medically and scientifically unwarranted."

Hinesburg Rep. Bill Lippert, who is gay, called the ban shortsighted.

"The Red Cross and hospitals need robust blood donations, and I'm sure there are gay men, who pose no risk to the blood supply, who would be more than willing to be donors," he said.

Lippert said the Vermont House passed a resolution in May asking the FDA to reduce the ban to one year after sexual contact with another man. He said that if the ban were removed, he would consider donating, even though he hates needles.

He also said the ban makes little sense today because all donated blood is thoroughly tested for diseases.

In his resignation letter, Doyle referenced a decision by a Department of Health and Human Services advisory committee on blood safety to keep the ban in place. The committee makes recommendations to the FDA.

Dr. Roslyn Yomtovian, a professor at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, is on that committee. She voted to remove the ban because she feels it is "ridiculous" and "throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

Yomtovian said the wording of "men who have had sex with other men, at any time since 1977" is far too general. She said it does not take into account men who may have had sex with another man just once.

Yomtovian said the wording is overly broad to assure public comfort. She believes people are being politically correct instead of asking specific questions about a person's behavior that may increase the chances of contracting a disease.

She also said the lifetime ban for gay men was not consistent with other reasons someone may be barred from giving blood, such as traveling to an exotic country known to have transmittable diseases or using intravenous drugs. The prohibition on donating after those behaviors typically lasts a year.

Yomtovian said other countries are starting to rethink their own bans on gay men donating blood. According to news reports, Mexico removed its ban recently, and Canada is in the process of dropping its ban.

Incident prompts security talks at Harwood

By David Taube

MORETOWN — A sheriff was placed at Harwood Union Middle and High School on Wednesday because a restraining order was issued against a former student, said the chairman of the school's board, Chris Koliba.

While the precaution came soon after 20 elementary students and six adults were killed Dec. 14 in a school shooting in Newtown, Conn., Harwood officials said around half a dozen restraining orders are obtained in the school district as a whole every school year.

The school's administration briefed board members about the situation on Dec. 19 and again Wednesday during the regular board meeting, Koliba said Thursday.

An email was sent to the school community informing parents, staff and faculty of the sheriff's presence.

Koliba said Wednesday's school board briefing was for information sharing, advice seeking, and "pulse taking" of community sentiment on how to best handle these kinds of situations.

"We got into a conversation: In this post-Newtown era, what's the new normal?" Koliba said.

Superintendent Brigid Scheffert said the details of the restraining order could not be released.

A restraining order had been issued, and the person in question was later confirmed as being located out of state, Scheffert said. When Scheffert verified that information Wednesday, she said, she decided the sheriff was no longer needed.

On Dec. 19 and again Wednesday, the board went into executive session, both times for a “student disciplinary matter.” Koliba said both discussions were related to the same incident. The first meeting was to address when the incident first came to light, he said.

Koliba said the executive session was the beginning of a discussion the board plans to address during regular session.

Board member Dale Smeltzer said she thought the email to the community was a means of increasing communication in the wake of the Newtown tragedy.

Last year, a similar incident occurred in the district when a sheriff’s department employee was in place for three to five days because a parent was issued a restraining order for making threats, said Scheffert.

The sheriff’s office was involved until court proceedings could occur and safety could be ensured, Scheffert said.

“It’s not unusual to have a sheriff detail, especially at a high school, at the point you have what looks like a volatile situation in someone’s family or outside in the community,” Scheffert said.

In the wake of Newtown, school districts across Vermont and the nation have been re-examining security measures and policies to ensure students and school employees are protected.

2 senators want halt to wind projects

MONTPELIER — Two Vermont state senators called Thursday for legislation that would impose a three-year moratorium on large-scale wind power projects in the state and for a more thorough environmental review of energy projects.

Sen. Robert Hartwell, D-Bennington, said review by the Public Service Board, the three-member panel that considers proposed utility projects, is an inadequate process. He and Sen. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia, said the process does not allow for enough public participation.

The senators’ move drew a flurry of press statements from environmental and renewable energy groups, saying a moratorium would be a job killer and would hurt Vermont’s efforts to fight climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

Gov. Peter Shumlin, who would have to sign any bill imposing a moratorium or changing the way wind projects are reviewed, said at a news conference that he was cool to the ideas. The governor noted he recently appointed a special commission to look at the way Vermont reviews energy projects.

Projects like the large-scale wind power installations on Lowell Mountain in Lowell and in Sheffield are reviewed under state law designed to balance the need for energy versus environmental protection. Benning and Hartwell would have them reviewed instead under Act 250, in which a broader range of development projects are subject to what they maintain is more stringent environmental review.

“Let’s hit the reset button and redefine this conversation in a way that makes sense,” Benning said in an interview.

The senators argued that the bulk of Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions come from vehicles and building furnaces. Vermont gets large amounts of power from Canadian hydroelectric dams, a New Hampshire nuclear plant and other low-carbon sources. With electricity accounting for just a fraction of Vermont’s carbon footprint, a full build-out of potential wind power sites in the state would gain little, the senators said.

Meanwhile, extensive environmental damage is being done to the fragile mountaintop environments where wind towers are being built, they said. Hartwell said aerial photos taken by Benning showed huge swaths of trees were cut down along the Lowell Mountain ridge line, where Green Mountain Power recently built 21 turbines.

Trees absorb carbon, and "the forest is the single biggest carbon sink we have," Hartwell said.

The Vermont Natural Resources Council was among several groups defending wind power development in the state.

"VNRC believes that carefully sited renewable energy generation facilities — including wind turbines — coupled with aggressive energy conservation and efficiency strategies, are a responsible response to climate change, peak oil and the need for an independent, clean energy economy," it said in a statement.

Shumlin mum on gun control

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Vermont's usually opinionated governor has gone uncharacteristically silent on at least one hot-button controversy: a federal ban on assault weapons.

A school shooting last month that claimed the lives of 20 kindergarten students in Newtown, Conn., has sparked a national conversation about the adequacy of the nation's gun laws. Asked repeatedly since the incident whether he thinks Congress should impose a ban on assault rifles, or the high-capacity magazines that maximize their firepower, Shumlin has deflected.

"What I think doesn't matter," Shumlin said of his non-stance during a news conference Thursday.

On the issue of state-based gun laws, Shumlin has been far clearer, saying he opposes any attempts in Montpelier to restrict Vermonters' access to guns. While Shumlin on Thursday said he "welcomes the debate," he thinks state-specific laws designed to avert tragedies like the one in Newtown are misguided.

"Because you can go buy it in New Hampshire or another state or on the Internet," Shumlin said. "My point is we need a 50-state solution. We're not an island."

Shumlin said that in areas like renewable energy, health care and gay rights, it has made sense for Vermont to assume a leadership position nationally.

"What I feel very strongly is it's up to me to lead when the federal government isn't," Shumlin said. "The federal government is not leading on single-payer health care — they won't even say the word. They are not leading on renewables — most of them (in the Republican-controlled U.S. House) don't believe in climate change."

On the issue of gun control, however, Shumlin said Thursday that President Barack Obama has demonstrated a commitment to act.

"The last I saw the President of the United States held a press conference and asked Vice President (Joe) Biden to lead a group to come up with a national policy to deal with the crisis we have before us," Shumlin said. "So I have confidence in them to do their job."

Asked whether he believes the federal solution should include "some restrictions" on guns, Shumlin said, "Let's see what they come up with."

Eric Davis, professor emeritus of political science at Middlebury College, said Shumlin's reluctance to enter the gun-control fray might stem from a desire not to distract from his core legislative agenda.

He said it also doesn't fit well into his broader political strategy.

"He wants to govern as a fiscal conservative ... and continue to appeal to voters on the left on issues like marijuana decriminalization, death with dignity, health care reform," Davis said. "And I think he just sees the gun issue as not fitting in with his overall political strategy."

Heralded as a defender of the Second Amendment by the National Rifle Association, Shumlin earlier this fall won the endorsement of the gun lobby's political arm, which also contributed to his re-election campaign.

In its Oct. 5 endorsement announcement, the NRA cited Shumlin's past opposition to "storage requirements of firearms and ... punitive taxes on lead ammunition." The organization also lauded him for supporting "the creation and development of publicly accessible shooting ranges."

"Peter Shumlin has demonstrated his support for the Second Amendment," said Chris W. Cox, chief lobbyist for the NRA. "We urge all NRA members, gun owners, and sportsmen in Vermont to vote Peter Shumlin for Governor on November 6."

Feds give nod to Vt health exchange

MONTPELIER — The federal government has given a preliminary thumbs-up to an online health insurance marketplace set to go into effect in 2014.

The Shumlin administration announced Thursday that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services gave conditional approval to the "health benefit exchange" now under construction at the Department of Vermont Health Access.

The federal Affordable Care Act mandates that every state have a health insurance exchange in place by January of next year, but Vermont has pursued the program more vigorously than most.

The state has drawn down more than \$100 million in federal grants to create the exchange, and legislation passed last year will require companies with 50 or fewer employees to purchase their insurance plans through it.

"Vermont continues to be a leader in health care reform, and this is another illustration of our progress toward meeting our reform goals," Gov. Peter Shumlin said in a written statement. "We are building an exchange that works for Vermonters now and in the future."

Likened to a sort of Hotwire.com for insurance plans, the exchange is designed to provide consumers an apples-to-apples price comparison of various plans. Proponents say it also ensures quality control by imposing minimum standards for plans sold in the exchange. Most individuals buying in the exchange will be eligible for premium assistance or tax credits from the federal government.

Vilaseca named education secretary

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Last year, Gov. Peter Shumlin won legislation to endow his office with increased power over public education. On Thursday, he announced the appointment of the man he says will help him exert it.

Armando Vilaseca has been appointed to serve as Vermont's first-ever secretary of education, a Cabinet-level post whose allegiance to the governor will lend the executive branch unprecedented influence over education policy in the state.

Until now, the commissioner of education has answered to the nine-member State Board of Education, a century-old arrangement conceived to help insulate public education from the ideological bent of politicians.

Shumlin, though, convinced lawmakers last year that the system had prevented the state's top elected officeholder from enacting needed reforms in one of government's central roles.

Vilaseca has served as commissioner of education for the last four years and was among the three candidates nominated for the secretary post by the State Board of Education.

"(The governor and I) have almost identical views on education and the direction we should be moving in, so I think that I'm the perfect choice for the position," Vilaseca said during a news conference announcing the appointment.

In Vilaseca, Shumlin said he's found a steady hand to lead the transition.

"I was lucky to have three strong candidates for the secretary's post, but with my expansive education agenda, making a change in leadership right now does not make sense and I have confidence Armando is the right person to be sure we don't miss a beat in the coming months," Shumlin said.

Asked during a news conference what exactly his "expansive" agenda contains, Shumlin said he wanted to save details for his State of the State address next week.

"Stay tuned," he said.

Vilaseca's tenure won't last long. Shumlin said he'll begin the search for a replacement as soon as this spring. The governor said the timeline is optimal both for the administration, which wanted a smooth transition to the new structural framework prior to bringing in "new blood," and for Vilaseca, who had signaled a desire to leave government service after five years.

Vilaseca headlined a slew of executive-branch job announcements Thursday, including the appointment of former House Majority Leader Lucy Leriche to serve as deputy secretary of commerce and community development.

Leriche is currently working under contract for Green Mountain Power.

Shumlin said more changes are in store for the Agency of Commerce. Under former Gov. James Douglas, the Department of Economic Development was folded into the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Lawmakers last year asked secretary of Commerce to determine whether the consolidation had been productive.

"We have come to the conclusion that it was not ... and that the missions of the two areas, while similar, are not fully aligned and that the Department of Economic Development really deserves top cabinet-level efforts," Lawrence Miller, Vermont's secretary of Commerce, said.

The search for that position is under way.

Among the other executive staff changes:

Irene Recovery Officer Sue Minter will return to her role as deputy secretary of transportation; her deputy, Dave Rapaport, will become the new Irene Recovery Czar.

Susan Allen, who in her first-term role as "special assistant to the governor" served as spokeswoman and communications chief, will take on the deputy chief of staff post being vacated by outgoing Alex MacLean. Allen, formerly editor of The Times Argus, will continue to handle public and press relations.

Former Lamoille County Sen. Susan Bartlett, who spent the first term as a special assistant to the governor, will take a new job in the Agency of Human resources, where she will coordinate a range of projects for the administration.

Former representative from Johnson, Floyd Nease — he served as House Majority Leader prior to Leriche — will serve as director of systems integration at the Agency of Human Services. Shumlin said Nease has been asked to streamline the delivery of services to vulnerable families.

EDITORIAL: Wind and sun

One of the provisions of the fiscal cliff-averting bill passed on Tuesday night was an extension of the energy tax credit that promotes the development of wind energy technology.

The energy tax credit has been important for wind developers in Vermont, including Green Mountain Power, which is responsible for the controversial wind project atop the Lowell Mountain ridgeline. It is even more useful in the states with wide open spaces and much wind to exploit, such as Texas, Washington, Iowa and California. In those regions of open, unobstructed topography wind turbines have gone up by the thousands, providing useful income and tax revenues for rural residents and local governments, while generating clean, carbon-free electricity. Thus, wind power has become one of the fastest growing segments of the energy industry, and the Obama administration has made an effort to promote it as part of its green energy strategy.

But you wouldn't know it from the increasing public din in Vermont about wind power. In response to growing concern about wind development here, two senators, Joe Benning of Caledonia County and Robert Hartwell of Bennington County, plan to introduce legislation calling for a three-year moratorium on mountaintop wind projects.

It appears that Vermonters are already putting in place their own kind of moratorium. Residents of four towns in Rutland County — Hubbardton, Pittsford, West Rutland and Castleton — have all but unanimously rejected a proposal by Reunion Power to build a wind project on a mountain called Grandpa's Knob. In response, the developer has said the project is now in limbo. Residents in the Windham region have also responded with alarm to plans for a wind project there.

It's no mystery why Vermont residents would be resistant to large-scale wind energy while residents of other rural regions are receptive. Rural in Vermont is different from rural elsewhere. In Vermont our topography is more or less always right on top of us. The population is widely dispersed through the landscape, so there are few truly open spaces. Almost any wind project is going to be near someone's home. The state lacks the kind of wide-open spaces that characterize the West and Midwest, where large uninhabited regions are made to order for wind energy. The open farmland of the Midwest means that the installation of wind turbines need not bother most people.

In addition, Vermonters have an emotional and intimate bond with their mountains. There is no mountain in Vermont that is just some random, unimportant mountain. People love their mountains, as GMP has learned in Lowell.

And yet Shumlin and his administration are right to maintain a focus on the development of green energy and not to be stampeded into a blanket rejection of wind power. Shumlin has said that if local residents reject a project, he will not support it. Thus, the moratorium option is available locally. But some wind projects may be appropriate in some places. The fear that the state will be overrun with wind turbines is unrealistic. Rather, some additional wind projects could continue to add to the state's green energy total, which is a good thing as long as nearby residents are willing to accept it.

The energy tax credit is a useful mechanism for getting sustainable energy projects up and running. Certainly, nuclear and fossil fuel energy sources have enjoyed government benefits that far outstrip anything wind developers might be getting in the effort to get their technology off the ground. And once their turbines are up, the power is free and clean.

In the long run, Vermont may find that solar power has greater potential than wind, particularly in the summer months, when the utilities encounter peak energy usage. GMP is just getting started with its solar initiative in Rutland, and other municipalities can be expected to join in. We need to continue to say yes to sustainable energy, even as we refine our understanding of what types of energy development are appropriate for our beautiful, mountainous state.

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:14 PM
To: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Recchia, Chris; Porter, Louis
Subject: Fwd: VFDA Comments
Attachments: TETF LETTER 1.3.pdf; ATT00001.htm

FYI, Matt Cota's well-written two page criticism of the Thermal Efficiency Task Force for you brief perusal. Liz

Elizabeth H. Miller
Commissioner, VT Public Service Dept.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Matt Cota" <matt@vermontfuel.com>
To: "Lauder, Kelly" <Kelly.Lauder@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Subject: VFDA Comments

Hi Kelly,

Here are VFDA's comments regarding the TETF Draft Report.

Thanks--- See you next week!

Matt Cota
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association
802-223-7750 office
cell

matt@vermontfuel.com <<mailto:matt@vermontfuel.com>>
www.vermontfuel.com <<http://www.vermontfuel.com>>

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:32 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Friday, Jan. 4th

Friday, January 4th 2013 Schedule

London, Sarah

From: Cohan, Erin <ecohan@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:17 PM
To: Governors Chiefs of Staff
Subject: RESPONSE REQUESTED: NGA Benchmark Survey on International Trade

To: Washington Representatives and State-Federal Contacts, Chiefs of Staff
Re: NGA Survey on International Trade and Investment

As a result of the work we've done in recent years with international partners, the National Governors Association continues to explore the needs and opportunities of governors surrounding state international relations, trade and investment. Thus far, we have had a series of conversations with state, federal and private sector trade professionals to evaluate the current landscape of how states are engaging on these topics.

The next step in our research is to conduct a benchmark survey to assess how states are pursuing international trade and investment strategies. We seek your input and counsel to help us to refine concepts and potential deliverables, and explore next steps. **Please take a moment to complete the survey via the following web link by COB Friday, January 11.** We encourage governors' offices to have their state's lead trade professional complete this survey, if possible. The information collected will be aggregated and used for internal research purposes only.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if you need additional information (ecohan@nga.org).

Kind regards,

Erin Cohan

SURVEY LINK: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L3LBJLW>

Erin Cohan
Special Projects Manager
Office of Federal Relations
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001-1512
Phone: (202) 624-5317 Cell: (516) 287-3305
www.nga.org

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NGA Office of Management Consulting & Training (OMCT)
Listserv for Governors' Chiefs of Staff

To post questions/comments to subscribed members, email: chiefs@talk.nga.org
(This listserv is moderated; submitted messages are first received by the NGA moderator and then posted to the full list.)

For more information on OMCT resources: www.nga.org/omct

You are currently subscribed to [chiefs] as bill.lofy@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218071-151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Wodiska, Joan <JWodiska@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:12 PM
To: susan.m.howard@nc.gov; lisa.carpenter@state.co.us; alan.salazar@state.co.us; jamie.vanleeuwen@state.co.us; jhoeag@sso.org; vyoung@sso.org; Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson
Cc: DeSimone, Dan (Dan.DeSimone@ct.gov); Hoelscher, Doug [IGOV] (Doug.Hoelscher@iowa.gov)
Subject: NGA: Seeking Democratic Governor to Serve on NAGB

To: Democratic Members of the NGA Education and Workforce Committee
From: Joan Wodiska, National Governors Association

On behalf of the National Governors Association, Education and Workforce Committee Chair and Vice Chair, I'm writing to inquire about your Governor's interest in serving on the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).

NAGB was established by Congress in 1988 as an independent, bipartisan federal board that sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), more commonly known as The Nation's Report Card. The Board consists of 26 members, including governors, state legislators, state and local school officials, educators and researchers, business representatives, and members of the general public. Through quarterly meetings, the Governing Board makes decisions on NAEP by selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing appropriate student achievement levels, designing the methodology of the assessment, etc.

For decades, NAGB has played an influential role in evaluating the status and progress of American education. **At this time, NGA is working to identify a Democratic Governor that would be interested and willing to fill a vacancy on the Board.** Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Your reply is kindly appreciated by Friday, January 11, 2013.

Joan Wodiska, Committee Director
Education and Workforce Committee
National Governors Association
Phone: (202) 624-5361
Email: jwodiska@nga.org

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London, Sarah

From: AHS - VT Health Connect
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 3:41 PM
To: AHS - VT Health Connect
Subject: Vermont's Health Benefit Exchange Receives Federal Approval
Attachments: Vermonts Health Benefit Exchange Recieves Federal Approval_1 3 12 (2).pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Vermont Health Access
January 3, 2012

Contact: Seán Sheehan
Contact Phone Number: 802-585-6339
Contact E-mail Address: Sean.Sheehan@state.vt.us

Vermont's Health Benefit Exchange Receives Federal Approval
Vermont Health Connect on schedule to launch in October 2013

Press Conference with DVHA Commissioner Mark Larson and Director of Health Care Reform Robin Lunge to be held in DVHA Large Conference Room, 312 Hurricane Lane, Williston at 9am Friday January 4, 2013
Call-in option: (213) 289-0155, then enter 2100736

WILLISTON, VT – Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the State of Vermont has been granted conditional approval to operate its Health Benefit Exchange, Vermont Health Connect. This approval indicates that Vermont is compliant with federal regulations for operating a State-based Exchange and is prepared to begin open enrollment in October 2013, conditional on the State meeting specific milestones over the next nine months.

"Vermont continues to be a leader in health care reform, and this is another illustration of our progress toward meeting our reform goals," said Governor Peter Shumlin. "We are building an Exchange that works for Vermonters now and in the future."

Vermont Health Connect will be the marketplace for individuals, families, and small businesses to compare and purchase qualified private health insurance plans, determine eligibility for and enroll in public health insurance plans, and access tax credits and financial assistance to make insurance affordable.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius congratulated Vermont for demonstrating how it will meet all requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act for establishing a State-based Exchange. Today's approval indicates that the State has successfully met federal expectations and outlined plans for meeting additional federal requirements between now and October when the Exchange will open for shopping and enrollment. In addition, Vermont Health Connect will be uniquely tailored to Vermont. Secretary Sebelius' letter of approval can be found at <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/vt-blueprint-exchange-letter-01-03-2013.pdf>

"We are dedicated to building an Exchange Vermonters can trust. I thank HHS for their partnership in the development of our application and am pleased to learn that they share our confidence in launching Vermont Health Connect later this year," said Mark Larson, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access. "We have made significant progress towards creating Vermont Health Connect as a place where Vermonters can access affordable, comprehensive coverage. Secretary Sebelius has clearly outlined the conditions of our full approval, and I'm certain that we will meet all conditions by the federal deadline."

Vermont is one of 19 states, plus the District of Columbia, to submit a standard "blueprint" application to construct and operate a State-based Exchange. As of now, conditional approval has been granted to all states that have submitted the "blueprint" application and full approval will be granted once all conditions are met.

###

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 3:40 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Fwd: Governor Maggie Hassan
Attachments: New Hampshire.docx; ATT00001.htm

Sounds like Maggie Hassan got a copy of our SOS!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stubbs, Anne" <adsconeg@sso.org>
Date: January 3, 2013, 3:32:07 PM EST
To: Alexander Cochran <Alexander.Cochran@exec.ny.gov>, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us>, Dan DeSimone <dan.desimone@ct.gov>, "Hoag, Jamie" <jhoag@sso.org>, Jonathan Nass <Jonathan.Nass@maine.gov>, Kelly Mahoney <Kelly.Mahoney@governor.ri.gov>, Kenneth Fletcher <Kenneth.c.fletcher@maine.gov>, Liz Donohue <Liz.donohue@ct.gov>, Liz Gray <elizabeth.gray@nh.gov>, Liz Hanson <Elizabeth.Hanson@state.ma.us>, Caroline Powers <caroline.powers@state.ma.us>, "Kathleen Newman" <kathleen.newman@maine.gov>, Kylah Hynes <Kylah.Hynes@exec.ny.gov>, "Ryan Dalton" <Ryan.dalton@exec.ny.gov>, "Young, Valerie" <vyoung@sso.org>, "Yomika S. Bennett" <Yomika.Bennett@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: Governor Maggie Hassan

CONEG congratulates Governor Maggie Hassan as she assumes the governorship of Granite State today.

In her inaugural remarks, Governor Hassan stressed the importance of education and investment in youth to prepare them for the changing economy (including STEM education); being innovative in education, business and the delivery of government services; fiscal responsibility in government including a responsible balanced budget; public safety; and inclusiveness for all people. Information on Governor Hassan is provided on the CONEG website (www.coneg.org) along with a link to the Governor's own website – where information on her priorities and inaugural address are found (<http://www.governor.nh.gov/>).

Attached is a list of current administrative staff in Governor Hassan's office.

Anne Stubbs

Anne Stubbs
Executive Director
CONEG Policy Research Center, Inc.
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 382
Washington, DC 20001
p/(202) 624-8450
f/(202) 624-8463
www.coneg.org

London, Sarah

From: Stubbs, Anne <adsconeg@sso.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 3:32 PM
To: Alexander Cochran; Richards, Alyson; Lofy, Bill; Dan DeSimone; Hoag, Jamie; Jonathan Nass; Kelly Mahoney; Kenneth Fletcher; Liz Donohue; Liz Gray; Liz Hanson; Caroline Powers; Kathleen Newman ; Kyla Hynes; Ryan Dalton ; Young, Valerie; Yomika S. Bennett
Subject: Governor Maggie Hassan
Attachments: New Hampshire.docx

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400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 382
Washington, DC 20001
p/(202) 624-8450
f/(202) 624-8463
www.coneg.org

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Voicemail

Thx

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Richards, Alyson
Subject: Re: Voicemail

Louis. Yeah probably should get a call back.

On Jan 3, 2013, at 2:40 PM, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us> wrote:

Hi there,
Hope you're having a great trip. Just saw your red light pop on – voicemail from Claire Ayer putting in a good word for for Bill Carris replacement with etc).

Should I tell Alex/Louis? And do you think she needs a callback?

Aly

London, Sarah

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Aly

London, Sarah

From: Wilson, Morgan <MWilson@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 2:11 PM
To: NR Reps
Subject: NGA Natural Resources Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 10th at 1:00pm ET
Attachments: NR-01 Environmental Protection Idaho and SD Edits.docx

TO: NGA Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Morgan Wilson, NGA
RE: Vote on Proposed Change to Existing Policy, **Thursday, January 10th at 1:00p.m. ET**

The NGA Natural Resources Committee will meet next Thursday, January 10th, to vote on the remaining committee policy to be approved, NR-01 Environmental Protection. Please see the attached document containing proposed edits to NR-01 offered by Idaho and South Dakota discussed during the December 20th meeting of the Natural Resources Committee.

Please contact [Craig Sundstrom](tel:202-624-3623) (202-624-3623) or [Morgan Wilson](tel:202-624-7822) (202-624-7822) with any questions.

Morgan Wilson
Legislative Coordinator
Office of Federal Relations
National Governors Association

Phone: (202) 624-7822
Fax: (202) 624-5825
mwilson@nga.org

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You are currently subscribed to [nrreps] as Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218062-153737.ddb25f155ef51eb1a5ae1e119cd7fc16@talk.nga.org.

Visit the NGA web site at <http://www.nga.org>

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: January Newsletter Hippy School my kids go to.

Bill..

Following up on school issue we discussed. This is recent newsletter.

Anson

From: Montessori School of Central Vermont [mailto:info@mscv.org@mail49.us1.mcsv.net] **On Behalf Of** Montessori School of Central Vermont
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 1:22 PM
To: Tebbetts, Anson
Subject: January Newsletter

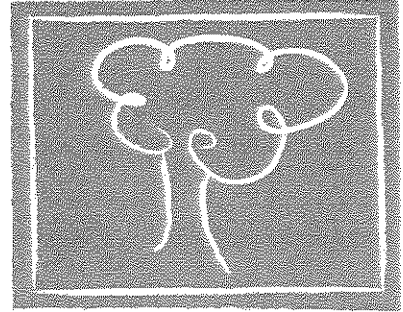
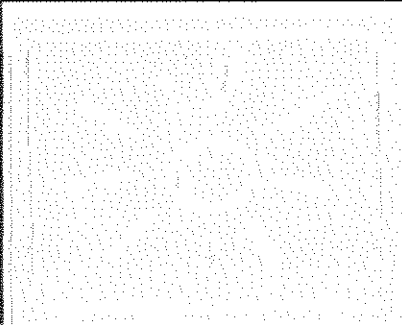
EM: info@mscv.org

PH: 802-223-3320

WEB: www.mscvt.org

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Montessori School of Central Vermont

January 2013

The Kindergarten Year in Montessori

by Edward Fidello, www.crossmountainpress.com

Kindergarten is the harvest year for all the planting and intellectual tending that has gone on for the preceding years in preschool. The kindergarten child's learning explodes into an avalanche of reading and writing and math. All of the earlier preparation (practical life, sensorial) now finds academic outlets. The kindergarten child not only gains a wider breadth of knowledge but a deeper understanding of what she has learned and now is able to use this knowledge to enhance her own intellectual pursuits.

A Montessori education is not just cumulative in its learning; it is exponential in its understanding. The learning that happens in kindergarten is not just adding another year's knowledge but multiplying what is learned and applying it to what is to come.

It is common for Montessori kindergarten graduates to be able to read well (and write) and to understand math far beyond addition and subtraction all the way to multiplication, division and geometry.

Maybe even more significantly, the lifetime patterns of responsibility, goal setting, having a work ethic, working through mistakes, inquiry and curiosity are being firmly set. To miss this formative year that sets successful life patterns is to miss the ultimate advantage of this unique preschool experience.

 [Friend on Facebook](#)

 [Forward to a Friend](#)



"Peace, we may say, is not a rational attainment of man, it is rather a real work of creation. The same forces that create the world are those that give it real peace."

Maria Montessori

Calendar of Events

Mark these on your calendar!

SAVE this newsletter for reference!

Wednesday, January 9
MSCVT Board Meeting 7:45-9am

Monday, January 21
NO SCHOOL- MLK day

The kindergarten year in a Montessori classroom is also the year of mentoring. It is the year when the five year old is able to really help her classmates. This mentoring year is significant for two reasons. First, when you teach others, you really master the subject for yourself. Second, when you are asked to teach you demonstrate your mastery of the material. It is this mastery that produces the profound feelings of self-confidence and assurance that is the hallmark of Montessori students. Real achievement and real achievement demonstrated builds real self-esteem.

Leaving the Montessori program before kindergarten often places a child into an educational setting that is not as advanced; nor one that allows for the initiative that has been carefully cultivated during the earlier preschool years. The child is often introduced to a different curriculum one that lacks the individual intellectual satisfaction that comes from exploring and discovering the wonderful world of learning found in Montessori.

The essence of successful life is to be able to make wise choices. The Montessori kindergarten student is at a major threshold of exercising that wise decision making power. To lose that opportunity is to lose a significant part of the hard won success of the preceding years.

The great gift of an education is not the accumulation of facts and statistics but the lighting of the fire of learning, discovery and joy. It is a gift that Montessori children have the privilege and pleasure of opening and using for a lifetime.

Notes from Kristen

Tuesday, January 22
NO SCHOOL -Teacher
inservice

Wednesday, January 29
Elementary Meeting 5:30-
7pm. on Elementary
Curriculum and our
growing elementary program.
(inclement weather
alternative date is January
31)

Sunday, February 3
MSCVT Public Open House
10-12. Help us spread the
word!

Wednesday, February 6
Coffee Hour with Kristen.
8:45am. *Please request
article for this
month's discussion.

Wednesday, February 13
MSCVT Board Meeting 7:45-
9am

Monday, February 25 -
Tuesday, March 5
NO SCHOOL - February
vacation



Happy New Year to all! January always brings the new year as well as bitter cold weather. If the weather (including wind chill) dips below 18* the Primary classrooms will not be going outside, however, please continue to send appropriate outdoor weather each day so that each child is prepared to go outside. The elementary children may go out for a short time, however not for extended periods. Please remember to label your child's belongings; black outdoor gear can be labeled with duct tape and your child's name. If you are missing any items please come and have a look in our lost and found...the pile seems to grow daily!

A child's love of his environment at school may become apparent in the items that are brought home: paintings, stories and, sometimes, materials! Sometimes children are so drawn to the materials that they find their way into pockets and lunch boxes. If you notice any item that is brought home that you feel should stay at school please return it! Some materials that you may find: pink tower cubes (especially the smallest cube ;) puzzle map pieces, golden beads, etc. Thank you for your help!

We would like to welcome Caroline Patry into our community! Her first day was on Wednesday, making twelve total children in Darra Dane's class. Welcome to Caroline and her mom, Willy Jane!

Just a reminder that the next Coffee Morning will be February 6th at 8:45 in the Elementary building. All are welcome; we will be discussing Aline D. Wolfe's article, "Montessori or Traditional Kindergarten: A Parent's Decision for the Five Year-Old." If you are considering more traditional programs for your child for next year this meeting is essential in that decision making process! If you are interested in a copy please let me know.

Please take special notice of some upcoming events:

*Anthony working with the
brown stairs and pink tower.*

Financial Aid

Those families who are interested in Financial Aid for the 2013-2014 school year can request a packet from the office. Financial Aid through the school follows a three-step process: inquiring with the State of VT Child Care Assistance Program to see if your family qualifies for state assistance (pre-school aged students only), filling out a school financial aid application, and filling an application with SSS our online financial aid service (details for each step are listed in the Financial Aid package). Completed Financial Aid applications are due FEBRUARY 15.

Info for Valentine's Day in Classroom

As many of you know we usually do an in-class celebration for Valentine's Day. We usually make something yummy to share as a community and do various art projects on Valentine's Day. We ask that NO VALENTINES or CANDY COME TO SCHOOL... we prefer to celebrate this day in

Monday, January 21 and Tuesday, January 22: No School for Students.

Tuesday, January 29, 5:30-7 pm: Elementary Curriculum Exploration and Discussion

Lindsay Wurtzel, Kristen Martin and Claudia Bagiackas (Founder of MSCVT and Former Elementary Guide) will be leading a panel discussion on the Elementary curriculum and how that curriculum manifests in our program. All are encouraged to attend! Childcare (to include pizza) will be provided.

Notes from the Children's House

From Darra Dane

Happy New Year! Welcome back my friends! I hope that everyone had a wonderful break and a happy holiday. We are very excited to welcome our new friend, Caroline to our classroom.



For the month of January, we will be learning about...

*Animals that hibernate

*Reduce, Re-use, Recycle- how we can use everyday household items and turn them into treasure, bird feeders, and things for our classroom. (I will be sending out e-mails on what we'll need from home)

*Winter- Brr! It's just getting colder out there. Things that happen to the environment during winter. We'll be doing some fun activities with water and snow!

*Vertebrate/Invertebrate

We'll also start talking about North America, the continent that we live in.

Please remember to pack hats, mittens and warm clothes

the same spirit of our work in the classrooms each day, and invite the children to participate in making something together and sharing it as a community of friendship. Please note that if your child has a special friend(s) that they would like to give a Valentine to, we ask that those exchanges occur outside of school so that no hurt feelings arise from other children inevitably feeling left out. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Elementary class will continue with their tradition of Drop Everything And Read Day (also known as DEAR DAY) - Children in the Elementary class are invited to wear their pajamas to school, bring a pillow, blanket and a few books.

Happy New (Tax) Year! (Want to Save Some Money on Tuition?)

The coming of 2013 starts the clock on a fresh tax year! Did you know that you can pay for some private school expenses through an Employer-Provided Childcare Plan? Families may be in the position to pay for Montessori expenses from pre-tax dollars through a federal program

with your child. We are also in need of some socks! Please send extra socks for your child!



From Justyna

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the winter vacation and were able to spend some time together as family. It was nice to come back to school and hear all the exciting news from students. We have started the New Year making and decorating special cloth pins with our names to put them on the classroom job chart.

Children who stay all day will be responsible for taking care of the classroom before it is time to go home. They are so excited! I also observed that children returned to our routines quickly and are very self-directed.

Every Thursday starting January 3rd, I will stay in the classroom to work with both primary classes while Darra Dane is with The Kindergarteners. She has great ideas for extensions to many lessons in our Montessori curriculum and I know children will enjoy her company and learning new things and working on special projects.

Winter is here. We would like to go for a nature walk (weather permitting) and try to find animal tracks. In January we are going to study parts of fish, parts of bird and make booklets, talk about hibernation, the solar system and directions (North, South, East, West).

In practical life we have lots of sewing activities again and are exploring land and water forms in geography. Children can pour water to create land and water formations. They will find card sets representing these formations, photographs of examples and maps to reinforce vocabulary and recognitions.

called the Employer-Provided Childcare Plan.

Here's how it works: Each family (note, each family - not each parent, or each child) may pay up to \$5000 annually in tuition from pre-tax dollars. You may request that the cost of tuition be withheld from your paycheck by your employer before taxes are withheld, and then your employer writes a check to the school for tuition. Prior to withholding tuition, your employer will request that you provide an invoice from the school. End result: your paycheck is smaller, but tuition for that month is paid and you save about 15-35% off the first \$5000 of tuition, depending upon your tax bracket. Some salient points:

- Unlike most federal tax benefit programs, the Employer-Provided Childcare Plan is NOT income-sensitive. Everyone may qualify, regardless of total earnings.
- Both parents must be employed, although one parent may be employed part-time. Income must be earned (e.g. parent may not claim volunteer work as employment).
- Qualifying expenses under the plan include primary school, out-of-school care for anyone under the age of 13, and day camp (no overnight

Finally we will be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. I would like the older children to read and learn about Mr. King and then present to all during the gathering on Friday, January 18th before Martin Luther King Day.

Orsi suggested our Kindergarteners could play "Swimmy" during the public story time in Kellog's Library in Montpelier. We will send you some information as soon as we decide about the date of this special story hour.

Notes from Elementary



Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break and I am excited about starting the New Year. Thank you all for coming to our Winter Celebration; it was great to see everyone. The elementary students worked very hard on their holiday presentations and did an amazing job. They were very proud of their work.

The Elementary class has started reading groups and will continue with working on language skills throughout the curriculum. We will continue studying the different kingdoms that make up our world and how everything around us is important and connected. Spelling groups will continue and the students will be learning about homophones, homonyms, antonyms, and synonyms. We will also be working on brainstorming and creative writing skills. We will all be focused on memorizing our math facts for the new year! Please plan on joining myself, Claudia (founding member and Elementary guide) and Kristen for a night of further exploration of the Elementary curriculum. We will be

camp). Expenses for elementary tuition and beyond do not qualify.

This federal tax program is simple for your employer to set up and administer, and does not cost the employer anything.

The policy behind this program is to encourage employment and the generation of income (and hence, more taxes). For more information, please see your accountant or HR

department; this reminder is not to be construed as tax advice.



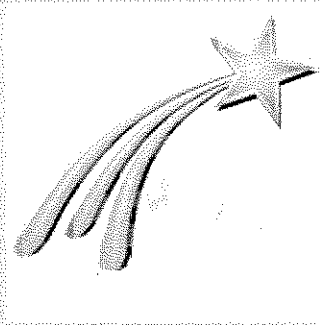
Kudos Corner

Thank you to...

Kate and John McCann, Mary Jane Austin, Kelly McCracken, Matt Krebs, Vicky Tebbetts, and Lexi Shear, for putting up posters

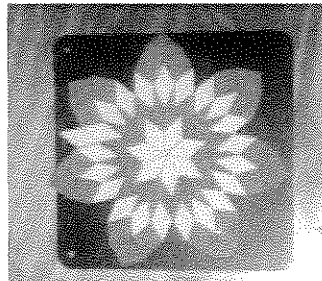
discussing various areas of the Montessori Elementary curriculum and how these ideas begin in the Children's House and are expanded and further explored in Elementary. We have a relatively new Montessori Elementary program here in Central Vermont: please come and see what the future holds!

I hope everyone has a wonderful New Year and stays healthy and warm.



Wish List

- Legos for aftercare (any size welcome).
- Low shelves that can be used in the classrooms and office.



Magnet art by a three-year-old.



Funding & Development

Parent's Night out Event Fundraiser

This year we are planning our 2nd Parent's Night Out Event in honor of all of YOU!

On Friday, February 15 treat yourself to a night out with

for our Tree Fundraiser in December.

Gisele Richards, for the wonderful fabric donated to the school for various projects.

All of our families, for all of the wonderful food and company at the Holiday Program and Potluck Celebration.

Jeremy Hansen, for helping with website updates.

Bill Garrard, for shoveling the office walkway.

The MSCVT Community, for a wonderful Holiday Celebration to start off the Holiday Break.

Tony Lamb Sr, A. Brooks Lamb and Anthony, for lowering and rehanging the coat rod in Darra Dane's classroom.



Caedin, Isaac, Lena, Ruth
and Luca deliver food to the
VT Food Bank.

Upcoming Montessori Elementary Presentation

Come discover what
Montessori Elementary
Program and Curriculum is all
about! From the history of
Maria Montessori's
educational philosophies to
the practical curriculum being
used in our school house
today. Childcare (with pizza!)
will be provided! Tuesday,
January 29, 5:30-7:00
(Inclement weather date:
January, 31st)

your partner and/or friends.

Staff at MSCVT will be
available to provide childcare
at school from 5-10pm

(hopefully to accommodate
those who still need to put
kids to bed and those who
would like to take advantage
and stay out a little later than
usual!) The cost will

be \$20.00 per child or \$35 for
two. Yes, this cost is NOT per
hour but total for the five
hours! Children not enrolled
currently will be accepted by
request (for example younger
siblings or friend's children) to
make sure we can

accommodate the number of
children and the age groups.

Children are welcome to
come in pajamas so they can
fall asleep here or be ready
for bed when you pick them
up. We will have food and fun
for the children and we hope
the same for the adults on
their night out!



Adelie and Ayla pose for a picture with a snowman the Elementary class worked to build.

You heard it here

"I have never been able to fit in the freezer before!"

Says a 5-year-old child visiting the large walk-in freezer at the Food Bank.

A child is working on tracing a puzzle map and says to a teacher, "Can you come help me, I am totally lost in this map."

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London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 1:38 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Berry, Patrick; Boes, Richard; Borie, Lou; Bothfeld, Diane; Candon, Tom; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Clasen, Michael; Cohen, Jeff; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Donegan, Susan; Duffy, Kate; Fischer, John; Flynn, Keith; Henry, Dixie; Hetzel, Christine; Hogan, Mike; Hollar, Jennifer; Ide, Robert; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; Lunge, Robin; Mackay, Noelle; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb; Mears, David; Menard, Lisa; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Murphy, Reeve; Noonan, Annie; Obuchowski, Mike; Pallito, Andy; Peterson, Mary; Porter, Louis; Provost, David; Racine, Doug; Reardon, Jim; Recchia, Chris; Reid, Martha; Richards, Alyson; Ross, Chuck; Royar, Kim; Searles, Brian; Shems, Ron; Smith, Gregory; Smith, Megan; Snyder, Michael; Spaulding, Jeb; Spaulding, Susan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Vilaseca, Armando; Volz, James; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wood, John; Yacovone, Dave; Zeller, Susan
Subject: Statewide Strategic Plan
Attachments: S-W Strategic Plan Final V5_Dec_17_2012.pdf

Hi folks,

I am very pleased to share the completed, though expected to continue evolving, version of our Statewide Strategic Plan. I expect you will agree it has come out extremely well and will be useful both as a management tool for our Administration and as an informational tool for the public.

The Statewide Strategic Plan as attached is the result of your excellent work in preparing your organizations' strategic plans with your teams. In its newly edited form it also reflects a new level of sophistication as a plan. The Priority Development Sessions in which you participated resulted in a truly statewide plan that reflects the intersections of your work across agencies, and the high level of collaboration and coordination it takes to run a state government. Congratulations. I am very proud of the work we have done so far to make strategic planning a meaningful function in Vermont State Government.

Please read through the statewide plan thoroughly. After each goal you will notice agencies or independent departments listed in parentheses. The first identified agency is the "owner" of that goal – the organization that is in the end accountable for its success. The other organizations listed with it are substantial stakeholders with goals in their own plans that are essential to the success of that statewide goal. These will become important markers in your organization's accountability for implementing the plan. What follows is an outline of my thinking on how implementation and reporting of the statewide plan and your individual agency/department plans will unfold from here. We can discuss this at an upcoming extended cabinet meeting.

Agency and Independent Department Strategic Plans

1. Annual Reports

- a. **Annual Written Report:** A written report on your organization's progress in implementing its strategic plan, with data and analysis of measures and outcomes, will be called for approximately two months ahead of the end of the fiscal year, and will be due with the close

of the fiscal year. A new, revised reporting template will be distributed with the announcement reminding you that the strategic plan report will be due. It will also be available on the Workforce Planning website of DHR.

- b. **Annual Check-ins with the Secretary of Administration:** Shortly after the submission of the annual reports, the Secretary of Administration will meet with each agency/independent department head to discuss progress and issues that may need to be addressed.
2. Engaging your Employees in Your Organization's Strategic Plan
Some of you very effectively engaged multiple levels of your organizations in the strategic planning process. Some of you used your higher level managers to create it. Either way, it is essential that each organization ensure all employees have the opportunity to review their organization's plan, know their role in it, and have the ability to provide feedback and input into goals and measures that are in their areas of expertise. This makes it hands-on for them, and will allow you and your managers to tie employees' development and performance goals to the plan. It will also give you a base for the next iteration of the plan – a base that comes from your employees as much as from your leadership.
3. Posting Your Organization's Strategic Plans
The statewide plan will be posted on the Agency of Administration website and on the DHR Workforce Development website. Each agency and independent department is expected to post its strategic plan on its website.

Statewide Strategic Plan: Agency/Independent Departments' Roles in Implementation and Reporting

1. Cabinet-Level Updates
We will conduct updates on each statewide priority at upcoming Cabinet and/or Extended Cabinet meetings, one priority at a time. The lead organization/owner of that priority will engage the other organizations listed as stakeholders in the goals under that priority, and prepare an update on progress in that priority, using as examples some of the measures coming from the participating organizations. Priority ownership is based on the organization that plays the leading role:
Priority 1 – The Economy: **Commerce and Community Development**
Priority 2 – Affordable Health Care: **Health Care Reform**
Priority 3 – Strong Families, Safe Communities: **Human Services**
Priority 4 – High Quality and Affordable Education: **Education**
Priority 5 – Environmental Conservation and Renewable Energy: **Natural Resources**
Priority 6 – Working Landscape: **Agriculture**
Priority 7 – Vermont's Physical Infrastructures: **Administration/Transportation**
Priority 8 – State Government and Employees: **Administration**
2. Goals that Indicate, "All of State Government"
Note that in Priority 8 several goals indicate as stakeholders, "All of State Government". This means that each of you are responsible for implementing this goal in your own organization. That may mean reaching out to a department in the Agency of Administration, or starting an initiative yourselves. It may mean adding a goal in your strategic plan. This is new, and was adopted

during the Priority Development Session on Priority 8. Here are a few high level examples. Please read the Plan for the others.

- **Goal 8.2.3:** Educate taxpayers, and modernize audit and compliance operations, in order to capture a greater percentage of taxable income and other uncollected taxes and fees across state government.
- **Goal 8.4.2:** Improve supervisory and performance management practices across State Government between 2011 and 2015 . . .
- **Goal 8.6.6:** Communicate effectively within state government and to our customers, including the use of plain English.
- **Goal 8.6.7:** Improve the State's website for accessibility and user-friendliness.
- **Goal 8.7.1:** State agencies and departments will have up to date continuity of operations (COOP) plans, which have been communicated to employees.
- **Goal 8.7.3:** Develop and implement facility security plans for all agencies and departments.

Tomorrow at a press conference with the Governor we will be providing an overview of the Statewide Strategic Plan, along with overviews of the Governor's Dashboard and the new financial transparency website.

You have all done great work on these plans. Please keep them alive and moving through the coming two years, and continue to use the goals in the statewide plan as guides to important points of collaboration between organizations. Thank you all for your efforts.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 12:14 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Shumlin outlines administration changes

For Immediate Release
Jan. 3, 2012

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Shumlin outlines administration changes

Governor re-establishes Department of Economic Development; appoints Vilaseca as Education Secretary

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin announced today that Armando Vilaseca will serve as the state's first Education Secretary for up to one year, helping the newly created agency transition into its new structure and working with the Administration to move an ambitious education agenda in the coming months. Vilaseca has served as Commissioner of Education since 2009, but moves into the Secretary's post as the Education Department elevates into an official state agency. Gov. Shumlin said he will be searching for a new Education Secretary next summer, with an expected transition by the next legislative session.

"I was lucky to have three strong candidates for the Secretary's post, but with my expansive education agenda, making a change in leadership right now does not make sense and I have confidence Armando is the right person to be sure we don't miss a beat in the coming months," Gov. Shumlin said. The Governor explained that he pushed hard to have state-level education leadership elevated to agency status, and wants a chance to bring in fresh thinking on education to be in the near future.

Vilaseca, who lives in Westford, has worked closely with the Governor on critical issues, including expanding early education, pressing for greater proficiency in math, and ensuring Vermont's schools are providing the education Vermont students need to compete in the global job market.

The Governor also announced that he is re-establishing the Department of Economic Development to focus exclusively on supporting Vermont businesses and recruiting new employers. That department had been rolled into Housing and Community Affairs during the previous gubernatorial administration. This change will not require additional personnel.

Commerce and Community Development Secretary Lawrence Miller said economic development is currently spearheaded by outgoing Deputy Secretary Patricia Moulton Powden. But, Miller added, that economic focus is a vital part of his agency's mission and demands a full-time focus. Miller said he will be running the search for the new Commissioner of Economic Development (recommendations should be sent to lawrence.miller@state.vt.us copying lori.camp@state.vt.us).

In addition, former state Rep. Lucy Leriche has been appointed Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Community Development. Leriche, of Hardwick, replaces Moulton Powden, who is leaving to take a position at the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation. Leriche has extensive experience overseeing multiple programs, including single family home programs, the Homeownership Center, housing development, rental housing operations; she also founded a not for profit organization for persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

"I am grateful that Lucy agreed to join the administration. Her professional experience running the Lamoille Housing Partnership is particularly valuable as we work on the long term recovery housing issues coming out of Irene" said Gov. Shumlin. "The broad policy experience she gained serving in the leadership of the Vermont House represents the type of perspective we need in the cabinet as we continue to break down the silos in state government."

In addition, the Governor announced that Sue Minter will step down from the post of Irene Recovery Officer on Jan. 11 to return to her position as Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Transportation. She will be replaced by Dave Rapaport, who has served as her deputy since Minter's appointment to lead the state's recovery efforts in early 2012.

"Sue has done a tremendous job of coordinating the efforts of state, federal and private partners that have enabled great progress in our recovery from Tropical Storm Irene over the past year," Governor Shumlin said. "While Irene recovery is not yet over, we need Sue's leadership back at the Agency of Transportation. The Irene Recovery Office will continue on and we're fortunate to have someone with Dave's capabilities and experience in the recovery that can step in to lead the next phase of these efforts."

Among changes in the Shumlin administration, Susan Allen was tapped as Deputy Chief of Staff. Allen, who has served as Special Assistant to the Governor since he took office in 2011, will continue to handle public and press communications for the Administration. In addition, she will oversee office and policy coordination, as well as constituent services. Allen replaces Alex MacLean, who is stepping down later this month to take a position in the private sector. Allen, of Calais, previously served in the administration of former Gov. Howard Dean, and worked as a journalist, most recently as editor of the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus.

Susan Bartlett, of Morrisville, former state Senator and chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, also joined the Shumlin administration as Special Assistant to the Governor, coordinating human services projects for the administration. She now moves to the Agency of Human Services as Special Projects Coordinator to focus on ensuring that low-income Vermonters have access to the skills and education they need to find good paying jobs.

In addition, former Rep. Floyd Nease has been appointed Director of Systems Integration, helping coordinate family services across Vermont, reducing the paperwork for families in need of state assistance, and speeding the flow of financial aid to those who qualify. Nease has in-depth experience in human services issues, previously serving as executive director of the Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery, director of Laraway Youth and Family Services, and as a Vermont state representative from 2002 until his resignation in January 2011.

"I am pleased to have both Susan and Floyd join the AHS leadership team. The Governor has given us the responsibility to address the benefits cliff issue, better coordinate services for children and families, reduce recidivism, and manage increasing caseloads in a difficult fiscal climate," Human Services Secretary Doug Racine said. "Floyd's and Susan's experiences and skills will be valuable assets as we take on all of our human services challenges."

####

London, Sarah

From: Mason, James (HHS/IEA) <james.mason@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 11:24 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Dioguardi, Paul (HHS/IEA); Barson, Emily (HHS/IEA); Hager, Christie (HHS/IEA/ORD); Witkowski, Kasia (HHS/IEA); Snow, Jennifer (HHS/IEA); Moushey, Allyn (HHS/IEA)
Subject: Secretary Sebeilus provides conditional approval for Vermont Exchange
Attachments: Governor Peter Shumlin.pdf; Vermont_regional_release_1 03 2013 (Final).docx.docx

Dear Bill and Aly:

Today, Secretary Sebelius announced that Vermont has made significant progress on setting up its affordable health insurance Exchange, and she has conditionally approved Kentucky to operate a State-based Exchange. A copy of the Secretary's letter to Governor Shumlin and the HHS press release are attached.

Congratulations.

Paul Dioguardi
Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

London, Sarah

From: Market & Credit Risk Department <creditdepartment@iso-ne.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 10:56 AM
To: Market & Credit Risk Department
Cc: Gerity, Patrick; Montalvo, Marc; Ludlow, Robert; George, Anne; Johnson, Eric
Subject: Confidential - All Participants Notice 01/03/13
Attachments: AllParticipantNotice_Financial Assurance_01.03.13.doc

Sensitivity: Confidential

Market & Credit Risk Dept.
ISO New England Inc.

London, Sarah

From: Stubbs, Anne <adsconeg@sso.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Alexander Cochran; Richards, Alyson; Lofy, Bill; Dan DeSimone; Hoag, Jamie; Jonathan Nass; Kelly Mahoney; Kenneth Fletcher; Liz Donohue; Liz Gray; Liz Hanson; Caroline Powers; Kathleen Newman ; Kyla Hynes; Ryan Dalton ; Young, Valerie; Yomika S. Bennett
Cc: Daniel Morley; (bdluci@budget.state.ny.us); Alana Murphy; Brian Daniels; Charles Small; Chris Kerns; David Guttchen; David LeVasseur; Donny Duvall ; Janet Coit; Jonathan Stevens; Nicole Peopping; Paul Mounds; Rachel Lipsey; Robin White ; Steven Carvalho; Tony Giardina
Subject: CONEG Congress Update: 113th Congress Convenes, Disaster Assistance, Fiscal Cliff, Energy, and Transportation
Attachments: Shuster - Transportation Priorities_1-2-13.pdf



CONGRESS UPDATE: JANUARY 3, 2013 SCHEDULE

House: Adjourns the 112th Congress. The 113th Congress convenes, swears in new members, elects Speaker, and votes on rules package.
Senate: Convenes the 113th Congress. New and returning members are sworn in.

The 113th Congress will convene at noon today with new members sworn-in in both chambers. The House will elect a Speaker and vote on a package of rules. Rep. Boehner is expected to keep his position as Speaker, although the vote might not be unanimous after the bruising fiscal cliff debate and this week's reaction to his plan for the disaster aid bill. Rep. Nancy Pelosi is also expected to retain her role as Minority Leader.

The House Rules for the 113th will reportedly continue the chamber's ban on earmarks, but it's unclear whether Rep. Young (R-AK) will continue his efforts to offer an amendment that would soften the definition of an earmark to allow funding for federal, state or local government entities as long as the item does not violate the Budget Committee allocation.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Reid has decided not to offer the proposed modification to filibuster rule on this first day of the 113th Congress, since opposition remains. During the next two weeks, he will continue to negotiate the filibuster rules with Minority Leader McConnell. To ensure that only a simple majority will be needed to adopt the rules changes, Senator Reid is expected to use a procedure that keeps the Senate's first legislative day continuing for up to two weeks – by recessing (rather than adjourning) the Senate.

BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & TAXES

Disaster Assistance: After Northeast lawmakers unleashed vociferous criticism on House Republican leaders who chose to delay action on Hurricane Sandy assistance until mid-January, Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor announced that the House will vote on the first installment of assistance tomorrow and the remainder on January 15. On Friday, the House will take up a bill to provide \$9.7B in additional borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program. Without the additional funds, the program is expected to run out of money to pay claims within the next week. On January 15 the House will take up the \$50B

remainder of the disaster assistance package – possibly divided into two parts – one for immediate recovery needs and the other for longer-term mitigation projects. If adopted by the House, the measures will need to be considered in the Senate (although the Senate already passed a \$60.4B disaster aid bill, that legislation “dies” at the end of the 112th Congress). It is not clear at this point whether the Senate will draft its own measure or act on the House version.

Fiscal Cliff: The President yesterday signed the tax package (H.R. 8) that avoids the fiscal cliff and delays the sequester until March. Members and interest groups continue to read through the document and make statements about what is and isn’t in the bill and what remains to be done in the 113th Congress. Federal agencies can breathe a little easier since the measure reduces the size of the sequester by \$24B to reflect the bill’s two-month delay in the enactment of the \$109B in across-the-board cuts (i.e., the still pending sequester was reduced proportionality to the remaining months in the fiscal year). The farm and agriculture community are relieved that some farm and dairy programs were not allowed to expire but acknowledge that the status quo can’t be maintained and that a multi-year farm bill that provides farmers with a permanent safety net still needs to be addressed.

Congress and the White House are already setting stage for the next round of fiscal debate - the late February/March convergence of hitting the federal debt limit, the expiration of the current CR, and the scheduled enactment of the postponed sequester, all at the same time a massive overhaul of the U.S. tax code gets underway. Within minutes of the House passage of the New Year’s fiscal cliff deal, President Obama made a statement that he will not bargain for an increase in the debt limit, but it appears that Republican leaders in both chambers will be adamant that any increase in the debt ceiling be matched with an equal amount of spending cuts. As discussions begin, each of the deadlines is likely to become leverage for negotiations on the others. It will likely be another tough session on Capitol Hill.

ENERGY& ENVIRONMENT

Of Interest: The Canadian government has announced plans to permanently exempt home heating oil from the country’s 2 percent renewable fuel content requirement and temporarily exempt diesel fuel in the Maritime Provinces. According to Environment Minister Peter Kent, the exemptions will ensure that “Canadian families are not penalized for heating their homes with home heating oil,” and will provide the Maritime Provinces more time to comply with new requirements. The press release can be found at

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=919728CA-C01F-4167-BECE-421767645561>

TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Shuster, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 113th Congress, has outlined his priorities and approach for transportation – viewing the national transportation system as being the system that binds the nation and supports business. His remarks are attached.

Anne Stubbs
Executive Director
CONEG Policy Research Center, Inc.
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 382
Washington, DC 20001
p/(202) 624-8450
f/(202) 624-8463
www.coneg.org

London, Sarah

From: Appleby, Leigh
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 10:21 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Thursday morning social media

Twitter – January 3, 2012

11:00 am Happening now: Gov. Shumlin holds a press conference at his Pavilion office in #Montp. #vtgov

11:20 am Gov. Shumlin has announced legislation to re-establish the Department of Economic Development.

11:25 am The Department of economic Development will focus exclusively on supporting VT businesses & recruiting new employers.

11:35 am Gov. Shumlin has asked Armando Vilaseca to serve as Secretary of Education for up to 1 yr to ensure @VTEducation transitions smoothly into a state agency.

11:45 am Former VT Rep. Lucy Leriche will take over as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Community Development.

11:50 am Susan Allen has been tapped as Gov. Shumlin's Deputy Chief of Staff. She will handle communications & oversee office & policy coordination.

12:00 pm Fmr Sen. Susan Bartlett will move from the Governor's office to the Agency of Human Services & serve as Special Projects Coordinator.

12:15 pm Fmr Rep. Floyd Nease has been appointed Director of Systems Integration at AHS, helping coordinate family services across VT.

2:30 pm \$6 million in VEDA financing will help support business and farm projects throughout #VT.
[#http://vermontbiz.com/news/january/veda-approves-6-million-economic-development-financing](http://vermontbiz.com/news/january/veda-approves-6-million-economic-development-financing) #vtgov #vtjobs

Facebook – January 3, 2012

12:00 pm Governor Shumlin has announced legislation to reestablish the Department of Economic Development to focus exclusively on supporting Vermont businesses and recruiting new employers. The department had been rolled into Housing and Community Affairs during the previous gubernatorial administration.

8:15 pm Today, Governor Shumlin announced changes in his administration designed to boost economic development, get Vermonters back to work, and strengthen our education system. Among the changes, the Governor appointed Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca to serve as Vermont's first Education Secretary for up to one year, helping the newly created agency transition into its new structure and working with the Administration to move an ambitious education agenda in the coming months. In addition, former state Rep. Lucy Leriche has been appointed Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, Susan Allen has been tapped as Governor Shumlin's Deputy Chief of Staff, former Sen. Susan Bartlett has been reassigned from the Governor's Office to the Agency of Human Services where she will serve as Special Projects Coordinator, and former Rep. Floyd Nease has been appointed Director of Systems Integration at the Agency of Human Services.

Leigh Appleby

Office of Gov. Peter Shumlin

109 State Street, Pavilion

Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: (802)828-3333

Fax: (802)828-3339

Cell: (802)279-6825

leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

Visit Governor Shumlin's Online Resources:

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

London, Sarah

From: David Gunn <dgunn@vlct.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:47 AM
To: Info
Subject: Correction to article in January VLCT News

The article titled "VMERS Groups B and C Employer Contribution Rates to Rise July 1" in the January 2013 VLCT News erroneously said "The employer rates for Group A (4 percent) and D (9.5 percent) will remain unchanged at least for another year." Actually, the VMERS Board increased the Group D employer rate from 9.5% to 9.75%. That rate increase, along with the increases in B and C rates, takes effect on July 1, 2013. VLCT regrets the error.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:43 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: From yesterday, but some of you did not receive this:

For Immediate Release
Jan. 2, 1012

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Shumlin and other leaders announce changes to pension system to protect taxpayers

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin was joined by Treasurer Beth Pearce, Attorney General Bill Sorrell, union leaders, House Speaker Shap Smith and Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, and others today to announce they will pass early in the upcoming legislative session changes to the State, teacher and municipal employees pension systems that will allow judges to order that any public employee forfeit some or all of their pension if they are convicted of certain financial crimes related to their employment. This includes offenses like embezzlement, theft, bribery and other crimes that involve an abuse of public office for financial gain. Roughly half of states have some type of law dealing with pension issues linked to criminal cases.

"We need to ensure taxpayers are protected when an employee is convicted of fraud or other financial crimes linked to their public office," Gov. Shumlin said. The measure will not be applied to cases already prosecuted or being prosecuted; if approved by the Legislature, the changes would apply to new convictions. "I think this proposal strikes a good balance of protecting taxpayer money while not being unduly punitive against employees and their innocent dependents."

Treasurer Pearce agreed, adding, "While most public employees are dedicated and honest, financial crimes have occurred and are a violation of public trust. The proposal provides a fair and reasonable mechanism to recoup funds on behalf of the taxpayer when such acts occur."

"Public employees who steal from the public treasury should not be allowed to benefit in retirement from their ill-gotten gains," said the Attorney General. "Pension forfeiture legislation will provide a process that will allow a court to ensure this does not happen and will provide, in addition, a source of funds from which restitution may be made."

Under the proposal, judges would have the option of ordering --that some or all of an employee's pension be forfeited. The judge is directed to consider a number of factors, including the severity of the crime, the amount of money the state or town has lost, the degree of public trust placed in the individual, and whether innocent family members depend on the pension (pension could be redirected to innocent family). This reflects the fact that each of these cases presents a different set of facts to be taken into account before requiring someone to lose their pension.

Connecticut enacted a similar law in 2008 in an attempt to prevent former Gov. John Rowland from receiving his pension. He was convicted in 2004 of selling access to his office for personal gain.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 9:16 AM
To: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Follow-up

From: Paul Heintz [mailto:paul@sevendaysvt.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Follow-up

They're not all yes or no questions (this is what they look like: <http://7d.blogs.com/offmessage/2012/12/where-do-your-lawmakers-stand-gun-rights.html>). And 'yes' isn't the NRA's preferred answer, presumably, for many of them. I don't want to guess what his answers are and get it wrong.

I understand Darin Goens would be more than happy to send you a copy of the survey with a simple email. Here's his address: dgoens@nrahq.org

You can copy me on the email, if that would be convenient.

On Wed, Jan 2, 2013 at 1:57 PM, Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:
He told you he answered "yes" to all the questions. Do you need the questions ... he thought you had them. Sue

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

From: Paul Heintz [mailto:paul@sevendaysvt.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 1:06 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Follow-up

Hey Sue,

I'm confused about why the gov won't ask the NRA for a copy of his questionnaire. It would just take an email. Any rationale reason to decline to provide that to his constituents and the media?

Thanks,
Paul

--

// SEVEN DAYS //
:: Paul Heintz
:: Staff Writer
:: <http://sevendaysvt.com>
:: 802.865.1020 ext. 30
:: twitter: @paulheintz

London, Sarah

From: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:54 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: iPad

Bill,

See below. I checked out Apple and a new Ipad 2 Wi-Fi 3 G 16 GB is selling for \$529.

Let me know.

Michael

From: Lamos, Terry
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: RE: iPad

I am assuming this item is still in excellent condition and would suggest a price of \$400.00. Thanks

Teresa Lamos
BGS - Government Business Services
Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property
438 US Route 2
Waterbury VT 05671-4210
Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386
terry.lamos@state.vt.us

From: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:12 PM
To: Lamos, Terry
Subject: RE: iPad

See yellow highlight below.

From: Lamos, Terry
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:11 PM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: RE: iPad

I will need to know what the state paid for it as sometimes we pay less (via contract or P/O) than the usual list price. Looks like this item lists for around \$529.99 and ebay prices are strong for used units in good condition - ranging from \$350 - \$470.

Per the DII Digital Media and Hardware Disposal - Policy  I will need approval from them to make the sale with applicable memory device(s) in place.

Thanks

Teresa Lamos
BGS - Government Business Services
Postal Center - Print Shop - Surplus Property
438 US Route 2

Waterbury VT 05671-4210
Telephone: (802) 241-3387 Fax: (802) 241-3386
terry.lamos@state.vt.us

From: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:53 PM
To: Lamos, Terry
Subject: FW: iPad

Ipad 2 Wi-Fi 3G 16GB. Looks like it is almost a year old.

The question is how much would we charge him to allow him to keep it—assuming DII scrubs any relevant state related data.

Thanks.

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: iPad

It was \$629.99 purchased in Feb. 2012.

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: McGarvin, Shawn
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:45 AM
To: Trombley, Shana; Lofy, Bill; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa
Subject: 1/03/13

Det. Trooper Shawn McGarvin

*Vermont State Police
Executive Protection Unit
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609*

London, Sarah

From: Lunge, Robin
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:31 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Allen, Susan; Porter, Louis; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Fwd: from CCIIO - Roll out today

fyi - Exchange approval coming to GPS at 11am. We'll put out the release asap afterwards.

Robin Lunge
Director of Health Care Reform

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Tucker, Lindsey" <Lindsey.Tucker@state.vt.us>
Date: January 3, 2013 8:24:34 AM EST
To: "Lunge, Robin" <Robin.Lunge@state.vt.us>, "Larson, Mark" <Mark.Larson@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Melamed, Marisa" <Marisa.Melamed@state.vt.us>, "Gregorek, Sarah" <Sarah.Gregorek@state.vt.us>, "Sheehan, Sean" <Sean.Sheehan@state.vt.us>
Subject: from CCIIO - Roll out today

Good morning!

Dawn sent today's schedule. The Governor should receive our letter at **11am**, and our detailed letter will follow at **11:30am**. We will work to have the press release and announcement to the legislature released by early afternoon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sean, would be terrific for you or Emily to listen in to the afternoon press call.

Thanks,
L

From: Horner, Dawn C. (CMS/CCIIO) [<mailto:Dawn.Horner@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:20 AM
To: Tucker, Lindsey
Subject: FW: Roll out today - Final Batch of Approvals

Lindsey – This is roll out schedule for today! Note, we are releasing state partnership exchange guidance at the same time. Once we send the conditional approval letter to the Governor, I will send you the Exchange-specific letter so more to come! Dawn

Thursday, January 3rd

AM	ASPA Backgrounds regional and national reporters
9:30am	CCIIO notifies state exchanges (embargoed)
11:00am	OL/ASL notification
11:00am	IEA sends Blueprint Conditional approval letters to governors

11:15am CCIIO notifies stakeholders
11:30am TAG notifies tribes
11:30am CCIIO sends out approvals to Exchanges
Press releases issued
Guidance doc and factsheet posts (cciio.cms.gov)

1:30pm Press call (KGS, Gary Cohen; Amanda Cowley, Devon Trolley, Vicki Gottlich staff)
DIAL- IN:
PASSCODE:

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3 (FINAL):

VTDIGGER:

Shumlin proposes to allow confiscation of public employee pensions

ALICIA FREESE

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced a proposal today to make the pensions of public employees subject to forfeiture if they are convicted of fraud, embezzlement or other financial crimes.

Under current law, the state can withdraw money from a public employee's pension to correct for inflated hours or other types of fraud but it cannot order restitution beyond that amount. Under Shumlin's proposal, which was drafted with input from the Vermont Attorney General's Office and the Treasurer's Office, the pensions of state and municipal employees and teachers would no longer be impervious to confiscation.

Shumlin told reporters at one of three scheduled press conferences this week that the point of the proposal is to ensure that "If you rip off the public ... the judge has the discretion to order those dollars to be repaid to the state, or some portion of them."

State Treasurer Beth Pearce said, "For me, the bottom line is taxpayers should not have to pay for retirement benefits for a public official that has violated the public trust through acts of fraud or embezzlement."

The proposal was prompted by the case of Vermont State Police Sgt. James Deeghan, who is pleading innocent to two felony charges for committing timesheet fraud to the tune of about \$139,000. The legislation, however, would be prospective, so it would not apply to the Deeghan case or other pending or past cases.

"I think it is a good tool to have," said Chittenden County State's Attorney TJ Donovan, the prosecutor for the Deeghan case. Donovan declined to comment on what measures he would take to obtain retribution from Deeghan, but he said, "Reimbursement and restitution is an issue that we are taking very seriously."

When making a decision about pension forfeiture, a judge would weigh a handful of factors including the scale of the crime, the degree to which public trust was betrayed, and the number of unimplicated family members dependent upon the pension.

Shumlin told reporters that the proposal has solid support from the state's unions, and, to prove the point, he brought along Michael O'Neil, head of the Vermont Troopers Association, the union for state police officers, as well as representatives from the Vermont National Education Association and other unions, to the press conference.

Rep. William Lippert, D-Hinesburg, and Sen. Richard Sears, D-North Bennington, chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary committees, respectively, have pledged to take up the pension reform legislation early on in the upcoming session.

Shumlin said the state's audits have not revealed any other instances of timesheet fraud, substantiating his hunch that the Deeghan case "was an isolated instance of fraud." But, the governor added, the case was a wake-up call to the state that it needs to have recourse to recoup taxpayer dollars when financial crimes do occur.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn updated reporters on the steps his department has taken to reform their payroll procedures in the wake of the Deeghan case.

- The department conducted a three-month internal audit of all Vermont State Police timesheets, followed by a six-month audit of timesheets at the Williston barracks, where Deeghan was based.
- A supervisor must approve all timesheets, verifying their accuracy through review of radio logs. (Deeghan has been accused of signing his timesheets, acting as his own supervisor.)
- There will be an automatic review of timesheets whenever an individual's overtime hours exceeds 20 hours during a single pay period.
- At least one lieutenant in both the northern and southern regions of the state will now work during the night shifts, which, Flynn said, will provide greater oversight of overtime decisions.

Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding said an external forensics audit commissioned by the state Auditor's Office is due out within the month.

Norwich University must pay \$1.3 million in fines

ALICIA FREESE

Norwich University, a private military college in Vermont, must pay \$1.3 million for improperly doling out federal financial aid to its students.

A review carried out in 2008 by the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Division revealed that 152 Norwich University students had been awarded financial aid for which they did not qualify.

The \$1.3 million covers the cost of the over-allocated funds as well as a penalty fee. The university is not responding to media inquiries and it has not released information about where the \$1.3 million will come from. In a letter sent to students and alumni, the university's president, Richard W. Schneider, wrote that the administration had made "financial provisions" in advance of the settlement, and "for that reason our students, faculty and staff have experienced no negative impact or diminished services as a result of this settlement."

The Associated Press reported that the investigation traced the fraud to one university official who, between 2004 and 2006, had encouraged incoming students to indicate they were independent on financial aid forms, regardless of their actual status. The official has since been fired, according to the AP.

Pelham: Political labels are quick and easy, and often wrong

Editor's note: This op-ed is by Tom Pelham, a co-founder of Campaign for Vermont. He served as Finance commissioner in the Dean administration, Tax commissioner in the Douglas administration and was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives as an independent, serving on the Appropriations Committee.

In coverage of Campaign for Vermont's education reform proposal, VTDigger reporter Alicia Freese quickly frames her story. Four words into the article the adjective "conservative" is deployed to label Campaign for Vermont (CFV), yet nowhere in the story are there details as to what elements of CFV's reform proposal fit her attribution.

Was it that the source of the report's data somehow had a conservative tilt? No. Most of the report's data came from the Picus Report, an independent analysis contracted by the Democrat-controlled Vermont Legislature and published last January.

Maybe it's the fact that Campaign for Vermont proposed streamlining management (a.k.a. Vermont's 60+ supervisory unions) while enhancing the influence of Vermont's treasured local school districts, thus saving money to reinvest in higher teachers' salaries and universal early education? But this can't be characterized as "conservative" when an overwhelming majority of liberal and moderate policymakers support local school districts, higher teacher salaries and universal early education?

Well, maybe then it's that our reforms are geared to generate \$160 million in savings that can be redirected to fund the higher teachers' salaries and universal early education we recommend? Yes, \$160 million is a big number but put in context, it doesn't overwhelm. During the period covered by the Picus Report (2000 to 2011), Vermont's spending per pupil grew from \$6,981 to \$16,788, a rate equal to 8.3 percent per year. If the rate had been 7.1 percent per year, Vermont's K-12 education spending would be lower by \$160 million. Maybe things have gone wacky in some corners of Vermont, but most reasonable Vermonters would consider a 7.1 percent growth rate as quite liberal and that reshaping Vermont's school system to achieve more student-centered investments a worthy endeavor. Can VTDigger agree that 7.1 percent is a hefty growth rate?

Or maybe it's just simply that VTDigger's leadership and associates have a philosophical tilt themselves that makes Campaign for Vermont seem conservative, and so it is written.

In Vermont, folks wear many hats during a career in public service or advocacy, causing labels such as "conservative" or "liberal" to be very misleading.

Further along in the article, the reporter reaches out to Bill Talbott, the chief financial officer of the Department of Education for commentary on CFV's reforms. Given the ready labeling at the start of the article, it's of some surprise that readers were not informed of Mr. Talbott's history as a "liberal" legislator during the era of Speakers Wright and Obuchowski. Or that the reporter didn't infer from the 8.3 percent growth rate in education spending per pupil during his tenure as chief financial officer that Mr. Talbott is not quite a dispassionate observer. Or examine his votes in 2009 as a member of the Commission on Design and Funding of Retirement where he opposed the majority, comprised of both Democrats and Republicans, in recommending numerous cost-saving reforms. Given the eagerness to label at the story's beginning, wouldn't it be both fair and balanced to label the article's opinion givers as well?

It's noticeable that in other recent VTDigger stories that advocacy groups like VPIRG, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Alliance for a Healthy Vermont and the Vermont Workers' Center are not labeled as "liberal advocacy" groups. In fact, while I would expect journalistic balance to cause its existence, a search of VTDigger for the phrase "liberal advocacy" resulted in the response "Apologies, but no results were found." This is the way it should be, but applied across the full political spectrum. Such labeling is a reporter's or editor's subjective perspective, suggesting for readers a journalistic shortcut around the content and merits of the covered subject. CFV's education reform proposal is not a conservative proposal nor is it a liberal proposal. There are many more buckets in public policy than just those two.

In Vermont, folks wear many hats during a career in public service or advocacy, causing labels such as "conservative" or "liberal" to be very misleading. Linked are letters from Gov. Dean's Secretary of Administration Kathy Hoyt (Hoyt's letter) and me (Pelham's letter) to then-Sen. Jeb Spaulding, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The handwritten commentary is Gov. Dean's. On behalf of the governor, both Kathy and I note that the House-passed budget is irresponsible and express Gov. Dean's opposition and likely veto if Sen. Spaulding follows the House's lead. We don't approach the dispute by calling the House budget "liberal" or "conservative"; we say it's misguided and we present a cogent argument why.

What was important about the letters to Sen. Spaulding was their content and whether or not Vermont was on a sustainable budget path. That our position was labeled as "conservative" by some was irrelevant. Kathy Hoyt is a well regarded liberal and activist Democrat, but her assertive pursuit of fiscal responsibility doesn't make her a "conservative" advocate. The legacy of Gov. Dean's fiscal stridency was that he ignored the labeling and got the substance right and Vermont entered the 21st century with budgets that were not overextended and on sound fiscal footing. That good standing has been sustained, until recently.

With the override of Gov. Douglas's budget veto in 2009, the trajectory of the state's budget has changed significantly. Spending has drifted outside the current capacity of our tax system. Either significantly higher taxes will be necessary to sustain the status quo or major and difficult reforms, such as in education, will be necessary to find and harvest savings to support recent spending expansion as well as new initiatives.

Campaign for Vermont well understands this underlying dynamic and encourages Vermonters to engage these important issues to avoid our own "fiscal cliff." We urge VTDigger to extract, highlight and explore the critical substance of public issues before Vermonters and leave journalistic shortcuts like "conservative" and "liberal" to the political operators whose passions often blind them to the greater good.

Sutton Fay: Health insurance exchange costs for VHAP, Catamount users is prohibitive

Editor's note: Donna Sutton Fay is the policy director for the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security Education Fund.

Vermont has accomplished more than most states to help working Vermonters gain access to affordable health coverage through programs like VHAP and Catamount Health. We are at the forefront of health care reform and once again Vermont was named as the healthiest state in the nation.

Why would Gov. Shumlin advocate for increasing costs to working Vermonters when the health benefit exchange starts January 2014 and moving the state backwards?

VHAP and Catamount Health will end Jan. 1, 2014, when the health benefit exchange starts. These programs provide the only option for affordable coverage for working Vermonters. The end of these programs will affect about 30,000 Vermonters, including those who currently are enrolled and those who are uninsured who will have to obtain coverage through the exchange.

Those in Catamount Health could see their out-of-pocket maximum increase from \$1,050 year to as much as \$6,250 year.

In the exchange, their out-of-pocket (OOP) costs increase dramatically. These are costs paid on top of premiums. Those in Catamount Health could see their OOP maximum increase from \$1,050 year to as much as \$6,250 year. The combination of premiums and OOP costs is about 28 percent of gross income for someone making about \$34,000 who reaches the OOP maximum. Working Vermonters in these tough economic times do not have savings to fall back on. Those with chronic or disabling conditions are most at risk. It can take only one accident or medical crisis to be faced with overwhelming medical debt. Faced with such high costs, Vermonters will not get care when they need it or simply not enroll.

We do not have to go backwards. The Legislature already prioritized this spending to provide affordable coverage to working Vermonters. It should not be taken away now. We must do all we can to keep moving forward on the promise of universal affordable coverage for all Vermonters.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:05 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3:

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

The gift that goes on 'giftig'

by: Sue Prent

Wed Jan 02, 2013 at 19:00:00 PM EST

With all the toothsome issues competing for our attention these days, it's difficult to give nuclear energy concerns their due.

But **Vermont Yankee** still rumbles away, unchecked, on the banks of the Connecticut River; and the catastrophic events at **Fukushima** continue to be compounded by regulatory failures, corporate corruption and public deceit.

So at the dawn of 2013, almost two years after the Fukushima disaster coincided with NRC relicensing of VY, here is a GMD run-down on some things nuclear.

Let's start with a new **Fairewinds** video release.

Revisiting the principle technical issues which affected outcomes at Fukushima, **Arnie Gundersen** explains how revelations over the past two years have borne out **Fairewinds'** early analysis while effectively demonstrating the culture of denial that still plagues the entire industry.

He goes on to discuss how this fundamental dysfunction has resulted in regulatory paralysis, with the NRC

avoiding analysis of damage to many nuclear plants' emergency cooling systems (Ultimate Heat Sink) from storm surges, tsunamis or dam failures.

The bad news from Fukushima just keeps on coming.

New estimates for the overall **cost of the disaster** are now in excess of \$60 Billion. Compensation costs alone have increased steadily and now stand at \$38 Billion and counting.

It has recently been revealed that, at the height of the disaster on March 16, 2011 **communications between TEPCO's head office and workers at the plant were severed:**

the communications line between TEPCO's head office in Tokyo and the on-site workers was cut off, but the emergency responders at Fukushima Daiichi were unable to deal with the problem because its communications staff had been evacuated. The disconnection is thought to have been caused by the erroneous severing of the fiber-optic cables during work to restore a power substation in Fukushima prefecture.

And crewmembers of the **USS Ronald Reagan**, who were enlisted in the relief effort, are now **suing TEPCO** for misrepresenting the radiation levels in order to minimize the sense of risk.

On March 14th, the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and other US Navy ships in the Pacific were repositioned after detecting radioactive materials from the Fukushima Daiichi plant, in total seven US Navy ships were swiftly moved to the eastern coast of Japan, and the crews were exposed to radiation from airborne plumes. "TEPCO pursued a policy to cause rescuers, including the plaintiffs, to rush into an unsafe area which was too close to the FNPP [Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant] that had been damaged. Relying upon the misrepresentations regarding health and safety made by TEPCO ... the U.S. Navy was lulled into a false sense of security," the complaint states.

The U.S.'s aging "fleet" of nuclear power plants have not been without their share of incident, either.

The **San Onofre** plant operated by South California Edison has been out of commission since last January due to structural integrity issues and a radiation leak. Now, as Edison seeks permission to restart the plant, regulators have declared the plant unsafe and it will likely be offline for many more months, if not forever.

Recently, a pair of engineers asked the Senate to investigate safety threats to the security of the **Indian Point** power facility in upstate New York and at **Oconee Nuclear Station** in South Carolina.

Another Entergy albatross, Indian Point sits atop gas lines which, in the event of engineering failures or natural disaster, have the potential to unleash a disaster to dwarf that of Fukushima due to the facility's close proximity of New York City.

Oconee is located downstream from a dam, which represents similar risk from engineering failure or natural disaster.

The engineers point out that the risk to these two facilities has been common knowledge for some time now, but both the NRC and Congress have refused to take action.

Here at home in Vermont, we seem to be unable to shed the spectre of Vermont Yankee. Even if the miraculous came to pass and the plant shut down tomorrow, our children and grandchildren would still have to live with the legacy of decommissioning costs and associated risks for decades to come.

And, after twenty-five years of uncertainty, the future of **Yucca Mountain's nuclear waste repository** remains in limbo.

The German word for poison is 'gift.' 'Giftig' means 'poisonous.'

It is ironically appropriate for describing nuclear energy, which once was sold to the American public as the ultimate clean, cheap, and safe energy solution.

If we'd only known.

The Week of Three Pressers, pt. 1: Legalizing pension clawbacks

by: jvwalt

Wed Jan 02, 2013 at 14:07:28 PM EST

As promised, the stub has now been fleshed out with more pulse-pounding details of today's presser!!!

This morning, Governor Shumlin held the first of his three news conferences in three successive days. The subject was a new proposal (pretty much exactly as outlined a few days ago in the *Freeploid*: a bill that would allow the state to seek repayment of a public-sector employee's pension if that employee is convicted of padding his/her pension fraudulently. The amount of repayment would be at a judge's discretion, and could be full or partial.

(If today's presser was any indication, I expect that Thursday's and Friday's will also focus on a top-priority item for the Legislative session that begins next week.)

The front of the room was crowded today; there were so many public officials (and others) on hand that they may well have outnumbered the reporters. There was a purpose to the abundance of suits: to showcase broad support for the proposal. Among those playing Pip to Shumlin's Gladys Knight: Attorney General Bill Sorrell, Treasurer Beth Pearce, State Police Commissioner Keith Flynn, Speaker Shap Smith, and House Judiciary Committee Chair Bill Lippert (who spoke for himself and on behalf of his Senate counterpart Dick Sears), plus representatives of several public-sector unions and members of the state pension board.

Shumlin and Smith promised quick action on the bill, but would not offer a timeframe or deadline. But today's presser was clearly designed to show that all interested parties are on board with this.

jvwalt :: The Week of Three Pressers, pt. 1: Legalizing pension clawbacks

First of all, in response to a Comment posted by ApacheTrout (Kilgore's brother?), the proposal would allow flexibility in how much illicitly-obtained pension money could be recouped. It would be up to a judge to determine the figure of repayment. Could be the whole megilla, could be just a portion thereof.

And now, on to the rest of the story.

Shumlin went to great pains, repeatedly, to confine this scandal to a single bad apple. At one point, literally. Yeah, he pulled out the aw-shucks-just-a-Vermont-boy routine again:

As a kid who used to work on an apple farm, I can tell you that when you find one worm in an apple, it doesn't mean that all the apples have worms.

... I am proud of our state police force, and we should be clear, it was my suspicion that this was an isolated incident of fraud, and so far our investigation has backed that up.

Shumlin bases his faith in the single-fraudster theory on the clean results of two internal audits. So far, no other fraudsters have been found. Of course, the audits covered only three months' worth of VSP time sheets for the entire force, plus another three months' worth for the Winooski post, where Deeghan plied his trade. But Shumlin's faith is strong.

(We're still waiting for results of an independent forensic audit commissioned by the State Auditor's office; Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding expects that report "in a month or so.")

As for reforms that would actually address Deeghan's exploitation of an apparently lax system, State Police Commissioner Flynn offered a few "meaningful changes," including...

-- New restrictions on requests for leave, comp time or personal time. From now on, they must all be approved by a supervisor.

-- Overtime claims will be more thoroughly vetted, and compared with duty logs and other databases. Also, whenever a trooper reports more than 20 hours of overtime in a single pay period, it will be red-flagged for special review.

-- A change in the watch-commander system. Currently, a single lieutenant is on call during the night shift in the north and south. In the future, those lieutenants will actually work the shift and take direct responsibility for any supervisory decisions that need to be made.

The comic relief in today's news conference was provided by the Freeploid's Mike Donoghue, who came with an apparent brief to push the transparency issue (a priority for the paper in 2013, as stated by publisher [Jim Fogler](#)). Donoghue pushed and prodded for new information on the Deeghan case, and Shumlin refused to take the bait. The Administration's position is that it won't comment on Deeghan or release any more information until the court case is over, for fear of tainting the prosecution. Which led to the following exchange:

DONOGHUE: How many criminal cases have been overturned by the Vermont Supreme Court because of an outside comment?

SHUMLIN: You probably wouldn't ask that question unless you knew the answer.

DONOGHUE: Zero. So there should be no problem with you making a comment.

SHUMLIN: I know you don't agree with our position, but we have to balance our concern with transparency with our wish to win the case.

A while later, Donoghue brought up the 973 bogus traffic citations allegedly submitted by Deeghan. Because his defense attorney objected, those motorists have yet to be notified that they were, in a sense, victims of Deeghan's fraud. Donoghue asked Shumlin if it was "crazy" that the defense attorney could block notification.

SHUMLIN: As soon as the folks who are prosecuting this case have it resolved, immediately following that resolution, a letter should go out to all the people whose names were used fraudulently, to reassure them that there was no actual effect on their record.

DONOGHUE: But the effect may have already happened.

SHUMLIN: All I can tell you is what I have asked to happen.

When Donoghue asked another follow-up, Shumlin resorted to the old standby, "No comment."

Finally, near the end of the presser, the Associated Press' Dave Gram asked the obvious question: how did state law come to bar clawbacks of illicitly-obtained pension money?

The answer: Nobody knows. Jeb Spaulding offered his educated guess:

I think that goes back to the 1940s when the system was put in place, and the thinking was that your pension was like a property right. So they made it untouchable.

In other words, it's another example of something I've come across many times in Vermont: satisfaction with the status quo. I've called it "grandfather's lightbulb" syndrome, after the old joke:

--How many Vermonters does it take to change a light bulb?

-- CHANGE IT? But that was my grandfather's lightbulb!

This exemption for ill-gotten pension gains is one more of our grandfather's lightbulbs. We don't change it when it burns out; we wait until someone falls down the stairs in a darkened hallway.

I plan to attend tomorrow's presser as well. Stay tuned for the latest.

VPR:

Shumlin Urges Pension Reform After Police Case

BOB KINZEL

Governor Peter Shumlin says he'll urge lawmakers to pass a bill that cracks down on cases of fraud involving state workers, municipal employees and teachers.

The proposed law stems from a case of a Vermont State Police trooper who is charged with padding his overtime hours by tens of thousands of dollars. The trooper, Sgt. Jim Deeghan, resigned from the force and the case is now headed to court.

This legislation adds potential penalties to state and local government employees who are convicted of pension fraud, bribery or other cases of financial fraud.

It allows a judge to review each case and determine if it is appropriate to take away part or all of the employee's state pension fund.

Governor Peter Shumlin says the vast number of state workers, municipal employees and teachers are hardworking, honest people and that this bill is designed to deal with the very few cases that emerge from year to year:

"I think this sends a really clear message to state employees who have a tremendous responsibility because they're dealing with the public trust and taxpayer dollars money that is not theirs, to ensure that their actions are always honest and always forthright."

Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn says his agency has also implemented a series of new safeguards to make certain that this type of overtime fraud doesn't happen again.

"We do need to realize that we can't change the past we can only look to the future and I believe that this legislation is going to be meaningful to that extent and they'll be some meaningful changes," said Flynn. "Having said that, without the legislation we did some things to look at our own internal reviews and our own internal systems to look at how we can get better."

House Speaker Shap Smith promised that the proposal will receive a timely hearing at the Statehouse.

"We know that most state employees and municipal employees and teachers are hard working and do not breach the public trust but when that happens there is a need for recourse and under our current laws we don't have that recourse available to us and that's something that we need to address," said Smith. "We will take us this bill quickly when we return and I look forward to passage of the bill by the end of the session."

Smith says both the House and Senate Judiciary committees will begin to take testimony on the legislation later this month.

Budget To Balance, But Caseloads A Concern

JOHN DILLON

The Shumlin Administration says the job of crafting next year's state budget is made easier now that Washington has tackled some of the fiscal issues facing the country.

Meanwhile, the administration and lawmakers are working to address gaps in the current year budget. And officials say they're troubled by growing caseloads in social service programs.

January in Montpelier is budget time. The Administration prepares next year's budget, and also proposes changes to true-up the current budget to match anticipated revenues with additional outlays.

Gov. Peter Shumlin expressed relief that Congress forestalled automatic tax hikes and spending cuts. He says the resolution of the so-called fiscal cliff gives more certainty to the states.

"It's pretty clear that the dire consequences that would have been inflicted on the American economy had they not resolved this question would have been a real challenge for us," he said. "I see us emerging from a recession. I see Vermont actually and finally in position to see some real economic growth. I think this is the one thing that that could have set us back into recession."

The budget discussion in the Statehouse starts first with adjustments to the current year spending plan.

Halfway through fiscal year 2013, the state faces a combination of less revenue and higher expenses. But Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding says in the end the books will balance.

"The big picture, though, is that we're going to finish FY 13 - no surprise - as we always do with a balanced budget with our reserve funds full," he said.

Finance Commissioner Jim Reardon says the balanced budget will stem in part from savings in the Medicaid program. But Reardon's concerned about some long-term trends, including growing expenditures in general assistance programs. He highlighted a welfare-to-work effort called Reach-Up that needs \$4.6 million more in the current fiscal year.

"Obviously our estimate for caseload was incorrect based on our current experience," he said. "But that is a little concerning to me in that we continue to see upward pressure in our Reach-Up program."

Other cost pressures came from an overhaul of the state's mental health system following Tropical Storm Irene.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:01 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

EDITORIAL: HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS

The threat of losing their public pensions would send a much needed message to government workers who steal on the job that betraying the public trust has consequences.

Gov. Peter Shumlin is calling for legislation that would give the state the power to seize the pension of public employees convicted of "embezzlement, fraud and other crimes that impact taxpayers."

Put in simple terms, the elected leaders are saying that if public officials steal from taxpayers, the state should be able to go after their pensions.

That's hitting the wrong-doers where it hurts most.

The catalyst is the case of a veteran member of the Vermont State Police charged with padding his time sheets to claim thousands of dollars for overtime he never worked.

Vermont has been hit by a rash of embezzlement cases at all levels of government in Vermont -- from the village office on up.

In one case, the longtime office manager of the Hardwick Electric Co. was convicted in 2011 of wire fraud and money laundering charges in connection with the embezzlement of \$1.6 million from the municipal utility.

The problem points to the ineffectiveness of current penalties as a deterrent and lax oversight of the people who handle public funds.

Vermonters clearly need a bigger stick to protect their interests. A substantive financial penalty for stealing from the public is a punishment that fits the crime.

The focus on pensions is also relevant because public pensions are funded by both the employee and the employer -- the state of Vermont, meaning taxpayers. Making sure there's enough money in the pensions to meet all obligations is one of the major long-term challenges facing the state and local governments.

The attorney general and key lawmakers are on board with the governor. Unions representing state workers -- including state troopers -- also support the idea. Half the states have laws that link pensions and criminal conduct.

Vermonters must be clear about the aims, scope and consequences of a pension law. The details will have to be worked out with ample opportunity for public input.

Those who abuse a public office for personal gain at the expense of all Vermonters have no claim to the same rewards as those who serve the state honorably.

Vermonters also have every right to be galled at the idea that someone convicted of stealing from the public can live off a public pension in retirement.

Perhaps the idea that what they do today can put in jeopardy their long-term financial security might be enough to convince a few more potential embezzlers to keep their hands out of the public till.

My Turn: What's working in health care

JOHN BRUMSTED

Amidst the current gloomy national headlines about health care reform, there's a great story in Vermont about what is right and what's working.

We've made great progress on the goals that are shared by all: right care, right time, close to home.

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and Vermont's complementary law, Act 48, passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Shumlin in 2011, established clear goals. And we're working closely with the newly formed Green Mountain Care Board to align our efforts with theirs.

Our focus is on the major challenge that remains in health care: bending the cost curve.

Health care has been a story of advances -- research has led to major clinical achievements, quality of care has improved nationally and particularly in Vermont, with tremendous progress in ensuring access, and new attention is being given to making the patient experience more respectful and convenient.

Now as we turn to bending the cost curve, we're making progress on that front via two key strategies: collaboration and integration.

Collaboration is part of the Vermont DNA.

Today, there's no better example of collaboration than a unique effort being led by the region's two university medical centers. Fletcher Allen and Dartmouth-Hitchcock are partnering with nearly every hospital in Vermont, along with primary care providers, specialists, community health centers and rural health clinics, to form OneCare Vermont, a new and more efficient way of caring for Medicare beneficiaries, focusing first on quality because quality care, by its very nature, is the most cost-effective care.

OneCare Vermont is what's known by Medicare as an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). There are currently several hundred ACOs underway in the U.S. -- but ours is unique in that it is the only ACO that covers an entire state, and the only one that is being led by a collaboration of two university medical centers.

On the integration front, we also have success stories. As Vermont's university medical center, we believe that integrated delivery systems are the model for the future. In alliance with the University of Vermont, we have created an integrated delivery system called Fletcher Allen Partners.

(Page 2 of 2)

Our first partner was Central Vermont Medical Center, and early next year, Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh and Elizabethtown Community Hospital in northern New York will join us: four hospitals, more than 1,000 physicians, more than 2,000 nurses and countless other health care professionals -- all brought together to serve patients across the region, in an integrated approach.

Among our plans and achievements:

- Creating standardized treatment protocols and fully integrating patient records.
- Linking doctors and clinicians across the region via telemedicine for real-time consultation.
- Using our Simulation Laboratory at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and College of Nursing and Health Sciences for training staff at partner hospitals.
- Integrating operations to cut costs -- in one year alone, Fletcher Allen and CVMC saved more than \$1 million via coordinated purchasing of drugs, orthopedic implants and other medical supplies.

This kind of integration and coordination makes absolute sense from both a clinical and a business perspective, as we can realize economies of scale and avoid duplication.

What I've described here are just a few examples of how collaboration and integration benefit patients, purchasers of health insurance and payers.

These efforts are certainly not simple, nor easy. They require everyone involved to make changes, and change is always difficult -- but when we can deliver better health care and rein in costs, we welcome that change.

As a practicing physician in Vermont for 30 years, what has always kept me going is making an impact, one patient at a time. Now we are doing it collectively, creating a model for the country and, more importantly, charting a new and even better course for medicine and health care for the people and families of Vermont and Northern New York.

VTBUZZ BLOG: Millar to head Vermont Progressive Party

Posted on January 2, 2013 by Terri Hallenbeck

Robert Millar of Winooski is the new executive director of the Vermont Progressive Party, the party announced Wednesday.

Millar worked on Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2012 re-election campaign. He also served on the Winooski School Board from 2010-2012 and has been a justice of the peace in Winooski since 2010.

Millar said he has been active in the Progressive Party since 2008. He replaces Morgan Daybell, who resigned.

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

New Prog Party Executive Director to Focus on Fundraising, Brand-Building

Posted by Paul Heintz

The next executive director of the Vermont Progressive Party says he hopes to focus on raising money for the party and building its "brand" in state politics.

"Something we run into a lot as Progressives is that people sometimes don't know what a Progressive is," explains Robert Millar of Winooski, who took the helm of Vermont's favorite third party on New Year's Day.

A 28-year-old University of Vermont graduate who grew up in Essex and Shelburne, Millar has dabbled in Progressive politics for years — volunteering on campaigns and winning election to the Winooski School Board for a two-year term. Most recently, he worked as office manager for Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) 2012 reelection campaign.

Millar replaces the party's longtime executive director, Morgan Daybell, who left after the November election to take a decidedly less political job at the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union. Daybell oversaw a tactical transition within the party away from running statewide Progressive candidates against Democrats; instead, many Progressive-oriented candidates have recently run with the Democratic label as well.

That's a strategy Millar says he's interested in continuing to pursue, assuming the party's elected leadership agrees.

"I personally think we should continue working on building our base of legislative candidates so they can work their way up," he says.

When the new legislature convenes next week, that base will include five members of the Vermont House and three members of the Senate who identify as Progressives (some are Ps, some P/Ds, some D/Ps). The party also helped to elect its first successful statewide candidate: auditor-elect Doug Hoffer, a Democrat and Progressive.

In a press release announcing Millar's hiring, party chairwoman Martha Abbott said, "I am pleased that we were able to find someone who has both experience in, and commitment to, our organization and an appreciation of the role we play in Vermont politics."

FOX44:

Vt Gov. Peter Shumlin Works on Overtime Issue

NICK NATARIO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The former Vermont state trooper, James Deeghan case also brought to light the overtime issue across the state.

Governor Peter Shumlin says they're monitoring it to make sure it's used correctly.

Right now he says overtime costs will be high within public safety, transportation and corrections.

Shumlin says it's all about finding a balance between new employees and having current ones work extra hours.

"We work very, very hard to manage tax payers dollars so we don't pay a dollar overtime that we shouldn't be paying and don't bring on too many full-time employees that are sitting around looking for things to do," said Shumlin.

There's also the issue of an aging workforce.

Many departments expect to lose a lot of employees in the coming years, which is why many of them are hiring.

Shumlin to Vt Workers: Steal Tax Payers Money, Lose Your Pension

NICK NATARIO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Surrounded by a roomful of Vermont leaders, Governor Peter Shumlin wasted no time Wednesday to introduce 2013's first piece of legislation.

It's a bill that would target teachers, municipal and state employees' pensions, if they're caught stealing tax payer money.

"If you rip off the public, if you break the public trust, if you take taxpayers dollars, the judge has the discretion to order those to be repaid to the state," said Shumlin.

The reason, last year state police say one of its own, James Deeghan, was padding his time sheet with overtime.

And even if he is convicted, the state can't touch his pension.

This bill couldn't change Deeghan's case, but if passed, a judge could sentence someone to pay back all or part of their pension if they steal money.

Despite the Deeghan case, Shumlin says this is the only statewide change he wants to make.

"We trust our state employees," said Shumlin.

While there won't be changes across the board, things are different within the state police department.

For example, if someone works excessive amounts of overtime, red flags go off and just recently they've added lieutenants to the night shift to give even more oversight.

So far leaders say it appears Deeghan acted alone and they hope this bill will make others think twice.

"We can't change the past, we can only look to the future," said Vermont Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn.

The 2013 legislative session starts next week.

Lawmakers at the news conference told us they expect to take this bill up when it begins and hope to have something passed before the session ends.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 6:53 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Governor proposes bill to seize pensions of state employees involved in crime

MIKE DONOGHUE

MONTPELIER -- Gov. Peter Shumlin is recommending legislation designed to seize pensions of state and local government employees involved in embezzlement, fraud and other crimes that affect taxpayers.

Shumlin is proposing the law in the wake of the arrest of former Vermont State Police Sgt. Jim Deeghan on allegations of time-sheet fraud. The authorities claim in court records that Deeghan, a patrol commander in Chittenden County, enriched his paychecks by \$139,332 from December 2008 to July 2012. Deeghan pleaded not guilty to two felony charges in July.

The Shumlin administration has been working on the wide-ranging proposal with legislators; the Treasurer's Office, which oversees the pension program; the Attorney General's Office; and unions.

"It's a pretty simple proposal. What it says is: If you rip off the public, if you break the public trust, if you take taxpayer dollars, the judge has the discretion to order those dollars to be repaid to the state, or some portion of them," Shumlin said during a Wednesday morning news conference in Montpelier.

Shumlin said the proposal grew from the Deeghan case "and the simple realization that when a state employee, who we entrust with taxpayer dollars, rips off the public, we want to ensure that they don't gain pension dollars paid for by taxpayers as a result of their crime."

The proposed law also would cover municipal employees, including teachers. It would cover embezzlement, theft, bribery, fraud and other crimes that involve an abuse of public office for financial gain.

Any new law could not be used to recoup money in the Deeghan case, which is pending in criminal court. It also could not be used for closed criminal cases, such as that of former Hardwick Electric Department office manager Joyce Bellavance, who is serving a federal prison sentence in the wake of a \$1.6 million embezzlement.

Shumlin, Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn, Vermont State Police Director Tom L'Esperance and Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan, who is prosecuting Deeghan, have pledged they will work to recoup all ill-gotten gains in the former sergeant's case.

Shumlin and Flynn, who promised transparency in the Deeghan case, were mum Wednesday when asked for an update regarding the exact amount the alleged fraud had cost taxpayers. Court records in the fall pegged the loss at more than \$139,000 during the past four years; state police investigators were then directed to look at records dating back six years.

"We have to balance our commitment to transparency," Shumlin said, referring to the needs of the criminal court proceedings. "We have been as transparent as we can in this case with our wish to win a case."

Flynn said the final dollar amount is being determined and reviewed by himself and Deeghan's attorney, Jim Murdoch.

During the news conference, Attorney General William Sorrell said that as he campaigned for re-election during the summer and fall, it was clear that employee fraud was a top issue raised by taxpayers.

"I sensed any number of times the outraged frustration on the part of Vermonters to have their trust violated on the one hand, but then find out that in retirement, state and local officials — their pensions were sort of off limits for recovery not only for restitution but paying on their fines and such," Sorrell said.

"This proposal will remedy that," Sorrell said. "It's the right thing to do, and I'm pleased that it is a priority for the Legislature when they return next week."

Union supportThe proposed legislation has not been drafted, but officials from the Vermont State Employees Association, the Vermont Chapter of the National Education Association, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont State Police union, the Professional Firefighters union and others flanked Shumlin as he announced widespread support for the plan.

"We obviously support the proposed legislation that we are talking about today," said police union head Mike O'Neil, a state police detective sergeant. "We think it is positive step toward ensuring the retirement systems that we all depend on are protected, that the financial security of the system isn't endangered by someone who is committing fraud, and we look forward to working with the Legislature on this issue."

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Shumlin said he believes current Vermont law prohibits the state from trying to seize public pensions to cover any fraud.

"It's a bill that we would like to pass expeditiously in this session," Shumlin said. "We are playing catch-up here, and we're going to get the job done."

House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morris-town, promised quick action.

"We will take up this bill quickly when we return, and I look forward to the passage by the end of the session," he said. A priorityRep. Bill Lippert, D-Hinesburg, chairman of the house judiciary committee, said he and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard Sears, D-Bennington, have agreed on making the pension change proposals a priority in the upcoming session.

The proposed legislation will be fashioned after a law enacted in Connecticut in 2008 to an attempt to prevent former Gov. John Rowland from receiving his pensions, Shumlin said. Rowland was convicted in 2004 of selling access to his office for personal gain, according to Shumlin's office.

Lippert said there will be plenty of legislative hearings to allow people to talk to legislators about the wording of any bill. "The details of the legislation will emerge in the course of that deliberative process," Lippert said.

State Treasurer Beth Pearce said Vermont law already allows pension officials to go back and readjust claimed earnings to reflect hours actually worked.

"On a case where someone's pension is inaccurate, whether by fraud or by other actions or inactions or by error, we currently do have the ability to adjust that pension now," she said.

"For me the bottom line is that taxpayers should not have to pay for retirement benefits for public officials that have violated the public trust through acts of fraud or embezzlement," Pearce added.

She said the proposal "provides fair and reasonable mechanism to recoup those funds on behalf of the taxpayers."

She said the proposed measure would allow for some review of the circumstances and some flexibility.

Half the country's states have laws regarding pensions and criminal conduct, officials said.

(Page 4 of 4)

"This sends a really clear message to state employees ... to ensure that their actions are always honest," Shumlin said. Steps takenPublic Safety Commissioner Flynn discussed some of the steps his department has taken to overhaul how time sheets are handled and reviewed, and how state police have increased supervision. Many of those, including requiring at least two lieutenants to work the night shift, were first outlined in a report Sunday in the Burlington Free Press.

Flynn said the time sheet for any state trooper with more than 20 hours of overtime in a two-week pay period will be red-flagged.

"We will look at the justification for that, and the supervisors will go back and check," Flynn said.

"This incident does not reflect who the state police are," Flynn said of the Deeghan allegations. "We do need to realize that we can't change the past, and we can only look to the future."

Deeghan, Flynn and Pearce said most public employees are honest and hardworking.

Shumlin said so far the Deeghan case appears to be an isolated incident.

"Deeghan is the exception to the rule — by a long shot. We trust our state employees. They are dedicated. They are hard working as our municipal employees, firefighters, our local police forces. We do think the pieces that we are putting in place will help us in the future," the governor said.

Deeghan updateDeeghan's defense lawyer, James Murdoch, and Donovan, the chief prosecutor, were scheduled to meet privately Wednesday morning with Vermont Superior Court Judge Brian Grearson for an update on the criminal charges.

Donovan, who was not at the Montpelier news conference, would say only that the parties met for about an hour, and the case is moving forward.

A court hearing planned for Friday afternoon has been taken off the schedule. Donovan said there was a scheduling conflict with Grearson.

Deeghan resigned July 10 as the Burlington Free Press prepared to publish a report showing he was the sixth-highest-paid state employee in 2011-12. Three days later Deeghan pleaded not guilty to two felony charges of false claims arising from the two time sheets he filed in June 2012 that gave him \$3,023 in unwarranted pay, court records state.

State police said in September that the investigation showed Deeghan's fraud had mushroomed. Deeghan received \$139,332 from December 2008 to July 2012, court records show. The extra money came from false claims of overtime,

annual leave and a special patrol contract in Jericho, police said. No additional charges have been filed related to those claims.

If convicted on the two felonies, Deeghan faces up to 10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines.

Shumlin administration presents mid-year budget package

Net change in spending authority would be \$3.8 million for a \$5.12 billion budget despite numerous financial shifts

NANCY REMSEN

MONTPELIER — The Shumlin Administration proposed to lawmakers Wednesday a \$3.8 million mid-year change in government spending authority which represents a tiny net adjustment in the \$5.12 billion budget the Legislature approved last spring.

"This budget adjustment is based on the changes we know," Finance Commissioner Jim Reardon told the House Appropriations Committee. "There are still a lot of unknowns out there," he added, noting the potential for federal funding reductions as an example.

Reardon explained that the small net change that the House and Senate will review and vote on in the coming weeks masks several significant revenue and spending shifts.

For example, the Shumlin administration and the Legislature's financial leaders took the advice of their economic advisors in July and downgraded anticipated General Fund tax revenues for the current budget year by \$10.8 million. As a result, before addressing any new spending pressures, the administration had to figure out how to make up for the \$10.8 million loss.

The budget adjustment bill also addresses \$4.68 million in increased caseload costs for the Reach-Up program serving poor families, \$3.23 million in unplanned child care expenses because anticipated federal funding failed to materialize, \$2.17 million more for homeless housing aid and \$1.07 million in additional legal expenses for the data-mining case the state lost.

The increase for homeless housing represents a doubling of the appropriation for that program, Reardon said.

These spending pressures were offset by \$12.8 million less in Medicaid spending as a result of reduced utilization of health care, \$5.84 million in savings in health insurance costs for state workers, and \$4.725 million in settlements of cases by the Attorney General, Reardon said.

The Medicaid savings were critical, Reardon told the House panel. "If we didn't have that, there would have been some difficulty balancing this budget adjustment."

The budget adjustment bill traditionally steers clear of policy changes, leaving those for the annual budget bill.

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However, the bill Reardon delivered to the House Appropriations Committee includes two proposed policy changes.

One would change the way the Office of the Secretary of State is funded. Rather than receiving General Fund appropriations, the office would keep funds it collects such as professional regulation fees.

Another change would require the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living to immediately revise the developmental services program so it operates within the amount budgeted last spring.

House Appropriations Chairwoman Martha Heath, D-Westford, suggested a program change that would yield significant savings but would be difficult to accomplish in the six months remaining in the current budget year.

Reardon said he didn't have specific program changes in mind, but added, "I'm not sure we are distinguishing between need and wants."

"Sure it is a tough area," he continued, "but we are also confronted with our fiscal and economic realities, too."

Reardon acknowledged that to balance the budget with all the mid-year changes required tapping several reserve accounts. The Human Services Caseload Reserve will be empty if lawmakers agree to use the remaining \$2.26 million to help balance the current budget.

"I don't have a problem with that," Reardon said about using caseload reserve funds since the money will address caseload increases. However, he said, "What is a big concern to me is we don't have too many other reserves beyond the stabilization fund to deal with future federal cuts."

Neither the Douglas nor the Shumlin administration recommended tapping the stabilization fund during the recent recession because of the potential impact that using it could have on the state's bond rating. A downgrade in the state's bond rating would raise interest costs on debt, making the state's revenue picture even more challenging. The General Fund stabilization fund contains \$62.5 million.

The House Appropriations Committee will spend the rest of this week hearing from representatives of agencies and departments requesting budget changes.

The committee is beginning its work a week before the new Legislature convenes next Wednesday. House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, authorized the early meetings and filled a vacancy on the panel.

Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding said the Shumlin administration had urged an early start on the budget adjustment bill "to keep this Legislature on as fast a pace as we can."

Gov. Peter Shumlin will present his administration's proposed budget for next year in a speech on Jan. 24, a day after he and legislative financial leaders meet again with their economic advisors to examine revenue trends.

"I'm hoping we don't receive any kind of revenue downgrade," Reardon said.

Philanthropist Pomerleau rescues endangered Shelburne mobile home park

Property purchased for \$1.2M

CANDY PAGE

SHELBURNE — Vicki Carleton embraced Trinity Episcopal Church Rev. Craig Smith, exclaiming "Can you believe it? I don't believe it. I had to hear it three times before I could believe it." She turned to Selectman Al Gobeille. "Somebody should pinch me," the resident of the Shelburnewood Mobile Home Park said.

A few minutes later Carleton and a dozen-and-a-half tenants of the park applauded loudly as Burlington businessman and philanthropist Tony Pomerleau entered the church's common room Wednesday night.

Pomerleau had come to announce that he had delivered on his promise to purchase the mobile home park, ending nearly eight years of uncertainty and controversy about the future of the affordable housing.

"This is going to be your trailer camp. We'll make it better than it ever was," Pomerleau told the little gathering. "It's signed, sealed and delivered."

On Monday, Pomerleau closed a \$1.225 million deal for the 22-acre property, which includes land under about two dozen mobile homes as well as several acres of developable land. The sellers were Marvin and Sue Thomas, who had owned the park since 1985.

Pomerleau told the tenants that, come spring, he will install new water and sewer mains, add street lights, install fire hydrants and clean up any rundown properties.

He has said he plans to turn the park over to its residents in the future. He also revealed there is a possibility he might replace the aging mobile homes with new ones and move the park to the back of the property, leaving the current park land open for commercial development closer to U. S. 7.

But that is in the future. For now, tenants had questions about where to mail their rent checks and whether a natural gas main might be installed. Mostly, they were deeply relieved by the end of their long wait for a settlement.

"This hasn't been easy," resident Bill Boisvine said, as he waited with fellow tenant Pete Daigle for the meeting to start. They expected to hear good news — but they had expected that several times before.

(Page 2 of 2)

"We've been at this point so many times, thinking something was ready to happen," Daigle said.

As Pomerleau ended his announcement, town officials spoke up.

"I just want to say thank you to Mr. Pomerleau for your generosity," Gobeille, the selectman, told the audience. "I'm very very happy for all of you. It's been torturous to watch." While changes may be coming to the mobile home park, "the most important thing is that you have a future," he said.

Pomerleau's purchase is intended to preserve a small enclave of affordable homes sitting on prime real estate at the center of Shelburne village.

The future of the park had been up in the air since the Thomases agreed in 2005 to sell the property to a developer for \$2.2 million. Residents were given about 18 months to a year to remove their homes.

After years of debate before town permitting boards, the sale and redevelopment fell through in 2010. Again in 2012, the Thomases made clear they no longer wished to operate the property.

One of their tenants, Mary Phelps, took a potential-eviction notice to Pomerleau, her employer. The 95-year-old shopping center magnate is known for philanthropy that helps low-income Vermonters. He decided to buy the property to ensure Phelps and others would not have to move.

"This is the first time I've gone into a deal knowing I was going to lose money," Pomerleau said at the time.

However, the land's zoning designation would allow Pomerleau to do commercial or residential development on the open land northeast of the row of mobile homes.

Pomerleau purchased the park through a limited liability corporation, The Commons at Shelburnewood.

Decision in clinic permitting battle due by Friday; discussion focuses on board members concern over possible improper communication

MOLLY WALSH

The South Burlington Development Review Board remains under a legal deadline to issue a decision by Friday on whether a proposed methadone clinic for heroin and prescription drug addicts can open near two city schools.

That's the upshot of a meeting Wednesday night in which the board voted 5-0 not to reopen the public hearing on the methadone clinic. Had the board voted to reopen, it could have added months of delays to an unresolved permitting battle that began in September.

The context for Wednesday's vote was a debate about whether a conversation between a member of the Development Review Board and the member of the public was improper, and if so, whether the hearing on the clinic should be reopened to give interested parties the opportunity to respond to the "ex parte" communication.

The prevailing board sentiment was that the conversation was probably not improper and in any event did not affect the deliberations. "I personally don't feel that we need to reopen this hearing," said Mark Behr, chairman of the board.

Last week South Burlington officials were mum about the details of the alleged ex parte communication and the Burlington Free Press filed a public records request for information. Some information was released by city lawyers prior to Wednesday's meeting and a fuller picture was fleshed out during the meeting.

It turns out that Behr initiated the discussion on reopening the hearing in response to a conversation that Development Review Board vice chairman William Stuono mentioned during deliberations about the clinic application in December. Stuono described the conversation at Wednesday's meeting and also presented a written statement. He explained that he was at the Dec. 16 South Burlington Community Chorus Winter Holiday performance when a resident of Hayes Avenue approached him. The woman told Stuono that crime in her neighborhood had decreased since an opioid treatment clinic on Twin Oaks Terrace had "been closed." Stuono said he informed the woman that he was not at liberty to discuss details of a current application before the Development Review Board. The woman made the comments "before he could cut her off," he said. He did not name the woman or know her.

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Behr explained that he wanted the full board to discuss the conversation in an open session in the interest of transparent government.

Frank Kochman, a lawyer for the HowardCenter, which is proposing to operate the proposed clinic on Dorset Street, said the conversation did not constitute an ex parte or improper communication. There is no evidence that the woman who approached Stuono had interested party status under the law, or that the comment concerned the substance or merits of the proceeding, he said.

There was no need to even discuss reopening the hearing, he said. "The fact is, nothing needed to be done here."

Kochman argued strenuously against reopening. "It cannot be the basis for delay," he said. He further pointed out that the woman's statement about the Twin Oaks Terrace clinic was inaccurate. It never closed, but changed hands from one operator to the HowardCenter, which now runs the facility.

The attorney for the South Burlington School District, which has attempted to block the clinic, asked the board Wednesday to give his client more time to evaluate the questions around a possible improper conversation.

Pietro Lynn, the school district attorney, said that even though the question on re-opening the hearing did not initiate with the school district, it should be allowed time to fully study the issue. Lynn said he had no access to the details of the alleged ex parte communication before Wednesday's meeting, for example, and that Stuono's statement was incomplete without the name of the woman who approached him.

Lynn also suggested that denying the school district time to evaluate the matter might present a "risk of an appeal" of the board's decision on methadone clinic.

That argument did not sway the board and they voted unanimously not to reopen. One member of the board, Michael Sirotkin, recused himself and did not vote. Another member of the board was ill and not present.

The current battle began after the city approved a permit granting HowardCenter permission to do interior renovations to a medical office space at 364 Dorset Street, the proposed location for the methadone clinic. The school district appealed the permit on the grounds that the clinic could bring crime, impaired drivers and heavy traffic.

(Page 3 of 3)

Supporters of the clinic - which could serve upwards of 650 people - say it is desperately needed to address drug addiction in Chittenden County. The new clinic would consolidate and expand services at two existing clinics, one at University Health Center in Burlington and the other at Twin Oaks Terrace in South Burlington. Those facilities would close.

Joseph McLean, a city attorney for South Burlington, said Behr acted properly in response to a possible ex parte communication.

"I'm glad to see that the board chair recognized that consideration of information that is extra record was not appropriate and wanted in fairness to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to hear what was said and address it."

McLean added that it can be difficult for board members to do their jobs in a small state such as Vermont.

"It's difficult in Vermont where municipal boards are staffed by local people, and they know their neighbors and there is a strong desire in many communities for people to talk about what's going on before the board. The board members really need to remember that they are judges and that when they are approached by someone who wants to talk about a matter that's pending before the board, you really have to have the fortitude and character to say that I cannot talk about that."

His advice for board members? "Change the subject and walk away."

Ex-legislators Illuzzi, Howard to lobby for VSEA

TERRI HALLENBECK

The state employee union has engaged two former legislators to lobby on its behalf in the Legislature.

Former Rep. Steve Howard will be the Vermont State Employees Association's legislative director. He replaces Conor Casey, who moved to Connecticut.

Former Sen. Vince Illuzzi will provide "legislative and legal counsel to the association," according to a VSEA news release. Illuzzi, a Republican from Derby, will be out of the Legislature for the first time in 32 years after losing a bid for state auditor in November's election.

Howard was a state representative from Rutland from 1993-1999 and 2005-2010. He lost a run for lieutenant governor in 2010 and moved to Burlington, where he is city Democratic Party chairman. He had been working as a victims' advocate for Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 6:34 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 3:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Shumlin urges pension reform

MONTPELIER — Top Vermont officials called Wednesday for legislation that would allow the state's public retirement funds to recoup money from employees convicted of fraud or embezzlement against a public agency.

The move follows charges filed in July against former state police Sgt. James Deeghan, who pleaded not guilty to two counts of making false claims by allegedly padding his overtime reports. Authorities said Deeghan justified the extra time in part by writing and filing 973 traffic tickets without actually giving them to motorists.

"Public employees who steal from the public treasury should not be allowed to benefit in retirement from their ill-gotten gains," said Attorney General William Sorrell. "Pension forfeiture legislation will provide a process that will allow a court to ensure this does not happen."

Sorrell joined Gov. Peter Shumlin, lawmakers and other officials in announcing they were drafting a bill to allow a judge to require partial or full forfeiture of a retirement pension for state, municipal or public school employees who defraud their employers. Lawmakers vowed to take up the matter early in their 2013 session, which begins next week.

The officials acknowledged that the law would not work retroactively and would not affect Deeghan if he is convicted, but said it could provide protection for the public in similar cases in the future.

Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn said audits of time reports by troopers at the Williston barracks, where Deeghan worked, and for the 327-trooper state police force at large found no evidence of wrongdoing by anyone else.

Shumlin said that because a judge would make the final determination of restitution, the proposal "strikes a good balance of protecting taxpayer money while not being unduly punitive against employees and their innocent dependents."

The bill calls on the judge to weigh family circumstances, the severity of the crime, how much money was lost and how much public trust had been placed in the individual as factors in determining what amount of an employee's pension can be seized.

Black Door calls it quits

MONTPELIER — The Black Door Bar & Bistro on Main Street has closed, according to a voicemail recording at the restaurant.

"You've reached The Black Door, and we have closed. We have appreciated your patronage and support over the past year and a half," the message said.

The space is owned by Montpelier Property Management.

Federal office moving from Montpelier's City Center

By David Taube

MONTPELIER — U.S. Agriculture Department workers are due to move from rented space in City Center to the post office building by late March, making room available in their former space.

Dump trucks have been hauling away debris in recent weeks as a U.S. General Services Administration-led crew retrofits a former courtroom on the third floor of the federal building on State Street.

The move will be a benefit to downtown, opening up space for another tenant at City Center, and fits with a federal policy to have permanent rather than rented spaces, said USDA Rural Development's Vermont and New Hampshire state director, Molly Lambert, on Wednesday.

"In the last two months, they've actually started the fit-up and now they should be beginning the construction phase," Lambert said.

The Rural Development office, with about 25 employees, plans to relocate by late March, Lambert said.

The new office will have space for about 32 employees. Some seven retirements occurred as plans for the move progressed, and the USDA currently has a hiring freeze.

The office setup will go from closed doors to cubicles or "semi-private office modules," Lambert said.

City Center developer Doug Nedde did not immediately return phone calls Wednesday. The USDA office is on the third floor of the building at Main and East State streets.

In Vermont, USDA Rural Development also has a St. Johnsbury satellite office and a location in Brattleboro.

Lambert said the renovations should be done a few weeks before the relocation.

"Hopefully by mid-March they'll be completed," she said.

Report: Vt. near top in anti-tobacco spending

Vermont ranked 10th in the nation in 2012 for its funding of tobacco prevention and cessation programs, according to a coalition of public health organizations.

Ronda Williams, chronic disease prevention chief for the state's Health Promotion Disease Prevention Division, said Vermont has succeeded in battling the prevalence of tobacco, reducing its rate of use, resulting in a cost savings.

"We've benefited from a strong and well-formed advocacy," Williams said. "Even though it's not an illegal product, it's one we need to keep from use and perform every measure to prevent."

Since 1999, Vermont has seen its share of high school students who smoke drop to 13.3 percent, from 33.4 percent.

That information, and much more, comes from a national report, "Broken Promises to Our Children: The 1998 State Tobacco Settlement 14 Years Later." It was recently released by numerous organizations including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and the American Lung Association.

"Vermont's commitment to tobacco prevention is paying off with large declines in youth smoking that will save lives and save money by reducing tobacco-related health care costs," said Matthew L Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, in a statement.

The tobacco settlement was reached in November 1998 between the four largest tobacco industries — Philip Morris Inc., R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson, and Lorillard — and the attorneys general of 46 states. States' Medicaid lawsuits were settled and the companies agreed to terminate certain tobacco marketing practices while making annual payments to states to compensate for the costs of caring for people with smoking-related illnesses.

Vermont will collect \$127 million in tobacco revenue this year from the 1998 national tobacco settlement and from taxes on tobacco. However, just under \$4 million will be spent on tobacco prevention, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Vermont spend \$10.4 million.

"We do the best we can with the money that we have, and I think this administration is very forward thinking," Williams said referring to the unmet CDC recommendation. "Fortunately, there's been more and more research of the values seen in well-funded tobacco programs."

Williams added that a state like California, which has a "longstanding, well-funded control program," also has one of the lowest smoking rates of high school students in the nation — 13.8 percent of 304,000 high school students, compared with Vermont's 13.3 percent over 4,800 students.

Williams continued, "If a program dips below a certain threshold, you're going to see weakened outcomes. ... The prevalence starts to rise again."

Programs included in statewide tobacco prevention and cessation efforts include quit-online resources, quit-by-phone and one-on-one health coaching.

Also contributing to reduced tobacco use: Vermont's cigarette tax has increased by \$2.62 per pack since 1999, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Williams said the Vermont Department of Health also looks to partner with local Rotary Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs and other youth groups as well as community coalitions and individuals who have been responsible for creating smoke-free public areas.

Despite financing against tobacco products, the state spends only a quarter of what tobacco companies spend each year in Vermont — \$16.9 million.

The report also stated that 700 Vermont kids become new smokers every year while 800 lives are claimed annually by tobacco, costing the state \$233 million in health care bills. Nationally, \$96 billion each year is spent on tobacco-related health care costs.

Last year, Vermont had ranked 11th in funding tobacco prevention, spending \$3.3 million compared with \$5.5 million in 2009.

Overall, \$25.7 billion will be collected by the states from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes; 1.8 percent, \$459.5 million, will go toward tobacco prevention programs.

The CDC recommends that \$3.7 billion go into prevention and cessation programs, yet all together states have budgeted only 12.4 percent of that. Alaska and North Dakota are currently the only states to fund at the CDC-recommended level. Alaska and North Dakota also rank first and second, respectively, in the report for funding such programs.

Tobacco use still remains the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S., claiming more than 400,000 lives every year, the report said.

Information and resources related to quitting cigarettes and other tobacco products are available online at www.vtquitnetwork.org.

"These resources are made available to everyone no matter their circumstance," Williams said. "Whether you call or visit your local cessation counselor, they're friendly, they're well trained — and it works."

Flagging revenues, higher costs open budget gaps

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — Faced with underperforming state revenues and higher-than-expected costs for mental health and human services, administration officials are asking lawmakers to dip into reserve funds and expend some recent court settlements.

The annual budget adjustment process got under way in earnest Wednesday when Finance Commissioner James Reardon unveiled a plan to plug the budgetary holes that have opened up since lawmakers approved the fiscal year 2013 spending plan in May.

Among the biggest setbacks: a July report in which state economists reduced revenue estimates by more than \$10 million.

Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding said weaker revenue forecasts have been compounded by increasing demands on government services.

"In the big picture, one of the challenges we continue to face in government is that despite everyone asking for small, efficient government, the expectations for what government should be undertaking continue to grow," Spaulding said.

To preserve government services without running a deficit, Spaulding said, the Shumlin administration is asking lawmakers to take about \$4.7 million from two reserve funds. He also wants them to spend the roughly \$4.7 million collected in three major court settlements last year related to consumer protection.

"This is ... to make sure we carry those programs through, cover our caseload increases and finish with a balanced budget," Spaulding said during a briefing for the media.

Upward pressures on this year's budget are legion, ranging from \$200,000 for increased mosquito control efforts in the wake of an eastern equine encephalitis outbreak this summer, to \$560,000 in unanticipated gasoline costs for state police cruisers.

The lion's share of the unexpected costs, however, stems from health care and human services, where the rollout of a new mental health system and higher caseloads have increased budgets, according to Reardon.

The most pointed increase comes at the Department of Mental Health, which will need about \$20 million more than what lawmakers budgeted.

Mental Health Commissioner Mary Moulton said the additional request — more than 10 percent of the annual budget — stems largely from a failure to plan for operating costs at the newly opened eight-bed Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center in Morrisville.

"It just was not budgeted for," Moulton said Wednesday.

Rep. Martha Heath, a Westford Democrat and chairwoman of the House Committee on Appropriations, said the increase in mental health spending isn't as pronounced as it appears on paper. New costs being absorbed in mental health, Heath said, have freed up money elsewhere in state government. All told, Heath said, the net increase in mental health spending amounts to only about \$4.7 million in general fund money.

At the Department for Children and Families, costs are up by more than \$10 million over what the administration projected earlier this year, an increase due largely to the number of children and adults using services, Reardon said.

He said that isn't necessarily a bad thing. For instance, Vermont will spend about \$2 million more than expected to accommodate the high number of kids enrolled in early child care programs deemed to have met certain quality standards.

"And that's something I'm more than happy to pay for, because if you have quality child care at the front end, you have more chances for success as you enter elementary education," Reardon said.

He said he was more troubled by the nearly \$4 million increase at the Department of Aging and Independent Living, money needed for services to people with disabilities.

"That is not sustainable from my perspective," he said. "And that is a combination of both new caseload and additional needs for existing caseload."

Administration officials resolved much of the budgetary shortfall by finding other revenue sources.

The Tax Department has seen fewer claims than it expected for homeowner and renter rebates, resulting in about \$1.7 million in extra revenue.

The state's share of Medicaid and long-term care costs, meanwhile, is about \$13 million less than what lawmakers had thought it would be. And an actuarial revision in the state health insurance program freed up about \$5.8 million.

Attorney General William Sorrell has collected about \$4.7 million in settlements with GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Pharma and Capital One — money Reardon said should be used to plug the gap. He said he could not recall a year in which the state had relied so heavily upon court settlements to resolve midyear budget difficulties.

Heath, whose committee is meeting this week to vet the budget adjustment plan, said she's grateful the state has some Medicaid savings to offset some of the other increases. She said lawmakers will likely have questions about some aspects of the administration's proposal, including a request to double the budget for emergency housing assistance, from about \$2 million to \$4 million.

"Which is really just money that's going to motel beds," Heath said. "We'll want to look at what's being done to prevent people from losing their homes in the first place."

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 7:53 PM
To: EXE; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: UPDATED Schd for Thur, Jan 3

Thursday, January 3rd 2013 Schedule

Scheduler
Governor's Office
802.828.3333

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 7:32 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Irene relief for Vt. put on hold

Irene relief for Vt. put on hold

<http://www.wcax.com/story/20488607/irene-relief-for-vt-put-on-hold>

(Sent from WCAX)

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX
@wcax_anson
FREE news 24-7 www.wcax.com
802-652-6360

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 5:32 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn; Appleby, Leigh
Cc: Allen, Susan; Bartlett, Susan; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; GPS; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; Johnson, Harriet; Murray-Clasen, Madeline; Burke, Ashley; Stamper-EXE, Aleksandra; Moody, Alison; Gilbert, Elizabeth; 'louis_porter@yahoo.com'; Miller, Elizabeth; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Daily Report- January 2, 2013

This report is an overview of the last week of correspondence

Top Issues:

- 13 emails calling for stricter gun control, specifically a ban on automatic and assault weapons.
- 17 emails asking the Governor to protect 2nd amendment rights. Many of them take issue with your focus on the right to hunt in Vermont, and remind you that American's have the right to bear arms in self-defense (several specifically mentioned taking up arms against tyrannical governments).
- 1 email encouraging you not to ban individual guns but to require criminal and mental health background checks for all guns purchased.
- 1 call in support of Vermont Yankee's continued operation to make us less dependent on oil.

Notable Contacts:

- Patrick Benner of South Burlington called to tell the governor that he thought he did a fantastic job in his interview regarding gun laws. He said that when the governor said that the rest of the country should be modeling themselves after Vermont, that he was spot on. He thinks the governor is doing a fantastic job, and really admires the governor's work.
- [REDACTED] called to express her frustration with Vermont's practice of sending inmates out of state. Her husband [REDACTED] is currently being held in Kentucky.
- The Governor received the following email (also forwarded to Susan Barlett):
Hello my name is [REDACTED]. I am writing to you in regards to our Vermont Assistance programs. I find that the poverty brackets the state has set for being eligible for benefits of the programs is a little unfair. I am a single woman just barely supporting myself due to the fact that when I applied for help I was told due to my gross income being what it is I can only get \$16 a month in food stamps an \$316 in fuel assistance. What little I have received I am thankful for don't get me wrong there. My complaint is this I work a full time job an do try an support myself but the poverty line needs to be raised the price of everything has gone up but the wages remain the same the assistance programs are supposed to be for people who need a little extra help but when figuring out who gets how much it goes by gross income before taxes instead of after which in turn puts many people like myself above the poverty line so we get little to no help at all. Mr. Shumlin I would just like to be able to work an get help when I need it an not hear that I make to much money when clearly with the way prices are I don't make to much money because if I did I wouldn't be applying for the assistance in the first place. I understand that some people do abuse the system but there are many out there who don't an really do need the help that is supposed to be there for them. All I am asking is that maybe its time to take a look at

where today's poverty line is now that the economy is so bad. Please consider all that I have said. Thank you for your time.

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: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 5:05 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Thursday, Jan. 3rd

Thursday, January 3rd 2013 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:
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:14 PM
To: Rowley, Kris; Allen, Susan
Subject: Re: Meeting with the Governor

Hi Kris. We'll review and get back to you as soon as possible.

Bill

From: <Rowley>, Kris <Kris.Rowley@state.vt.us>
Date: Wednesday, January 2, 2013 4:06 PM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Subject: Meeting with the Governor

Hi Bill and Susan:

I am writing to ask if you have reviewed my email of last week in regards to a meeting with Gov. Shumlin and the available dates. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Kris

Kris Rowley
Chief Information Security Officer
Department of Information and Innovation
State of VT
802-828-0911

London, Sarah

From: Clasen, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:54 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: ipad

I placed a reminder call to Surplus Property to have them get back to me with a price considering it is nearly a year old and a new one could be purchased for approx \$400. I will follow up with them tomorrow if they don't get back to me.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Clasen, Michael
Subject: ipad

I can't remember how we left it re my iPad. Is the price on that final? If so, I'll just buy a new one. I think it's unreasonable for them to ask much more than a couple hundred bucks for a used iPad.

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:45 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Berry, Patrick; Boes, Richard; Borie, Lou; Bothfeld, Diane; Candon, Tom; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Clasen, Michael; Cohen, Jeff; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Donegan, Susan; Duffy, Kate; Fischer, John; Flynn, Keith; Henry, Dixie; Hetzel, Christine; Hogan, Mike; Hollar, Jennifer; Ide, Robert; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; Lunge, Robin; Mackay, Noelle; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb; Mears, David; Menard, Lisa; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Murphy, Reeve; Noonan, Annie; Obuchowski, Mike; Pallito, Andy; Peterson, Mary; Porter, Louis; Provost, David; Racine, Doug; Reardon, Jim; Recchia, Chris; Reid, Martha; Richards, Alyson; Ross, Chuck; Royar, Kim; Searles, Brian; Shems, Ron; Smith, Gregory; Smith, Megan; Snyder, Michael; Spaulding, Jeb; Spaulding, Susan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Vilaseca, Armando; Volz, James; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wood, John; Yacovone, Dave; Zeller, Susan
Subject: Message from Secretary Spaulding on Merit Bonuses
Attachments: Merit Bonuses Jan 2013.pdf

To Extended Cabinet

Please see the attached Memo from Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding regarding merit bonuses.

Thank you.

Harriet Johnson | Agency of Administration
109 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
ph: 802.828.3322 | fax: 802.828.3320

London, Sarah

From: Quam, David <DQuam@NGA.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:22 PM
To: Governors Chiefs of Staff
Subject: NGA Review of the "American Taxpayer Relief Act"
Attachments: Fiscal Cliff Averted for Now, but Significant Risks for States Remain.pdf; Suggested Talking Points_Fiscal Cliff.docx

To: Washington Representatives and State-Federal Contacts
Re: Effect of the American Taxpayer Relief Act on states
Date: 1-2-2012

Attached please find a memo describing the key consequences for states stemming from the American Taxpayer Relief Act that passed the House last night. We have also included brief talking points for your review and use.

NGA will review the memo and the details of the legislation during Wash Reps on Monday, January 7. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Barry Anderson (banderson@nga.org) or David Quam (dquam@nga.org).

--DCQ

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For more information on OMCT resources: www.nga.org/omct

You are currently subscribed to [chiefs] as bill.lofy@state.vt.us.
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-218044-151094.00031f1471b05cb1bfc7f4ea4f845e2e@talk.nga.org.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 3:03 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Miller, Elizabeth; Richards, Alyson; MacLean, Alex; Porter, Louis; Spaulding, Susan; Wesley, Carolyn; Burke, Ashley; Appleby, Leigh
Subject: Celebrating Susan Bartlett's adventure:

We have a nice menu for Susan's luncheon tomorrow at 12:30 (I'm also told it's Dru's birthday, and Jeb's belated birthday).

Susan S: cheese grits
Sue A: meatballs
Ashley: veggie plate
Aly: sesame noodles
Michael C: a cake

Let me know if anyone else is adding something to our gala menu ...

Susan knows about the lunch, so you don't have to whisper and act creepy.

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Johnson, Harriet
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 12:45 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Berry, Patrick; Boes, Richard; Borie, Lou; Bothfeld, Diane; Candon, Tom; Chen, Harry; Cimaglio, Barbara; Clasen, Michael; Cohen, Jeff; Cook, Steven; Dolan, Tracy; Donegan, Susan; Duffy, Kate; Fischer, John; Flynn, Keith; Henry, Dixie; Hetzel, Christine; Hogan, Mike; Hollar, Jennifer; Ide, Robert; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; LaClair, Jolinda; Larson, Mark; Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; Lunge, Robin; Mackay, Noelle; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb; Mears, David; Menard, Lisa; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minoli, Wanda; Minter, Sue; Mousley, Gregg; Murphy, Reeva; Noonan, Annie; Obuchowski, Mike; Pallito, Andy; Peterson, Mary; Porter, Louis; Provost, David; Racine, Doug; Reardon, Jim; Recchia, Chris; Reid, Martha; Richards, Alyson; Ross, Chuck; Royar, Kim; Searles, Brian; Shems, Ron; Smith, Gregory; Smith, Megan; Snyder, Michael; Spaulding, Jeb; Spaulding, Susan; Talbott, Bill; Thompson, Darwin; Vilaseca, Armando; Volz, James; Walcott, Cindy; Wallack, Anya; Wood, John; Yacovone, Dave; Zeller, Susan
Subject: Important Memo from Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding Regarding Position Requests and the Position Pool
Attachments: Memo From Administration Secretary Spaulding Regarding Positions.pdf; Positions to Pool December 2012.pdf; DHR-Position_Pool_Request_Form.pdf

To the Extended Cabinet,

Please see the attached Memo from Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding regarding position requests and the position pool.

Thank you.

Michael J. Clasen
Deputy Secretary
Agency of Administration
State of Vermont
Pavilion Office Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0201
802-828-3322
michael.clasen@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Theresa Alberghini DiPalma <tad=vtmednet.org@mail71.us2.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Theresa Alberghini DiPalma <tad@vtmednet.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 11:55 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fletcher Allen Partners Welcomes CVPH and Elizabethtown Community Hospital



In service to the PATIENT, COMMUNITY and MEDICINE since 1879.



Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you a press release that was sent out today announcing the affiliation of two northern New York hospitals -- Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital and Elizabethtown Community Hospital -- with Fletcher Allen Partners. To view the press release, click [here](#).

This is a significant step that furthers our work to build an integrated delivery system in our region that began with our affiliation with Central Vermont Medical Center. The affiliation builds on existing partnerships and brings many opportunities to further collaborate and coordinate care, while also expanding possibilities for education and clinical research. We expect to see several benefits over the next year including improved access to local care, greater purchasing power and enhanced information technology.

We look forward to strengthening this new partnership throughout 2013. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Theresa Alberghini DiPalma
Senior Vice President of
Marketing & External Relations

Sent to bill.lofy@state.vt.us — *why did I get this?*

unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences

Fletcher Allen · 111 Colchester Avenue · Burlington, Vt 05401

London, Sarah

From: EXE-Copier@state.vt.us
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 6:49 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY
Attachments: SEXE-Copier13010211480.pdf

Attachment from EXE-Copier.

Please do not reply to this email.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 11:40 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Receipts

Bill,
Do you have a couple credit card receipts for me?

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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London, Sarah

From: Noonan, Annie
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 11:39 AM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: FW: new report: State of Working VT 2012

FYI – Mat Barewicz sent me a Digger “factoid” and I asked if it was accurate. See his response.

From: Barewicz, Mathew
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 9:17 AM
To: Noonan, Annie
Subject: RE: new report: State of Working VT 2012

I looked up the jobs data and it appears to be pretty close to accurate... so the loss of private sector jobs since 2001 is true.

I am still reviewing the actual report but on first blush based on the way the Digger presented the findings, I don't agree with the declining 'wages' as measured by median household income. In fact, when I look up the Census data for VT for 2011 and 2001 – inflation adjusted – I show a small increase from \$51,862 to \$51,824.

So I am not sure where the cited numbers come from.

-mat

From: Noonan, Annie
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 8:59 AM
To: Barewicz, Mathew
Subject: RE: new report: State of Working VT 2012

Do you agree?

From: Barewicz, Mathew
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 8:12 AM
To: Noonan, Annie
Cc: Wolffing, Erika
Subject: new report: State of Working VT 2012

A new study was released by the Public Assets Institute. Clip from Digger write up:

Vermont has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country at 5.2 percent, but that statistic masks a disturbing trend: In the decade from 2001 to 2011, the private sector saw no new jobs, according to the report. “There were about 5,500 fewer private sector jobs in 2011 than in 2001,” the authors, Jack Hoffman and Paul Cillo wrote.

Vermonters also saw a decline in wages. In 2001, the median household income was \$53,407, adjusted for inflation; in 2011 that figure was \$52,776.

Link to Digger story: <http://vtdigger.org/2013/01/01/report-vermonters-earned-less-in-2011-than-they-did-a-decade-ago/>

Link to report: <http://publicassets.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/PAI-RPT1202.pdf>

Mathew J. Barewicz
Economic & Labor Market Information Chief
Vermont Department of Labor
5 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, VT
05601-0488
Phone- 802-828-4153
Fax- 802-828-4050
Mathew.Barewicz@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:56 AM
To: Trombley, Shana
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ Governor (UNCLASSIFIED)

Lets hold off until after inaug

On Jan 2, 2013, at 10:55 AM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

> We do have some time on the 7th but not on 8th. Should I schd it or hold off until post inaug?

>

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

> From: Slay, Susan M NFG (US) [mailto:susan.m.slay.nfg@mail.mil]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:47 AM

> To: Trombley, Shana

> Subject: Meeting w/ Governor (UNCLASSIFIED)

>

> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

> Caveats: NONE

>

>

> Good Morning Shana,

>

> Happy New Year!!!

>

> General Farnham asked me to speak to you about scheduling him in with Governor Shumlin. General Farnham is running for the Adjutant General position and Governor Shumlin asked him to come and see him when he (General Farnham) decided to run.

> So, that being said, do you have anything open on the Governor's schedule for January 7 (he is available anytime) or January 8 at 1:00, 1:30, 2:30 or 3:00pm?

>

> Looking forward to seeing you at tomorrow's meeting.

>

> Respectfully,

>

> Susan Slay

> Executive Assistant

> Office of the Adjutant General

> State of Vermont

>

>

>

>

> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

> Caveats: NONE

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Susan Slay
Executive Assistant
Office of the Adjutant General
State of Vermont

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:53 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Cc: Appleby, Leigh; Allen, Susan; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Morning social media

Ok that's in the press release too...

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 2, 2013, at 10:51 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

I'm not sure we should say we are announcing we will pass it early in the session - sounds a little presumptuous. Just say propose.

On Jan 2, 2013, at 10:48 AM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

Looks good

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 2, 2013, at 10:40 AM, "Appleby, Leigh" <Leigh.Appleby@state.vt.us> wrote:

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LA

Twitter – January 2, 2013

11:00 am Happening now: Gov. Shumlin holds a press conference at his office in #MontP.

11:15 am Gov. Shumlin has announced legislation to ensure that public employees forfeit some or all of their pension if they are convicted of certain financial crimes.

11:45 am "We need to ensure taxpayers are protected when an employee is convicted of fraud or other financial crimes linked to their public office."

1:00 pm Last week, Gov. Shumlin announced that VT's broadband network has expanded to 282,000 locations since 2010 & is on track to serve every household and business in by the end of 2013.

1:30 pm The average speed of connection has increased in VT from 5.5 mbps to 9 mbps, ranking VT 4th in the U.S.

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Leigh Appleby

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109 State Street, Pavilion
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Cell: (802)279-6825
leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

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leigh.appleby@state.vt.us

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London, Sarah

From: Morgan Wilson <mwilson@nga.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:41 AM
To: NGA Daily E-Mail
Subject: NGA Daily E-mail

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

In this issue:

1. [This Just In](#)
2. [Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar](#)
3. [NGA News Releases](#)
4. [Press Clips](#)

Contact:

[Erin Cohan](#)
202-624-5300

This Just In

This Just In headlines:

1. **House Passes Senate Deal to Avoid Cliff**
2. **Department of Transportation Finalizes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program**

For past editions of This Just In, visit: <http://www.nga.org/cms/tji>

House Passes Senate Deal to Avoid Cliff

Last night the House of Representatives passed "The American Taxpayer Relief Act," (H.R. 8) by a vote of 257-167. The bill extends most of the Bush-era tax cuts for individuals making less than \$400,000 or couples making \$450,000. Taxpayers with income above those levels will now pay 39.6 percent. The measure also permanently fixes the Alternative Minimum Tax, provides a one year fix for Medicare reimbursement rates and suspends scheduled sequester cuts for two months. The Act does extend important state provisions such as the preserving the deductibility of state and local sales taxes and the investment and production tax credits for wind energy. The two month delay in the sequester means that spending cuts will be a major issue for Congress over the next several months along with expiration of the current Continuing Resolution and the need to increase the debt ceiling.

NGA Contact: [David Quam](#), 202-624-5309

Department of Transportation Finalizes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program

Last week, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that in three months it will begin administering the New Starts/Small Starts program using a streamlined approach that will accelerate project delivery and reduce regulations for federal funds. This final rule was the subject of a January 2010 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and puts into place the regulatory structure proposed in a January 2012 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as well as the New and Small Starts evaluation criteria

and rating process defined in MAP-21. FTA announced four key changes to the program: a simpler approach to measuring a project's cost-effectiveness, based on project cost and passengers served; an expanded range of environmental benefits used in project evaluation, including the dollar value of the anticipated benefits to human health, energy use, air quality, and safety; an addition of new economic development factors in the rating process, such as whether plans would maintain or increase affordable housing; and a reduction of red tape by withdrawing requirements for certain benefit analyses.

Subsequent rulemaking will cover other aspects of MAP-21 changes to the New Starts/Small Starts program that have not yet been addressed. More information can be found [here](#).

NGA Contacts: [David Parkhurst](#), 202-624-5328; [Elizabeth Bennett](#), 202-624-5376

Today's Meetings/NGA Calendar

Wednesday, January 2

1. CANCELED: Meeting of the Health and Homeland Security Reps: Wednesday, January 2 at 2:00pm, NGA Governors Conference Room

To view the NGA calendar, go to: www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/MONTH.pdf

NGA News Releases

1. [States to Focus on U.S. Birth Outcomes](#)

Press Clips

Press clips that are relevant to state issues and Governors' offices are available from the NGA Office of Communications through the NGA Daily Email each Wednesday. In addition, the clips page has links to national news sources, which can be accessed any day of the week.

To view these press clips and links to national news sources, go to: <http://www.nga.org/clips>

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

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:32 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Need your signature

Bill,
Can you come sign Gov's per diem prior to press conference – I most likely won't make it until after press conference?

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: Dasaro, Stephanie
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 9:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Flynn, Keith; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: today's press conference

Sue...what time is the press conference? The commissioner is at a meeting this morning, then we will work on some comments. Thanks, Stephanie

Stephanie Dasaro | Vermont State Police, Public Information Officer
(cell) | 802-241-5277 (desk)

"Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Donoghue is coming and he will ask for an update on the investigation. Can you be prepared to answer that one for the Governor?

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Vilaseca, Armando
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 8:45 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Phone call today

Bill,

Do you have time for a phone call with me today?

Armando

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Flynn, Keith
Cc: Dasaro, Stephanie; Lofy, Bill
Subject: today's press conference

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Sue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 6:22 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2 (FINAL):

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Vermont state psych unit to open Wednesday

MORRISVILLE, Vt. (AP) — Vermont's newest psychiatric facility is ready to take patients.

Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center is set to open and be ready to receive patients on Wednesday.

The facility represents part of the state's efforts to reorganize its mental health system following Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, which flooded and forced the closing of the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury.

The state also is going ahead with plans to build a 25-bed psychiatric hospital in Berlin and expand or create smaller facilities around Vermont.

Many weddings as gay marriage becomes legal in Md.

TILGHMAN ISLAND, Md. (AP) — Same-sex couples in Maryland were greeted with cheers and noisemakers held over from New Year's Eve parties, as gay marriage became legal in the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line on New Year's Day.

James Scales, 68, was married to William Tasker, 60, on Tuesday shortly after midnight by Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake inside City Hall.

"It's just so hard to believe it's happening," Scales said shortly before marrying his partner of 35 years.

Six other same-sex couples also were being married at City Hall. Ceremonies were taking place in other parts of the state as well.

The ceremonies follow a legislative fight that pitted Gov. Martin O'Malley against leaders of his Catholic faith. Voters in the state, founded by Catholics in the 17th century, sealed the change by approving a November ballot question.

"There is no human institution more sacred than that of the one that you are about to form," Rawlings-Blake said during the brief ceremony. "True marriage, true marriage, is the dearest of all earthly relationships."

Brigitte Ronnett, who also was married, said she hopes one day to see full federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Maryland, Maine and Washington state were the first states to approve same-sex marriage by popular vote, in November, a development Ronnett said was significant.

"I think it's a great sign when you see that popular opinion is now in favor of this," said Ronnett, 51, who married Lisa Walther, 51, at City Hall.

Same-sex couples in Maryland have been able to get marriage licenses since Dec. 6, but they did not take effect until Tuesday.

In 2011, same-sex marriage legislation passed in the state Senate but stalled in the House of Delegates. O'Malley hadn't made the issue a key part of his 2011 legislative agenda, but indicated that summer that he was considering backing a measure similar to New York's law, which includes exemptions for religious organizations.

Shortly after, Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of Baltimore wrote to O'Malley that same-sex marriage went against the governor's faith.

"As advocates for the truths we are compelled to uphold, we speak with equal intensity and urgency in opposition to your promoting a goal that so deeply conflicts with your faith, not to mention the best interests of our society," wrote O'Brien, who served as archbishop of the nation's first diocese from October 2007 to August 2011.

The governor was not persuaded. He held a news conference in July 2011 to announce that he would make same-sex marriage a priority in the 2012 legislative session. He wrote back to the archbishop that "when shortcomings in our laws bring about a result that is unjust, I have a public obligation to try to change that injustice."

The measure, with exemptions for religious organizations that choose not to marry gay couples, passed the House of Delegates in February in a close vote. O'Malley signed it in March. Opponents then gathered enough signatures to put the bill to a statewide vote, and it passed with 52 percent in favor.

In total, nine states and the District of Columbia have approved same-sex marriage. The other states are Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Washington.

Meanwhile, the weddings continued throughout the day Tuesday. Clayton Zook, 28, and Wayne McKenzie, 30, married by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay at the Black Walnut Point Inn on Tilghman Island.

"We've been together for six and a half years, so this one day doesn't really change a whole lot as far as our feelings," said Zook, of Baltimore. "It does change a whole lot in how we are recognized, and we're certainly felt more as equal in the state of Maryland now."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 6:16 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2:

WCAX:

Sen. Leahy hails bill to help with rape DNA tests

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy is hailing Senate passage of legislation aimed at reducing the backlog of untested rape kits throughout the country.

The Vermont Democrat, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, co-authored an amendment to improve a program passed in 2004 to reduce the national backlog of rape evidence kits awaiting testing.

Leahy says large numbers of untested rape kits have languished at police departments, never making it to a crime lab. He says the new legislation is designed to give police agencies the tools they need to reduce backlogs.

Leahy worked on the bill with Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas.

Gov. Shumlin on 2013 priorities

KEITH MCGILVERY

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Governor Peter Shumlin is resolving to get his top priorities enacted into law in the upcoming legislative session.

The second-term Democrat says he's again looking for a balanced budget without raising broad-based taxes. He adds his administration will also focus on keeping and creating jobs in Vermont.

Shumlin says working with a new education secretary to find ways to provide pre-school programs to children statewide and providing more workforce retraining will also be important.

"Time and time again when I talk to employers across Vermont they say to me, governor, we've got jobs, we just don't have enough people in the stem areas of education to be able to get those jobs done," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

Shumlin is expected to name an education secretary this month.

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Southern Vt. will see boost in cell service

Route 7 in Pownal among areas targeted by VTel

ZEKE WRIGHT

POWNAL — Barring any unforeseen glitches, access to high-speed broadband internet is on track to become available to every household and business in Vermont by the end of 2013, according to Gov. Peter Shumlin and Connect Vermont Chief Karen Marshall. The goal of 100 percent high-speed connectivity by the end of this year was a pledge of Shumlin's during his first term in 2011, spurring the Connect Vt. initiative.

Concurrently, the governor's office announced a \$5 million grant Monday to expand cellular service in Southern Vermont in Bennington, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor counties. That award will go to VTel Wireless, a Springfield-based affiliate of Vermont Telephone, slated to invest \$15 million total within 19 areas of the southern part of the state, including Route 7 in Pownal and also:

- Andover Road from Andover to Weston
 - Route 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington • Routes 100 and 100a in Plymouth
 - Route 100 in Wardsboro
 - Route 103 in Mount Holly
 - Route 133 from Pawlet to Middletown Springs
- Overseeing the initiative to "connect Vermont," Marshall said the mission was twofold: Universal broadband and vastly expanded cellular service.

"This grant ... represents a significant investment in leading-edge micro and macro cell technology that will meet the needs of Vermonters. ... Our public funds leverage federal and private funds already at work as we avoid duplication of infrastructure and stretch our resources further," she wrote in a prepared statement.

The grant was recently approved by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) Board. Shumlin's office said the investment of state funds would help fill in challenging gaps in coverage. Funding was included in state appropriations as part of the broadband initiative.

VTA Executive Director Christopher Campbell called the award the most significant to date for expanded cellular service from the telecommunications authority. Marshall said Vermont was "one of the most connected places on the planet" following two years of infrastructure work, both cellular and broadband. According to her, in 2010, there were 256,343 locations with broadband access and about 37,761 lacking.

As of this past June, Marshall tallied 282,066 locations with access to a high-speed provider — just over 95 percent — and 12,494 in the process of receiving service (4.2 percent). With about 500 locations left, largely in remote areas of the state, Marshall said those areas remained a challenge; but the governor's release said the push was on to "find creative solutions to bring broadband access to those locations."

As part of the VTel cellular upgrade, the company will also install "small-cell sites" on utility poles to bring cell service to areas that are especially difficult to serve because of topography. The small-cell equipment is installed at short intervals along roadways to boost signals.

The soon-to-be upgraded 4G LTE-technology system is part of VTel's Wireless Open World, a federally funded project to deliver home broadband service over wireless networks. Many of the WOW broadband service areas overlap with "target corridors" for cell service, which are main travel routes identified as either lacking cell service completely or having inconsistent coverage.

Vermont now ranks fourth in the U.S. in terms of average broadband speed connection according to the governor's office. Marshall said the venture was creating "both connections and jobs" in the telecommunications sector.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Start making sense

by: jvwalt

Tue Jan 01, 2013 at 22:43:59 PM EST

Governor Shumlin is kicking off the New Year in an unusual way -- scheduling news conferences on three straight days. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 11 a.m.

Good. That'll give him three more chances to produce a coherent statement on gun control. Ever since the Newtown shootings, he's tried and failed on multiple occasions.

Let's look at some of his nonsense, shall we? In no particular order...

The 50-state approach. Shumlin insists that gun violence must be addressed on a nationwide basis, not by individual states. But, as Terri Hallenbeck pointed out, that puts the Governor at odds with himself on a range of issues.

When it comes to health care, this is what Gov. Peter Shumlin says: "If Vermont can get this right, the other states will follow."

Name just about any other topic - same-sex marriage, shutting down nuclear power plants, penalties for marijuana, clean energy - and Shumlin expresses the same sentiment: Vermont should lead the way.

...This argument seems to transcend all issues except gun control.

Hallenbeck adds that a whole bunch of Democratic Governors are pursuing gun legislation in their own states. I guess Shumlin, as the new head of the Democratic Governors Association, should tell them to back off, because his colleagues are just wasting their time.

After the jump: an anecdote becomes proof, more about "crazy people," and one man's definition of leadership: doing nothing.

Gun laws don't work because of a single incident. As reported in VT Digger:

"State by state won't work," said Shumlin, noting Connecticut has stricter gun laws than Vermont and the killings there occurred anyway.

There's a whole lot of stupid in that small paragraph. First, he's relying on anecdotal evidence to prove a general thesis. The Newtown shootings proved nothing about the efficacy of Connecticut's gun laws. It was a single incident, and it could have happened anywhere. And I do hope the Governor isn't making the NRA's argument that tough gun-control laws cause gun violence. That's the most unconvincing weapon in Wayne LaPierre's arsenal.

The crazy-person fallacy. The Governor recently disgraced himself by saying that we ought to do something to keep weapons out of "the hands of crazy, deranged people." As discussed previously in this space, that's not only offensive, it's completely wrong. Most mass shooters had no previous diagnosis of mental illness. Mentally ill people are far more often the victims of violent crime than they are the perpetrators. So branding "crazy, deranged people" would do little or nothing to prevent future mass killings.

And even if you could somehow identify the "crazy, deranged people," how do you keep them away from weapons? It certainly wouldn't have prevented Newtown, because Adam Lanza got the guns from his own mother's house. So how would you keep guns away from the crazies? Would you bar mentally ill people from living with people who own guns? Would you bar the relatives or friends or roommates or landlords of mentally ill people from owning guns? Good luck with any of that.

Shumlin continued to pound the "crazy people" argument this week, although thankfully he did drop the word "deranged." I guess he's still got this mental picture of the human monster killing machine frothing at the mouth and cackling maniacally as he mows down his victims. I hate to break it to you, Shummy, but that's more of a movie thing than a reality thing.

Leadership by doing... nothing. Shumlin told *Seven Days* that he has "a heightened sense of urgency to stop this kind of tragedy." Well, he sure isn't acting like it. He has called for a 50-state solution, but anyone with a thimbleful of political insight knows that national gun control is going nowhere with the current Republican majority in the U.S. House.

His "heightened sense of urgency" hasn't resulted in any meaningful ideas. He hasn't proposed or endorsed a damn thing except for somehow separating "crazy people" from assault weapons, and he hasn't proposed a realistic idea of how to achieve that impossible goal.

And then there's this:

"I will defend the rights of sportsmen and -women to own weapons until my dying day," Shumlin added. "But in all my years of hunting, I've never seen an assault weapon in the woods. People don't use machines of war to shoot whitetail deer."

Which sounds like a call for an assault weapons ban. But from his other statements, I have to conclude that it's not. I guess he's just shaking his finger and saying "tut-tut" at people who feel the need to own assault weapons. But he doesn't want to prevent them from doing so.

Vermont exceptionalism. Shumlin has also said that "Vermont should be a model for the country" on the use of lethal weapons. By which I assume he means that the country should do nothing, since that's exactly what he wants Vermont to do.

And if he's talking, as I suspect he is, of Vermont's attitudes being a model for the country, then I call bullshit. First of all, you can't simply export a culture. You can't take Vermont's approach to guns and inject the same attitudes into the people of Florida or Texas or Alaska. Or even New Hampshire.

Beyond that, there's the underlying notion that Vermont is somehow superior to other places, that our way of life is a cut above, that Vermonters are purer in spirit. As someone who's lived here for six years, I can tell you that Vermont is a *different* place, but not in any meaningful way a better place. It has its advantages and its disadvantages. One of its disadvantages is that it tends to have an overinflated view of itself.

Vermont has very permissive gun laws, and very low rates of violent crime. But that has more to do with low population and a lack of large urban areas, than it has to do with the virtue of our character or the wisdom of our approach toward guns.

If you ask me, there's a very simple basis for all this desperate gubernatorial spinning on the gun issue. He doesn't want anything to be done; but in the wake of Newtown, he can't say so. Instead, we get this cloud of octopus ink masquerading as leadership.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 6:08 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2:

VTDIGGER:

Legislative preview: Judiciary chairs tackle prescription drugs, but otherwise interests diverge **by Nat Rudarakanchana**

The House and Senate Judiciary chairs agree that an urgent criminal justice problem facing Vermont is increased abuse of prescription drugs, but they otherwise diverge on their legislative plans for the next session.

"Prescription drug abuse is a major cause of crime. It needs to be dealt with, and hasn't gone away," said Senate Judiciary committee chair Dick Sears, D-Bennington. "That's my No. 1 priority."

Last year, legislation stalled as the House and the Senate clashed over how much access law enforcement officials should have to the Vermont Prescription Drug Monitoring System, with Sears arguing that limited access would help the state combat an "epidemic" of opiate abuse.

Sears still supports "very limited access by those people who are skilled investigators," he told VTDigger. Sears' counterpart, Rep. Bill Lippert, D-Hinesburg, does not support law enforcement access to the database, which tracks the prescription and distribution of drugs prone to abuse.

"It's important for the privacy of medical records, for the prescription drug registry ... to remain as a health care tool and not a law enforcement investigation tool," said Lippert, pointing out that investigators are already able to obtain records directly from pharmacies.

Last month, Gov. Peter Shumlin said that he will push again to allow limited database access to investigators, as he did last year without success. In the past, advocacy groups like the ACLU-VT have argued that police should first obtain search warrants before accessing the registry, to protect individual privacy.

In the broader context, Lippert sees increased abuse of prescribed and non-prescribed opiates as one of his committee's key concerns. He'd like to consider harsher punishments for criminal drug traffickers, alongside increased resources for treating and preventing opiate addiction.

On gun control legislation, which will likely start in the judiciary committees, neither Lippert or Sears would take a position on supporting an automatic weapons ban in principle. Both said that an outright ban is a simplistic solution to a complex problem, which wouldn't adequately deal with the role of mental illness in violent episodes.

After broad agreement on the importance of curbing drug abuse, the two longtime chairs have fairly distinct interests.

Sears will entertain legislation on public records reform related to criminal investigative records, and wants to review the increasing detention of nonviolent offenders, and how bills are vetted for constitutional weaknesses during the legislative process.

Lippert expects to see legislation on marijuana decriminalization and death with dignity, if the latter first emerges from a Senate committee. Both topics have been prioritized by the Shumlin administration, with interest in marijuana's legal status also sparked by successful legalization referendums in Burlington, Washington, and Colorado.

Attorney general Bill Sorrell supports the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use, but also wants the legislature to “take a hard look at issues related to driving while under the influence of pot.” Sorrell plans to monitor the legalization experiment in Colorado and Washington, focusing on the federal government’s response in those two states to legal conflicts.

On public records reform, Sears has invited input from stakeholders like the ACLU-VT and Sorrell. In a written reply on December 20, Sorrell proposes that investigative records into potential police misconduct become open to the public, to address longstanding questions about bias in cases where police investigate the alleged misconduct of colleagues.

Sears’ initial view is that Vermont should move towards the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) standard on access to criminal files, which permits public access unless there is a reasonable belief that disclosure could harm someone.

According to Sorrell, state prosecutors need to obtain a court order prohibiting disclosure in specific cases under the federal standard, a burden he views as an unnecessary strain on the state’s legal resources.

Many of these topics, including marijuana decriminalization, public records access, and the attorney general’s defense of state legislation in federal courts, because of constitutional questions, were subjects of debate during a fierce August Democratic primary, which Sorrell won narrowly.

Sterling leaves Vermont Leads, returns to Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security

ANNE GALLOWAY

Peter Sterling, a longtime health care reform advocate, is switching roles. Sterling founded Vermont Leads, a 501(c)4 nonprofit dedicated to promoting public funded health care, in June as part of an effort to counter anti-single payer rhetoric.

Now Sterling says he is returning to another advocacy group he formed — the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security.

In a letter to supporters, he said: “I have made this decision because I feel the need to dedicate my efforts to ensuring that Vermont’s Health Care Exchange is implemented in a way that is fair and equitable to low and middle income Vermonters.”

Sterling most famously organized a protest near Republican activist and funder Lenore Broughton’s house last fall to draw attention to the impact of big money interests on the election. Broughton spent \$1 million in Vermont that was funneled through Vermonters First, the state’s first Super PAC. Gov. Peter Shumlin’s single payer health care initiative was one of the targets of a series of broadcast TV attack ads.

Ongoing opposition, Sterling said, comes from groups like the National Federation of Independent Businesses and Vermonters for Health Care Freedom (which has run television ads criticizing the Shumlin administration’s efforts to reform the state’s health care system).

Vermont Leads is funded by the Service Employees International Union. The organization spent \$50,000 in the last campaign cycle.

Sterling’s letter to the public follows.

Dear Friend:

I wanted to let you know that beginning today, I will be returning to work full time for the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security. I have made this decision because I feel the need to dedicate my efforts to ensuring that Vermont's Health Care Exchange is implemented in a way that is fair and equitable to low and middle income Vermonters.

I will continue my role with Vermont Leads as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In this capacity, I believe I can still have a positive impact on the debate over the need for single payer health care.

I believe Vermont Leads played an important role in advancing the cause of single payer health care through arguably its most susceptible period—the first election cycle after passage of Act 48. Through the work of many, I believe the single payer movement has emerged from this election poised to achieve a first in the nation success of establishing a universal, publicly funded health care system.

I would like to thank the members of SEIU and Matt McDonald for this opportunity to educate the public about the need to create a single payer health care system, one that will hopefully serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

Peter Sterling, Director
Vermont Leads

House Appropriations Committee gets an early start on mid-year budget corrections

ANNE GALLOWAY

Lawmakers don't return to the Statehouse until Jan. 9, but one small, dedicated group of legislators will get a head start on committee work.

House Speaker Shap Smith and the leaders of the Republican and Progressive caucuses agreed to move ahead with the process, which takes weeks of testimony and deliberation to complete.

The House Appropriations Committee will begin reviewing the Shumlin administration's budget adjustment requests on Wednesday afternoon. Jim Reardon, the commissioner of the Department of Finance and Management, will give lawmakers a rundown of the mid-year changes in state spending and revenues since the 2013 budget went into effect on July 1.

Reardon's annual explanation of upward pressures, savings, revenue gains and shortfalls will give lawmakers the lay of the land. His testimony will be followed by that of agency secretaries and department commissioners who will troop into Room 42 one by one over the next several weeks to pitch changes for approval.

The first secretary at bat is Doug Racine, who is head of the largest agency in state government — human services. He will be followed by commissioners for corrections, health, health access, mental health, children and families and disabilities aging and independent living. Officials from the judiciary, the Agency of Natural Resources, commerce and the tax department will also present lawmakers with a rundown of not only the state of the state's finances, but also reports on how their agencies and departments have performed. In years past, lawmakers in House Appropriations have held as much of an interest in the efficacy of state government as in the spending equation.

In September, Reardon red-flagged areas where the fiscal year 2013 budget could be higher than anticipated, including funding for the state's prison system and subsidized childcare programs. Entergy Corp. filed a lawsuit with the state that month over a \$7 million increase in a generating tax on Vermont Yankee. It's unclear how the state will now collect the revenue. Last month, officials said spending for disabilities programs is up by \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

The Budget Adjustment Act is typically completed before the committee takes up the budget bill, which will be introduced by the governor later this month. The state faces a \$50 million to \$70 million budget deficit. In addition, congressional cuts in federal spending now under deliberation could have an impact on the state budget.

Report: Vermonters earned less in 2011 than in 2001

ANNE GALLOWAY

A new report shows that median income Vermonters saw their earning power erode in the last decade as costs for health care, child care and college continued to rise. Meanwhile, job growth has declined somewhat.

Public Assets Institute, a left-of-center think tank based in Montpelier, released its annual analysis of state economic trends last week. The State of Working Vermont report tracks jobs, wages, poverty rates, government benefits and health care costs.

Vermont has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country at 5.2 percent, but that statistic masks a disturbing trend: In the decade from 2001 to 2011, the private sector saw no new jobs, according to the report. "There were about 5,500 fewer private sector jobs in 2011 than in 2001," the authors, Jack Hoffman and Paul Cillo wrote.

Vermonters also saw a decline in wages. In 2001, the median household income was \$53,407, adjusted for inflation; in 2011 that figure was \$52,776.

Can political leaders do anything to turn the lackluster job creation numbers around? Not really. Nor can they have much impact on wages, the authors of the report say.

"Still, policymakers can do more than they're doing for Vermonters and the economy," Hoffman and Cillo write. "A state can make itself conducive to job creation by investing in public structures like transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, good schools and health care, a clean environment, and public safety—that is, by becoming a desirable place to live and work."

The institute also recommends that the state expand initiatives like the People's Budget initiative, shift toward a Genuine Progress Indicator, and make good on its commitment to reform Vermont's health care financing system.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 6:03 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2:

RUTLAND HERALD:

Rutland legislators reveal top issues

The Herald invited every state legislator from Vermont's four southern counties to respond to the question, "What's your single most important issue for 2013 and why?" Here are the answers from all the Rutland lawmakers who replied:

Sen. Peg Flory, R-Rutland:

My top priority for Rutland County is to improve the economy by creating an environment to increase jobs. Without this, we can't adequately address my other three priorities: 1) Addressing and adequately funding the drug problem; 2) Addressing and adequately funding the Eastern equine encephalitis threat and 3) Supporting a wind moratorium. All of these issues are quality of life issues and essential to the people in our county and state.

Sen. Kevin Mullin, R-Rutland:

Our students will grow up to compete in a global marketplace. In this session, we must address the fact that we are not providing every student with equal opportunities to learn. Availability of early childhood education is not universal for Vermont families. Performance and course offerings vary substantially from district to district and school to school. Vermont must continue on its path toward excellence in education and branding ourselves as the pre-K-16 education state. Of equal importance on my list of priorities: economic development, sound energy policies, affordable and sustainable health care reform and making all arms of government effective, efficient and transparent.

Rep. Tom Burditt, R-Rutland-2 (Clarendon, Proctor, Tinmouth, Wallingford, West Rutland):

One of mine will be the governor's quest to let law enforcement into our medical/prescription records without warrants. This was a hotly contested issue at the end of last session with the House adamantly against letting police into our private records and the Senate overwhelmingly in favor. The conference committee I was on butted heads pretty hard with the Senate trying to resolve the differences. This would fly directly in the face of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights and Article 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

Rep. Dave Potter, D-Rutland-2 (Clarendon, Proctor, Tinmouth, Wallingford, West Rutland):

For certain areas in my legislative district, the most important issue to face the 2013 legislative session will be a moratorium on ridgeline development of industrial scale wind energy. When something of this size and scale threatens

to intrude into your tranquil, rural residential neighborhood, changing forever what you see, hear and feel in ways it is difficult to imagine, it's about as important to those affected people as it gets.

Rep. Bob Helm, R/D-Rutland-3 (Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, West Haven):

Lower the drinking age to 18. I'm also going to ask the Legislature to look at term limits for itself and ask Congress to do the same. And I want to allow 65-plus-year-old hunters to use all-terrain vehicles on state logging roads and hard surface areas.

Rep. Thomas Terenzini R/D-Rutland-4 (Rutland Town):

To see Vermonters continue the financial and physical recovery from Tropical Storm Irene. So many of our neighbors are struggling financially; where can we make financial cuts to impact their personal finances? Tough choices will need to be made and it is going to be a challenging session. We must also be concerned with job creation and the loss of too many jobs in Vermont, including at the Waterbury complex.

Rep. Peter Fagan R-Rutland-5-1 (Rutland City):

The most important issue right now for Rutland and much of Vermont is drugs and drug crime. I have been to all of the community meetings and I have heard loud and clear that people want something done. The Rutland City delegation is working closely together to craft bills to make it uncomfortable for individuals to sell drugs and commit drug crimes.

Rep. Larry "Cooper" Cupoli, R-Rutland-5-2 (Rutland City):

To find a way to make sure that recipients of our social welfare spending are not abusing the system. Perhaps a drug-testing measure should be adopted to insure that our tax dollars are being spent on those who are not abusers and instead on our citizens that are truly in need of help. As I campaigned, I found that this was by far a most popular issue and perhaps a most difficult question for me to address.

Rep. Herb Russell, D-Rutland-5-3 (Rutland City):

Everything else is extremely important, but my main thrust is getting the western rail corridor completed from Rutland to Burlington for Amtrak and freight. Because we don't have an interstate on this side of the state, we've got to find a way to get this done for economic development.

Rep. Douglas Gage, R-Rutland-5-4 (Rutland City):

Toughening the penalties for crimes involving hard drugs, which have increased greatly over the last decade. Many Rutlanders no longer feel safe. We need to significantly increase the penalties for the sales and distributing to make the cost of dealing hard drugs too high, forcing the dealers to stop selling and getting them off the streets.

Rep. Stephen Carr, D-Rutland-6 (Brandon, Pittsford, Sudbury):

While I've been concerned with Eastern equine encephalitis and transportation issues on the western side of the state, health care is my biggest priority. There's nothing that hits on everyone's life like this issue. We have the opportunity to accomplish some wonderful things. I believe in universal health care.

Rep. Butch Shaw R/D-Rutland-6 (Brandon, Pittsford, Sudbury):

To secure reliable and sustainable funding in the proper amount for a Vermont Arbovirus Program. With two deaths from Eastern equine encephalitis in my district, mosquitoes have moved from being a nuisance problem to being a public health problem. We need to support the Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture in their efforts to expand the existing Arboviral Program. Additional financial support is needed for our current BLGS Insect Control District and other districts that wish to expand to other towns or additional districts that may be formed.

Rep. John Malcolm, D-Rutland-Bennington (Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Tinmouth, Wells):

Achieving a strong Vermont economy and job opportunities through: good educational and training opportunities, good roads, bridges, rail and public transit, modern telecommunication and Internet availability, incentives for businesses and homeowners for weatherization and renewable energy projects, and affordable and accessible health care.

Rep. Anne Gallivan, D-Rutland-Windsor-1 (Bridgewater, Chittenden, Killington, Mendon):

My constituents are all concerned about their individual town school costs at a time of low enrollments. In order to preserve strong school programs in this climate, I will advocate for economic development measures that will draw young families and fill our schools to capacity, allowing for continued local control and preventing compromises of program quality. Streamlining all of the state permitting processes might also bolster business growth. The Legislature should review the school funding formula as well to assure that the taxes do not disproportionately burden lower incomes.

Rep. Dennis Devereux, R-Rutland-Windsor-2 (Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury):

How we're funding schools with property taxes has been one of the biggest concerns for my area. If we can't change how we're funding schools, let's address cost containment issues. There's a lot of pieces of the costs of education: health care costs, teacher pensions, special education, supervisory union district mergers. There are some difficult decisions to be made.

Rep. Will Stevens, I-Addison-Rutland (Benson, Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting):

Thirty-one years of experience as a vegetable grower means that my focus will be on the economic health of Vermont's agricultural and forest product sectors, because of the enormous implications for our rural areas. Related issues that I'll be involved with include: water quality and accepted agricultural practices, the continuance of statewide efforts to get more Vermont food into more Vermont homes, and ensuring a second year of appropriations for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund.

Vote may resolve North Bennington school question

By Patrick McArdle

NORTH BENNINGTON — The future of the North Bennington Graded School may be settled Thursday when voters will decide whether to give the School Board permission to close the school so it can re-open as the independent Village School of North Bennington.

An informational meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7 in the school's gymnasium. Voting is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the village offices at the train station.

Both questions ask voters to give the School Board authorization — the first question in regard to closing the school and the second in regard to leasing the building and its equipment to the independent school.

Members of the School Board, the North Bennington Prudential Committee, support a positive vote on both questions. Raymond Mullineaux, chairman of the School Board, said voters should know that voting yes would not close the public school.

"It vests the authority with the board to (close the school) under certain conditions. One is that (the board members) determine that it's in the best interests of giving a public education to the children in its district, that it do so by providing their parents a choice. Second is that there be an independent school that would provide parents a strong option for providing a public education to children," he said.

Proponents of the independent school have pointed out that it will mean "school choice."

In Vermont, parents who live in a town without a public school can choose to send their children to another school and the tuition amount provided by the state will go with the child to the chosen school. Parents who live in a town with a public school can still send their children to another school but the parents would be responsible for paying the entire cost of tuition.

Critics have said they want to maintain a public school overseen by an elected board that meets in open session. According to the application submitted by the Village School of North Bennington, members of its board of trustees will be appointed and aren't required to be from North Bennington.

As an independent school, there would be no requirement for open meetings of the board or the release of a school budget.

Mullineaux said he also believed that changes to education in recent years left him and others with concerns about how long the North Bennington school could remain open as it exists. In Vermont, a public school can't be closed without approval from voters but Mullineaux said talk of consolidation also has the local School Board concerned.

One issue that has been raised about the change to the school is the future of two separate bonds taken on by the village voters and how the change to an independent school might change the conditions of repayment but Mullineaux said the school board has gotten legal opinions that changes could be made to the bonds' terms so there wouldn't be any impact on taxpayers.

At town meeting in 2012, voters approved closing the school but under ballot questions which called for the school to close at the end of the 2011-12 school year. An independent school can't be created without approval by the Vermont Board of Education and the board tabled action on the application of the Village School in May.

In August, the state School Board asked for another vote on the issue because its members didn't want to proceed without valid permission from voters. Another vote took place in October but the outcome, while positive, was very close and the question was approved by 26 votes with more than 550 votes cast.

A petition was circulated and received enough signatures to require the reconsideration vote Thursday.

Mullineaux said the School Board members are hoping that if Thursday's vote is positive, the Vermont Board of Education will act on the independent school application this month.

Yankee fight in 2 courts

BRATTLEBORO — Lawyers involved in the fight over the future of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant will be busy in the coming weeks.

A federal appeals court in New York has set Jan. 14 as the date for oral arguments in an appeal of a Vermont federal judge's order last January saying the state could not force Vermont Yankee to shut down.

Two days later, the Vermont Supreme Court will hear a claim by the anti-nuclear group New England Coalition.

That group says that by continuing to operate the plant past its initial license expiration date of this past March 21, Entergy Corp. is violating the terms of the state permit it got when it bought Vermont Yankee in 2002.

FOX44:

New Vermont Laws Take Effect To Ring in 2013

NICK NATARIO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - On Tuesday, the Vermont statehouse sat covered in snow with little activity.

That will change next week when lawmakers return.

But even though no work was done there Tuesday, some new laws went into effect, including a bullying plan for each school and minimum wage workers receiving a 14 cent pay raise.

"I think that that is a good move to trying to get toward a livable wage here in Vermont," said Senate Pro-Tem John Campbell.

Campbell spoke with us by phone Tuesday.

He says the Green Mountain State doesn't have too many new laws take effect January 1st.

"Most of our laws are implemented on July 1st of every year. That is the beginning of the fiscal year for our state," said Campbell.

2012 saw lawmakers introduce "Vermont Strong" license plates.

It also made skiing and snowboarding the state's official sport.

Lawmakers also banned tanning for anyone under 18 and pushed forward on the healthcare exchange.

Items that Campbell thought made 2012 successful.

"I judge a legislative year not by the number of bills that are passed but the quality of the bills," said Campbell.

As lawmakers return Campbell says 2013 will still focus on the damage left from Tropical Storm Irene.

"We go full steam ahead with the state hospital in Berlin," said Campbell.

And other bills that will impact Vermonters when we ring in 2014.

Again the Vermont legislative session is set to begin next Tuesday.

During the session Governor Peter Shumlin wants to see lawmakers focus on migrant licenses, physician-assisted suicide, marijuana decriminalization and letting child care's unionize.

VPR:

Shumlin Says He'll Support Restructuring Income Tax System

BOB KINZEL

Governor Peter Shumlin says he'll oppose any plan to increase a broad based tax during the upcoming session. But the governor is open to restructuring Vermont's income tax system to make the state more competitive with other states in the region.

Vermont is one of the few states to use a person's "taxable income" to determine their tax burden. Most other states use what is known as "adjusted gross income."

Here's why it makes a difference. The "adjusted gross income" number is down at the bottom of page one of your federal tax return.

"Taxable income" is over on page two after you've applied either the standard deduction or itemized deductions.

Because the "taxable income" figure is smaller than "adjusted gross", that means the Vermont Tax Department needs to impose a higher rate than if it was using the adjusted gross income number. So while Vermont's "income tax rates" are usually higher than many other states, a comparison of "income tax burden" would show that Vermont is in the middle of the country.

That's one of the reasons that Governor Shumlin is willing to look at making this change.

"Of the Blue Ribbon Commission's Tax Report, the part that makes a lot of sense is to find ways to have our income tax burden better reflect what we actually charge Vermonters."

And Shumlin says the change should help economic development efforts.

"It's a pretty well kept secret that in fact middle class Vermonters pay lower income taxes than almost everyone of our neighbors that has an income tax in the northeast."

Calais Rep. Janet Ancel is the chair of the House Ways and Means committee. Her panel has spent a lot of time looking at this issue and she says it's not as easy as simply switching from "taxable income" to "adjusted gross income."

"It was a little hard to design, what you're doing is the same debate that's going on in Washington, you're taking away the deductions, different classes of taxpayers use the deductions differently and so it doesn't come out perfectly," said

Ancel. "So if we can do it in a way that did not increase taxes for middle income and lower income taxpayers I'd be very receptive to look at it again."

And Ancel says she's pleased that the Governor is on board with these changes.

"If the governor is interested in doing it that would be a new development and that certainly would make it worth spending some time on."

While lawmakers are ready to consider this change, it's very unlikely that they'll look at any plans to broaden the base of the state sales tax to include many services.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 5:56 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

State to study 'smart meter' concerns

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — State officials will hire an expert early this year to help determine whether Vermonters have any reason to fear the wireless "smart meters" being affixed to homes across the state.

A request for proposals issued last month by the Department of Public Service seeks a qualified professional "to conduct a report on health effects related to smart meter radio-frequency emissions."

James Porter, director of the department's telecommunications division, said the state has no reason to believe that the emissions pose any danger.

"Based upon earlier testing that was done by the Vermont Department of Health of our wireless smart meters, and the fact that I believe both of the wireless meters selected by our utilities are (Underwriters Laboratories) listed, we certainly believe the emissions are well within federal safety standards," Porter said.

But those federal safety standards, according to opponents of the smart meter technology, are flawed and outdated. And a small but spirited coalition of concerned citizens convinced lawmakers last session to pass legislation calling for the health study.

"The reason behind having this study is that what's been done so far is inadequate," said Sen. Robert Hartwell, a Bennington County Democrat. "We need someone who's independent of state government, and independent of the special interests, who will do an honest assessment of what the impacts are."

Portions of the research called for in Act 170 have already been conducted, including independent measurements of smart meter emissions.

"There are certain federal guidelines as to what emissions are acceptable from various radio-frequency producers," Porter said. "And this will simply show what the emissions are from the meters, and what the applicable federal standards are."

The department paid the Washington-based Richard Tell Associates \$68,000 to perform the work, results of which will be presented to the Legislature next month. Porter said the department had not yet seen the findings.

The second study — the bid deadline is Jan. 18 — seeks an expert to review the growing body of scientific literature on radio-frequency emissions, then submit an update to the Department of Health.

Lawmakers didn't attach a dollar figure to the study, and the request for proposals doesn't stipulate a maximum cost. Porter said he has no idea how much the study will cost or whether price will figure in the department's decision to pick one bidder over another.

The costs, as per legislation, will be billed to Green Mountain Power, the electric utility spearheading the state's smart-meter installation.

"I think we're looking for the most qualified firm to do a literature review of the peer-reviewed data that's out there regarding RF," Porter said.

Porter said he's also reached out to the National Academy of Sciences to see whether it has any interest in investing some of its considerable resources into helping Vermont survey the health effects of smart meters.

Janet Newton, founder of the Electromagnetic Radiation Policy Institute in Marshfield, has long questioned the health effects of smart meters.

She said the study's usefulness will depend on its scope.

Federal standards, Newton said, focus only on the thermal effects of radio-frequency emissions — the degree to which the emissions will raise the body temperature of people nearby. Newton said she's more concerned about what are known as the non-ionizing effects of the emissions and the extent to which the signals interfere with human physiology.

"All these wireless technologies, what they do is take a signal from one device and send it to another device and make it do something," Newton said. "What's ignored is that our bodies send similar signals to make our bodies do things. There's an assumption that these manmade devices only talk to other manmade devices, not living organisms. And that's false."

Porter said he aims to have a study that examines the non-ionizing effects of smart meters as well as the thermal effects.

Porter said the Health Department's previous study found "the evidence is lacking as to whether there are any harmful (non-ionizing) effects."

The smart meter initiative, fueled by tens of millions of dollars in federal grants, has been heralded by administration officials and utility executives as a watershed in the state's energy conservation movement.

Green Mountain Power has installed 192,000 smart meters so far — about 75 percent of all customers.

By giving ratepayers real-time information about how much electricity they're using and which appliances are responsible for the consumption, utilities say, homeowners will be able to take steps to decrease their energy usage.

Hartwell doesn't buy it.

"These are there for the utility's benefit and the utility's benefit only, and the reasons they've given for it being in the interest of the ratepayer are pretty specious, I think," he said.

Hartwell, who fought successfully last session for an opt-out provision that allows utility customers to reject the smart meter — utilities had proposed a financial penalty for doing so — said he plans to introduce legislation requiring Green Mountain Power to notify ratepayers of the pending study.

GMP spokeswoman Dorothy Schnure said the utility is "confident that our new meters are safe for our customers, and we look forward to the results of the DPS study."

She said about 9,000 customers have opted out of the new meters.

"People need to know what's going on as this issue is being researched more," Hartwell said. "And they need to understand that they have a continuing right to opt out and have the meters removed if they feel like they need to act on new information."

Washington County legislators reveal top issues

The Times Argus invited every state legislator from Washington County to respond to the question, "What's your single most important issue for 2013 and why?"

Here are the answers from all the lawmakers who replied:

Sen. Bill Doyle, R-Washington:

Many Vermonters recovering from Tropical Storm Irene are optimistic that FEMA would adequately fund much of the state's flood losses, but recently we learned the \$44 million plan to replace the Vermont State Hospital would not be eligible for federal funding. Many buildings in the Waterbury complex have received the same fate and many homeowners will not be eligible for hazard grants. This means many families will be uncompensated for houses destroyed by the flood. Vermont deserves a fair federal return for its flood losses. Our Legislature, working closely with federal and state officials, will work for fair compensations.

Sen. Anthony Pollina, P/D/W-Washington:

Strengthening our economy with a Vermont Public Bank; keeping our tax dollars local and — working through local banks — investing more in Vermont businesses, farms, housing, renewable energy and jobs. Now our tax dollars are deposited in a Wall Street bank. They charge us fees and pocket profits made lending "our" money elsewhere. Then we borrow to raise money (Vermonters paid \$70 million in bonding interest last year). Let's control our money and rebuild our economy.

Rep. Anne Donahue, R-Washington-1 (Berlin, Northfield):

The Legislature must get a handle on the feasibility of our health care initiatives. Vermont has the overall right vision if it can remove health care from affiliation with employment and recognize it as a public good, without stepping in to create a state-run system. However, I seriously question whether a small state can "go it alone" within a much larger country, and this must be resolved before investing ever more resources into it.

Rep. Thomas Koch, R/D-Washington-2 (Barre Town):

Balancing the budget without raising taxes — and, just for the record, a tax on heating oil would hit most Vermonters and is clearly a "broad-based" tax.

Rep. Francis "Topper" McFaun, R/D-Washington-2 (Barre Town):

We need to make sure the mental health system that we reformed the last two years is functioning properly. If there are any further things we need to do or back off on, that's the most important thing to do — make sure we're on track. We

also need to look at what needs to be done in terms of our road and bridge infrastructure after Irene came and went, and to look at the individual's plight who lost everything to see where are they today.

Rep. Paul Poirier, I-Washington-3 (Barre City):

My personal priority for this session is to create a health care consumer protection office. Health care is a \$5 billion annual expenditure and yet there is no comprehensive office that acts as the protector of the people. My proposal would set up an office that would have the authority to intervene in all matters before the Green Mountain Care Board and the financial services office. The office will also be authorized to file enforcement violations against health insurance companies including the state of Vermont. A state-run program is no guarantee that issues like denials and costs will go away. The state becomes a health insurer and they will use the same tools as private insurers. To pay for this program, there would be a \$4 annual surcharge on all health policies sold in the state of Vermont.

Rep. Tess Taylor, D-Washington-3 (Barre City):

If I have to pick just one, it would be to look for legislation across the spectrum that will help working Vermonters, promote job creation and develop workforce training. We were able to accomplish this last year with the working lands enterprise investment bill and I think we can continue to find new opportunities in the upcoming session.

Rep. Mary Hooper, D-Washington-4 (Montpelier):

The Vermont Legislature needs to continue making strategic investments in Vermonters and our communities which provide for our health, safety and welfare. This includes efforts to mitigate the effect of climate change, staying on track with reform of the health care system, and looking at state-supported financing systems. We also need to take a critical look at what we can afford and not afford, and be willing to not fund some efforts.

Rep. Warren Kitzmiller, D-Washington-4 (Montpelier):

As hard as it is to isolate one issue from among the many pressing matters Vermont faces, I believe we simply must continue to reform the way we pay (and the amount we pay) for health care. I want Vermont to join with virtually every civilized nation in the world and treat health care as a human right.

Rep. Tony Klein, D-Washington-5 (East Montpelier, Middlesex):

To continue to move Vermont forward to achieving our goal of having 90 percent of our energy needs met through efficiency and conservation programs and the continued development of renewable energy generation sources by the year 2050. We have spent the last 15 years developing and adopting with overwhelming public support our clean energy policy, and we have spent the last 30 years creating a regulatory process that we believe is the most rigorous process in the entire country. Now we are in the actual build-out phase of our policy. We need to continue to move forward to achieve our goals and solve all problems that may arise during the build-out. Simply stopping or undoing all the progress we have made makes little sense considering the huge challenges that this state, country and the world face from our ever-changing climate.

Rep. Janet Ancel, D-Washington-6 (Calais, Marshfield, Plainfield):

With the Affordable Care Act and a continuing focus on health care on the part of the governor, my top priority is to ensure that the health care exchange is implemented in such a way that it will serve as the foundation for a single-payer system of health care. We have an unusual opportunity this coming year to get it right.

Rep. Maxine Jo Grad, D-Washington-7 (Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren):

Community resiliency and sustainability. Its continued success in my new district is dependent upon our roads, small businesses, schools, affordable health care, land and river health, local food production and tourism. The economic downturn, climate change and recent flooding have created enormous challenges for the district. I want to continue my work on strong energy policies, flood recovery, economic growth, agriculture and land use policy, public transportation, public safety and sound infrastructure.

Rep. Adam Greshin, I-Washington-7 (Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren):

Affordability is the most important issue faced by Vermonters. The cost of maintaining a high quality of life in our state continues to escalate, and every initiative we launch in the Legislature must be filtered through the prism of affordability. Are we adding to the burden of Vermonters or are we providing a means for our citizenry to earn a good living, spend quality time with family and enjoy the fruits of this beautiful state?

Rep. Rebecca Ellis, D-Washington-Chittenden (Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Waterbury):

Climate change. Over the past decade, Vermont has been a leader in developing in-state, renewable sources of power. The Legislature needs to continue exploring ways to promote renewable sources of energy. I also hope to see more progress in reducing energy consumption — through thermal efficiency to landscape development patterns to transportation policy — that will have a meaningful impact on our future environment.

Rep. Tom Stevens, D-Washington-Chittenden (Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Waterbury):

Irene recovery — We will monitor FEMA negotiations, plans for the Waterbury complex and Main Street and continue to advocate for areas damaged by the 2011 weather events. Fiscal prudence — With another large gap to fill in our budget, it is important to balance our needs with our revenues. I will support additional taxation that makes a minimal negative impact on the 300,000 Vermonters making less than \$100,000 annually. Health care — We need to complete our work on the federally mandated exchange, and we need to move forward with our ongoing reforms in the way we provide care and in the way we pay for it. Our Blueprint for Health is an excellent beginning and can provide us the foundation for moving forward.

Rep. Kitty Beattie Toll, D-Caledonia-Washington (Cabot, Danville, Peacham):

Balancing the state budget. Again, there is a significant gap to close and every year it becomes increasingly more difficult to bridge this gap as the options become less and less. All state expenditures must be carefully considered and outcomes thoroughly assessed to assure Vermont tax dollars are prudently spent.

Rep. Peter Peltz, D-Lamoille-Washington (Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester):

It is not a specific issue that concerns me most; it is how we conduct the state's business. Whether it is health care reform, tax policy, transportation, education, energy — the list goes on — foremost, we have to have open dialogue and collaboration amongst all of us at all levels of state government. As individuals we may think that we have a lock on what should be done; committees, departments, agencies and administration teams can be, at times, insular in their work. Ultimately, clarity and public review, with hopeful acceptance, will benefit most by how we work together.

Rep. Patsy French, D-Orange-Washington-Addison (Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury):

My top priority is protecting human services programs in the budget. They really impact people's lives. Getting "Death with Dignity" legislation passed is also a high priority with me.

Rep. Larry Townsend, D-Orange-Washington-Addison (Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury):

Balancing the budget. The same for 2013 is true as it has been since 2008; the needs of the people of the state of Vermont greatly outdistance our ability to pay without some form of increase in revenues, i.e., taxes. That said, we cannot continue to increase the state's budget by 5-6 percent every year. In short, the money is all gone and now we have to start thinking.

Lawmakers to take up taxes, death, marijuana

MONTPELIER — Lawmakers will return to Montpelier a bit later than usual this year but are expected to face a full agenda including projected shortfalls in the general and transportation funds, as well as social issues ranging from physician-assisted death to decriminalization of marijuana.

Lawmakers usually start their sessions a few days after New Year's, but the 2013 calendar, combined with a state law saying they start on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, will push this year's start to Jan. 9.

Gov. Peter Shumlin and the leaders of the House and Senate have been saying they don't want to raise taxes. Shumlin focuses his negative answers to that question to "broad-based taxes," including those on income, sales, meals and lodging. House Speaker Shap Smith said he would consider tax increases only after scouring the budget for possible cuts or funding shifts to make up a general fund budget shortfall projected at \$50 million to \$70 million.

The picture is even bleaker in the transportation fund, where a special study committee reported recently the state is expected to run \$250 million short a year for the next several years. Lawmakers are expected to be considering options including increasing Vermont's 20-cents-a-gallon gasoline tax and a new tax based on miles traveled instead of vehicle value.

One area in which lawmakers won't be asked to take definitive action is in the state's ongoing push to create a single-payer health care system by 2017. When they passed a law putting Vermont on that path in 2011, they had expected to see a funding proposal during the 2013 session. Now that's seen as unlikely.

Now administration officials say they want to focus first on setting up the health care exchange called for by 2014 under the federal Affordable Care Act. The Vermont plan is to use the exchange later as a springboard to single payer. Robin Lunge, director of health care reform for the administration, said it's best to tackle one thing at a time.

"I don't think you can talk about Thanksgiving and Christmas at the same time and have people understand whether they're eating or opening presents," she said.

Two social issues that have been debated in recent years are expected to reappear on legislative calendars in 2013.

Shumlin said during his campaign that he wants to see Vermont switch from criminal penalties for possession of even small amounts of marijuana to civil fines, akin to a traffic ticket. He argues that young Vermonters shouldn't face a lifelong criminal record for dabbling with marijuana.

Smith has been a stumbling block in the past, saying he worries about the message that softening the state's anti-marijuana stance would send to young people. But he said in an interview that he would not try to block the issue from coming to the House floor for a debate.

The other recurring issue Shumlin said he hopes will pass this year is a law that would allow doctors under certain conditions to help terminally ill patients end their lives.

Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, D-Windsor, said he continues to take a dim view of that idea, both because of his religious convictions — he's Roman Catholic — and because he believes it will get the government too involved in difficult decisions better left to physicians, patients and families.

"The bill has far-reaching implications in the area of doctor-patient relationships," he said.

Both Campbell and Smith said they're interested in — but have yet to define in concrete terms — legislation that would ease the path from school to work. They said many Vermont employers are looking to hire people but can't find employees in the state with the technical skills they need.

Bennington legislators reveal top issues

The Herald invited every state legislator from Vermont's southern counties to respond to the question, "What's your single most important issue for 2013 and why?" Following are the answers from Bennington lawmakers who replied.

Sen. Robert Hartwell, D-Bennington:

There is a significant loss of democracy in Vermont, and I will propose several pieces of legislation intended to restore it to the political process, including a freeze on the property tax; follow-up legislation with respect to the deployment of the so-called "smart meters" to require adequate investigation of complaints and to require notice to ratepayers of their rights; an industrial wind-power moratorium because there is no Act 250 review of impacts on the environment, towns and residents; related Department of Public Service reform; and the establishment of a permanent legislative oversight committee.

Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington:

How we pay for the services people expect at a time when state revenues are not keeping up with spending pressures — to the tune of \$50 million to \$70 million and, on top of that, whatever spending cuts come from the federal “fiscal cliff” reductions.

Rep. Bill Botzow, D-Bennington-1 (Pownal, Woodford):

We need to thoroughly review Vermont’s efforts to build the work force of the future. Employers need well-trained employees and Vermonters need good paying jobs. When we understand the work that is currently going on in our schools, tech centers and the workplace we can advance a Vermont workforce development system where roles, responsibilities and resources are well aligned and where Vermont can develop jobs and companies for our communities.

Rep. Anne Mook, D-Bennington-2-2 (Bennington):

Over the last several years, every effort has been made to assure all who wish to vote can do so in a timely manner. Campaign reform in Vermont is still needed to reflect transparency of donors, limits of donations, timely reporting of donations and the use of PACs. Included in any campaign reform should be a look at voter registration on motor vehicle license renewals, as well as all polling places should have machine voting. Those who vote early deserve to have their ballots counted before the polls close.

Rep. Mary Morrissey, R-D-Bennington-2-2 (Bennington):

My top priority would be growing the economy for solid jobs and having the revenues we’ll need. We have significant issues regarding the budget, tax policy, health care and education and still need to find revenues for Tropical Storm Irene restoration. We need a strong economy in order to fund some of these significant projects.

Rep. Alice Miller, D-Bennington-3 (Glastenbury, Shaftsbury, Sunderland):

While there are many critical issues, the top priority for me is: jobs, getting people back to work, providing work force development to increase workers’ skills that, in turn, will increase their income and standard of living. It’s also essential to provide affordable quality childcare so that both parents can get to work.

Rep. Cynthia Browning, D-Bennington-4 (Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate, Sunderland):

My priority will be the transformation of our system of state financing so that every dollar spent is productive and effective and our tax code is simple, efficient and equitable. All spending programs must have performance goals and cost controls. The tax code should be reformed by reducing subsidies so that we could lower the sales, income and property tax rates. This will be politically difficult, but the economic benefits for Vermonters would be substantial.

Rep. Jeff Wilson D-Bennington-4 (Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate, Sunderland):

We need to start answering many of the pressing questions swirling around a potential state-sponsored health care plan and give Vermonters a clearer idea of what such a plan will entail. This means we need to start formulating answers to questions like: What would such a plan look like (administrative design and coverage options)? What will it cost? How will it be financed? How will it impact quality of care? Although the current system is deficient in many ways, any new system must bend the cost curve and be sustainable.


Rep. Patti Komline, R-Bennington-Rutland (Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Mount Tabor, Peru):

Cliffs aren't just fiscal. Vermonters face many poverty cliffs. When one begins to earn more money they lose state support such as childcare, electricity and heating subsidies. Health care support cutoffs will be a huge challenge in 2014. People turn down work and pay raises because their children lose health care benefits. We need to create slopes to help ease people from our social safety net. We've discussed this for years. The time for action is now.

London, Sarah


From: iActive Learning | Digital Solutions for Early Learners
<info=iactivelearning.com@mail345.us3.mcdlv.net> on behalf of iActive Learning |
Digital Solutions for Early Learners <info@iactivelearning.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 5:26 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: YOUR ACTIVITY SHEET 'Graph Us' - Welcome to the Profile Planner...Planning Your Day
is Now Simple!


Is this email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)




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Advisory Panel TidBits:
By Dr. Cecilia Minden

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Graph Us

Are your classroom coat hooks overflowing with mittens and hats? Colorful winter clothing can be used in a fun way to learn about colors and graphing.

After outdoor time, direct children to hang on to their hats. Use a dry erase board to create a chart. Write or draw the names of colors in the first column. Call on the children one at a time to tell you the color of their hats. Color in a block beside the matching color. For example, David has a green hat. You would color a green block beside the word green. If the hat has several colors, ask the child to pick his favorite.

Use the completed graph to talk to the children about the different colors. Which color has the most blocks beside it? Count the number of blocks with the children. Are there any colors without blocks? What can they learn from this chart?

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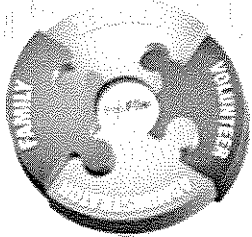


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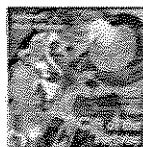
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London, Sarah

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 8:07 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: exe priv re c5 proposal

Got it! Thanks. This week will rock.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 1, 2013, at 8:04 PM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

Both - sorry should have clarified!

On Jan 1, 2013, at 7:47 PM, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us> wrote:

Bill, sorry i'm slow, we on for 8:30 for sn staff or what Shana sent on schedule?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 1, 2013, at 9:01 AM, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us> wrote:

Me too

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 31, 2012, at 9:11 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Good for me.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 5:28 PM
To: London, Sarah; MacLean, Alex; Porter Louis; Allen, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Spaulding, Jeb; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: exe priv re c5 proposal

Let's do a senior staff meeting on Wednesday morning – lots to go over. He starts at 9:30 with Reardon and Jeb. How does 8:30 work for everyone?

From: <London>, Sarah <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>
Date: Monday, December 31, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, Porter Louis <louis_porter@yahoo.com>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us>,

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 6:34 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Louis Porter
Subject: Fwd: Just in Case

Just FYI...

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Flynn, Keith" <Keith.Flynn@state.vt.us>
Date: January 1, 2013 2:32:55 PM EST
To: "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Wood, John" <John.Wood@state.vt.us>
Subject: **Re: Just in Case**

I plan on being there and will bring the list that I sent to you and will be ready to discuss it. Also, I will expand on DPS time reporting internal controls and systems.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 1, 2013, at 12:31 PM, "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

Keith,

I expect you are already in the loop on this, but, just to be safe, you are planning to participate in the Gov's press conference tomorrow at 11 on the pension forfeiture proposal, right? I think it would be a good idea if you are prepared to spend few minutes reviewing all the steps you have taken and plan to take to minimize the chances of a repeat of a Deeghan like event.

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 5:53 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Fwd: Exit 2 SB I-91 Brattleboro

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Searles, Brian" <Brian.Searles@state.vt.us>
Date: January 1, 2013 5:51:46 PM EST
To: "Dodge, Larry" <Larry.Dodge@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Shively, Andy" <Andy.Shively@state.vt.us>, "Curtis, Brent" <Brent.Curtis@state.vt.us>, "Blake-Sayers, Eileen" <Eileen.Blake-Sayers@state.vt.us>, "Filkorn, Erik" <Erik.Filkorn@state.vt.us>, "Lacoss, Kevin" <Kevin.Lacoss@state.vt.us>, "Maguire, Jo Ann" <JoAnn.Maguire@state.vt.us>, "Portalupi, Alec" <Alec.Portalupi@state.vt.us>, "Gentle, Rob" <Rob.Gentle@state.vt.us>, "Rogers, Scott" <Scott.Rogers@state.vt.us>, "Salvatori, Jeremy" <Jeremy.Salvatori@state.vt.us>, "Spicer, Mary" <Mary.Spicer@state.vt.us>, "Minter, Sue" <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "Scribner, Sven" <Sven.Scribner@state.vt.us>, "Brassard, Trini" <Trini.Brassard@state.vt.us>, "Gammell, Wayne" <Wayne.Gammell@state.vt.us>, Wesley Davis <wdavis@occupationaldrugtesting.net>, "Elovirta, William" <William.Elovirta@state.vt.us>, "Cummings, Thomas" <Thomas.Cummings@state.vt.us>, "Ruzzo, Joseph" <Joseph.Ruzzo@state.vt.us>, "Ellis, Tammy" <Tammy.Ellis@state.vt.us>, "Fox, Gregory" <Gregory.Fox@state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: Exit 2 SB I-91 Brattleboro

Is there a weather element to this or simply traffic volume and construction?

Brian R. Searles
Secretary of Transportation
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Montpelier, VT
802-828-2657

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 1, 2013, at 4:07 PM, "Dodge, Larry" <Larry.Dodge@state.vt.us> wrote:

State Police reporting the traffic is now backed up to MM16 – 7 miles from the construction zone.

From: Dodge, Larry
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 3:37 PM
To: Andy Shively; B. Curtis; Brian Searles; Eileen Blake-Sayers; Erik Filkorn; Kevin Lacoss; Maguire, Jo Ann; Portalupi, Alec; Rob Gentle; Rogers, Scott; Salvatori, Jeremy; Spicer, Mary; Sue Minter; Susan Allen; Sven Scribner; Trini Brassard; Wayne Gammell; Wesley Davis; William (Jake) Elovirta

Cc: Cummings, Thomas; Ruzzo, Joseph; Ellis, Tammy; Fox, Gregory
Subject: Exit 2 SB I-91 Brattleboro

The volume of SB traffic leaving our State has created a significant backup in the work (Crossover) zone just south of Exit 2. VMS in that area have been activated warning of the delay at the request of District 2.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 3:57 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: FW: Changes at Vermont Leads

From: peter sterling [mailto:peter@vermontleads.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 3:51 PM
To: Green, Devon; Larson, Mark; Lunge, Robin; Kimbell, Steve; Melamed, Marisa; Maheras, Georgia; Donofrio, Michael; Wallack, Anya; Yahr, Emily; Tucker, Lindsey; nlangweil@leg.state.vt.us; Allen, Susan; Reynolds, David
Subject: Changes at Vermont Leads

Dear Friend:

I wanted to let you know that beginning today, I will be returning to work full time for the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security. I have made this decision because I feel the need to dedicate my efforts to ensuring that Vermont's Health Care Exchange is implemented in a way that is fair and equitable to low and middle income Vermonters.

I will continue my role with Vermont Leads as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In this capacity, I believe I can still have a positive impact on the debate over the need for single payer health care.

I believe Vermont Leads played an important role in advancing the cause of single payer health care through arguably its most susceptible period—the first election cycle after passage of Act 48. Through the work of many, I believe the single payer movement has emerged from this election poised to achieve a first in the nation success of establishing a universal, publicly funded health care system.

I would like to thank the members of SEIU and Matt McDonald for this opportunity to educate the public about the need to create a single payer health care system, one that will hopefully serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

Peter Sterling, Director
Vermont Leads

www.vermontleads.org
facebook.com/vtleads

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 2:53 PM
To: EXE; louis_porter@yahoo.com
Subject: Schd - Wednesday, January 2nd

Wednesday, January 2nd 2013 Schedule

Scheduler
Governor's Office
802.828.3333

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Wed

Thanks

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX
@wcax_anson
FREE news 24-7 www.wcax.com
802-652-6360

On Jan 1, 2013, at 10:57 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Great, no need to prepare, look forward to seeing you. We'll probably just
> bring some sandwiches in and meet in the gov's office.
>
> On 1/1/13 9:47 AM, "Tebbetts, Anson" <tebbetts@wcax.com> wrote:
>
>> Hi Bill
>>
>> I am bringing Kyle Midura and our morning anchor Steve Bottari to our Wed
>> @noon meeting.
>> Let me know if I need to prepare anything.
>>
>> Thanks
>> Anson
>>
>> Anson Tebbetts
>> News Director WCAX
>> @wcax_anson
>> FREE news 24-7 www.wcax.com
>> 802-652-6360
>
>

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Tebbetts, Anson
Subject: Re: Wed

Great, no need to prepare, look forward to seeing you. We'll probably just bring some sandwiches in and meet in the gov's office.

On 1/1/13 9:47 AM, "Tebbetts, Anson" <tebbetts@wcax.com> wrote:

>Hi Bill
>
>I am bringing Kyle Midura and our morning anchor Steve Bottari to our
>Wed @noon meeting.
>Let me know if I need to prepare anything.
>
>Thanks
>Anson
>
>Anson Tebbetts
>News Director WCAX
>@wcax_anson
>FREE news 24-7 www.wcax.com
>802-652-6360
>
>

London, Sarah

From: Tebbetts, Anson <tebbetts@wcax.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Wed

Hi Bill

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Let me know if I need to prepare anything.

Thanks
Anson

Anson Tebbetts
News Director WCAX
@wcax_anson
FREE news 24-7 www.wcax.com
802-652-6360

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 7:17 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 1:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

VTBUZZ BLOG: Shumlin's Vermont leads, except on guns

Despite governor's resistance, Vermont gun legislation brewing in wake of Conn. Shootings

TERRI HALLENBECK

When it comes to health care, this is what Gov. Peter Shumlin says: "If Vermont can get this right, the other states will follow."

Name just about any other topic — same-sex marriage, shutting down nuclear power plants, penalties for marijuana, clean energy — and Shumlin expresses the same sentiment: Vermont should lead the way.

He disregards cross-border complications with the argument that Vermont can send a message to other states, show how things are done.

This argument seems to transcend all issues — except gun control. That, Shumlin says, is a federal issue.

"That's how we have to proceed: with a national solution with all 50 states," Shumlin said last week. "The challenge for doing this state by-state is, it won't work."

Not all of Shumlin's fellow governors, including some Democrats, seem to agree. Following last month's shootings at a Connecticut elementary school, they are scurrying to make changes to state laws.

In neighboring New York, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said he will release his proposals next week.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, also has plans for gun-control proposals.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, another Democrat, said "the time is right" for gun-control discussion, according to the Associated Press.

Shumlin, a hunter who enjoys the endorsement of the National Rifle Association, is carefully keeping the debate at arm's length, but that doesn't mean there won't be a debate this year just outside his office door in Montpelier.

As the 2013 legislative session dawns next week, some lawmakers will be pushing for changes in the state's gun laws, widely considered to be among the least restrictive in the country. Bills are brewing in both the House and Senate, seeking to restrict what kind of guns are available.

Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, said he's requested a bill be drafted that regulates the sale of high-capacity magazines and semi-automatic guns such as the AR-15 Bushmaster that was used in the Connecticut shootings and in the Christmas Eve slaying of two firefighters in suburban Rochester, N.Y. Baruth said he's also interested in requiring trigger locks for guns.

(Page 2 of 2)

Baruth takes the opposite argument of Shumlin. "Nothing's going to happen at the federal level," he said, noting resistance in the Republican-controlled House.

Baruth noted that states choose to regulate fireworks even though they may be purchased in other states. "I got elected to try to control what happens within our state's borders," he said.

Baruth said it's too early to say how much support he'll have, but there are similar efforts under way in the House.

Rep. Linda Waite-Simpson, D-Essex Junction, said she's also focusing on the capacity of a gun clip, or how often it can fire in quick succession, with an eye toward restricting those that fire more than 10 rounds.

Waite-Simpson has been down this road before with legislation seeking to require gun locks and faced powerful opposition, but this time she's finding more interest from legislators.

Rep. Adam Greshin, I-Warren, comes from a rural district where plenty of people tell him they don't want anyone treading on their gun rights. He said the Connecticut shootings prompted him to contact Waite-Simpson to express interest in some sort of restrictions.

Greshin said he wants to find a way to reassure gun owners that all their weapons won't be banned while also doing something to limit access to the sort of guns being used in mass shootings.

"I think everyone has a right to bear arms. I am not after the confiscation of their guns," he said, but he added that the type of guns and the condition under which they can be bought is worth looking at.

Waite-Simpson said it's unlikely any legislation will pass in a Statehouse where gun enthusiasts have long proven to hold sway. "It appears that the governor would veto it anyway," she said.

Even as he dismisses state regulations for guns, though, Shumlin speaks of a difference between the sort of guns that a typical hunter owns and what he terms "weapons of war."

"In all my years of hunting, I've never seen an assault weapon in the woods. People don't use machines of war to shoot whitetail deer," he said.

He seems to be sending a message to Washington that he'd be all right if they levied restrictions on those guns just as long as he doesn't have to.

Snelling still in as pro tem candidate Although John Campbell handily won the support of Senate Democrats to continue as president pro tem, Republican Diane Snelling says she still will run against him as the full Senate votes on the position next week.

That will give her a chance to hammer home the point that the Senate had better work more smoothly this year than last, but her prospects for victory are slim.

When Campbell won the Democrats' support 15-6 over a challenge from Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, at a meeting in late November, members also voted unanimously to support their candidate once it came to a full Senate vote.

Ayer is out as Vt. Senate majority leader, who's in?

Posted on December 31, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

Talk had been that Sen. Claire Ayer, an Addison County Democrat, would be the new majority leader in the Senate this coming year. Not so, Ayer said Monday. She's changed her mind, leaving questions about who will end up holding that key post.

Being majority leader – or whip – is a demanding job that means the person could not also be chair of a committee. Ayer was going to relinquish her chairmanship of the Health & Welfare Committee, but said she decided she did not want to do that with changes in health care coverage still in the works.

"I want to make sure health care stays on the path it's on," Ayer said.

If you are among those, like me, who thought these decisions are made with all the players in the know, you'd be suprised to learn that's not the case. Sen. Sally Fox, D-Chittenden, who might have been in line to become chairwoman of Health & Welfare, said Monday it was news to her that Ayer wasn't going to be majority leader.

"This changes the landscape so much that I have no comment," Fox said.

Ayer said she was planning to send an email to fellow senators Monday afternoon explaining her change of heart.

Ayer said she worries that some will be trying to push plans for a single-payer health care system, set out in legislation last biennium, "back into the box" and she wants to be there to make sure they don't succeed.

Sen. Bill Carris, D-Rutland, had been majority leader the last two years, but he had said he no longer wanted the position and has since resigned from the Senate.

The majority leader is a key figure in making sure the Senate runs smoothly, which it has not done for the last two years. Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell, D-Windsor, won the Democratic majority's support for retaining that top Senate job next year, but only with the promise that things would run better. The even-tempered, experienced Ayer would have been a good candidate to do that. Who will fill the role instead appears unclear.

Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, a second-term senator, has been mentioned as a possibility.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Grace Cottage CEO search under way

By MIKE FAHER

TOWNSHEND — The search for a new top administrator at Vermont's smallest hospital is generating no shortage of applicants.

Nearly 200 applications have been reviewed as administrators seek to replace former Grace Cottage Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mick Brant, who departed in November.

"I think we have actually received a great deal of interest," said Roger Allbee, chairman of the hospital's CEO search committee.

Allbee, a former secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, was appointed to lead the search committee, which interviews candidates by phone.

The committee then will make recommendations to the hospital board of directors, which will decide on a new CEO.

"At this point, the process is continuing with both the search committee and the full board until an acceptable individual is found," Allbee said.

He is not yet sure how long that process will take.

"It's more important to get the right candidate," Allbee said. "It's not about just getting somebody in there to fill a position."

Brant, who left Townshend for a hospital CEO job in Nebraska, was lauded for his "vision, energy and expertise" during fourplus years at Grace Cottage.

He oversaw development of a strategic plan and a conversion to electronic medical records. During his tenure, the hospital undertook projects including the addition of a Community Wellness Center and a new Diagnostic Imaging Center along with an expansion of the Grace Cottage-owned Messenger Valley Pharmacy.

Future projects include a planned expansion of the hospital's emergency department.

Allbee said the committee is looking for a "transformational leader" to take the reins at Grace Cottage — someone who understands both the community and the challenges of a changing health-care environment.

Noting an aging population in Vermont — and particularly in Windham County — Allbee said the emphasis will be on providing primary care.

"We need a leader who understands how to work with staff . . . to continue to be on the cutting edge," he said.

Until the search is complete, Meg Cleary is serving as Grace Cottage's interim CEO. Cleary is an experienced hospital administrator with Helms and Co. Inc., a New Hampshire company specializing in health-care consulting and management.

EDITORIAL: Looking forward to a new year

Another year has come and gone, and we are already looking ahead to what 2013 has to offer.

While not nearly as traumatic as 2011, this past year still had several news items that seemed to crop up time and time again; Local stories that had a connection to a “bigger” picture, whether that was a statewide or national issue. So, while we continue to compile our year in review content, which will publish this weekend, consider this a Top 10 things-to-keep-an-eye on list. Not necessarily resolutions, these are stories and/or concepts we think will continue to engage our attention for the next 12 months.

— With many inches of snow falling throughout the area in the past week, it’s already looking to be a better winter tourism season than what we experienced last year. Add to that the recent effort by several area chambers of commerce — Brattleboro, Manchester and the Mountains and the Mount Snow Valley — pooling their efforts to promote winter tourism in southern Vermont through an ad campaign featuring a 5-second clip showing in Times Square and a advertisement in Horizons magazine. If we can get a few more storms this winter — preferably spaced out for those of us who still shovel our driveways — we’re sure area restaurants, bed and breakfasts, ski resorts and other businesses will reap the rewards.

... speaking of money ...

— Brattleboro officials are still putting the finishing touches on the next fiscal budget, which has created quite the headache since voters approved renovations to the police and fire departments but passed on a sales tax increase which would have helped pay for the project.

Stories like this will play out around the state, as towns continue to struggle with less money and bigger projects that just can’t be put off any longer.

... which brings us to ...

— Is an end to the recession in sight? Probably not, what with lawmakers still playing politics with the Fiscal Cliff. What we’d hope to see is continued rejuvenation in our county’s downtowns. Whether it’s long-standing local businesses continuing to serve the community, or new businesses popping up all around (of which there were several this past year), a vibrant local economy will continue to create jobs and keep us moving in the right direction, economically speaking.

... and while we’re on the topic of recovery ...

— As local home- and property owners continue to cut through the red tape and get their lives back on track following Tropical Storm Irene and the subsequent flooding in August 2011, we can only hope that the standstill and sense of limbo being experienced by our friends and neighbors can come to an end. Vermont was able to dodge another storm-walloping this past year, as Superstorm Sandy stayed along the coastline, but we’re still not back to 100 percent.

... on the subject of neighbors ...

— What a great reflection on Vermonters and, specifically to us, Windham County and the surrounding area. Residents continued to step up during the recent holiday rush, to raise money and/or donate to the many important causes local groups and organizations are tasked with assisting toward. From the Windham County Heat Fund to Project Feed the Thousands to the many local food pantries — the need is still there and continues to grow, and residents continue to respond. We would be remiss to not mention our own effort, the Reformer Christmas Stocking, which continues to slowly inch closer to its \$90,000 goal. Thanks to everyone!

... Developing developments ...

— Broadband and cellular access continues to be an issue for Vermont as a whole. That's why it's a relief, in some ways, to see not one, but two new towers being discussed for the Newfane area. Add these to the continued effort by the Shumlin administration to make sure all corners of the state are "wired" for the future. We were also pleased to see the way in which AT&T interacted with residents as their project moved forward in Newfane ...

... which brings us to ...

— It will be interesting to see how the ongoing discussion about a possible wind farm continues in Windham (and in neighboring Grafton). Will lawmakers in the coming weeks set to discussion a possible moratorium on wind projects in the state, and what sort of affect will that have on the future of the "industry" in Vermont? Will that put the brakes on any discussion in Windham? What weight, if any, with Windham's town plan (which prohibits commercial wind ventures) have on the project? Our hope is that, if and when these talks resume, the company planning this possible venture is sure to involve town officials and residents (much like AT&T).

... and in educational news ...

— We'll continue to watch the Brooks House/college project move forward in downtown Brattleboro, where it's clear such a venture is sure to have a positive affect in and around Main Street.

... and while we're talking about Main Street ...

— What does the future hold for the River Garden? Will it be sold? Become something new and different from what organizers once imagined? Perhaps there's room for collaboration between the Brook House college plans and what's happening at the River Garden.

... and finally ...

— As we enter our 100th year as a daily newspaper, we aim to continue offering readers a daily snapshot of the local news of the day, in all of our various formats. Look for weekly reflections on our 100th anniversary, and something special planned for March.

Thanks for reading and happy new year!

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 7:08 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR JAN. 1:

WCAX:

Condos: packed agenda for 2013

KEITH MCGILVER

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Vermont's secretary of state said he'll have a packed agenda in 2013.

Jim Condos plans to take a closer look at campaign finance and lobbyist exposure in the new year. He said his office will also be exploring ways to improve the disclosure process so voters have a better idea where money is coming from and where it is being spent.

Condos said he'll also be promoting changes to primary dates to better accommodate overseas military battles, an issue that gave his office problems in 2012.

"We are going to look at things to give us a little more time so that we don't force things through quickly and make errors, when you have to do things very quickly sometimes you can make errors and we are trying to eliminate those errors," he said.

Condos will need approval from the legislature to make changes to the election schedule.

FOX44:

Vt. Doc Tele-consults Boosted by New Regs

JOE GULLO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - New health insurance regulations in Vermont are giving a boost to telemedicine, the system that enables health care providers to offer consult with patients without being in the same room.

Sometimes residents at the Helen Porter Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury are able to see a physician at Fletcher Allen Health Care through a two-way video hookup.

Porter nurse Leslie Orelup says the system works well.

Telemedicine isn't new, but the new regulations make it easier for physicians to be reimbursed for services performed by two-way video hookups.

Now there are 70 health care locations in Vermont and a dozen in New York's North Country that are connected with Fletcher Allen.

Fletcher Allen Telemedicine director Dr. Terry Rabinowitz says popular specialties for the consults are psychiatry and dermatology.

VPR:

Wind Moratorium Demanded As Debate Intensifies

JOHN DILLON

State regulators have approved wind testing towers in southern Vermont, despite opposition from the host towns.

The decision comes during an intensifying debate over renewable energy projects in Vermont.

A utility in northern Vermont wants a two-year moratorium on any new renewable mandates.

Iberdrola Renewables is one of the largest wind developers in the world. It's got about 40 renewable projects in the U-S and is eyeing a ridgeline in southern Vermont for a development that could include 15 to 40 turbines.

Company spokesman Paul Copleman was pleased that the state Public Service Board recently granted permission to erect three, 200 foot tall testing towers in Windham and Grafton. Copleman says the equipment will measure the wind potential there.

"This is the first step towards assessing the viability of a project but it by no means guarantees that we are moving forward with plans to develop a project. At this point we have very little knowledge about the wind itself," he said.

The Public Service Board's decision to allow the testing equipment disappointed officials in Windham. The town plan prohibits large-scale commercial wind projects, although it does allow the test towers.

Two of the towers are planned for Windham, the third would be in Grafton. Liisa Kissel is a Grafton resident who opposes the project. She says the wind turbines don't pass the cost-benefit test.

"We feel this takes away more from us regionally and even statewide more than it gives us," she said. "This is very expensive, financed by taxpayer money and ratepayer money, gives us very little, inconsistent energy in return, and on the other side destroys the natural environment."

Kissel supports a moratorium on wind projects - an effort that first started with Northeast Kingdom lawmakers. And last week, the Vermont Electric Cooperative board called on the Legislature to impose a two year time out on future mandates that would require utilities to buy renewable electricity.

Co-op CEO Dave Hallquist also questions whether the state's electric grid can absorb much more intermittent, renewable generation.

Hallquist says the goal of the resolution is to prompt a broader, statewide discussion about how to cut greenhouse gas pollution in Vermont. He says the state's electricity sector is not necessarily the place to focus.

"If you look at the total carbon footprint of Vermont, 4 percent is electricity," Hallquist said. "And we're spending a lot of energy on this area, and a lot of emotional energy. And yet if look at transportation being 47 percent of the carbon footprint, and 32 percent coming heating and cooling, we don't seem to be spending a lot of energy there."

But Paul Burns, executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, says the moratorium doesn't make sense.

"The logic of the argument fails when you begin to look at what you would do to try to reduce the carbon emissions from the transportation sector," Burns said. "One of the easiest things that is nearest to us on the radar in a place like Vermont is to create a capacity for electric vehicles which would be clearly better from a carbon standpoint as long as you're getting your electricity from cleaner local renewable sources."

Governor Peter Shumlin is also skeptical about a moratorium. He says the world faces a climate that's changing faster than scientists had predicted just a few years ago. So Shumlin says the state needs to build more renewable energy projects.

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

2013 Looks Like a Good Year

by: GMD

Tue Jan 01, 2013 at 00:00:00 AM EST

As 2013 looms on the horizon, GMD would be remiss if we didn't indulge in some of the customary prognostication. So here, in the spirit of holiday good humor, is a mostly optimistic if highly unlikely look forward to the New Year: The Governor's first New Year resolution is that he will actually earn his designation by leftist magazine *The Nation* as "Most Valuable progressive governor." He resolves to at least think about funding healthcare subsidies for the working poor by letting a bill raising marginal tax rates on the income of the top two-percent of Vermonters become law without his signature.

Doug Racine, Deb Markowitz, and Susan Bartlett locate the whereabouts of Matt Dunne. Together they hook-up, "4 Tenors" style, to form a Greek chorus of cautionary voices. They board the bus once again to shadow the Governor everywhere he goes, reminding him to think before he speaks.

Peter Shumlin buys some pajamas, stays at home and watches "The Quiet Man" on Netflix.

Doug Hoffer finally brings some dollars and sense to the Auditor's office. While cleaning out Tom Salmon's desk, he discovers a ball of twine as big as a basketball, together with plans to really crank-up tourism in Newfane.

Hoffer has a moment of unease early on when he discovers a spandex Authentic Self-utilizing Power Superhero suit, mask and cape made by Acme Co. The suit, emblazoned with the name Super Tom Salmon, is immediately and safely sealed in a double strong plastic drum and stored in State of Vermont vault for eventual disposal.

Chittenden County State's Attorney and former Attorney General candidate TJ Donovan is shocked to find his name on the list of bogus tickets written by former State Police Sgt. Jim Deeghan. "So that's why my insurance rates went up," he tells media. Suddenly he finds a spine and stops bending over at Deeghan's lawyer's insistence that the list remain private and allows the media to publish all 900-plus names.

The Air Force reveals that the "environmental" reason why Burlington airport was identified as a preferred location for the F-35 program is because of its proximity to the underground grease reservoir at Al's French Frys.

Developer Jeff Davis finally admits that Walmart has no intention of ever operating the store in St. Albans that was specifically permitted under Act 250. Instead, he tells us he has secretly donated the land to UVM, and that it will be developed into a Sustainable Agriculture Learning facility, featuring a model farm, a state-of-the-art composting and bio-fuel facility, and community gardens.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger gets federal funding to turn the Moran Plant into subsidized and ADA accessible housing, and the rehab is completed within the year, handled at cost by budding real estate tycoon Kurt Wright.

Vermont House and Senate members get real about the budget shortfall and raise marginal tax rates on the top 2%, then – despite chief enforcer Jeb Spaulding's toughest efforts – they override Shummy's veto.

House Judiciary Chair Bill Lippert guides his committee and the House to reject drug-war nonsense arguments and protects Vermont citizens' prescription records from warrantless searches by police. He arm wrestles Senate Judiciary Chair Dick Sears into getting the Senate to reject any bill containing permission for warrantless searches of the state's prescription databases.

Senate Pres pro tem John Campbell, having spent some of the holidays in a re-education/encounter group for bullies, shows his softer and more organized side to Sens. Ashe, Baruth, Galbraith, Bening, Pollina, Snelling, and Cummings

The Supreme Court of Vermont and the Public Service Board simultaneously, and for different reasons, issue rulings declaring that Entergy Louisiana's Yankee nuclear power plant's violations of contracts and permits require its immediate shutdown. State fire marshals, HazMat teams and the Vermont Guard surround the plant, letting through only employees needed to shut down operations.

Legal Aid Mental Health Project Director (and GMD front pager) Jack McCullough is appointed director of the Human Rights Commission, replacing Robert Appel, who is joining the Hinesburg law firm Kohn Rath Blackwood & Danon, following Eileen Blackwood's appointment last year as City Attorney for Burlington.

Todd Smith of the Caledonian Record continues to spit and sneer at anything to the left of Atilla the Hun, his blood pressure medications having been increased after the last election when St Johnsbury sent two Democrats to the House in Montpelier for the first time.

Angry Jack Lindley is still angry; the ghost of Ethan Allen continues to appear at the foot of Rob Roper's bed demanding the institute be called something else, and Tayt Brooks' undisclosed secret location is revealed to be the basement of Lenore Broughton, who, by the way, has decided to bypass the process entirely and just bid on the Statehouse.

**Well now, here's a nice little piece of political cud to chew on
by: jvwalt**

Terri Hallenbeck's working a shift on New Year's Eve...

Talk had been that Sen. Claire Ayer, an Addison County Democrat, would be the new majority leader in the Senate this coming year. Not so, Ayer said Monday. She's changed her mind, leaving questions about who will end up holding that key post.

Ayer was the heir apparent to Bill Carris, who resigned from the Senate due to health problems. But in order to be an effective majority leader, she would have relinquished her position as chair of the Health and Welfare Committee. And she decided that, with health care reform pending, she'd rather stay on at the committee. Or maybe she decided she'd rather not clean up John Campbell's messes, I dunno.

The majority leader is a key figure in making sure the Senate runs smoothly, which it has not done for the last two years. Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell, D-Windsor, won the Democratic majority's support for retaining that top Senate job next year, but only with the promise that things would run better. The even-tempered, experienced Ayer would have been a good candidate to do that. Who will fill the role instead appears unclear. Hallenbeck's blogpost ends with the following, intriguing, almost bewildering line:

Sen. Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, a second-term senator, has been mentioned as a possibility
Phil Baruth??? Pardon me while I choke on my Irish coffee. (Hey, it's New Year's.)

This would be the same Phil Baruth who was a notable pain in John Campbell's ass during the 2012 session. At least that's how Campbell seemed to see things; here's a choice quote from the Valley News last spring, as referenced in this here blog:

"I know there was some frustration on the part of some of the freshmen in thinking the power was isolated with the committee chairs, but what I was trying to explain to them is there is a thing called seniority and experience, and just as in anything, you have to put in your time and learn the ins and outs of the institution before you want to run the thing." ("Some of the freshmen" was widely understood to mean Baruth, Joe Benning, and Peter Galbraith.)

This would also be the same Phil Baruth who surprisingly backed Campbell when he was challenged for the President Pro Temship by Ann Cummings -- and even formally nominated Campbell.

Deal, anyone? Bueller?

But hey, it's a holiday, so let's put aside our cynicism and look at the bright side: if Baruth really is the choice, that'll be a concrete sign that things are changing in the Senate, and Campbell is serious about taking a different approach to his leadership.

Thumbs up, thumbs down, and a poke in the eye

by: jvwalt

THUMBS UP: VTDigger, for a couple of recent articles that illustrated its crucial role in Vermont journalism. In recent days, we've enjoyed reading Jon Margolis' series on the political turmoil in Saint Johnsbury, which features Jim Rust, an energetic Tea Party type, taking the reins away from the entrenched Old Guard. And apparently running wild, turning St. J's government into an expensive joke on the taxpayers. (Not that the Old Guard were all that great, if Margolis is to be believed.) The whole series is worth reading, but we'll cut to the money shot:

So the St. Johnsbury follies continue, with select board members squabbling in public, no town manager for almost nine months (and none likely to be chosen for at least another two or three, Rust said), two lawsuits against the town, and a shrunken and inexperienced staff of town workers trying to operate a \$9 million a year enterprise, the audits of which are not up to date.

Second on Digger's hit parade was an article posted just before its holiday recess, which indicates widespread, ongoing dissatisfaction with Governor Shumlin's mental health care overhaul among the caregivers on the front lines. This dissatisfaction is not confined to the present, interim, patchwork "system"; it also includes Shumlin's long-term plan for psychiatric facilities spread around the state.

Which I've been pointing out for a solid year now, but it's nice to see the story finally get some coverage in the "real" political media.

THUMBS DOWN: VTDigger, for its unfortunate choice of holiday filler: Bethany Knight's rather schizoid 11-part exploration of poverty and anti-poverty programs in the Northeast Kingdom. It began, as discussed previously in this space, with a right-wing rant in journalistic clothing. In it, Knight (or her surrogates) bemoaned the loss of the Kingdom's Good Ole Days, where neighbors took care of neighbors (yeah, right) and we didn't need no damn gummint stickin' its nose in and sappin' the natural self-reliance of the Kingdom's sturdy if chronically impoverished populace.

Then came parts 2 and 3, which showcased how the government had helped Kingdom residents battle poverty. Sounded like an advertisement for the very programs she had pummeled in part 1.

After that, it was back to more gummint-bashin' in parts 4 and 5. And as was the case in part 1, the criticism was almost entirely anecdotal. Very little in the way of hard facts, just a lot of this:

St. Johnsbury pharmacist Jack Ruggles views poor customers with a great "astigmatism".

...He knows welfare recipients' grant and food benefits are loaded onto EBT cards at the beginning of every month. "It's like Christmas!" he said. "They get beer, cash, junk food. The carts are full. Then halfway through the month, there's no money for their kid's prescription co-pay."

This is the same "Jack Ruggles" who enlivened part 1 with his astigmatic memories of the Good Ole Days when the poor were free to starve on their own terms. According to the state Board of Pharmacy, Ruggles plies his trade at the Rite-Aid on Railroad Street in Saint Johnsbury. If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and thank him for his contribution to our public discourse. And maybe ask his boss if snooping in customers' shopping carts is really part of Jack's job description.

Anyway, Knight swung back to the positive in parts 7 and 8, so I'm expecting more welfare-bashing in part 9. But no matter how absurdly broad the pendulum swings, there are a couple of constants in Knight's work: the relatively straight installments are full of expert quotes and statistical information, while the anti-welfare installments are virtually fact-free and loaded with uninformed opinionation.

I understand the reluctance of VTDigger to go dark for a long holiday break -- gotta keep up those pageview counts, after all -- but I'd hope there were better holiday-filler options than this series.

THUMBS UP: Morgan Daybell, for fighting the good fight as Executive Director of the Vermont Progressive Party. He's stepping down after five years, to take a job closer to his home in Montgomery. He's been swimming against the tide throughout his tenure, as the increasing dominance of the Dems (and the ongoing faceplant of the Republicans) have eroded the Progs' power -- as a spoiler, if nothing else. He's also seen his party lose its former base in the Burlington mayoralty, thanks in part to the incompetence of the Bob Kiss regime.

He was effectively a one-man shop in terms of paid staff. (Which might seem sad, except that was one more than the VTGOP had in 2012.) And he did his best to rebuild the Progs by fielding good candidates for the Legislature. Although I'm primarily a Democratic voter, I'm glad the Progs are around. As long as they can remain a credible third party, they'll help keep the Dems honest if nothing else. So, thanks to Daybell for his service, and best wishes for whatever comes next.

THUMBS DOWN: The newspaper known in the Northeast Kingdom as the Cal-Rec which, to judge from a recent editorial, is apparently short for Calcified Rectum.

Yep, the St. Johnsbury Caledonian-Record is up to its old tricks. This time, in honor of John Kerry's nomination for Secretary of State, the Rectum dragged the moth-eaten Swift Boat routine out of cold storage. It accused Kerry of trying to dodge hazardous duty in Vietnam, faking his citations for gallantry, and wounding himself to get sent back home. And a whole bunch of other nonsense. (I won't provide a link because the Rectum's content is paywalled. Not to mention hazardous for your mental health.)

All this at a time when even the Republicans are in favor of Kerry's nomination. I'd say the Rectum ought to be ashamed of itself, but it long ago traveled beyond the outer bounds of self-awareness.

The Rectum's latest excretion is all the more shameless, given the track record of prominent Republicans and conservatives regarding military service. With the exception of John McCain, just about every single one of them did everything they could (including lying and cheating) to get out of any military commitment. The dishonor roll, as maintained by the New Hampshire Gazette, includes Rush Limbaugh (medical deferment due to a rectal cyst), Wayne LaPierre (student deferment), Dick Cheney ("other priorities" than serving his country), Pat Robertson (got out of combat duty thanks to his U.S. Senator father's influence), and John Frickin' Wayne (stayed in Hollywood playing soldier ion movie sets throughout World War II). You can spend many happy hours perusing the Gazette's exhaustive list.

THUMBS UP: Chris Calvin, departing owner of The Bakers Studio in White River Junction. The bakery/cafe, which (among many other things) has been making excellent bagels for many years, has closed up shop because, well, Calvin has had his fill of working six days a week, 16 hours a day. His workday started just after midnight, and kept him on his feet almost continuously until late afternoon. (His idea of a rest was driving his bagel delivery truck.) Try that on for size.

Calvin will continue baking on a wholesale basis, which will make his responsibilities much more manageable. But the closing of his shop is a blow to his many regular customers in downtown White River.

I had the privilege of getting to know Chris when I wrote a magazine article about his career which turned into a chapter in my book, (PLUGOLA ALERT) *Roads Less Traveled: Visionary New England Lives*. The chapter (entitled "The Hardest-Working Man in White River") was a chronicle of his life told during a single overnight shift at the bakery. It was a

wonderful and exhausting experience -- and all I was doing was following him around while he did all the work. Great guy, great baker. I wish him well.

THUMBS DOWN:The Brattleboro Reformer, for publishing the mother of all typographic errors. Its post-blizzard headline -- emblazoned across the top of Page One -- said "LET IS SNOW, LET IS SNOW, LET IS SNOW." The goof attracted attention on a national level from the likes of the Huffington Post, Gawker, and Jim Romenesko's media blog.

And even as we pile on the Reformer, we do acknowledge Executive Editor Tom D'Errico's blogpost in which he admits "There is no excuse" for the error. Well, he also made some excuses (low staffing over the holidays, very heavy workloads, an accelerated production schedule due to the coming storm), but he did take responsibility and apologized to his readers.

POKE IN THE EYE: Tayt Brooks, International Man of Mystery, for being the most un compelling Man of Mystery in the world. For those just joining us, the Tayter is the politically impotent Treasurer/Sole Staffer of Vermonters First, the SuperPAC that managed to spend almost a million bucks of Lenore Broughton's inheritance without accomplishing anything whatsoever. VF invested heavily in Wendy Wilton's bid for Treasurer; she lost badly to incumbent (but first-time candidate) Beth Pearce; it also put a lot of money into backing select Republicans for the Legislature, only to see the VTGOP lose ground in the House and Senate.

If Lenore Broughton had a lick of common sense, the Tayter would be out on his ear. I do have to give him credit for flummoxing the old girl. But he deserves a Poke for continuing to act like God's gift to Vermont politics. When VTDigger sought comment from him on December 18 regarding VF's latest campaign finance report, he was (yet again) unavailable for comment. Multiple times over.

Which he has been, routinely, to all media outlets since that embarrassing little "My Dinner With Randy" imbroglio last September. You remember, when Paul Heintz caught the Tayter in a blatant lie over his contact with gubernatorial hopeless* Randy Brock?

*Well, he sure wasn't a "hopeful."

Yeah, since then the Tayter has steered clear of any messy entanglements with any and all reporters, for fear of committing more blunders. Which is fine as long as VF has no impact whatsoever. But if it really hopes to actually influence elections, then he has an obligation (moral, not legal) to be answerable in public. Especially since his sugar mama, Lenore Broughton, won't even let herself be photographed, much less interviewed.

So a big fat year-end Poke to Tayt Brooks, the useless, toothless, feckless, arrogant little opera buffa character of Vermont politics.

The State Police Follies

by: jwalt

Some interesting stuff in the Freeplod about the likely Legislative response to the Jim Deeghan case. And by "interesting," I mean "appalling."

Deeghan is the longtime state trooper who somehow (allegedly, cough) managed to falsely report vast amounts of overtime and, as a result, turned himself into the sixth-highest-paid employee on the state's payroll. And put himself in line for a vastly overinflated pension.

Well, reading the Freeplod account makes me wonder why we haven't had a few more firings in the VSP, or at least some suspensions and demotions, as well as loud and angry calls for reform in the barracks. Because of shit like this:

...there was virtually no effective oversight of now former State Police Sgt. Jim Deeghan, who prosecutors say padded his time sheets in recent years to help fatten an upcoming pension and wrote 973 bogus tickets to try to justify some of his extra time.

Deeghan, a longtime patrol commander in Chittenden County, got to approve much of his own overtime and at times signed the approval for time sheets he was filing.

Excuse me: got to approve his own overtime? Signed his own approvals? Bloody f*cking hell. Does that sound like a well-run organization to you? Do you think that if the same thing had been going on in the Department of Human Services, or the Agency of Natural Resources, there wouldn't have been an all-out Inquisition into management processes and the ceremonial scalping of a few administrators?

Here's another choice tidbit:

Legislators and other state officials remain baffled how a state trooper could allegedly file false time sheets for at least three years and write bogus tickets for at least 12 years without state police internal controls or management detecting either problem.

Yeah, I must confess to a touch of bafflement myself. And yet, and yet, that paragraph is immediately followed by the following nugget from State Senator Dick Sears:

"I have great confidence in our state police," Sears said.

Oh really, Dick? Why, exactly? What about the Deeghan case inspires "great confidence in our state police"?

The Legislature's focus will be on a new law allowing for seizure of an employee's pension funds in cases of payroll fraud. In and of itself, that's fine. But as far as I can tell, there won't be any special attention paid to the agency whose internal controls were a complete failure. The agency, ironically enough, charged with upholding the law. No hearings, no calling on the carpet. Our leaders are apparently satisfied with whatever changes the VSP has decided to make on its own. Because, you know, the VSP has such a track record of bureaucratic inerrancy.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2013 6:56 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR JAN. 1:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD (CON'T):

Are you better off than four years ago?

Local companies in Vermont and New Hampshire are gradually making their way out of the Great Recession and into a better economic place than they were in four years ago when the downturn took hold.

Positive indicators of economic growth are evident in a number of industries. In some cases, a diversification of services helped businesses weather the economic storm. This was certainly the case for Chippers, an outdoor maintenance company based in Woodstock. Owner and general manager Mundy Wilson said 2012 has undoubtedly been a better year than the previous three years.

"We actually named 2009 the year of survival, and we did [survive], but not without a lot of sacrifice from everybody to hold the infrastructure together," Wilson said.

In order to keep the business vital, Wilson and her colleagues delved into turf care, as well as garden design and installation. Since those additions took effect, customers have taken advantage of the new services. The result has been 10-percent to 15-percent yearly increases in business over the several years, according to Wilson.

Foley Distributing in Rutland is having a good year, despite increased material costs over the last several years, said David Hughes, territory manager. Foley Distributing has been able to minimize the impact of those higher prices by using bio-plastics and other materials that are less sensitive to economic swings. Other cost-cutting measures included making truck routes more efficient to save on fuel, and retrofitting the company's warehouse, which included installing more efficient lighting.

Also, ongoing efforts like outreach to customers, environmental initiatives, and involvement with employees and community members have helped the company get through tough times, said Hughes.

"All these things, I feel, add up to the big picture," Hughes said.

Business is also looking better this year in the building trades. Steve Usle, director of sales and marketing for Trumbull-Nelson Construction Co. in Hanover, NH, said his firm sees a number of positive signs as the area starts to rebound from the downturn.

"We're looking at a lot more projects than we were this time last year," Usle said.

Trumbull-Nelson has also made some recent changes that have helped to buoy the business in these tough times. Usle said the firm delved into utility-related work, such as wastewater treatment projects. In addition, Trumbull-Nelson expanded by opening a new office in Montpelier — a move that made perfect sense for the business.

"In our 95-year history, we've always done a fair amount of business in Vermont," Usle noted.

In general, he added, Trumbull-Nelson is seeing more requests for projects from the commercial sector and municipalities and schools — showing some proof that the economic recovery is taking hold.

“You can see some signs of that happening,” Usle said.

Farther north in Williston, VT, AllEarth Renewables, which specializes in the design and manufacture of renewable-energy systems, has been riding the wave of the booming solar energy sector. There is no sign of that pattern slowing down this year, according to chief executive officer David Blittersdorf. After switching almost entirely to solar projects, the company went from making under \$1 million in sales five years ago, to topping \$20 million in 2011.

Just as the markets went south in 2008, “The cost of solar panels dropped by half overnight,” Blittersdorf said. This fact, along with a host of federal tax incentives, made the switch to solar a no-brainer to him. Now, Blittersdorf and his team will be watching closely to see whether Congress renews certain tax credits that are set to expire this year.

130-ton Bartonsville Covered Bridge moved into place

By Susan Smallheer

LOWER BARTONSVILLE — The new Bartonsville Covered Bridge was pulled to its final resting place Monday, inch by painstaking inch, by two special horizontal hoists on either side of the river.

The 130-ton bridge, which replaced the original 1870 Bartonsville Covered Bridge which was swept away by Tropical Storm Irene on Aug. 28, 2011, had been built parallel to its final location over the Williams River. It was moved about 40 feet upstream over seven hours by a series of heavy-equipment rollers and chain-fall hoists, a piece of equipment similar to a come-along.

The rollers were pulled by the chain fall, and slid on a metal track on top of wooden cribbing built on the new concrete abutment for the bridge.

Working in tandem on either side of the river, crews from Cold River Bridge pulled the bridge into place, along the metal track and rollers. It moved imperceptible inch by imperceptible inch.

The men took turns working the chain-fall hoist back and forth, with even the owner of Cold River Bridge Jim Hollar taking his turn with the equipment.

Bridge designer Phillip Pierce of Clough Harbour and Associates of Albany, N.Y., was on hand to watch the bridge moved into place,

“It’s pulling harder than I thought it would,” said Pierce, who said the new bridge was 17 feet longer at 168 feet and two feet taller than the original bridge. He said the bridge was “a few inches” wider to allow more ventilation in the trusses. He said it was the longer Town truss covered bridge in the United States, if not the world.

The Town lattice truss was designed and patented in 1820 by Connecticut bridge designer and architect Ithiel Town, Pierce said.

The new, stronger bridge will now allow fire trucks to cross, he said.

Pierce, one of four covered bridge designers in the United States, had worked as a consultant for the Agency of Transportation from 1992-95 evaluating the state’s 100 covered bridges. Rockingham’s public works consultant, Everett Hammond, said he sought out Pierce shortly after Irene because of his experience with covered bridges in general, and the Bartonsville Covered Bridge in particular.

Pierce said the construction crew opted not to use the traditional capstan method to put the bridge in place, which had been used in recent years in several covered bridge construction projects, because the chain-fall method was easier.

He said usually construction crews build the bridge on land, and then move it across the river using cribbing.

But in the case of Bartonsville, the new bridge was already over the river.

The low-key move was witnessed by a steady stream of visitors, including Pat and Jim Hetzer of Hudson, N.H., and their daughter Cher Hetzer-Keuenhoff, also of Hudson.

The Hetzers have been coming over regularly to watch the bridge being built, and Jim Hetzer had scavenged some scraps of lumber from the old bridge and built a birdfeeder for their home.

None of the old bridge was able to be used in the new bridge, although one of the original signs was located downstream.

The Cold River crew had spent the last three weeks dismantling the temporary bridge which had been serving the small village of Lower Bartonsville for the past 11 months.

Hollar, who grew up in Rockingham, said constructing the bridge was personally rewarding for himself and his crew, most of whom are from the Bellows Falls-Rockingham-Westminster area.

"I think it will be 'Dad worked on this bridge,' or 'Grandpa worked on this bridge,'" said Hollar, taking a break from his turn at the hoist.

Pierce said the new bridge was as close as he could get it to a replica of the Town truss covered bridge, which was built by Sanford Granger after an earlier covered bridge was also swept away by flooding.

Pierce said the bridge, which was built with green lumber, "weighs a lot," but will weigh about 10 tons less once the lumber dries. The bridge is built primarily of Douglas fir from the West Coast, as well as southern pine.

He said white oak planking would be used to cover the bridge deck as a "sacrificial layer," and would be replaced after it is worn.

Hammond, Rockingham's former public works director and a native of Bartonsville, said it would probably be the end of January before all the work is complete on the bridge and it is open to the public.

He said the town would be holding a celebration sometime in late to mid-January.

Hammond said the bridge now had to be lowered about two feet to its final resting place on its new concrete abutments, and some additional concrete poured, and approaches put in place.

"The bridge is a legacy that stays in the town and there's a lot of pride here," said Hollar, as his crew of 10 guys took a pizza break for the final 10 feet.

Shortly before 4 p.m., the bridge was in place, a milestone reached by the end of 2012.

Windsor legislators reveal top issues

The Herald invited every state legislator from Vermont's four southern counties to respond to the question, "What's your single most important issue for 2013 and why?" Here are the answers from all the Windsor lawmakers who replied:

Sen. John Campbell, D-Windsor:

The Legislature faces a myriad of significant issues this upcoming biennium, but none more important than completing the reorganization of our mental health system. For too long, the recipients of these services have been put on the back burner while the various special interest groups debate their issues. In the meantime we spin our wheels struggling to make it all come together. Not only do we have a responsibility, but we have an obligation to meet the needs of these folks.

Sen. Dick McCormack, D-Windsor:

Patient choice addresses not how to die, but who should decide — government (existing law) or individuals. Under the bill, patients decide according to their own beliefs and wishes, including the option of hastening inevitable, imminent death medically. In Oregon this has given dying people compassion, respect and peace of mind since 1997. None of the ghoulish scenarios opponents imagine have come to pass. Oregon leads in palliative and hospice care. Vermonters deserve no less.

Rep. John Bartholomew, D-Windsor-1 (Hartland, West Windsor, Windsor):

Require labeling of products made with genetically engineered ingredients. People want and have a right to know what's in their food.

Rep. Donna Sweaney, D-Windsor-1 (Hartland, West Windsor, Windsor):

The further establishment of health care for all Vermonters. For the past year I have had the experience of billing insurance companies for a health care provider. I find insurance companies' regulations to be cumbersome and, I believe, intentionally convoluted, all of which inflates health care costs. I believe a single payer system can work. Vermont should pursue this course and demonstrate to the rest of the country that health coverage can and should be for all citizens.

Rep. Leigh Dakin, D-Windsor-3-1 (Andover, Baltimore, Chester, Springfield):

There is still so much work to be done since the devastating arrival and then departure of Irene, including the completion of a new mental health facility and the strengthening of our outpatient services in communities throughout the state to serve the mentally ill.

Rep. Alice Emmons, D/W-Windsor-3-2 (Springfield):

Addressing gang-related issues. This issue is a sleeper out there. Many of our Vermont communities are being targeted because the gangs see a market out there. We need to identify that market because gangs are a business and they go where they can make money.

Rep. Cynthia Martin, D/W-Windsor-3-2 (Springfield):

I am always interested in promoting procedures that keep people out of prison and will continue advocating specifically for the consideration of restorative justice practices whenever possible. Additionally, an issue in which I have become interested is the labeling of products, both those that are consumed and those that are applied to the body.

Rep. Teo Zagar, D-Windsor-4-1 (Barnard, Hartford, Pomfret):

The labeling of genetically modified organisms in our food supply. GMOs are widely prevalent in the food we consume, with approximately 80 to 90 percent of all soy, corn and canola ingredients being derived from genetic engineering. Vermonters have a right to know when they are consuming food products that have been created using technology that has not been proven safe for long-term human consumption.

Rep. Sheila Vowinkel, D-Windsor-4-2 (Hartford):

Strengthening the laws that support strong families and the communities in which they live. When communities provide a safe place to live, work, attend school and retire, families feel cared for and are more likely to stay engaged with our institutions. Employment opportunities, affordable housing, quality education and mental health services are, I believe, needed to help families and children. Building strong families builds healthier communities, which creates a vital community.

Rep. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor-5 (Plymouth, Reading, Woodstock):

Having visited 1,847 homes during the course of my "door-to-door" campaigning it seems that everyone has a different priority for the Legislature. Here is a sampling: cellphone coverage, high-speed Internet access, streamlining licenses and fees for small businesses, health care costs and coverage, drug related crime and drug addictions, speed on our highways, noise from motorcycles, property taxes, quality and cost of education, environmental protection and economic development. And a few things I'd like to accomplish: 1) Addressing the continuing challenges Tropical Storm Irene presents — especially the rise in unemployment insurance tax rates for businesses which had to stop doing business while they cleaned up and regrouped; 2) Figuring out the financing of health care reform in Vermont; and 3) Continuing my work improving and strengthening the current use program — essential to the health of Vermont's working landscape.

Rep. Sarah Buxton, D-Windsor-Orange-1 (Royalton, Tunbridge):

The recent uptick in crime in Vermont is a red flag to budget-builders that the old adage still rings true — an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Vermonters rightfully rely on us to help keep our citizens safe and healthy. In 2013, I am committed to turning our attention to the root causes of the crimes we are experiencing — substance abuse, poverty, unmet mental health needs, isolation, and inadequate deterrence.

Rep. Margaret Cheney, D-Windsor-Orange-2 (Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford):

To help Vermonters who are vulnerable to continually rising heating costs. The price of oil and propane continues to rise for reasons beyond our control, but we have made little progress toward our statutory goal of winterizing 80,000 homes by 2020. We need an effective, low-cost way to help as many Vermonters as possible lower their heating bills, which will also lessen our greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs.

Rep. Jim Masland, D-Windsor-Orange-2 (Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford):

Against the immediate concerns about guns, violence in schools, budget shortfalls and getting the health care legislation right, my overriding concern is adapting our tax and revenue system to the realities of the 21st century. The current system is an adaptation to the economy of the 1950s, relies too heavily on the property tax, sales and an income tax that is still tied to then Bush tax cuts. The reality is that our sales tax base is being continuously eroded by online and out-of-state sales. Vermont gives away a billion dollars each year in tax credits, many of which have outlasted their usefulness. It's time to change our tax structure such that taxes are equitable and raise adequate revenue while supporting entrepreneurs and working families that make Vermont strong.

Rep. Sandy Haas, P/D-Windsor-Rutland (Bethel, Pittsfield, Rochester, Stockbridge):

The highest priority we face every session is crafting a state budget that provides for the needs of Vermont and its citizens. As in each of the past several years, we are facing a significant gap between projected revenue and projected budget needs. After years of successive cuts, we need to assure that we do not lose further ground in protecting Vermonters and maintaining our infrastructure resources.

Rutland Town chooses not to ban marijuana dispensaries

By Brent Curtis

The Rutland Town Select Board has decided not to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in town.

Following a trend set by a number of other communities in Rutland County, Select Board members recently lent their perspectives to a debate taking place in towns around the state.

"Mainly because our neighboring communities have been talking about it, I thought it should get a thorough airing," Selectman James Hall said.

No specific request regarding a marijuana dispensary has been submitted or discussed with the town. Some communities, including Rutland and Fair Haven, are working toward, or have already implemented, bans on the opening of dispensaries that would legally provide marijuana to those prescribed the drug.

One other town, next-door Pittsford, has also decided not to ban dispensaries, but officials in that town made it clear that they weren't altogether approving them either.

"It's a fine line between the two," Pittsford Select Board Chairman Hank Pelkey said early in December. "It can be construed that way but at this point we voted to not (create) an ordinance to prohibit them."

The decision reached in Rutland Town didn't technically involve a vote.

But all five members were in consensus that no action should be taken to prohibit them and at least one member, selectman and local lawyer John Paul Fagnant, spoke passionately about patients' rights to have access to them.

"It's proven to have medical value for the treatment of some cancers and eye conditions," Fagnant said. "Frankly, to say that we're prohibiting it just because it's marijuana sounds kind of hypocritical to me."

Fagnant, a former town police officer, said he had reviewed the requirements for both patients and prescribers of medical marijuana and was convinced that anyone interested in using the drug for recreational use would have an easier time seeking it elsewhere.

"No casual user of that drug would ever bother going through the process when you can get marijuana pretty readily on a day's notice anywhere in Rutland," he said. "The law requires a six month documented relationship with a physician who has taken a course on prescribing marijuana for medical uses."

Fagnant said it was far easier to obtain and abuse medicines that are more potent and carry more social consequences than marijuana. Drugs such as Oxycontin — a powerful opiate-based painkiller — can be prescribed with much less hassle and oversight than medical marijuana, he said.

Fellow Selectman Steve Hawley agreed.

"There's a lot of philosophy that marijuana is a door opener to other drugs, but the way this is set up it's a lot more regulated than normal drugs at a pharmacy," Hawley said.

During debates in Rutland City, Police Chief James Baker said such dispensaries had become crime magnets in other states.

But Fagnant said in an interview after the board meeting last month that continued attempts to criminalize marijuana were futile and counterproductive.

"They never got the memo that we've lost the war on drugs when it comes to marijuana," Fagnant said of the city's position. "They still think it's a drug they can successfully fight."

Rutland Town Police Chief Ed Dumas has the distinction of being not only the top cop in town but also a member of the Rutland Police Department.

Asked where he stood on the board's decision, he said he respects the board's views and has drawn a line between their policies and his duties.

He also said he did not weigh in on the board's discussion.

"They're looking at it from the medical side, I look at it from the law enforcement side," Dumas said. "It's a drug that has practical uses but one that can be abused as well."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 9:12 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah; MacLean, Alex; Porter Louis; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Spaulding, Jeb; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: exe priv re c5 proposal

Good for me.

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 5:28 PM
To: London, Sarah; MacLean, Alex; Porter Louis; Allen, Susan; Richards, Alyson
Cc: Spaulding, Jeb; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: exe priv re c5 proposal

Let's do a senior staff meeting on Wednesday morning – lots to go over. He starts at 9:30 with Reardon and Jeb.
How does 8:30 work for everyone?

From: <London>, Sarah <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>
Date: Monday, December 31, 2012 5:10 PM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "MacLean, Alex" <Alex.MacLean@state.vt.us>, Porter Louis <louis_porter@yahoo.com>, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>, "Richards, Alyson" <Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us>, "Miller, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us>
Subject: exe priv re c5 proposal

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 3:58 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: Happy New Year!

And here's your present for all the hard work you just did! What more could a guy want???

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McCleskey, Jim" <jim.mccleskey@nc.gov>
Date: December 31, 2012, 2:35:29 PM EST
To: "McCleskey, Jim" <jim.mccleskey@nc.gov>
Cc: "jim_mccleskey22@hotmail.com" <jim_mccleskey22@hotmail.com>
Subject: Happy New Year!

Greetings Friends, and Happy Holidays!

I want to let you know that after fifteen years in the North Carolina Washington Office and over thirteen as Director, as of COB today I will officially stand down from this role.

During my time in state service it has been a tremendous honor and gift to work with so many fine people. I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity, and remain a committed believer in the necessity and resiliency of our time-tested system of self-government.

I am pursuing several opportunities at this moment and look forward to updating you when I settle on my next mission. In the meantime, best wishes and sincere regards.

Please keep in touch!



Jim McCleskey, Director
North Carolina Washington Office
444 N. Capitol St. #332
Washington, DC 20001
PH: 202-624-5833
FX: 202-624-5836

E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.

--

London, Sarah

From: EXE-Copier@state.vt.us
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY
Attachments: SEXE-Copier12123115271.pdf

Attachment from EXE-Copier.

Please do not reply to this email.

London, Sarah

From: Minter, Sue
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Revised news release

thx

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: Re: Revised news release

Looks good

From: <Minter>, Sue <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>
Date: Monday, December 31, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Revised news release

Bill:
FEMA's draft release is attached. My proposed quote below. Good with you? (Sue A. had suggested I run this by you today).

"Vermonters have benefitted greatly from the disaster response and resources of our federal government," noted Irene Recovery Officer, Sue Minter. "We are extremely grateful to FEMA and to our Congressional Delegation for their tireless efforts on our behalf, and we look forward to continuing a productive partnership in the months ahead."

From: Mace, David [<mailto:David.Mace@fema.dhs.gov>]
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Minter, Sue
Cc: Alvarado, Diego; Hynes, Marquita
Subject: Revised news release

Sue:

Attached please find the revised press release . If you have additional edits and/or quotes you'd like provide on behalf of the state could you please send them my way ASAP?

Thank you!

Sincerely,

David A. Mace
External Affairs Writer/Media Relations Specialist
DR-1995/4001/4022/4043/4066-VT
DR-4065-NH
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

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: Monday, December 31, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Minter, Sue
Subject: Re: Revised news release
Attachments: image001.png

Looks good

From: <Minter>, Sue <Sue.Minter@state.vt.us>
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From: Mace, David [<mailto:David.Mace@fema.dhs.gov>]
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Minter, Sue
Cc: Alvarado, Diego; Hynes, Marquita
Subject: Revised news release

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additional edits and/or quotes you'd like provide on behalf of the state could you please send them my way ASAP?

Thank you!

Sincerely,

David A. Mace
External Affairs Writer/Media Relations Specialist
DR-1995/4001/4022/4043/4066-VT
DR-4065-NH
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

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: Minter, Sue
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: media stuff today
Attachments: Press Release- Irene Recovery Office Transition-2 (2).docx

Bill: Are you in today? I am not sure whether Sue Allen can address this (see below). If she is not here, is there someone else from the Gov. office that can issue this press release, which Jeb wants out today if possible?

Thank you!

S

PS I didn't realize we needed to get out today. Would have planned better if I did.

From: Minter, Sue
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 11:33 AM
To: 'Allen, Susan'
Subject: media stuff today

Hi Sue:

Sorry to bother you! Jeb asked me to reach out to you today because he would like to get the release on the IRO transition out today. I am not sure how to do without you. Can you advise? The draft release is attached for your review. I am also dealing with a state quote on the FEMA press release today, which I won't bother you with (unless you want).

Thank you!!

S

*Sue Minter
Irene Recovery Officer
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802 828-3333
fax: 828-3339*

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 8:27 AM
To: EXE
Subject: Fwd: 5K Road Race Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve) starting at 3 PM

Can't remember if I forwarded this previously.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cadorette, Wendy" <Wendy.Cadorette@state.vt.us>
Date: December 27, 2012 9:22:49 AM EST
To: BGS - Montpelier Complex <BGS.MontpelierComplex@state.vt.us>,
/O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Bonnie.Sanders <IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Bonnie+2ESanders
@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Clayton.Clark
<IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Clayton+2EClark@
state.vt.us>, /o=state.vt.us/ou=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Ed.Polk <IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Ed+2EPolk@state.v
t.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jane.Menard <IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Jane+2EMenard@st
ate.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jennifer.Underwood
<IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Jennifer+2EUnderw
ood@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Leslie.Baker
<IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Leslie+2EBaker@st
ate.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Scott.Barnett <IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Scott+2EBarnett@st
ate.vt.us>, /o=state.vt.us/ou=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Val.Cyr <IMCEAEX-
O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Val+2ECyr@state.v
t.us>, "Amaral, Elizabeth" <invtemp@sec.state.vt.us>, "Ancel, Renee"
<Renee.Ancel@state.vt.us>, "Antone, Carolyn" <carolyn.antone@sec.state.vt.us>, "Appel,
Robert" <Robert.Appel@state.vt.us>, "Audet, Jenny" <Jenny.Audet@state.vt.us>, "Belville,
Francine" <Francine.Belville@state.vt.us>, "Bernardini, Barbara"
<Barbara.Bernardini@state.vt.us>, "Bernier, Marie" <mbernier@vermontartscouncil.org>,
"Berube, Teri" <Teri.Berube@state.vt.us>, "Bilodeau, Joanne" <Joanne.Bilodeau@state.vt.us>,
"Boyce, Rhonda" <Rhonda.Boyce@state.vt.us>, "Brooks, Francis" <sgt-at-
arms@leg.state.vt.us>, "Brown, Karen" <karen.brown@state.vt.us>, "Bullard, Janet"
<Janet.Bullard@state.vt.us>, "Cadorette, Wendy" <Wendy.Cadorette@state.vt.us>, "Carbo,
Kelly" <Kelly.Carbo@state.vt.us>, "Carlson, Amy" <acarlson@sec.state.vt.us>, "Carrier, Janis"
<Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>, "Chamberlin, Brenda" <Brenda.Chamberlin@state.vt.us>, "Chenail,
Bruce" <Bruce.Chenail@state.vt.us>, "Churchill, Connie" <Connie.Churchill@state.vt.us>,
"Clasen, Michael" <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>, "Crockett, Jean" <Jean.Crockett@state.vt.us>,
"Crowley, Annie" <acrowley@leg.state.vt.us>, "Daley, Paul" <pdaley@sec.state.vt.us>, DII -
Datacenter Manager <DII-DatacenterManager@state.vt.us>, "Dimick, Leslie"

[<leslie.dimick@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:leslie.dimick@leg.state.vt.us), "Donovan, Paul" [<Paul.Donovan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Paul.Donovan@state.vt.us), "Dufresne, Elaine" [<edufresne@vermontartscouncil.org>](mailto:edufresne@vermontartscouncil.org), "Elliott, Brittany" [<brittany.elliott@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:brittany.elliott@sec.state.vt.us), "Emmons, Tonia" [<Tonia.Emmons@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tonia.Emmons@state.vt.us), "Evans, Lora" [<Lora.Evans@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lora.Evans@state.vt.us), "Ferland, Brad" [<brad.ferland@state.vt.us>](mailto:brad.ferland@state.vt.us), "Flanagan, Kathy" [<Kathy.Flanagan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Kathy.Flanagan@state.vt.us), "Flinn, Charlene" [<Charlene.Flinn@state.vt.us>](mailto:Charlene.Flinn@state.vt.us), "Fuller, Stephanie" [<Stephanie.Fuller@state.vt.us>](mailto:Stephanie.Fuller@state.vt.us), "Goodwin, Walter" [<Walter.Goodwin@state.vt.us>](mailto:Walter.Goodwin@state.vt.us), "Grassmann, Felix" [<Felix.Grassmann@state.vt.us>](mailto:Felix.Grassmann@state.vt.us), "Gray, Beth" [<Beth.Gray@state.vt.us>](mailto:Beth.Gray@state.vt.us), "Guy, Janice" [<Janice.Guy@state.vt.us>](mailto:Janice.Guy@state.vt.us), "Hebert, John" [<John.Hebert@state.vt.us>](mailto:John.Hebert@state.vt.us), "Hebert, Rosemary" [<Rosemary.Hebert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Rosemary.Hebert@state.vt.us), "Hester, Jim" [<jhester@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:jhester@leg.state.vt.us), "Hughes, Victoria" [<Victoria.Hughes@state.vt.us>](mailto:Victoria.Hughes@state.vt.us), "Huntsman, Bill" [<Bill.huntsman@state.vt.us>](mailto:Bill.huntsman@state.vt.us), "Isabelle, Jean-Paul" [<JP.Isabelle@state.vt.us>](mailto:JP.Isabelle@state.vt.us), "James, Pam" [<Pam.James@state.vt.us>](mailto:Pam.James@state.vt.us), "Janawicz, Scott" [<Scott.Janawicz@state.vt.us>](mailto:Scott.Janawicz@state.vt.us), "Johnson, Harriet" [<Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>](mailto:Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us), "Joubert, Ellie" [<Ellie.Joubert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Ellie.Joubert@state.vt.us), "Kellogg, Jeremiah" [<Jeremiah.Kellogg@state.vt.us>](mailto:Jeremiah.Kellogg@state.vt.us), "Labelle, Tricia" [<tricia.labelle@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:tricia.labelle@sec.state.vt.us), "Laferriere, Deb" [<Deb.Laferriere@state.vt.us>](mailto:Deb.Laferriere@state.vt.us), "Lamberti, Jaylene" [<jlamberti@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:jlamberti@sec.state.vt.us), "Lamos, Terry" [<Terry.Lamos@state.vt.us>](mailto:Terry.Lamos@state.vt.us), "Lapoint, Sheila" [<Sheila.Lapoint@state.vt.us>](mailto:Sheila.Lapoint@state.vt.us), "Lavery, Nathan" [<nlavery@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us), "Loftus, Margaret" [<Margaret.Loftus@state.vt.us>](mailto:Margaret.Loftus@state.vt.us), "Matott, Heather" [<Heather.Matott@state.vt.us>](mailto:Heather.Matott@state.vt.us), "Mattison, Lestyn" [<Lestyn.Mattison@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lestyn.Mattison@state.vt.us), "McConnell, Chris" [<Chris.McConnell@state.vt.us>](mailto:Chris.McConnell@state.vt.us), "McManis, Shawn" [<Shawn.McManis@state.vt.us>](mailto:Shawn.McManis@state.vt.us), "Metivier, Krista" [<kmetivier@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:kmetivier@leg.state.vt.us), "Miller, Janet" [<jmiller@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:jmiller@leg.state.vt.us), "Morey, Michael" [<Michael.Morey@state.vt.us>](mailto:Michael.Morey@state.vt.us), "Morse, Linda" [<Linda.Morse@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Morse@state.vt.us), "Moz-Knight, Melinda" [<Melinda.Moz-Knight@state.vt.us>](mailto:Melinda.Moz-Knight@state.vt.us), "Mulhall, Tom" [<Tom.Mulhall@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tom.Mulhall@state.vt.us), "Ng, Joe" [<Joe.Ng@state.vt.us>](mailto:Joe.Ng@state.vt.us), "Noonan, Tim" [<Tim.Noonan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tim.Noonan@state.vt.us), "Palmer, Allen" [<Allen.Palmer@state.vt.us>](mailto:Allen.Palmer@state.vt.us), "Parker, Dennis" [<Dennis.Parker@state.vt.us>](mailto:Dennis.Parker@state.vt.us), "Pierce, Robert" [<Robert.Pierce@state.vt.us>](mailto:Robert.Pierce@state.vt.us), "Plastridge, Timothy" [<Timothy.Plastridge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Timothy.Plastridge@state.vt.us), "Powell, Doug" [<doug.powell@state.vt.us>](mailto:doug.powell@state.vt.us), "Pryce, Tonia" [<Tonia.Pryce@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tonia.Pryce@state.vt.us), "Putney, Renee" [<rputney@atg.state.vt.us>](mailto:rputney@atg.state.vt.us), "Rea, Bob" [<Bob.Rea@state.vt.us>](mailto:Bob.Rea@state.vt.us), "Robbins, Don" [<Don.Robbins@state.vt.us>](mailto:Don.Robbins@state.vt.us), "Robinson, Rita" [<Rita.Robinson@state.vt.us>](mailto:Rita.Robinson@state.vt.us), "Rockcastle, Sheri" [<Sheri.Rockcastle@state.vt.us>](mailto:Sheri.Rockcastle@state.vt.us), "Rutledge, Jonathan" [<Jonathan.Rutledge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Jonathan.Rutledge@state.vt.us), "Sanford, Greg" [<ggsanford@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:ggsanford@sec.state.vt.us), "Satterfield, Kathy" [<Kathy.Satterfield@state.vt.us>](mailto:Kathy.Satterfield@state.vt.us), "Schraut, Karl" [<Karl.Schraut@state.vt.us>](mailto:Karl.Schraut@state.vt.us), "St. Onge, Peggy" [<Peggy.StOnge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Peggy.StOnge@state.vt.us), "Starr, Loring" [<lstarr@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:lstarr@leg.state.vt.us), "Swanson, Mary-Kay" [<mkswanson@atg.state.vt.us>](mailto:mkswanson@atg.state.vt.us), "Talbert, Lilly" [<Lilly.Talbert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lilly.Talbert@state.vt.us), "Tibbetts, Terri" [<Terri.Tibbetts@state.vt.us>](mailto:Terri.Tibbetts@state.vt.us), "Tierney, Mike" [<Mike.Tierney@state.vt.us>](mailto:Mike.Tierney@state.vt.us), "Utton, Theresa L." [<tutton@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:tutton@leg.state.vt.us), "Wells, James" [<James.Wells@state.vt.us>](mailto:James.Wells@state.vt.us), "Wood, Ray" [<capitol@abbeygroup.net>](mailto:capitol@abbeygroup.net), "Wortman, Linda" [<Linda.Wortman@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Wortman@state.vt.us), "Young, Linda" [<Linda.Young@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Young@state.vt.us), "Zampieri, Kathy" [<alvthq@myfairpoint.net>](mailto:alvthq@myfairpoint.net)

Subject: 5K Road Race Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve) starting at 3 PM

Please note – Central VT Runners will hold a 5K road race taking place in Montpelier on the afternoon of Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve). The race starts at 3 PM, you could see runners along State Street until @4 PM. State employees should plan ahead so not to be delayed if you will need to leave parking lots during 3 – 4 PM. Police presence will be on sight assisting with traffic. See details below:

Sure, the race begins at 3:00 pm, starting on Davis Ave, continuing onto Court, across State Street, over the foot bridge, onto the bike path, right onto Baily Ave, across State again, onto Terrace Street, around Dairy Lane and then back down Clarendon to Baily, onto State Street and back to the Pavilion building, finish is on Court Street. We always have police presence to help with the traffic, but I agree it is really

helpful to warn anyone coming or going as they may be delayed if they try to get out of the parking lot between 3:00 and 4:00.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 7:23 AM
To: MacLean, Alex; Bartlett, Susan; Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Press Conference Schedule:

Wednesday: Pension reform. I'll circulate a draft press release later today or first thing in the a.m. Jeb is doing invites.

Thursday: Recidivism (Susan B., can you send me talking points so I can draft a release and circulate?)

Friday: Transparency (Sue Zeller and Sarah will send me talking points)

Jan. 7: DUI Court, and possibly Drug Package ...

Jan. 8: Berlin Hospital

Jan. 9: We have time for a presser and should hold it on the schedule, but probably won't want one because it's opening day of Legislature

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 6:35 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, DEC. 31 (FINAL):

FOX44:

Snowmobilers Boost Local Economy: Hotel Rooms Filled

JENNY DAY

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. - All of the snow that's recently fallen from the sky has made for the perfect snowmobiling trail conditions.

But not only are outdoor enthusiasts rejoicing, so are the hotels that those trails are near!

The Ho-Hum Motel for example, in South Burlington struggled last season from the lack of snow. This weekend, they've been at capacity!

And the majority of their guests are snowmobilers!

The Ho-Hum Motel Manager thinks this is a sign that the economy is turning itself around.

"You wouldn't be wasting money on a hotel room if you didn't have the extra money, so I think it's looking bright, I'm very hopeful for the future," Rennie Love said.

Other hotels along Shelburne Road agree... and say they've been handing out a record number of snowmobile trail maps this weekend.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Vt. House budget committee to meet

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — The Vermont Legislature doesn't formally convene until Jan. 9, but House budget writers will be getting a jump on their work beginning the day after New Year's.

The House Appropriations Committee begins hearings Wednesday afternoon on a mid-year budget adjustment. The fiscal year begins in July, and when lawmakers convene they'll begin working on a bill making any necessary changes to the spending plan that's been in place for six months.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the panel will hear from departments of the state Agency of Human Services, including Mental Health, Aging and Disabilities, and Corrections.

On Thursday, officials from the agencies of Commerce and Agriculture will be among those testifying. On Friday, the Natural Resources Agency and Department of Buildings and General Services will be up.

Statehouse preparing for Vt. governor's inaugural

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Preparations continue for an unusual Vermont inaugural celebration.

Instead of the traditional ball, Gov. Peter Shumlin is ushering in his second term with a special open house combined with a fundraiser for Irene recovery relief on Jan. 10 at the Statehouse in Montpelier.

The 4:30 p.m. event will follow the governor's swearing-in and inaugural speech to lawmakers earlier in the day.

Shumlin is asking businesses and individuals to donate what they might normally contribute toward the ball instead to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund.

That fund is helping continuing efforts to recover from Tropical Storm Irene 16 months ago.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 6:26 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR MONDAY, DEC. 31:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

GMCR elects new chairman

WATERBURY — Green Mountain Coffee Roasters elected Norman Wesley as chairman of its board of directors.

A.D. "David" Mackay was elected an independent director.

Michael Mardy, who had previously served as interim chairman, will continue in his role as audit committee chairman.

"I am honored to assume the chairmanship of such an innovative and dynamic company and would like to formally thank Mike Mardy for undertaking that responsibility on an interim basis," Wesley said. "Our board also is pleased to welcome David Mackay, a highly accomplished executive, to the board.

Mackay, 57, served as the chief executive officer of Kellogg Company from December 2006 to January 2011 and as president from August 2003 to January 2011.

House to tackle health care dilemma

By Peter Hirschfeld

MONTPELIER — The 11 members of the House Committee on Health Care will dedicate much of the 2013 legislative session to solving a fiscal dilemma that threatens to spike insurance costs for nearly 20,000 Vermonters.

Rep. Mike Fisher, a Lincoln Democrat and chairman of the health care committee, said he has grave concerns about the increased out-of-pocket expenses awaiting some lower-income residents beginning in January 2014. The potential jumps in premiums and deductibles will affect a portion of Vermonters now receiving subsidized coverage in two state-sponsored programs, called VHAP and Catamount Health.

"It's an issue that's of concern to a lot of members, and it's going to be a big focus of ours," Fisher said.

The cost increases are related to the health benefits exchange, a federally mandated online marketplace designed to improve access to insurance by lowering costs.

But the implementation of the exchange will also usher in the end of VHAP and Catamount. And since federal assistance in the exchange won't be nearly as robust as what's available in the state programs, more than 17,000 residents enrolled in VHAP or Catamount Health are expected to see potentially dramatic increases in their out-of-pocket health care costs.

"We need to look first at what is the impact and then at what are our options," Fisher said.

Administration officials say it could cost as much as \$18 million to hold harmless every Vermonter facing higher health care costs under the exchange. While Gov. Peter Shumlin says his budget proposal next month will deflect at least some of the impact on poor and working-class residents, he has said the state can't afford to eliminate it entirely.

Fisher said his committee will begin wrestling in January with many of the same questions the Shumlin administration is grappling with now.

"We'll have to look at whether there is the potential for doing an additional state subsidy," Fisher said. "And if there is money to do it, where would it be best focused?"

Fisher said his committee also will continue its long-running work on payment reform, with a specific focus on "accountable care organizations."

An ACO is a network of health care providers who agree to care for a certain number of patients over a set period of time for a fixed cost. If costs incurred by the patients are less than what was agreed upon, then the providers keep the difference. If costs exceed the threshold, then providers take a loss on the deal.

"It challenges providers to take some responsibility," Fisher said. "In the past, the risk has always been on the insurer side. By having providers share some of that risk, you give them a positive stake in the cost containment we're trying to achieve."

Fisher said the ACO concept, created by the federal government, might require some legislative oversight.

"I really want it to work," Fisher said. "And if we have multiple ACOs fighting over the same lives, that's not productive. It needs to happen in a way that is predictable and works for providers and for patients."

Downstairs in the Senate, Fisher's counterparts on the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare will have their hands full with mental health.

In the wake of the closure of the Vermont State Hospital in 2011, lawmakers last year passed legislation overhauling the mental health system. But Sen. Claire Ayer, Democratic chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, said the job is far from done.

"We made a lot of assumptions about where it's best to get care and who should be delivering it, and we need to check in and make sure those assumptions were correct," Ayer said.

She said the Legislature must also contend with revenue issues that might complicate the plan, notably the news that the hospital's replacement won't be eligible for 90 percent federal reimbursement.

Ayer said she also plans to devote committee time to the continued problems at Adult Protective Services, a state division whose alleged failure to protect its elderly clients resulted in a high-profile lawsuit. Shumlin last spring vetoed a bill that would have required the administration to provide a report on the program's deficiencies. In the absence of that report, Ayer said, her committee will have to do its own legwork.

The Senate Committee on Health and Welfare may also host hearings on a controversial bill that would allow doctors to prescribe some terminally ill patients a lethal dose of medication. Ayer said she likes the idea of holding joint public hearings on the bill — which supporters call "death with dignity" — with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Vt. law, calendar delay Legislature

MONTPELIER — Vermont lawmakers usually gather to open their yearly session in the first week of January, but that won't happen this year.

State law says a new biennium — or two-year session of the Legislature — begins on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of the year.

Because New Year's Day is a Tuesday, the need for preparation days will push the Legislature's opening day to Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Lost skiers keep

rescue crews busy

KILLINGTON — By Sunday night, search and rescue crews in town had been called to assist 13 skiers who went out of bounds at the resort over the weekend.

Starting Friday afternoon, when five skiers from New York and Massachusetts skied into the woods off the Glades trail and ending Sunday evening when two skiers were being guided out of the woods at 5 p.m., State police and local crews devoted long hours and dozens of staff to search and rescue operations.

"This has taken up an extensive amount of resources," state police Sgt. Thomas Mozzer said. In addition to the efforts of the state police, members of the Killington ski patrol, Killington Volunteer Fire Department, Vermont Fish and Game wardens and a local volunteer search and rescue team were called out for at least six different search missions. The good news is that all of the skiers and snowboarders found their way out within hours of calling for help and no injuries were reported. Like every other ski area, Killington marks the boundaries of its trail with ropes and signs that warn skiers against skiing out of bounds. But when skiers decide not to heed those warnings they are almost always rescued with no repercussions to themselves. That's because a law requiring skiers to pay for their rescue expenses is rarely used. Passed in 1996, the law allows state and municipal agencies, resorts and rescue organizations to recoup their expenses from a skier who "uses the facilities of a ski area to access terrain outside the open and designated ski trails." State police billed skiers earlier in the decade but have abandoned the practice in the interest of safety, according to a state police official who said police don't want to discourage lost skiers from calling for help.

Vt. fuel dealers

offer safety tips

MONTPELIER — Companies that sell heating fuels in Vermont are urging customers to take extra precautions following this week's heavy snow.

Matt Cota of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association says people should make sure the vents from their heating systems are clear of ice and snow. Vent blockages can lead to dangerous buildup of carbon monoxide.

Cota also asks that customers make sure there's a path open to fuel tank feed pipes and that there's access to tanks located in backyards to speed deliveries.

— Staff and wire reports

Hawk Mt. closing

inn and restaurant

PLYMOUTH — The Hawk Mountain Inn and Mountain Resort in Vermont is shutting down its 50-room inn and award-winning restaurant.

The Plymouth vacation destination says the Hawk Inn and The River Tavern restaurant will close by Thursday. But the business will continue renting its mountainside villas and operating its pool and spa, cross-county ski facilities and other amenities on its 1,200 acres.

Hawk Mountain Vice President Jim Nielsen said the combination of a tough economy, Tropical Storm Irene and the poor circumstances last winter have created difficult financial circumstances.

He said the resort will focus on summer weddings and fall foliage tours.

Farmers to You links Vt.-area farmers to Boston

Living in Boston, Julie Wormser can buy just about any piece of produce she wants for her small family. But the food she gets from Farmers to You — vegetables, cheeses, meats and milk trucked in weekly from mostly Vermont farms — is fresher, she says, and arguably more convenient.

But she says she gets more out of it than that. It connects her to the farmers who grow the food, knowing that her purchases are supporting them, and links her, whether she likes it or not, to the seasons, having to give up lettuce and tomatoes for cabbage and other vegetables in winter.

She'd rather get apples from Vermont than organic apples from Chile.

What Farmers to You "are trying to do is create a saner food system and I totally buy into it," she said.

Started two and a half years ago by Greg Georgaklis, a former Boston-area resident who moved to Vermont to farm, Farmers to You provides weekly deliveries from Vermont-area farmers, as well as producers in New Hampshire and Quebec, to Boston-area families at 11 sites.

The team hopes to expand even more.

A new \$250,000 loan from the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund has allowed Farmers to You to move from Calais to a bigger site in Berlin where the food is gathered from farms and then divided among the orders and placed on trucks that make the weekly trips to Boston. A day after orders are made online, Farmers to You goes out to collect the food from farmers and producers or they deliver them themselves. The bread from Red Hen Bakery in Middlesex is baked the same day it arrives in Boston, kept in insulated containers so that it stays warm.

It's been incredibly successful, said Georgaklis, who used to have a large retail and wholesale nursery and growing business.

What started with 22 Boston-area customers has grown to nearly 400 with plans to add more. Farmers to You also strives to serve as a model for the distribution of local food and impetus to change the way consumers eat.

After Georgaklis moved to Vermont, the farm he and his wife wanted to buy in Calais sold so he did some consulting work with area farmers and research on the distribution of food for a Vermont study on local foods. He found that a big problem is that the large scale of grocery stores doesn't match the scale of area farms.

He saw an opportunity to help, by providing a small-scale direct-to-consumer distribution system that he said would link the farmers to the families.

Unlike community supported agriculture, where people pay farmers up front for produce or meat throughout a season — getting what's in season such as a glut of kale or kohlrabi — customers get to pick what they want online from a variety of producers.

But like the CSA model, they make a commitment to the farmers.

The families are asked to buy a consistent share of their food from the farms, with a minimum of \$40 weekly to support farmers who must commit months ahead to provide food for them.

It's "an understanding that the cows are milked every day, milk comes every day. So this notion that you can just buy what you want when you want it and forget about it when you don't really doesn't honor the work that the farmers do. So the goal is that we'll start ordering more consistently every week to get into a rhythm, to start ordering the same types of food every week," said Georgaklis.

One of the big hurdles for families is they have to cook. Farmers to You tries to help with blogs with tips and recipes.

Wormser and her husband, who both work, devote about four hours on Sunday to cook stews and other dishes that improve over time that they will eat throughout the week.

The prices are comparable to prices at food cooperatives.

Wormser figures she's spending less on food, now that she's not buying lunch out.

"You end up every day having really fresh food that's prepared at home for lunch," she said.

OP-ED Dan Jones: We need a thermal efficiency tax

I read with great interest the seemingly rational comments of John McClaughry on the prospect of a thermal efficiency excise tax. I felt his position required an immediate and lively public conversation.

Seemingly, his Libertarian bottom line was that if increasing energy efficiency and reducing oil consumption was such a good idea, we would all do this ourselves, without help from the state. Why, he asks, do we need a tax from the "nanny state" when the free market will take care of everything, all by itself?

What McClaughry and others like him refuse to see is that global warming is the ultimate proof of the failure of the free market. We can't keep sucking scarce oil out of the ground and pushing more carbon into the air without a disastrous cost to our future and our children's future. If we don't work to stop global warming with everything we have, storms like Irene will hammer us with increasing frequency.

The thermal efficiency tax is one of the most equitable ways of doing what we can to battle climate change on a local level, and to continue to serve as a model for the nation. More than 40 percent of our state's fuel use goes to home heating. Thanks to the work of Efficiency Vermont and the surcharge on electricity that supports it, our state has become a national leader.

We have saved millions and avoided building new power plants. While the cost per kilowatt is higher here, our bills are lower because of the subsidies for conservation.

And the savings realized from energy conservation are much greater than stated. Research shows that every \$1 invested in this thermal efficiency leads to \$5 in savings. That's a better return than any bank account going.

Yes, a gallon of heating fuel would cost more with this excise tax, but the yearly savings on a weatherized home will more than make up for it. I personally have seen a 40 percent drop in my home heating prices since I weatherized my

house. The investment I made is quickly paying me back. In doing the same, the average homeowner will save enormously on heating costs while helping to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. This is a win-win for everyone.

I was also fascinated to note that in the course of McClaughry's argument he also repeated the rather sad delusion that global warming will mean that we need less heating oil anyway. I guess his tag line to that misunderstanding of the real science would then be: "Why bother with this efficiency stuff?"

Real-world science does not say global warming will overrule the seasons. The earth still tilts and we get less sunlight in winter and therefore cold weather. Not as cold as in yesteryear, but nothing you want to live in without some significant heat source. We may not need as much heat in the future, but this is Vermont, and we will need a bunch. And that heat will be more costly.

Anything we can do now to cut down our fossil-fuel dependence is a good thing. Rather than a nanny state solution imposing a tax on free marketers, a thermal efficiency excise tax should be seen for what it is: a smart, responsible, investment in a resilient future for us and our children.

Dan Jones is chairman of the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee.

London, Sarah

From: Fischer, John
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 4:58 PM
To: Noonan, Annie; Vilaseca, Armando; MoultonPowden, Pat; Bartlett, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: 0b74ed85-e535-49ba-97c8-7cd8a834bcb7

<http://www.careertech>.

John Fischer
Deputy Commissioner
VT Department of Education

Sent from my iPad

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Trombley, Shana
Cc: Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; Obuchowski, Mike
Subject: Re: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

The 8th is far preferable. Let's go with that.

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

On Dec 30, 2012, at 2:03 PM, "Trombley, Shana" <Shana.Trombley@state.vt.us> wrote:

We could do it at 2 on 7th or 1 on 8th (though we'll have to move drug/pharmacy presser if we go with 8th.

Sent from my iPhone
Shana Trombley
Scheduler
Governor Shumlin
802-371-7488

On Dec 29, 2012, at 5:11 PM, "Spaulding, Jeb" <Jeb.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

Before I lock in the date with FEMA, let's confirm with Shana, Bill, and Obie that the 8th will work all the way around. See below.

Jeb Spaulding, via mobile
Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

On Dec 29, 2012, at 4:21 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Just FYI, we have held a slot on the schedule on the 7th and 8th, so either day will at least work for GPS.

From: Spaulding, Jeb
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Kuhn, Mike; Clasen, Michael; Allen, Susan
Cc: Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda; Wright, Jodie; Cadorette, Wendy
Subject: RE: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

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FEMA and the Governor outlining the expected financing. Every day counts in getting this piece cooked.

For now, please add Mark Landry, FEMA FCO, after the Governor on the program. I do not think we need a local rep or advocate.

Also, FYI, the Chair of the selectboard is Brad Towne, son of Ruth and Rod Towne. His house, the old Towne farmstead, burned down this past week.

Great job, Mike, Mary and team in Morrisville. It is great to start seeing some of puzzle pieces coming together.

From: Kuhn, Mike

Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:16 PM

To: Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Allen, Susan

Cc: Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda; Wright, Jodie; Cadorette, Wendy

Subject: FW: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

Attached please find a copy of the draft Site Dedication Ceremony invitation, Program, and Project Description for review and comment. The question came up as to whether we should add a local representative and an advocate as a speaker, If so, where on the agenda? Also, any ideas as to who should be asked to speak? We will have a PA system and will provide hot drinks, coffee/hot chocolate/cider. We plan to have a ribbon cutting to enter the site and then move into the site to perform a ground breaking.

Mary, Would you have a suggestion as to who to ask to speak from the advocate community?

Mike Kuhn

From: Kuhn, Mike

Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:07 AM

To: Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda; Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Rea, Bob; Burley, Dave; Cadorette, Wendy; Wright, Jodie; Joubert, Ellie

Subject: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

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Please take a moment to verify the Project Description is accurate, the program is appropriate, and the spelling of the names of the program speakers.

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Mike Kuhn

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb
Cc: Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; Obuchowski, Mike
Subject: Re: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

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Secretary of Administration
State of Vermont

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Cc: Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda; Wright, Jodie; Cadorette, Wendy
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To: Spaulding, Jeb; Clasen, Michael; Allen, Susan

Cc: Moulton, Mary; Reed, Frank; Obuchowski, Mike; Minoli, Wanda; Wright, Jodie; Cadorette, Wendy

Subject: FW: Draft Invitation Site Dedication Ceremony

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Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:07 AM

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Thanks,

Mike Kuhn

London, Sarah

From: Fischer, John
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 7:54 AM
To: Vilaseca, Armando; Bartlett, Susan; Noonan, Annie; MoultonPowden, Pat; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fact sheet



John Fischer
Deputy Commissioner
VT Department of Education

Sent from my iPad

London, Sarah

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 7:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: Moving Susan Bartlett's goodbye lunch to Thursday

Sounds good, thanks for setting this up!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 30, 2012, at 7:29 AM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

It had been set for Wednesday, but all of us are going to lunch with Anson, so I'm going to move it to Thursday. We have recidivism presser here, then she's meeting with Gov on benefits cliff (according to schedule), so I was thinking 12:30.

Do you know of any reason that won't work – anything not on the schedule that would create a conflict?

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 7:29 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Moving Susan Bartlett's goodbye lunch to Thursday

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Sue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 6:32 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 30 (FINAL):

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

Voice of the Free Press: 2012 Vermonter of the Year - Bill McKibben

This was the year of growing recognition that a string of weather events, from violent storms to record-breaking droughts, was having a profound impact on the lives of people in this country and around the world.

Bill McKibben's message is finally sinking in.

Environmental journalist and Ripton resident McKibben has been for years among the most effective voices raising the alarm about the threats of climate change.

McKibben delivers his message with a passion driven by scientific evidence. When he speaks, people listen. His ability to mobilize the grass roots makes him a political force without being a politician.

For his tireless and prolific advocacy for the planet on behalf of future generations, Burlington Free Press editorial board names Bill McKibben 2012 Vermonter of the Year.

McKibben public accomplishments are many:

The author of more than a dozen books, his 1989 book, "The End of Nature," is often cited as the first to layout the issue of climate change for a general audience.

McKibben serves as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College. In 2007, he and six students at the college organized 2007 Step It Up National Day of Climate Action. According to the website for the grass-roots campaign, "communities came together in more than 1,400 places, all holding up banners that said: Step It Up, Congress: Cut Carbon 80% by 2050."

McKibben is founder of 350.org, "a global grass-roots movement to solve the climate crisis" that currently operates in nearly 190 countries. Since 2008, 350.org has been a platform to educate and mobilize people around the world.

In 2011, McKibben was arrested in an act of disobedience at the White House protesting the proposed construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline to ship oil from Canada to Texas through environmentally sensitive areas.

Earlier this month, McKibben completed his 21-city "Do the Math" tour promoting the Fossil Free campaign calling on colleges and universities to get rid of investments in fossil-fuel companies. The campaign website lists more than 120 campuses — including the University of Vermont and Middlebury College — that have started petition drives or divestment campaigns.

Of all the contentious issues that marked this year's presidential campaign, climate change was noticeable for its absence from the national political debate.

Only after Hurricane Sandy barreled into the most populous areas of the Eastern Seaboard, just days before election day, did the issue regain its prominence.

But for anyone who able to see more than the world beyond Washington beltway politics, McKibben made sure the issue never faded from the public consciousness.

In 2010, McKibben was called "probably the nation's leading environmentalist" by the Boston Globe and described as "the world's best green journalist" by Time magazine.

This year, the Free Press editorial board names Bill McKibben — writer, educator and activist — 2012 Vermonter of the Year.

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Quechee Bridge opens to pedestrians, then cars

BRENT CURTIS

QUECHEE — The Quechee Bridge opened to motor vehicles Saturday, but the vehicles lined up to cross the bridge had to wait for a throng of foot traffic to cross first.

Roughly 300 townspeople gathered at the north end of the new bridge Saturday for what Hartford Selectman Ken Parker described as an “auspicious” occasion in the town’s history.

“This is a great day,” Parker told the crowd shortly before he and a number of other town and state officials cut a ribbon to officially open the \$2.2 million Ottauquechee River crossing just off Route 4. “What could be better than opening the bridge?”

Judging by the enthusiasm of the crowd, not much.

“It’s been like having an arm cut off for the last year and a half,” said Alexandra Adler, chef and owner of the Parker House Inn located on the north side of the river. “We’ve become a seven-mile cul-de-sac back here.”

Adler spoke for many of her neighbors who, while not cut off from the rest of the world, have been a lot farther from it since Tropical Storm Irene washed away the original bridge in August 2011.

For Kelly Douglas, whose home sits on the north side of the river almost within a stone’s throw of the bridge, the lack of a span has added time onto her husband’s daily commute to work and has prevented her from taking her two daughters and son to a playground just across the river.

“It’s going to be a lot better now and a lot quieter,” Douglas said. “We heard all of the construction, even though we got used to it after a while.”

Since Irene, state and local officials have worked together to find funds for the new construction. The town itself financed \$1.6 million of the project using a bond passed last year at town meeting in Hartford, of which Quechee is a village.

Before helping to cut the ribbon, Gov. Peter Shumlin recalled for the crowd his visit via helicopter in the hours after the bridge was destroyed.

“When the bridge was ripped out, the heart of the community was ripped out,” Shumlin said. “The devastation was extraordinary.”

He added, “Said simply, the people in this community are Vermont strong and we’ve rebuilt better than Irene found us.”

While part of the bridge’s roof remains unfinished, the new 87-foot-long bridge with its stronger abutments is now open for traffic.

In his remarks to the crowd, Parker said another opening ceremony will be held when the weather warms and work on the bridge is complete.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 6:26 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 30:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS (CON'T):

The Deeghan case fallout: Reforms to be considered in Vermont

Legislators and Shumlin administration eye reforms in wake of time-sheet padding case, including pension seizures

MIKE DONOGHUE

Government pension fraud and greater internal reviews for police tickets and operations are among the issues legislators expect to tackle beginning next month in the wake of the Vermont State Police scandal that includes allegations of time-sheet padding and a trooper manufacturing fake tickets for a dozen years.

The administration of Gov. Peter Shumlin has been working on a wide-ranging legislative proposal that would cover seizing public pensions when there is fraud committed by any government employee, Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding said Saturday.

Spaulding said it is a collaborative effort with the legislature, the Attorney General's Office and the Treasurer's Office, which oversees the pension program. He said he expects Shumlin will unveil the proposal shortly.

"We want everybody on board," Spaulding told the Burlington Free Press. He said Shumlin wants to ensure taxpayers are protected.

Over the past six months, Vermonters learned that there was virtually no effective oversight of now former State Police Sgt. Jim Deeghan, who prosecutors say padded his time sheets in recent years to help fatten an upcoming pension and wrote 973 bogus tickets to try to justify some of his extra time.

Deeghan, a longtime patrol commander in Chittenden County, got to approve much of his own overtime and at times signed the approval for time sheets he was filing. He was paid \$136,575 in 2011-12, including \$58,325 in overtime, shift differential and other supplemental income. Deeghan, who was due to retire this March, would have a pension equal to one-half his two highest years of pay.

After the alleged fraud was uncovered in July, state police investigators determined Deeghan had filed two non-matching time sheets to state police and payroll.

Shumlin and several key legislators now say they want to ensure that the financial interests of state taxpayers are protected in the future.

They are interested in a new law that clearly spells out the right of state government to seize the pension of a state employee that perpetrated any type of fraud, including embezzlement or time-sheet fraud.

(Page 2 of 8)

"There will be a bill. We are going to be looking at that," said Rep. Bill Lippert, D-Hinesburg, chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Lippert said he has had discussions with the Vermont Attorney General's Office about the issue of attaching a pension of a state employee who is found criminally liable for fraud on the job.

"You could reach their pension money to try to make the state whole for the criminal activity," Lippert said.

State Sen. Richard Sears, D-Bennington, said that it goes beyond just state government. Sears, chair of the senate Judiciary Committee, noted the Hardwick Electric Department is having trouble collecting off the pension of its former office manager, who was convicted in federal court last year in connection with a \$1.6 million embezzlement.

Joyce Bellavance agreed in a pending civil lawsuit to pay half her Hardwick pension into a bank account while her criminal case was pending. Once she was sentenced to federal prison, Bellavance subsequently petitioned to have the money that was put in escrow given to her. Federal prosecutors have now stepped in and asked the court to seize Bellavance's full pension as part of a restitution order imposed at sentencing.

"I'd be interested in seeing the legislation," said Kristina Michelsen, who will become the state legislator representing Hardwick, Walden and Stannard in January.

"I would certainly be exploring legislative options in light of criminal convictions connected to employment as a way to get access to the retirement funds," said Michelsen, a lawyer. "It's a complex issue."

Sen. Jeanette K. White, D-Windham, and Rep. Donna Sweaney, D-Windsor, who each chair the Government Operations Committee in their respective sides of the Statehouse, also support action on seizing pensions from government workers involved in fraud.

"We will take it up. We can't let that go. That's just crazy," Sweaney said.

"We are going to do something. There has to be a way to check on making sure that what they say they are doing and that they are actually doing it," White said about claims by public workers.

(Page 3 of 8)

State Treasurer Beth Pearce, in both an interview and subsequent email statement, said it is important for the state to work to better protect the interests of Vermonters from government employees committing fraud. She declined to discuss the specifics of the Deeghan case.

"I would agree that this is an issue that needs to be reviewed in the next legislative session. I believe that in cases of fraud and embezzlement that the state or a municipality should have recourse to recoup those funds on behalf of the taxpayer," she said in an email to the Burlington Free Press.

Both Col. Tom L'Esperance, director of the Vermont State Police, and the head of the state police union also are on board.

"We are very hopeful that a bill will be introduced that will cause a state employee to lose his or her pension if they committed a crime while on duty. I think it is a felony at this point in some of the discussion," L'Esperance said.

"If it is a crime that relates to bolstering their pension, or had some effect on their pension, in fact they should lose that pension," L'Esperance said.

Detective Sgt. Michael O'Neil, president of the Vermont Troopers' Association, said his union supports the action.

"We would support it if it was reasonably targeted at financial crimes that would hurt the retirement pension." He said some kind of judicial review would be needed.

Sears and Lippert said both of their judiciary committees also are expected to address the issue of how police investigations are handled when it comes to the public's right to know the truth. They said the review is likely to include routine police investigations and also internal investigations into police misconduct.

Legislators and other state officials remain baffled how a state trooper could allegedly file false time sheets for at least three years and write bogus tickets for at least 12 years without state police internal controls or management detecting either problem.

"I have great confidence in our state police," Sears said. "We're just looking to make sure there is some oversight to make it harder to do that activity."

(Page 4 of 8)

Shumlin, State's Attorney T. J. Donovan, L'Esperance, and his boss, Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn, have each repeatedly pledged to taxpayers that they would use any means possible to seek full restitution for any money improperly obtained.

Any new legislation would not impact the Deeghan case.

Donovan filed a request for a lien on Deeghan's home in Colchester in August after the prosecutor received a tip that the home was for sale. The 10-room house on Granite Creek Road was priced at \$379,500. The lien request is the only outward sign of an effort to try to collect so far.

The lack of proper oversight at the state police barracks in Williston allowed for Sgt. Deeghan to write 973 bogus tickets, according to Donovan, whose office is prosecuting the former patrol commander on the time sheet fraud charges.

Deeghan has pleaded innocent to two felony charges of false claims dealing with the two time sheets he filed in June 2012. A subsequent investigation showed that between Dec. 21, 2008, and July 14, 2012 Deeghan has defrauded taxpayers out of \$139,332 through false claims of overtime, annual leave and a special patrol contract in Jericho, court records show. If convicted he faces up to 10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines.

Deeghan resigned July 10 as the Burlington Free Press prepared to publish a report showing he was the sixth highest paid state employee in 2011-12. Deeghan had told the Free Press during a June interview and in a subsequent email that he had racked up extra overtime because he was also filling in for his immediate supervisor, Lt. Marc Thomas, who was out on medical leave.

While the \$139,332 loss had been determined by mid-September, state police and Donovan have said in the past week they still can't say the total amount of the alleged fraud. State police and the office of Gov. Shumlin told the Free Press last week the criminal investigation is still in progress.

Shumlin had ordered state police in July to go back to 2006, the earliest date for which criminal charges could be filed.

(Page 5 of 8)

L'Esperance, as director of the state police, said record-keeping changes have been made at the Williston barracks to prevent a repeat. He said he is hopeful the state will consider moving to an electronic ticketing system, dubbed E-ticket, for roadside violations.

He said E-ticket would lead to a better tracking system for tickets. The roadside ticketing process is streamlined so officers can actually issue more tickets, L'Esperance said.

The Free Press reported on Sept. 3 that records at the Vermont Judicial Bureau showed Deeghan had issued one ticket in his final 7 1/2 years on the job. The Vermont State Police records showed 196 in his final three years.

The inconsistency was due in part to state police and court computers not being connected, officials said. They said the independent computers helped lead to the lack of proper oversight in the criminal justice system.

Legislators are interested in the electronic ticket concept, but some, like Sears and Lippert, have noted the state of Vermont has lacked success in recent years with information technology. Computers systems for both the court system and motor vehicle department have failed to deliver on promises.

The E-ticket system allows officers to enter tickets into a laptop. The officers can scan in both the driver's license and the registration into the computer on the side of the road, according to Glen Button, director of the enforcement division at the Vermont Motor Vehicle Department.

Once the ticket is issued, the system would be designed to allow for a copy to be sent to both the Vermont Judicial Bureau and to the police agency.

"It can be done on a laptop and it would make the officers that much more efficient," Button said. "With the law enforcement community dealing with shrinking resources you have to be that much more smarter. E-ticketing certainly does that."

Button said one major benefit is the clerk at the police station and the clerk at the judicial bureau don't have to try to decipher poor handwriting by the officer.

(Page 6 of 8)

Burlington police are moving to the E-Ticket system, but one major hurdle to clear is the Vermont Judicial Bureau is now incapable of receiving the tickets directly, Deputy Chief Jennifer Morrison said.

She said the tickets will need to be scanned and sent by a computer as a PDF document.

"At best we would still have to print out a hard copy and scan and attach them to an email and they would have a clerk retype them," she said.

Morrison said a new software program, known as Valcour, has been developed by Burlington Police and is now also being used by South Burlington and Winooski Police. While it is primarily a records and dispatching program, E-ticketing is one of the side benefits, Morrison said.

Six other police agencies, including the enforcement division for the Vermont Motor Vehicle Department, plan to begin to use the system Jan. 1, Morrison said.

"The concept is being used in lots and lots of states. There are all sorts of efficiencies in terms of officer work flow and time spent on the side of the road," Morrison said.

The traffic ticket system used by the Vermont State Police in Williston made it easy for Sgt. Deeghan to manipulate the records for more than 12 years. There was no cross checking. Now Williston uses the same system that was in place at the other 11 barracks, L'Esperance said.

State police make changes L'Esperance disclosed that beginning in January, the Vermont State Police will have one lieutenant in the north and one in the south assigned to work the night shift on weekdays to provide more administrative oversight.

He said the uniform lieutenants that serve as the station commander at the six northern barracks will rotate onto the night shift one week at a time. The uniform lieutenants at the six southern stations also will rotate one week at a time. They will work from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.

L'Esperance said he expects the on-duty lieutenant to visit each of the other five stations in their zone during the week they are working the night shift. Until that new "watch commander" system is implemented, the patrol commander for each shifts, normally a sergeant, have been the highest ranking officers on the night shift, which normally ends about 2:30 a.m.

(Page 7 of 8)

He said there also is greater scrutiny about overtime when troopers are called out from home between 2:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. when normally state police have nobody on the road. In the Deeghan case, court records show that he claimed he was called out to accidents, burglar alarms and other events when there was no such incident.

"The supervisors are looking at each and every time sheet now," he said. He said the supervisors now go back and actually look at the radio log to see what time troopers sign on and sign off each day and match that against the time sheets.

He said changes also have been made in how state police time sheets are handled, especially requests for time off.

"We'd gotten to the point where we were doing them through email and things like that. Now they are formalized and every leave request has to be hand written and approved by a supervisor," L'Esperance said.

He said the internal audit ordered by Gov. Shumlin at each barracks showed there were problems with incorrect coding on various time sheets. It wasn't fraud, but just a misunderstanding among the numerous ways to code work time.

"Our time sheet system was and still is a very complicated system. There is major coding and following the codes is difficult," he said. The state has 400 codes, he said.

"There is a difference between a mistake and a decision to make fraud," L'Esperance said. "What we found were that the mistakes were attributed to a lot of the coding," he said

"We could have been compromised by somebody else that had the desire to commit fraud," L'Esperance said.

He said the department also has done away with electronic signatures on time sheets. Actual signatures are required.

L'Esperance said the audits showed nothing possibly criminal except for the charges in the Deeghan case.

"What we found in a lot of cases that overtime was being — believe it or not — under reported. They should have put in more. There were no red flags that stood out there — that we have a systemic problem here. There were no red flags ...that was comforting in one sense," L'Esperance said.

(Page 8 of 8)

He said each barracks will also know more about the workloads of the other offices.

"Now every commander gets every press release and the expectation that they will read them and understand not only what their troopers are doing, but what other troopers across the state and one county away are doing," L'Esperance said.

L'Esperance said the department also has begun to send out an email to the troops showing at the start of both the day and evening shifts indicating the staffing levels at each barracks.

He said the audit that Gov. Shumlin ordered on time sheets at all 12 state police barracks and at headquarters showed no other fraud.

"What this audit told us was that they were being scrutinized. Not only were they being scrutinized, but there was a level of honesty among the troopers, the other 326 troopers that were working that we did not have that problem," he said.

Yet state police plan to remain vigilant.

"The changes that we made will force all of us to scrutinize more," he said.

"I'm prepared for findings, but I'm not on pins and needles thinking there is another time bomb out there. I'm comfortable saying that. For a while I couldn't say that," he said.

"We are accountable to prosecutors, defense attorney, a judge, a jury, the legislature, the governor," L'Esperance said.

"We can put all the barriers and all the watch guards in place, but we still dealing with human beings."

OP-ED BY Andrew Bourland, director of Team Eglin Public Affairs at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Re: "F-35 Debate: The Florida Town That Sued the Air Force," Dec. 20, 2012. I am writing to correct the record regarding a number of inaccuracies and misleading comments included in your recent article concerning the F-35 Joint Strike

Fighter currently operating at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., as well as perceptions of the results from the lawsuit settlement between the City of Valparaiso, Fla., and the U.S. Air Force.

Among the mistakes was the statement that the Air Force reduced the number of F-35 aircraft originally proposed to be based at Eglin from 107 to 59 as a result of the settlement. This is incorrect. In fact, an Air Force decision to reduce the number of aircraft was published in the Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision dated February 2009. Valparaiso did not file their lawsuit until March 30, 2009. That decision was a result of the 2008-2009 Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative study that showed Eglin's airspace capacity could not add the demands of 107 additional aircraft and their operations to those of the many other users of the range.

In addition, the lawsuit's settlement had nothing to do with the Air Force's current efforts to release a new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement – that too was mandated in that same ROD. This new effort is based on more current and accurate modeling data developed over the past 18 months which the Air Force believes will provide an even more realistic assessment of noise levels from flight operations at Eglin AFB.

The author's use of operational figures also does not paint a realistic picture of the F-35 operations at Eglin AFB. While it's true that the loss of the F-15's from the 33 Fighter Wing's mission did result in a drop of 29,000 operations, the 121,000 operations cited in the article are not reflective of what would have occurred over Valparaiso, but a total number of operations that would occur at airfields throughout Eglin's 724 square miles. Note that every "sortie" contains at least two operations — a takeoff, and a landing — and usually multiple other flight operations such as approaches. With Eglin's F-35 inventory reduced to a maximum of 59, the total number of operations is now less than 50,000 annually with less than 15,000 occurring at the Eglin Main runways.

(Page 2 of 2)

Also incorrect was the statement that the Air Force decided not to build a Lifestyle Center because of the noise levels. Valparaiso's lawsuit may have made that incorrect assumption, however the fact is the timing of these decisions was coincidental. The Army Air Force Exchange Service conducted a study and determined that the Lifestyle Center concept at Eglin would not be fiscally feasible due to the distance from the main base area where 20,000 people work each day. Noise did not figure into the decision because the proposed area is one of the lowest noise impacted areas around Eglin's cantonment area.

The actual result of the settlement agreement between the Air Force and Valparaiso included the agreement to form a noise committee that would meet quarterly in which local government representatives of Eglin's three counties and surrounding municipalities may inform the Base of issues relating to noise and be informed of the Base's responses to those issues. In addition, the Air Force agreed to pay a portion of the City attorneys' fees associated with this action in the amount of \$60,000. One item to note, in the more than two years the noise committee has been meeting, not one noise complaint has been brought up by any of the 14 community members.

In closing, from March 6, through November 2012, the 33 FW had flown more than 600 F-35 sorties. Of those sorties, Eglin received just 10 noise complaints attributable to F-35 operations. Ensuring good relations with local communities and managing compatible use around these installations is a primary objective of our Air Force in regards to being good neighbors. The dearth of noise complaints from Eglin AFB's surrounding communities demonstrates how this priority can have a positive effect on all involved.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 6:22 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 30:

WCAX:

Farm Bill set to expire

KYLE MIDURA

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Legislators say while the fiscal debate has stagnated, they are making strides in avoiding the dairy cliff.

The Farm Bill is set to expire January 1st. If a new permanent or temporary agreement can't be reached-- experts predict major swings in the market for producers, retailers, and consumers. Senator Leahy says he believes a compromise agreement will be reached before the deadline.

Both he and Congressman Welch noted that a version passed by the Senate this summer would provide a long-term solution.

They also say the measure would get the necessary votes in the House if leadership allowed a vote.

FOX44:

Vt. State Psych Unit Set to Open

BRITTANY HIBBS

MORRISVILLE, Vt. - (AP) - Vermont's newest psychiatric facility is set to open next week in Morrisville.

Gov. Peter Shumlin announced Friday that the Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center would open and be ready to receive patients on Wednesday.

The facility represents part of the state's efforts to reorganize its mental health system following Tropical Storm Irene of 2011, which flooded and forced the closing of the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury.

The state also is going ahead with plans to build a 25-bed psychiatric hospital in Berlin and expand or create smaller facilities around Vermont.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Unease about the coming health exchange

Insurance marketplace for 96,000 Vermonters starts in 2013

NANCY REMSEN

Mike Plageman's remodeling crew was busy the week before Christmas finishing a job on a house at the base of Lincoln Peak at Sugarbush ski resort.

"We could use another set of hands or two," said Plageman, co-founder of Plageman, Gagnon and Daughters of Williston.

The crew numbers eight now, but Plageman said he won't be hiring because he worries about the future financial impact of the federally mandated health insurance exchange that Vermont will launch next fall.

Plageman's small business will be required to buy health insurance for its workers through the exchange rather than through the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce where the firm has bought for years. That is if Plageman and his partner decide to continue to offer health insurance.

"I believe health care will not be sustainable as it is right now, but I have concerns about the way it is being approached here," Plageman said noting the many unanswered questions he has about the exchange.

"I don't know what the coverage is going to be and I don't know what it is going to cost. I'm not sure the exchange is going to be ready and I've heard nothing that there is a Plan B someplace," Plageman complained. "We're in limbo."

Widespread unease

The new Internet-based marketplace will become the source of health insurance for 96,000 Vermonters beginning Jan. 1, 2014 and ramp up as larger businesses are required to use it in later years. It will also become the portal that 160,000 Vermonters eligible for Medicaid will use to sign up for coverage.

For the Shumlin administration, the October launch of Vermont Health Connect, the name state officials have given the state's health insurance exchange, is an interim step on the way to the government-financed health care system the governor would like to put in place in 2017. In the meantime, state officials say Vermont Health Connect will make the insurance marketplace work better for individuals, families and small business owners who often struggle to find affordable health insurance deals.

(Page 2 of 8)

For Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, the insurer that currently covers three-quarters of the people who will end up shopping on Vermont Health Connect in a year, 2013 looms as challenge. The company foresees a huge educational campaign to reach these customers with information about how the exchange will work, because Blue Cross plans to offer insurance products on the exchange.

Advocates for Vermonters currently served by two state-subsidized health insurance programs that expire when the exchange opens — Vermont Health Access Program and Catamount Health — worry about the likely jump in costs these folks face.

Critics of the federal and state health reforms argue Vermont policymakers were "reckless" to head the state toward this new technology-dependent marketplace without keeping open an option for small businesses and individuals to buy insurance the old-fashioned way should the timeline to develop the exchange prove too ambitious or the technology fail to deliver satisfactory service.

Lindsey Tucker, deputy commissioner for the health benefits exchange in the Vermont Department of Vermont Health Access, acknowledges this widespread unease about the new world Vermont Health Connect will usher in during 2013, but suggests, "I think it is less of a change than people think."

A federal mandateThe federal Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in 2010 called for the creation of health benefit exchanges that will let individuals and small businesses comparison shop for health insurance. All the plans in exchanges will offer the same essential benefits but with an assortment of cost-sharing models. Each state could set up its own exchange — or should states elect not to operate exchanges as many have — the federal government will provide the new marketplace.

Vermont laid the groundwork for Vermont Health Connect in a health reform law passed in 2011 that is better known for setting the state on course to eliminate private insurance in 2017. State health officials have undertaken both initiatives simultaneously, with the exchange coming on line first.

(Page 3 of 8)

This winter lawmakers must make a decision about how to pay for the exchange after its first year — for however long it will function. The federal government has provided Vermont with \$125 million since 2010 to plan and build the exchange and operate it during 2014. Then its operation becomes the state's responsibility.

"On Jan. 15 there will be a report to the Legislature proposing financing for the exchange," said Tucker, hired a year ago to guide development of the exchange. "The Legislature needs to take action on that."

Who's affected?Under the federal health reform law, exchanges open in two phases.

First, on Jan. 1, 2014, exchanges become sources of insurance for people without coverage and for those who now buy insurance in the individual market — meaning they purchase their own coverage rather than get insurance through an employer.

The federal law includes carrots and sticks to bolster individuals' use of the exchange.

The stick, beginning in 2014, is that nearly everyone must have health insurance or pay a penalty. In the first year the penalty is \$95 per uninsured individual or 1 percent of household income above a certain threshold. The penalties increase, with, for example, the per person fine jumping to \$325 in 2015 and \$695 in 2016.

The carrots are tax credits offered next year that will help lower monthly premium costs for lower income households. For example, individuals with incomes less than \$44,680 or families of four with household income of less than \$92,200 could be eligible for tax credits.

In a Vermont-specific analysis two years ago, Families USA ran numbers for a couple of typical scenarios. In one, the report found that a single woman with income of \$22,000 a year would pay a maximum of \$1,386 a year or \$115 a month for health insurance plan with an actual annual premium cost of \$6,000. The rest of the cost would be covered by a tax credit. If she wanted a more expensive insurance plan — meaning one with a higher premium and lower cost-sharing — she would still get this same tax credit amount.

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Also on Jan. 1, 2014, businesses with 50 or fewer employees also must begin buying on the exchange rather than on their own or more commonly through associations such as chambers of commerce.

Unlike most other states, Vermont lawmakers decided last winter to give these businesses no option but the exchange. The Legislature wanted to make sure there would be a broad spectrum of people buying in the exchange, not just people with medical needs — which would drive up the cost of coverage.

In 2016, more businesses — those with 50 to 100 workers — will be required to use the exchanges.

Each health insurance plan offered on an exchange must cover “essential benefits” as defined by the federal government. In Vermont, the Green Mountain Care Board, a new regulatory panel, picked a commonly purchased Blue Cross plan as the template for the products that will be offered on Vermont Health Connect.

With benefits essentially identical, the difference among the insurance products sold on Vermont Health Connect will be their cost-sharing combinations. Insurance companies will offer plans under metal labels — bronze, silver, gold and platinum — that represent different cost-sharing schemes.

Bronze, for example, will offer purchasers the lowest monthly premiums but highest potential out-of-pocket costs because of the deductibles that must be paid before insurance coverage kicks in and co-payments required for each visit to a health-care professional. Platinum plans are structured just the opposite — high premiums, but lower co-payments and deductibles.

In January, insurance companies that want to sell on Vermont Health Connect will tell the Green Mountain Care Board what plans they would offer. In March these insurers will propose rates for all their plans, which the Green Mountain Care Board will approve or reject by summer.

That's when Plageman and all the other Vermonters who will have to shop on the exchange will know the details and price tags for the products from which they will have to choose.

(Page 5 of 8)

Leora Dowling of Ferrisburgh has insurance through Catamount Health, which means she will be purchasing through Vermont Health Connect next fall. Vermont's Catamount and Vermont Health Access Program end when the exchange launches.

Worries in Ferrisburgh “I wasn't really focused on it too much. I knew the day was coming when we would be shifting over,” Dowling said. As a cancer survivor, she knows she can't go without insurance. She also knows that some cost-sharing schemes can quickly put a strain on an individual's bank account.

“You might like your insurance until you really use it,” Dowling said. She often faces a slew of tests, checkups and therapies because of her past cancer diagnosis. “Once you start the cancer dance or some other chronic disease, then those co-pays really add up.”

Dowling worries about the cost-sharing options she will be able to choose from on the exchange. “How do I know what is right for me?”

Donna Sutton Fay, policy director for the Campaign for Health Care Security Education Fund, predicts people like Dowling will find that all the insurance coverage offered on the exchange will require greater cost-sharing than she and the 17,000 other VHAP and Catamount clients have now.

Even if some people qualify for tax credits to reduce their premiums, Fay worries the higher deductibles and co-pays could still make the health insurance unaffordable.

Some Catamount and VHAP clients may decide to risk going without insurance, although Dowling said that would not be an option for her because of her cancer history.

The latest state health insurance survey pegs the current percentage of uninsured in Vermont at 6.8 percent of the population, down from 7.6 percent in 2009 and 9.8 percent in 2005. VHAP and Catamount have played roles in shrinking the percentage of uninsured in Vermont by offering affordable coverage made possible by state subsidies.

Fay argues that making insurance more expensive "seems to be the exact opposite direction from where we want to go." She cautioned, "If people find the exchange unaffordable and it doesn't work, we think they are going to be a lot less inclined to trust government to do single payer."

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Fay's organization will press lawmakers "to put in place subsidies to hold people on VHAP and Catamount harmless" when they move to the exchange.

Sen. Claire Ayer, D-Addison, who chaired the Senate Health Care Committee for the past two years, said the potential for sticker shock for VHAP and Catamount clients isn't a newly discovered problem. "We knew this was going to happen."

"We know we want to do what we can to make sure people have health care," Ayer said. "We are very concerned, but it really comes down to money."

Gov. Peter Shumlin estimated the cost to protect VHAP and Catamount clients from cost shock on the exchange might be \$18 million and added that was more than the state can afford with revenues still sluggish and many spending pressures.

That doesn't mean the Shumlin administration plans to do nothing, Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding clarified. "We are definitely planning to give them considerable assistance, but we haven't determined what level yet."

Business concerns Plageman has yet to sit down with his crew of remodelers to talk about the exchange — because he hasn't had enough concrete information to share, he said. Nor have he and his partner figured out whether their employees would be better off buying their own coverage on the exchange if the company stopped offering the insurance benefit.

"There is no way we can make this decision for them," Plageman said.

The federal health reform law doesn't require businesses of any size to provide insurance, but businesses with 50 or fewer employees won't face any fees if they drop coverage.

Beginning in 2014, however, bigger companies could have to pay a "shared responsibility fee" if any of their workers qualify for federal tax credits or other subsidies — even if a company provides insurance but their employees opt out because they can't afford it.

Cathy Davis, government policy director at the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, said some businesses are struggling to understand how to count their employees — a critical calculation to determine whether they have to buy in the exchange and whether they have to worry about the paying the shared responsibility fee.

(Page 7 of 8)

"I thought we had it figured out," Davis said, referring to how to count workers, but now she's not so sure.

Some larger businesses have told Davis the shared responsibility penalty could put them out of business. Here's why businesses are worried:

If a larger company offers no insurance, it could be liable for an annual payment of \$2,000 for each full-time worker in excess of 30 if a single worker at the company receives a premium tax credit or cost-sharing subsidy on the exchange. The penalty will increase in the future if insurance premiums increase.

If a larger company offers insurance that some employees can't afford, it could be liable for annual payments of \$3,000 for each full-time worker receiving a tax credit on the exchange. There is an annual cap, but the size of the penalty will increase based on growth in insurance premiums.

Davis and also Jeff Wennberg of Rutland, executive director of Vermonters for Health Care Freedom, report another concern they have heard from executives at firms employing highly paid professionals. These business leaders worry the insurance plans on the exchange won't give them the same flexibility to offer their employees attractive benefit packages.

"It does become more difficult for businesses to help their employees," Davis said.

"Employees see this coming," Wennberg added. "They are looking for jobs" with larger companies that won't have to use the exchange or with firms outside Vermont where participation in the exchange would be voluntary.

"There is this brain drain that is beginning," Wennberg suggested. "That is something that is going to have to be watched."

Big surprise Plageman says none of his workers have asked him about health exchange and how it might affect them. It is likely most haven't even heard of it.

Leigh Tofferi of Blue Cross said his company held information sessions about the exchange during the fall. "Our experience when we are out there talking to folks is that there isn't as much awareness as we would like."

State officials acknowledge that many Vermonters don't yet know about the exchange. A survey conducted last March found that many of the people most likely to become exchange customers — uninsured, lower income and younger Vermonters — have the least awareness about it.

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The state plans a \$7.3 million outreach and education effort to bring Vermont Health Direct into the spotlight. A 39-page plan for this effort explains, "Vermonters who will enroll through Vermont Health Connect will always be the main focus of outreach and education."

Still, the plan notes, "All Vermonters should be made aware of exchange — Vermont Health Connect — and its new role in the state's health care system; raising awareness and demonstrating the value of Vermont Health Connect broadly will contribute to its success."

Tucker, the deputy commissioner charged with developing the exchange, said she believes much of the unease people may have about the exchange will dissipate once "we can start to do demonstrations."

\$79.5 million project Earlier this month, the state selected CGI, an international technology company founded in 1976 in Quebec City, to build the state's online interactive marketplace. It's a \$79.5 million project.

CGI, which stands for Consultants to Government and Industry, also has contracts to build the online exchange structure for the federal government and three other states.

In announcing the contract award, state officials stressed Vermont wasn't asking CGI for unique innovation. That's because several recent information technology projects in state government have ended in failure because the state requested and vendors promised never-before developed systems. With this contract, state officials said, the state wants to benefit from the lessons CGI is learning in the other states.

Wennberg at Vermonters for Health Care Freedom and Davis at the Lake Champlain Chamber said they still worry about ambitious technological challenge of the project.

CGI has nine months to fashion a website that will not only walk customers through an array of health insurance options, but determine their eligibility for tax credits and enroll them in plans. And it has to process Medicaid clients, too.

"The notion, given the experiences the state has had, that we will have the exchange up and running and working flawlessly or close to flawlessly on Oct. 1 — that would be a miracle," Wennberg said.

Tucker, the state's exchange chief, counters that securing a contract with CGI represents "an incredible milestone." They already have built an "exchange product," she said, "which will accelerate the development of our project."

"We are completely confident we will be able to do it," Tucker countered.

She added she expects to know soon if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services share the state's confidence. CMS is in the midst of reviewing the state's request for permission to move ahead with Vermont Health Connect. The decision is expected in early January.

"When we hear from CMS, that will be a good measure of their confidence," Tucker said.

London, Sarah

From: MoultonPowden, Pat
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Vilaseca, Armando; Fischer, John; Bartlett, Susan; Noonan, Annie; Lofy, Bill

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/news/news_releases/2012/oct25_gov.shtml

So THIS would be a WAY cool press release for Vermont! John, I know you have done work around the STEM academy idea. Does this make sense for Vermont?

Could we develop a STEM academy in composites in the Bennington area (some of that work is happening), in health care almost anywhere, in software and gaming, machining, etc?

Pat

Patricia Moulton Powden
Deputy Secretary
Agency of Commerce and Community Development
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
(802) 828-5200 direct
cell

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 7:49 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29 (FINAL):

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER (CON'T):

River Garden's murky waters

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

BRATTLEBORO -- One of the big questions concerning the Robert H. Gibson River Garden has been answered, but the future of downtown Brattleboro's public space remains cloudy.

Building a Better Brattleboro, the downtown organization which owns the property, says it wants to sell the building because it can no longer afford to maintain it.

When BABB purchased the former Rite Aid building on Main St. in 1999 it used \$150,000 in state money to complete the deal and the BABB Board of Directors was unsure if the money would have to be paid back if the property was sold.

Sen. Jeanette White, D-Putney, asked Legislative Counsel to look at the original earmark which the Legislature included in the 1999 Capital Budget, and according to White, BABB has no responsibility to repay the money, whether it is sold to a nonprofit, or a for-profit, organization.

White said the attorneys agree that the money was given to the town, even though the town never owned the property.

And since the town did not, and does not, own the River Garden, the state will not ask for its money back.

"The \$150,000 came from the state and so there was a question what would happen with that money if it was sold," White said. "It seems like there is a restriction on the town, but the town does not own the building. The stipulation seems to have been irrelevant from the beginning. No one seems to know why it was written that way, but that's the way it was written."

Now it will be up to the BABB membership to decide the fate of the River Garden.

BABB has scheduled two special meetings at the River Garden on Jan. 3, at 8 a.m. at the River Garden, and then a second meeting, on Jan. 7 at 8 a.m., to talk about its 2014 work plan.

BABB has not included any money in its work plan to pay for the River Garden next year, and if the membership, and then the BABB board, and then the Selectboard, approve the work plan, it will begin the process of turning the property over to a new party.

But who that is, and how that transaction happens, remain open questions.

BABB Board President Donna Simons said there will be a series of public information sessions held this winter to gather public input on the pending sale.

Simon said the BABB board has been concentrating on its 2014 work plan, and has not even begun to talk about the sale, though she said the group can not afford to maintain it another year and the property will most likely change hands in the near future.

"I don't know where we will go with this," Simons said. "What we know is that we want the public involved with this from day one, and we will be working with the public to decide what is best for the River Garden. We want this to be an open, public discussion."

Brattleboro Selectboard Chairman Dick DeGray said the town was interested to see what the Montpelier lawyers would think about the \$150,000, because if the town had any obligation to pay back the money the Selectboard would want to play a role in its sale.

DeGray said he has not yet heard any official word from the town's attorney, but if the money is going to be forgiven, DeGray said the board will most likely be just as happy to let BABB deal with the sale.

"That sounds like good news for the organization," DeGray said. "The town has no interest in purchasing a building and as long as the town has no responsibility to pay the money back we wish

The River Garden, on Main Street in Brattleboro. (Zachary P. Stephens/Reformer file photo) them luck in finding a buyer."

There are many other questions concerning BABB and the River Garden.

Brattleboro needs to reapply for its Downtown Improvement District designation this year, and a survey has gone out to the downtown district property owners to see if there is support.

The DID is a state designation that allows the town to collect a 1 percent tax on property values.

That money goes toward paying BABB's budget.

The town could not reapply for the DID, or BABB's designation as the district's representative organization can be revoked.

BABB would still have to figure out what to do with the River Garden.

BABB has been losing between \$10,000 and \$20,000 every year on the River Garden, depending on how the space is rented.

Simons said they have tried a variety of plans through the years to make ends meet, but the public space always has an impact on the budget, and they can simply not afford to maintain the space as it is.

Simons says that as a business owner, and as a fan of the downtown, she wants the River Garden to be available, but if it stays open, it is going to have to be behind an organization other than Building a Better Brattleboro.

"We know that we can't afford to keep it open. We are losing money every year," Simons said. "We've tried everything we possibly can. It's great that we don't have to pay back the \$150,000 but we still have this dilemma about what we should do about the River Garden."

Wind opponents 'disappointed' with state decision

By MIKE FAHER

WINDHAM -- When the state Department of Public Service backed the Town of Windham's fight against wind power a few months ago, town officials said they were "hopeful."

They're now using a different word: "Discouraged."

However, in the wake of the state Public Service Board granting approval for erection of wind-testing towers in Windham, Selectboard Chairwoman Mary Boyer also said the permitting process has been a valuable experience.

"Although we were hoping that the PSB would support our right to determine our own land use as the governor has suggested, that is not to be at this time," Boyer said in a statement sent to the Reformer.

"In the process, we have learned a lot, we have not been divided as a community, we had excellent legal advice and we even had the full support of the Public Service Department," Boyer stated. "We had people from around the state reaching out to us and offering encouragement."

She added: "Not at all bad for one of the tiniest towns in Vermont."

Atlantic Wind LLC in June first disclosed its intention to build two meteorological-testing (MET) towers in Windham and another in Grafton.

Depending on the weather data those towers produce, they could be the precursor for construction of Windham County's first commercial-scale turbines. Such a project would be subject to its own permitting process.

But Windham had fought hard against Atlantic Wind's initial proposal, arguing that its town plan banned industrial windmills and should apply to MET towers as well.

Atlantic Wind, a subsidiary of wind-power developer Iberdrola Renewables, argued that town plans cannot trump the state's permitting decisions.

In October, the state Public Service Department sided with Windham and urged rejection of Atlantic Wind's application.

But the state Public Service Board -- a separate, independent entity -- had the ultimate say. And in a Dec. 20 decision, the board granted Atlantic Wind a certificate of public good to build the test towers.

The structures will be built on land owned by Meadowsend Timberlands Limited, a New Hampshire company owned by the French family.

"We appreciate the board's willingness to see the value in measuring the wind," Iberdrola spokesman Paul Copleman said in a prepared statement.

"We look forward to working with the French family in measuring the wind in order to assess whether a renewable wind project is a viable option," Copleman said. "We also look forward to working with the towns of Windham and Grafton in a collaborative way to pursue a future that works for the communities and the region."

Boyer said she has not yet had a chance to speak with other members of Windham's Selectboard and members of the planning commission to determine what the town's next steps might be.

Grafton town officials have not taken a formal position on the project, instead seeking more information on wind power and arranging a tour of a turbine site in Lempster, N.H.

But a group of residents calling themselves Friends of Grafton's Heritage oppose the Atlantic Wind project and have sought to amend the town's plan to prohibit industrial-scale wind.

Liisa Kissel, a leader of that group, said she was "very disappointed" with the Public Service Board's decision.

"We thought there was a strong possibility that the board would not approve of Iberdrola's application," Kissel said.

She said the group would continue to push for town-plan amendments in an effort to "protect our town against this very inappropriate facility."

Kissel also said she backs a statewide moratorium on wind power, an initiative that also has support from Windham town officials. Kissel noted that there has been discussion about a moratorium among some state lawmakers.

"We hope there is a renewed attempt to look seriously at the situation," she said.

HUFFINGTON POST:

Brattleboro Reformer, Vermont Paper, Makes Embarrassing Typo In Headline (PHOTO)



Calling all copy editors: There's a newspaper in Vermont that needs a new one.

Brattleboro, Vt.'s, local paper, the Brattleboro Reformer, made headlines Thursday in more ways than one after it printed a front page headline with a conspicuous typo. To make matters worse, the error was then repeated two other times.

The Thursday, Dec. 27 edition of the Reformer lead with the headline, "Let is snow, let is snow, let is snow" -- an error that was pointed out by Gawker's Emma Carmichael, who hails from the small, northern town.

The error was also noticed by Jim Romenesko, a media blogger and former Poynter Institute employee, who posted a picture of the newspaper with the caption, "How the heck did this happen?"

The Reformer's executive editor, Tom D'Errico, responded quickly, posting an apology for the error on the same day the slip-up occurred.

Writing that there was no real excuse for the error, D'Errico then went on to detail many, including holiday understaffing, an earlier nightly deadline and technical issues.

He continued:

Again, none of this is an excuse. There is no excuse. But, I take a little comfort in the above-linked Romenesko post that shows human error is not Reformer-specific. When people are tasked with several stories or pages a day six days a week, usually rushing to get the work done, it's clear mistakes will be made. The challenge is making sure few, if any, make it on the air, in print, or online.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 7:42 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29:

SEVEN DAYS OFF MESSAGE BLOG:

Voices from the Energy Debate — Looking Back on 2012 (Part Two)

Posted by Kathryn Flagg

The previous year was a big one in Vermont's unfolding energy debate — from wind to solar, fracking to divestment. Seven Days went back to some of the big players in the energy debate — opponents and proponents, citizen activists, onlookers and developers — for their thoughts on a busy, sometimes tumultuous year. What did 2012 mean for energy development in Vermont and what might 2013 bring? (Don't miss yesterday's post with comments from some of industrial wind power's biggest critics.)

Bill McKibben, writer and climate activist

"Vermont punched above its weight in 2012. Becoming the only state in the union to ban fracking was a big deal — it gave great heart to others in places where the fight is still raging. I think Vermont has also made it increasingly clear that there will be no tar sands pipeline through the state — some combination of Peter Shumlin's words and the truly powerful organizing by lots of folks should, I think, be enough to put a real crimp in the plans of the tar sands tycoons.

"2013 will have all kinds of fights, I'm sure, but the one that intrigues me most is about divestment. What Middlebury does will be closely watched, including, I hope, by other colleges around the state. (Wouldn't be surprised if Green Mountain or Sterling tried to steal their thunder!). And UVM will be a wonderful stage on which to debate the issues at the heart of the biggest crisis humans have ever faced."

David Blittersdorf, president/CEO of AllEarth Renewables

"We now have some renewable energy running. It's a start. ... The other important piece is that after Obama's election and the election here in Vermont, we're going to actually see some serious movement forward on climate change and carbon. We're going to see a lot more reality set in. I think most people have been living in a state of denial about energy and climate and carbon, but after Sandy ...there's starting to be a real realization that something has to be done, and we're running out of time. ...You can't say no to everything, and there's things we're going to have to get done.

"Seeing what was happening on the national front with the Republicans and the election, I was pretty pessimistic that we were ever going to go anywhere. I'm becoming more confident because the citizens of the United States have finally figured out ...that climate change and these things are real. I think 2013 could be the pivotal year of moving forward. There is a big problem. I think we'll see more political will in the state. Vermont has to show the rest of the United States how to do this. We can be nimble. We can have the will to do this. We can show the rest of the United States how to do it. We've led in a lot of areas, and now we have to step up to lead on renewable energy and conservation a lot more.

"I think [the opponents to wind energy] made a lot of noise. ...They brought up a lot of things, but a lot of things they brought up are stories, myths and out and out lies. Once people understand, things will change. ... I see going forward there's some skirmishes we're going to have, but in general, I'm very optimistic that things will change. They've had their day in the sun ... but sorry, us Vermonters have agreed we need to do something to change."

State Rep. Tony Klein (D-East Montpelier)

"Let me start by saying this to you: This state has for the past 15 or so years developed an energy policy that has had widespread universal support of all Vermonters. And over the years that energy policy basically in shorthand says, 'Build as much in-state renewable as fast as possible.' ... At the same time, we've also spent the last 30 years developing a regulatory process in the state of Vermont that I and others would argue is the toughest and most arduous there is in the country.

"Now we are finally in what I will call the implementation stage of the process. The fruits of the labor are coming to be born. As you and everyone else knows, it's not unusual to drive around the state and see solar panels all over the place, or wind projects. That's a direct result of the policy and the regulatory process.

"What I think is the concern going forward, is that when problems arise, we should be coming together to find the solutions to these problems. I'm worrying that people, rather than doing that, are walking down paths where they either want to stop what we're doing or undo what we've worked for for so many years. ...You tell somebody you're going to paint a picture, and they say, 'Sure, sure, sure,' but then you actually paint the picture, and they say, 'I didn't think it was going to look like that.'"

Tom Slayton, former editor of Vermont Life

"In 2012, Vermonters realized that large-scale wind power is not benign. The issue was larger than the town of Lowell or the Lowell Range since there are more than a dozen large wind installations either planned or already in operation in Vermont, five of them in the Northeast Kingdom alone. It was also a larger-than-Lowell issue because it demonstrated that no source of energy — not even renewable energy — is cost-free, economically or environmentally. And it showed, once again, that Vermont's mountains are important to the people of this state, and that they will fight to protect them.

"The backers of Big Wind won the Battle of Lowell. Before the year was over, more than 20 towers — each of them taller than the Bennington Monument — were installed and operating, and the top of the Lowell Range had been massively altered forever. But the issue won't be going away anytime soon. By year's end, opposition to industrial-scale wind power had spread across the state, and several towns had voted to ban large wind towers.

"Look for a major legislative fight over the issue in 2013 — most likely over a proposal to impose a moratorium on new major wind power installations while facts and figures that can be agreed upon are developed."

Mary Powell, CEO/president of Green Mountain Power

"I feel like we made great strides forward as a state in 2012. We've always had legislative intent and direction in Vermont to move more toward renewable energy. Laws have been consistently passed ...to move more toward renewable energy resources. Under Liz Miller's leadership, the [Department of Public Service] came up with an overarching vision and goal. Stepping back, I feel like we've made a lot of headway ...in terms of things happening on the ground in Vermont.

"It's always so easy to be critical and think of what more we could do and should do. It's really quite remarkable. We finally have taken some substantive steps forward, and I'm proud that [GMP has] been a small part of that with our wind project as well as ...putting a lot of steel and solar in the ground. ...Not just have we made steps forward as a state, but we're doing it in a manner that Vermonters support."

GREEN MOUNTAIN DAILY:

Guns and "crazy people"

by: jvwalt

Fri Dec 28, 2012 at 06:56:12 AM EST

Governor Shumlin, recently returned from his Italian sojourn, has finally weighed in on the post-Newtown gun control debate in an interview with the Freeploid. In this diary I won't address his overall stance, which can be briefly described as "The Buck Stops Somewhere Else." Rather, I'll just point out one little problematic statement:

I have a lot of confidence in the president's and vice president's approach to this, which is: Be inclusive, with the goal of not coming up with a solution that looks good, but really diving into the issues that are driving violence, and that are putting weapons in the hands of crazy, deranged people who shouldn't have them.

"Crazy, deranged people." That nugget of insensitivity, I remind you, comes from the man who's tasked himself with reinventing Vermont's mental health care system. And it placed our Governor uncomfortably close to Wayne LaPierre territory.

How many more copycats are waiting in the wings... A dozen more killers, a hundred more? How can we possibly even guess how many, given our nation's refusal to create an active national database of the mentally ill?

There are a couple of big problems with this call for segregating "crazy people" from assault weapons. Well, a couple of problems aside from utter impracticality (Adam Lanza got his firepower, not from a gun show or the Internet, but from his MOMMY) and complete hypocrisy (registering guns is an invasion of personal freedom, but registering "crazy people" is not).

First, the vast majority of "crazy people" have never been diagnosed. Adam Lanza wouldn't have shown up on Wayno's database. Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris wouldn't have been there either. Nor would Jared Lee Loughner. If you want a national database of the "deranged," you'll need a much more robust mental health system -- one that thoroughly screens every single one of us, and somehow manages to identify future killers through the early, scant traces of aberrant behavior.

Second, "crazy people" as a group are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators. Relatively few are the slaving, uncontrollable monsters of LaPierre's imagination. Many are passive or withdrawn*, unable to defend themselves or resist criminal assault. And all would be branded, as if by a scarlet letter "C", as potential killers in a National Registry of the Crazy.

*as Adam Lanza seemed to be, until the day he took his mom's assault weapons to school.

Opponents of gun regulation bleat about the impracticality of any attempt to control the flow of high-powered weaponry, and yet they are somehow unfazed by the even greater impracticality and ineffectiveness of a hypothetical Database of the Deranged.

One more thing. Since the national discussion of gun control is likely to go on for quite a while -- and will be renewed every time a "crazy person" shoots up a school, church, mall, or other public place -- I hereby present our Governor with an extremely partial but nonetheless handy list of other insensitive terms for the mentally ill, just in case he gets tired of "crazy" and "deranged."

5150, basket case, bananas, batty, berserk, bughouse, crackers, cuckoo, daffy, demented, ding-a-ling, freaky, f*ck knuckle, insane (or even better, "insane in the membrane"), kooky, Low Marble Count, lunatic, mad, mondo bizarro, Napoleon XIV, nutjob, nutty, out to lunch, postal (especially apropos), potty, psycho, screw loose, spaz, wackadoodle, wacky, wigged out.

Also, don't forget the creative possibilities of the phrase "short of," as in one brick short of a load, one sandwich short of a picnic, and a few fries short of a Happy Meal.

There now. I hope I've helped to add some richness and color to our Governor's political discourse.

VPR:

State: Broadband, Cell Service Reach 90 Percent Of Vermonters

Officials say the state has made progress in the past year in the effort to expand both broadband and cell service and coverage for both now exceeds 90 percent of the state.

2013 marks the last year to reach last mile, if the state wants to reach Governor Shumlin's goal of providing broadband coverage to all Vermonters. On Friday, officials vowed to get there in time.

Karen Marshall heads the state effort to expand cell phone and broadband coverage, which has involved investments by private companies as well as federal and state funds.

Marshall says to date just over 95 percent of Vermont's households and businesses have access to broadband. She says she's confident those without access will have it by the end of next year, although the remaining locations will be the most difficult to reach.

"The last 5 percent are the needle in the haystack," says Marshall. "They are the most far-flung, probably the most expensive and sometimes even the most physically challenging to get to."

Marshall says average connection speeds in Vermont have also increased from 5.5 to 9.7 megabits per second, which is above the national average. She says speeds will continue to rise beyond the 2013 deadline as demand for more bandwidth increases.

As for cell phone service, state officials say unlike broadband, universal coverage isn't a realistic goal, given Vermont's terrain and the expense involved.

But Marshall says today more than 92% of Vermont households and businesses do have cell phone service, but because the coverage is provided by different companies, there's a lack of continuity in cell phone reception.

Marshall says the state is improving coverage with the help of a technology that involves many small units installed along roadways.

"I think we will be one of the first places in the country that is deploying micro cell technology for example, on the top of telephone poles or utility poles, kind of like a daisy chain," she explains.

State officials say they've awarded a \$5 million dollar grant to the Vermont Telephone Company to expand cell phone coverage in Vermont's four southernmost counties.

VTel will use the money to piggyback cell service onto a wireless broadband system it's building with \$116 million in federal grants and loans.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

\$5M to improve cellphone service in southern Vermont

By LISA RATHKE

MONTPELIER -- The state is investing \$5 million to improve cellphone service in 21 southern areas and is on track to provide access to high-speed Internet service everywhere by the end of next year, Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday.

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority, whose missions include securing access to affordable broadband services for all homes and businesses in the state and making sure its telecommunications infrastructure is continuously upgraded, has approved the grant to VTel Wireless, an affiliate of Vermont Telephone based in Springfield.

The project will use 27 of the towers or other structures that are already planned for VTel's significant broadband project and new small cell sites on utility poles that are along fiber-optic lines that VTel owns or is developing, said Christopher Campbell, executive director of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority.

"This project is an important step forward toward providing cellular access across the state," Campbell said.

VTel Wireless will be starting its own retail cellular service, with roaming agreements with national carriers.

The investment for cellular equipment through VTel Wireless will fill in some of the most challenging gaps in the southern part of the state, Shumlin said.

Service, he said, will improve on:

-- Andover Road between Andover and Weston;

-- Route 7 in Pownal;

-- Route 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington;

-- Routes 100 and 100a in Plymouth;

-- Route 100 in Wardsboro;

-- Route 103 in Mount Holly; and

-- Route 133 from Pawlet to Middletown Springs.

The state also is on target to get broadband computer service to every home and business by the end of 2013, Shumlin said. Now, 95.6 percent of Vermont e911 addresses are connected, compared to 87 percent when the project was started. That leaves 4.2 percent still lacking service.

"Help is on the way, and we expect to have you connected by our deadline," Shumlin said.

The only holdups could be an extraordinarily snowy winter or if communities challenge the placement of cell equipment, he said.

Speed of the connection, too, has improved. The average speed has increased from 5.5 megabits per second to 9, making Vermont one of the leading states in average connection speed, Connect Vermont Chief Karen Marshall said.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 7:33 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

\$5M to improve cellphone service in southern Vt.

MONTPELIER — The state is investing \$5 million to improve cellphone service in 21 southern areas and is on track to provide access to high-speed Internet service everywhere by the end of next year, Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday.

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Shumlin weighs in on guns

Gov. Peter Shumlin says the rest of the country should look to Vermont on how to manage firearms, but he'll leave it to Congress to debate access to military-style assault weapons.

Shumlin says Vermont has a strong hunting culture and strong support for the right to own and use firearms. But he told The Burlington Free Press, "People don't use machines of war to shoot whitetail deer."

The issue of access to assault weapons has come to the fore following several recent mass shootings, including the massacre of elementary school students and staff in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14.

The National Rifle Association — which opposes most firearms regulations — has supported Shumlin, and contributed to his re-election campaign this year.

Grega free to seek a job

By Susan Smallheer

BRATTLEBORO — A judge has loosened the daily telephone reporting requirements for murder suspect John Grega, a move that will allow Grega to seek employment, his attorney said in court Friday.

A motion hearing Friday dealt solely with Grega's request to cut the number of daily calls he makes to Vermont State Police to once a day, rather than twice. Judge John Wesley granted the motion, while noting that Grega's \$75,000 cash bail remained in place.

Grega's attorney, Ian Carleton, said the increased flexibility would allow him to seek employment.

Grega is being retried for the aggravated murder of his wife Christine in a West Dover condominium. New testing earlier this year revealed previously unidentified DNA from an unknown man in her body. Grega has maintained his innocence since the 1991 murder in West Dover.

Grega, now 50, is currently a resident of Ronkonkoma, Long Island, New York, and by court order is living with his elderly mother.

Wesley said the biggest incentive for Grega not to flee was the \$75,000 cash bail his family had posted to guarantee his appearance in court pending his second trial.

Grega wants to be able to seek employment, Carleton told Wesley, and he also is getting medical attention and physical therapy for recent knee surgery and a heart condition. For him to be back by 5 p.m. every day to his mother's home is onerous, Carleton said.

Carleton said Grega had not missed calling a single day — unless excused by the court or state's attorney — since he was released from prison Aug. 21, including the week after Hurricane Sandy struck Long Island, prompting widespread power outages. Grega was able to use a cellphone that week to make his calls, Carleton said.

Grega will have to call state police in Rockingham every day between 6 and 7 a.m.

Windham County State's Attorney Tracy Shriver said she would be willing to consider changing the reporting requirement, but after Grega got a job.

Wesley disagreed and said cash, not a telephone call, was the biggest incentive.

In addition to the court hearing, motions and counter motions continue to be filed in the case.

The state has never refused to hand over materials about police officer training and policies to the attorney for Grega, Shriver wrote in a court filing dated Friday.

Meanwhile, the town of Dover filed a motion on Wednesday to quash a subpoena issued to its police department by Grega's attorney, saying the request for the personnel files of its police officers at the time of the 1991 murder were overly broad, "unreasonable and oppressive" and "irrelevant."

Carleton, Grega's attorney, is seeking "all policies, procedures, instructions, checklists, forms, memoranda or instructive material" from 1990 to the present.

Shriver's sharply worded filing was in response to Carleton's critically worded motion to compel last week. Carleton is a lawyer with the Burlington law firm of Sheehey, Furlong & Behm and has represented Grega for several years. He was key to getting Grega a new trial through work done by the New England Innocence Project.

Dover's attorney, Colin McNeil of the Burlington law firm of McNeil, Leddy and Sheahan, argued that Carleton had not met the Vermont Supreme Court standard of relevancy in seeking the personnel records.

McNeil said Grega's attorney was seeking "the production of essentially a library's worth of materials. This request is therefore extremely broad and compliance would be overly burdensome."

The materials sought by Carleton include information on a police chief, one sergeant, one investigator, three patrolmen, one part-time officer and a dispatcher/office manager.

The personnel files could include a wide range of information, McNeil said. "Such files may contain anything from commendations and minor rule infractions not dealing with veracity or performance to personal identifying information and medical records," he wrote.

"These files contain privileged and confidential information," he added.

McNeil said if the motion to quash the subpoena was denied, it should at least be altered or "more reasonable." He added the information sought should be more defined and the judge should review confidential information in private so that its relevancy to evidence in the murder case can be assessed.

After Friday's hearing, Grega said his Christmas — his first not spent in prison for 18 years — had been wonderful, thanks to family and friends.

"It was wonderful; it was nice to be home," he said. "It was great to be home and great to be with my family and friends."

Grega said he had knee surgery on his meniscus, and that he had had the surgery before.

No date has been set for Grega's retrial, but it is expected to last a month, according to court records.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 7:19 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29:

WCAX:

Grant to improve cell coverage in southern Vermont

ALEXEI RUBENSTEIN

MONTPELIER, Vt. - Millions of dollars will soon help improve cellphone service in southern Vermont.

The state is investing \$5 million to expand service in 21 communities across the region.

The money is part of a grant to VTel wireless, a partner of Vermont Telephone.

Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday the investment in cellular equipment will fill in some of the most challenging gaps in southern Vermont.

"What this \$5 million grant, in this case VTel means, is that in the areas, 21 areas across Vermont, largely in Southern Vermont, where we are connecting to the internet, we will also be vastly expanding cell coverage to Vermonters in those regions," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

VTel will be starting its own retail cellular service, with roaming agreements with national carriers. As far as broadband coverage goes, the governor says the state is on target to meeting full statewide coverage by the end of next year as promised.

Service will improve on:

- Andover Road between Andover and Weston
- Route 7 in Pownal
- Route 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington
- Route 100 and 100a in Plymouth
- Route 100 in Wardsboro
- Route 103 in Mount Holly
- Route 133 from Pawlet to Middletown Springs

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Terms of Use: We welcome your participation in our community. Please keep your comments civil and on point. You must be at least 13 to post comments. By submitting a comment, you agree to this site's Terms of Service. **NO COMMENTS ARE POSTED UNTIL THEY ARE APPROVED BY A MODERATOR AND THAT CAN TAKE UP TO 72 HOURS.** Showing 3 comments Sort By Newest First Oldest First Highest Rated Mike

13 hours ago +1

Share | Flag Great bargain Shummy with a debt on the general fund of almost 75 million you add another 5. What creative amortization of my tax money. You are as bright as O' Bangme. People hold on to your pants we are about to be stripped. alfred

15 hours ago 0

Share | Flag Well sheriff Taylor can will be able to call Aunt "B" for dinner or Goober for a flat tire down at the old fishing hole while Andy will be on Facebook before you can Tweet Sal Albine

15 hours ago 0

Share | FlagWaste of taxpayers money. \$5 million dollars? So people can yak and drive at the same time? How can you justify this? It ought to be illegal to yak and drive at the same time and you're wasting our money on THIS? Explained yourself, whoever made this decision. The article was sadly lacking the WHO, WHAT, WHEN and WHERE.

Vt. utility calls for moratorium on renewable energy mandates

JOHNSON, Vt. - Vermont Electric Cooperative is asking the Legislature to approve a moratorium on creating renewable power mandates.

VEC CEO Dave Hallquist says the utility is concerned about finding balance between rising electric rates and the adoption of a greener power portfolio.

"I don't think we've really thought this out entirely. We're kind of looking at this through different perspectives. Our perspective as the boots on the ground utility that has to carry it out says we don't know how it can work even from a physics standpoint," Hallquist said.

Hallquist questions the electric grid's technological ability to accommodate renewable generation projects in excess of 20 percent because of the intermittent nature of power like wind and solar. He also says cost-effective energy storage remains a concern.

"Carbon is only 4 percent of the electricity carbon footprint of the state, so we've got all this emotional energy. We've got our communities being split and yet were focusing on really the crumbs of carbon. The real issue of carbon is in transportation and heating and cooling and it seems like if we're going to put our energy in and we really want to reduce carbon we would put it on where the biggest contributors are," Hallquist said.

The VEC vote comes as some lawmakers have vowed to resurrect a wind moratorium proposal that failed last session. But that will run into sharp opposition from both Gov. Peter Shumlin and House leadership.

"I think it's about the most anti-business statement the Legislature could make," said Rep. Tony Klein, D-East Montpelier.

"I don't think we can move fast enough to move to renewables and I am bound and determined to continue to make the progress we are making in building renewables in Vermont," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

New Department of Public Service Commissioner Chris Recchia says while he understands VEC's concerns, renewables like hydro and biomass are proven base load resources and that ISO, the New England transmission organization, has said there is more room for reliable renewable capacity.

Shumlin this fall created an energy sighting commission to analyze how electricity generating projects are permitted, but they aren't slated to finish their work until the end of the legislative session. VEC says the issue is even larger than siting when it comes to relying on the technology behind an ever increasing renewable portfolio.

VEC says until there are ways to overcome the hurdles surrounding renewables, natural gas is a good source of low carbon, base load power.

Gov. Shumlin: Let Congress debate assault weapons

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Peter Shumlin says the rest of the country should look to Vermont on how to manage firearms, but he'll leave it to Congress to debate access to military-style assault weapons.

Shumlin says Vermont has a strong hunting culture and strong support for the right to own and use firearms. But he tells The Burlington Free Press, "People don't use machines of war to shoot whitetail deer."

The issue of access to assault weapons has come to the forefront following several recent mass shootings, including the massacre of elementary school students and staff in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14.

The National Rifle Association - which opposes most firearms regulations - has supported Shumlin, and contributed to his re-election campaign this year.

FOX44:

Grant to Improve Cell Coverage in So. Vt.

JOE GULLO

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The state of Vermont is investing \$5 million to expand cell phone service in 19 areas in southern Vermont.

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority has approved a grant to VTel Wireless, an affiliate of Vermont Telephone based in Springfield.

VTel Wireless will be starting its own retail cellular service, with roaming agreements with national carriers.

Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday that the investment in cellular equipment through VTel Wireless will fill in some of the most challenging gaps in southern Vermont.

Service will improve on:

- Andover Road between Andover and Weston;
- Route 7 in Pownal;
- Route 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington;
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WPTZ

Vt. Gov.: Telecommunications upgrades on-track

JACK THURSTON

MONTPELIER, Vt. —Friday, the Vermont Telecommunications Authority announced a \$5.07 million grant aimed at fixing a problem that has vexed cellphone users in Vermont for years: dropped calls. In some portions of the state, conversations can abruptly end in the middle of sentences, especially while driving through hills or valleys or where communications towers change.

The grant money will go to the Springfield, Vt., phone company and internet provider VTel to install cell sites in the state's four southern counties. VTel will even create a novel, Vermont-based cell carrier while partnering with national brands to extend cell service.

"Achieving new expansion of cellular coverage in rural markets has been a genuine challenge, but this award helps us meet that challenge," said Chris Campbell of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority.

This summer, New England Cable News visited GW Plastics in Bethel, Vt., to learn just how critical cell coverage is for the company. The community was about to get a new cell tower that the molding firm believed would finally fix nightmares created when customers couldn't call and voicemails wouldn't show up.

"It's very frustrating," Tim Reis told NECN on Aug. 1. "It's frustrating to the customers, and I'm frankly getting sick of getting yelled at for not responding."

Complaints like that are now diminishing around the state, Gov. Peter Shumlin, D-Vt., noted Friday. In addition to discussing the expansion of cell coverage, Shumlin also updated reporters on a 2010 campaign promise regarding technology. Shumlin's administration has laid out a goal of giving each and every Vermont address access to high-speed internet by the end of 2013. Governor Shumlin said right now, 95.6 percent of addresses have access to high-speed internet, and work will continue in 2013 to connect the remaining homes and businesses.

As for the remaining 12,500 or so addresses, Shumlin and his "Connect Vermont" chief, Karen Marshall, said those will be the hardest to connect.

"The last five percent are, you could say, the needle in the haystack," Marshall said. "They are the most far-flung, probably the most expensive, and sometimes even the most physically challenging to get to."

More than \$170-million in federal stimulus dollars awarded several years ago are helping pay for much of the broadband build-out in Vermont. More than \$116 million of that money went to VTel for its aggressive broadband expansion. State funds, federal loans and private investments also are covering costs associated with the upgrades.

Shumlin bragged about download speeds users of the build-out can expect from internet service. He said the average speed of connection in Vermont is 9 megabits per second, up from 5.5 mbps. "If we were our own country; if Vermont were a separate country, we would be fifth in the world for average speed connection," Shumlin beamed. "In other words, we're not just building a system that gets you service, we're building a fast system for the future."

Shumlin called more high-speed connections and more reliable cellphone use critical to this small state's economic development. To report an address in Vermont that's not currently served by high-speed internet, visit this website: <http://www.broadbandvt.org/broadband/report-unserved-area.php>

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 7:10 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29:

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Eight-bed psychiatric facility to open in Morrisville

TERRI HALLENBECK

MORRISVILLE — Ever since the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury was evacuated after Tropical Storm Irene hit in August 2011, mental health patients have been scattered to limited facilities around the state, sometimes being forced to stay several days in emergency rooms.

Next week, eight patients will find a little more stability in Morrisville. An acute-care facility opens Wednesday in a former nursing home. A 25-bed facility is also planned for Berlin.

Gov. Peter Shumlin toured the Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center in Morrisville on Friday, noting that the 15 months since the state psychiatric hospital was flooded out have been nail-biting, finger-crossing tense.

"The fact that it hasn't ended in more tragedy is a tribute to your skills," Shumlin told the former state hospital employees who'll work at the new facility.

Mary Moulton, interim mental health commissioner, said those employees have worked at nine locations since the flood.

Dr. Joel Silverstein, chief medical officer at Copley Hospital, a partner in the new facility, said the lack of mental health facilities was a big strain for many around the state.

The new facility cost \$1.8 million to remodel, Shumlin said, and overcame a variety of challenges, including initial resistance by neighbors and the discovery of asbestos during construction.

The facility features eight patient rooms, each sparingly outfitted with a single bed and bean bag chair, in one wing of the building. Offices where the patients will receive services stretch down the other wing.

Human Services Secretary Doug Racine said the accommodations are much nicer than those of the state hospital in Waterbury, which the state had long sought to replace before the flood.

At first blush it appears more than eight patients could be accommodated at the Morrisville facility. Shumlin mentioned that as he peered into the rooms. Moulton said that's the number the facility is licensed and staffed to accommodate.

"Eight beds sounds silly, but it's going to make a huge difference," said former Mental Health Commissioner Patrick Flood.

South Burlington methadone clinic decision could be delayed further

Unknown party alleges Development Review Board member had improper communication about proposed clinic, asks for hearing to be re-opened

MOLLY WALSH

A proposal to open a methadone clinic near two South Burlington schools is facing another potential legal delay.

The South Burlington Development Review Board will be asked at its meeting Wednesday to re-open the hearing about the controversial clinic, on the grounds that a member of the quasi-judicial board had an improper private communication about the case.

Re-opening the hearing could delay a decision by another two months or more about whether the clinic could open, and prolong a controversy that began last summer.

An agenda for the meeting was posted Friday. It offers only the barest outline of the reason for the request: "The limited purpose of reopening is to place on the record the details of an ex parte communication by a DRB member and to allow all interested persons to respond to the information provided."

Municipal officials would not answer questions about who made the request to re-open or which of the seven members of the Development Review Board is accused of having the improper communication.

The Burlington Free Press filed a public-records request seeking this information Friday. City Manager Sanford Miller has two business days to respond.

Ray Belair, South Burlington zoning administrator, said he had no details on the request to re-open and referred inquiries to planning and zoning director Paul Conner, who was out of town and could not be reached. Development Review Board Chairman Mark Behr did not return a message seeking comment.

A perusal of the thick file of public documents on the methadone clinic Friday morning contained no information about the request for re-opening the hearing.

The clinic was initially green-lighted to open and then blocked by an appeal from the South Burlington School District, which contends that the facility for heroin and oxycodone addicts could bring crime and impaired drivers to the proposed site on Dorset Street near the city's high school and middle school.

The Development Review Board held its final hearing on the matter in late November and was under a legal deadline to issue a written decision on the clinic appeal by Jan. 4 — next Friday. But if the board decides at its meeting Wednesday to re-open, the legal cycle surrounding the hearing process is likely to kick back in. The board would have to provide notice to the public of the re-opened hearing within 15 days. It could then continue that meeting indefinitely. Once the meeting closed, the board would have 45 days to issue a written decision.

(Page 2 of 2)

The HowardCenter Inc., a Burlington nonprofit that is proposing to open the new clinic, has responded to the delays with threats to sue the city of South Burlington under federal anti-discrimination law.

The center also has sought unsuccessfully to dismiss the school district's appeal. Meanwhile, several businesses near the proposed clinic site in a medical office suite have joined the with the school district in attempting to block the clinic. Superintendent of South Burlington Schools David Young said Friday the district is not seeking to re-open the hearing. He was unaware such a request had been made.

A call to HowardCenter Executive Director Todd Centybear was not returned this week.

HowardCenter had hoped to open the clinic this year and serve more than 650 clients. It would close two smaller clinics: one at the University Health Center in Burlington, and another on Twin Oaks Terrace in South Burlington. The new site is about 500 feet from Frederick Tuttle Middle School and 1,000 feet from South Burlington High School.

State announces \$5 million to improve cell coverage in southern Vermont

LISA RATHKE

MONTPELIER — The state of Vermont is investing \$5 million to expand cell phone service in 19 areas in southern Vermont.

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority has approved a grant to VTel Wireless, an affiliate of Vermont Telephone based in Springfield.

VTel Wireless will be starting its own retail cellular service, with roaming agreements with national carriers.

Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday that the investment in cellular equipment through VTel Wireless will fill in some of the most challenging gaps in southern Vermont.

Service will improve on:

- Andover Road between Andover and Weston;
- U.S. 7 in Pownal;
- Vermont 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington;
- Vermont 100 and 100a in Plymouth;
- Vermont 100 in Wardsboro;
- Vermont 103 in Mount Holly; and
- Vermont 133 from Pawlet to Middletown Springs.

VTBUZZ BLOG:

Braithwaite sues Green Mountain Power

Posted on December 28, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

The case of Barton Chronicle Publisher Chris Braithwaite and his visit to the top of Lowell Mountain on Dec. 5, 2011, continues.

As we told you earlier, Braithwaite's criminal case is over, with the judge dismissing the charge of trespass, which Braithwaite collected along with six protesters opposed to Green Mountain Power's wind project.

That was not, however, the last word. Braithwaite and the Barton Chronicle filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Green Mountain Power and David Coriell, who was the utility's employee monitoring things on the mountain that day.

Braithwaite's lawyer, Phil White, alleges that Coriell "acted wilfully, maliciously, and fraudulently in telling (sheriff's Deputy) Phil Brooks that there were no exceptions, including the press, to those who were to be arrested if they refused to leave the property," according to a motion filed in court that seeks to put a hold on documents in the criminal case while the civil lawsuit plays out.

The actual lawsuit is not public until its been served, White said.

White blames Green Mountain Power for failing to point out to the deputy that company officials hadn't wanted reporters to be arrested. That was revealed by inter-office emails that White subpoenaed from Green Mountain Power.

Coriell no longer works for Green Mountain Power, having left to attend law school at Cornell, a fact that was cited by the prosecutor in her motion to dismiss the case. He was unavailable to come to Newport for the trial, she said. Coriell had better study up because he might need that law degree.

Edgar May remembered for bipartisan fairness

Posted on December 27, 2012 by Terri Hallenbeck

Sen. Bill Doyle recalled that Edgar May came up to him and asked if Senate Republicans would object to his serving as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, given that May's sister, Madeleine Kunin, was governor at the time.

Doyle said he told May he had no objection, that May would make a great chairman. May known for his willingness to listen to all sides, Doyle said.

May died Thursday at his winter home in Tucson, Ariz., Vermont Public Radio reported. He had suffered a stroke three weeks earlier.

May, along with having served in the Vermont House and Senate, was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist in the 1960s for his work investigating the New York State welfare system as a reporter for the Buffalo News.

He represented Springfield in the Legislature, including during the 1980s when his sister was governor.

An Associated Press article from 1985 explores the brother-sister power issue. Republicans considered May, who was Kunin's older brother, the less liberal alternative to head the Appropriations Committee when Democrats won control of the Senate. Kunin joked that she wouldn't tell people he'd flunked math. He countered that it was too late, he'd already fessed up.

Brother and sister emigrated to the United States with their mother in 1940 from Switzerland, fleeing the Nazis.

The Springfield Health & Recreation Center, which May was a driving force behind, was named after him in 2006, when he was 80.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Dec. 29 - Jan. 4

CONTACT: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

Gov. Peter Shumlin's public appearance schedule for Dec. 29 – Jan. 4

Saturday, Dec. 29

10:00 a.m. Speak at Quechee Bridge Reopening Ceremony
Quechee Main & Waterman Hill

Wednesday, Jan. 2

11:00 a.m. Press Conference, 5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building
109 State Street, Montpelier

Thursday, Jan. 3

11:00 a.m. Press Conference, 5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building

Friday, Jan. 4

11:00 a.m. Press Conference, 5th Floor Conference Room, Pavilion Building

1:00 p.m. Swearing in Superior Court Judge Kevin Griffin
Vermont Supreme Court, Montpelier

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 4:53 PM
To: EXE
Subject: Schedule - Saturday, Dec. 29th

Saturday, December 29th, 2012 Schedule

London, Sarah

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 4:15 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: Executive Orders signed
Attachments: EO 14-12 Transfer from BGS to ANR.pdf; EO 15-12 Climate Cabinet and State Agency Climate Action Plan.pdf

The Governor has signed the attached Executive Orders:

EO 14-12, transferring property from Agency of Administration/Department of Buildings and General Services to Agency of Natural Resources/Department of Fish & Wildlife

EO 15-12, re-establishing the Governor's Climate Cabinet to include duties previously performed by the Climate Neutral Working Group, and re-establishing the State Agency Climate Action Plan.

Thank you and Happy New Year,
Sarah

Sarah London
Counsel to the Governor
802-828-3333
sarah.london@state.vt.us

London, Sarah

From: Searles, Brian
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 3:47 PM
To: AOT - Executive Staff
Cc: Candon, Anne; Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Acting Secretary

During the time I am away from Vermont, December 30, 2012 at 0600 until January 7, 2013 at 1800, Scott Rogers, Director of Operations, will be authorized to act on my behalf as Acting Secretary.

I will be monitoring email and available at during this time.

Happy New Year,

Brian R. Searles
Secretary of Transportation
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Montpelier, VT
802-828-2657

Sent from my iPad

London, Sarah

From: Recchia, Chris
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Fwd: Wind moratorium bill

Received this from Kerrick FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kerrick Johnson <KJOHNSON@velco.com>
Date: December 28, 2012, 1:07:57 PM EST
To: "Recchia, Chris" <Chris.Recchia@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: Wind moratorium bill

FYI...

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

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

From: Darcie Johnston [darcie@johnstonconsult.net<<mailto:darcie@johnstonconsult.net>>]
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:49 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: 'Darcie'
Subject: FW: Wind moratorium bill

FYI - Please help get the word out. Let's get a huge turnout for this press conf.

Darcie L. Johnston
Johnston Consulting, Inc.
97 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-229-6107 office
802-229-6107 cell

Email from Sen. Benning

As you know, Senator Hartwell and I have been working on an industrial wind moratorium bill. The bill is ready and we are gathering cosponsors.

We are going to introduce the bill in a press conference on Thursday, January 3rd at 2:00pm. It will be held in the Cedar Creek Room at the statehouse. We'd like to gather as many supporters as possible, so please feel free to pass this message along to whoever might be

interested. Thanks.

Joe Benning
State Senator
Caledonia-Orange District

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London, Sarah

From: demstatescaucus@googlegroups.com on behalf of Dana Thompson -GOV-
<dana.thompson@maryland.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 2:17 PM
Subject: Fwd: GOVERNOR O'MALLEY SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER HELPING STATE PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

I wanted to make sure you were aware of this Executive Order issued by Governor O'Malley:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Governor's Press Office <gov.presslist@maryland.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 28, 2012 at 12:18 PM
Subject: GOVERNOR O'MALLEY SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER HELPING STATE PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER
To:

Media Contacts: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	Josh Davidsburg, DNR Office: <u>410-260-8002</u>	Raquel Guillory Office: <u>410-974-2316</u> Cell: <u>410-919-3206</u>

**GOVERNOR O'MALLEY SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER
HELPING STATE PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
EXTREME WEATHER**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 28, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley has signed a landmark initiative to increase the State's long term resiliency to storm related flooding and sea level rise. He signed the Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Executive Order, directing that all new and reconstructed state structures, as well as other infrastructure improvements, be planned and constructed to avoid or minimize future flood damage.

"As storms such as Hurricane Sandy have shown, it is vital that we commit our resources and expertise to create a ready and resilient Maryland, by taking the necessary steps to adapt to the rising sea and unpredictable weather," said Governor O'Malley. "In studying and planning for storms and climate change, we can ensure that our land, infrastructure, and most importantly our citizens are safe and prepared."

The Executive Order enacts a number of policy directives, including directing all State agencies to consider the risk of coastal flooding and sea level rise when they design capital budget projects and charging the Department of General Services with updating its architecture and engineering guidelines to require new and rebuilt State structures to be elevated two or more feet above the 100-year base flood level.

"Over the past three decades, Maryland's climate has become hotter and water levels within the Chesapeake Bay have continued to rise," said Zoe Johnson, DNR's Program Manager for Climate Change Policy. "The

region's recent extreme storms and weather have demonstrated just how vulnerable our natural resources and infrastructure can be to such events. The Executive Order will be instrumental in reshaping how we build along Maryland's coasts."

The Executive Order also charges the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to work with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, local governments and other parties as appropriate, to develop additional Coast Smart guidelines within nine months, for the siting and construction of new and rebuilt State structures, as well as other infrastructure improvements such as roads, bridges, sewer and water systems, and other essential public utilities. Recommendations for applying the new construction guidelines to non-state infrastructure projects that are partially or fully funded in the State's capital budget will also be developed.

Additionally, the Executive Order tasks the Scientific and Technical Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change with providing updated sea level rise projections for Maryland. In 2008, the Scientific and Technical Working Group published sea level rise projections for Maryland, with a high end range of 3.4 feet by the year 2100. However, considerable new research on sea level rise has since been published requiring the updating of these projections, according to Dr. Donald Boesch, President of University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and chair of the Working Group.

For example, a study by the U.S. Geological Survey published this summer in the journal *Nature Climate Change* demonstrated that the 1,000 kilometer stretch of coast running from Cape Hatteras to north of Boston is a "hot spot" of sea level rise. The study found that since 1990, sea levels along this stretch, which includes Maryland, are rising at an annual rate three to four times faster than the global average. Dr. Boesch pointed out "the State should be using the most up-to-date sea level rise projections in order to ensure that state infrastructure is sited and designed in a manner that will avoid or minimize future loss or damages." Revised sea level rise projections are to be issued by end of June 2013.

To assist local governments, DNR's *CoastSmart* Communities Program will continue to provide on-the-ground sea level rise planning expertise, training, and technical mapping tools. Launched by Governor O'Malley in April 2009, Maryland's *CoastSmart* Communities program has awarded more than a half-million dollars to coastal communities to help prepare for the anticipated impacts of climate change. In partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the State provides grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 to coastal communities to support the planning and preparation. For more information on the *CoastSmart* Program or to submit a funding request, visit dnr.maryland.gov/CoastSmart

For more information on Maryland's climate change adaptation efforts, visit <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/climatechange/>

--

* NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: Dana.Thompson@maryland.gov *

Dana J. Thompson • Director, Federal Relations • Office of Gov. Martin O'Malley • State of Maryland • 202.624.1430 (o) • 202.783.3061 (f) • 443.336.2920 (c) • Sign Up for Governor O'Malley's E-Newsletter • This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

London, Sarah

From: Woods, Brian
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Adams, John E.; Baslow, Debra; Bothfeld, Diane; Campoli, Gina; Chen, Harry; Cochran, Chris; Colasurdo, Lillian; Coster, Billy; Cragin, Lori; Delhagen, Ed; Dolan, Tracy; Hopkins, Asa; Hughes, Michelle; Johnson, Justin; LaClair, Jolinda; Lofy, Bill; Mackay, Noelle; Markowitz, Deb; McKearnan, Sarah; Mears, David; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Minter, Sue; Moulton, Carolyn; Obuchowski, Mike; Ogrady, Elaine; Percival, Penny; Recchia, Chris; Ross, Chuck; Searles, Brian; Spaulding, Jeb; Valentinetti, Dick; Woods, Brian
Subject: FW: Climate Cabinet Revised Executive Order

FYI...

From: London, Sarah
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:16 AM
To: Woods, Brian
Subject: RE: Climate Cabinet Revised Executive Order

Thank you so much again Brian. The goal is to have the Governor sign this Order today.

From: Woods, Brian
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 2:02 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: Climate Cabinet Revised Executive Order

Good afternoon Sarah,

By now I believe you may have received the 11/26 memorandum from Secretary Markowitz on behalf of the Climate Cabinet requesting reissuance of the Climate Cabinet Executive Order. Attached for your convenience is the Word version of the revised order (in redline/strikeout).

Let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist with this task.

BW

Brian Woods
Agency of Natural Resources
Climate Change Team
103 South Main Street / West Building
Waterbury VT 05671-0404
802-241-3885

www.anr.state.vt.us/anr/climatechange

or

www.vtclimatechange.us

Twitter: @VTClimateChange

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: log-in help

I'm going to miss you!

On Dec 28, 2012, at 11:05 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

> you are the best!

>

> On 12/28/12 11:04 AM, "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us> wrote:

>

>> Call 828-0407. for employee self service, I again for

>> It will connect you to a live person

>>

>> On Dec 28, 2012, at 11:00 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

>>

>>> Janis, hate to do this to you again, but can you point me to how I

>>> can get into the DII employee self-service website. It says that my

>>> password is expired, and won't send me an e-mail or tell me how to

>>> renew it. I need to print a copy of my paycheck, and can't seem to

>>> find a way to do it!

>

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: FW: log-in help

On 12/28/12 11:04 AM, "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us> wrote:

>Call 828-0407. I need help for employee self service again for

>my account. It will connect you to a live person

>

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>>find a way to do it!

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: Re: log-in help

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On 12/28/12 11:04 AM, "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us> wrote:

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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: log-in help

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On Dec 28, 2012, at 11:00 AM, "Lofy, Bill" <Bill.Lofy@state.vt.us> wrote:

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London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 11:01 AM
To: Carrier, Janis
Subject: log-in help

Janis, hate to do this to you again, but can you point me to how I can get into the DII employee self-service website. It says that my password is expired, and won't send me an e-mail or tell me how to renew it. I need to print a copy of my paycheck, and can't seem to find a way to do it!

London, Sarah

From: Lunge, Robin
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: fin report extension

Thank you!

Robin J. Lunge
Director of Health Care Reform,
Agency of Administration
(802) 828 0566
(3 cell)

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

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Lunge, Robin
Subject: Re: fin report extension

looks good

From: <Lunge>, Robin <Robin.Lunge@state.vt.us>
Date: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:34 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: fin report extension

Hi Bill –
Anya & Jeb are good with the extension letter - you said you'd like to review.

Thanks!

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Lunge, Robin
Subject: Re: fin report extension

looks good

From: <Lunge>, Robin <Robin.Lunge@state.vt.us>
Date: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:34 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>
Subject: fin report extension

Hi Bill –
Anya & Jeb are good with the extension letter - you said you'd like to review.

Thanks!

London, Sarah

From: Lunge, Robin
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:35 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: fin report extension
Attachments: fin report extension.docx

Hi Bill –

Anya & Jeb are good with the extension letter - you said you'd like to review.

Thanks!

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: FW: following up

Duane met with Gov yesterday on Suncommon and energy issues (he'll send a briefing of his points, which I'll forward to you and Liz). But he also mentioned this idea ... sounds like something Lawrence might already be doing, but if not, he should be!

Sue

From: Duane Peterson [mailto:duane@suncommon.com]
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 10:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: following up

Good morning Sue,

I appreciated the opportunity to update Governor Shumlin on SunCommon's success helping Vermonters go solar, and acquaint him with the Administration's proposed changes to the state solar incentive program which would limit regular Vermonters going solar yet. I'll commit what I shared to writing and provide that as well.

I mentioned, in leaving, an idea to help bring young Vermonters back.

Simply, it's an effective website that aggregates the job opportunities in our state, and is marketed well to the diaspora. Come Back to Work in Vermont.

As an employer, I face a dearth of experienced job seekers here in Vermont. I believe that's because so many kids leave the state to attend college, and then see few entry-level jobs here so launch their careers afar. Very well, I'd like to hire them after they gain a few years of job experience out there. But I believe it's not easy for them to see what opportunities there are here, as they'd need to spend significant effort repeatedly wandering the many employers to see what's available.

So the Governor convenes our state's best marketers to create an attractive, accessible (dare-I-say hip?), website that aggregates our state's job opportunities. (As opposed to the current Department of Labor JobLink which, ahem, is really cumbersome and nothing like the online presence that our target population is accustomed to). To design the killer site and branding, round up the usual suspects -- [Dealer.com](#), MyWebGrocer, Ben&Jerry's, GMCR, Burton, KSV, Fuse. Create a consortium to get it done, at no cost to the state. We're all in this together. Make it so employers can easily opt-in, to post our openings quickly and simply, linking to the details on our own sites.

The Governor markets this creatively to displaced Vermont youth, perhaps in a broader campaign to bring 'em home and build our economy. Use social media, traditional media, college career offices, Chambers of Commerce, events around the Holidays when the kids come home to visit family. Gather Vermont youth in national cities where he travels to hear their stories and promote our opportunities. Target the kids out there, but their parents here as well -- who badly want them to come home and would respond favorably to a Governor helping them in that powerful quest.

This mini-campaign could be:

- effective,
- at little or no cost to the taxpayer,
- seen as innovative, creative, caring,
- engages various useful constituencies (young adults, parents of young adults, employers, media).

So there you have it. Lemme know your reaction.

To quote Willem Lange, "I gotta get back to work..."

Duane

=====

Save Money. Go Solar. SunCommon helps Vermont homeowners go solar with no upfront cost and a monthly payment the same or less than their utility bill. Finally, folks can actually save money by doing the right thing. This social venture is the successor to the VPIRG Energy project that generated sales of 300 solar systems in one year. Operated as one of Vermont's first Benefit Corporations, SunCommon's 22 employees work out of Waterbury's Energy Mill -- our state's largest net-zero building.

Duane Peterson, President

suncommon.com

5430 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677

Certified



Corporation

bcorporation.net

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Allen, Susan; London, Sarah
Subject: Re: 10 minutes of your time on Friday please?

We should try to steal a few minutes with him today to discuss these.

From: <Allen>, Susan <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us>
Date: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:09 AM
To: Bill Lofy <bill.lofy@state.vt.us>, "London, Sarah" <Sarah.London@state.vt.us>
Subject: FW: 10 minutes of your time on Friday please?

From: Donoghue, Mike [<mailto:MDONOGHU@burlingt.gannett.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: 10 minutes of your time on Friday please?

Happy New Year.

Hope Santa was kind to you.

Can I please get a few comments about the Governor's plans on the following topics for the legislature?

1. The need for a Vermont law, like in some other states, for a mandatory way for state or local governments, who find themselves victims of some kind of fraud to go after the person's pension. Obviously Deeghan has issues. The Hardwick Electric woman agreed to put half her pension into a bank account, which looked nice until she was sentenced and she asked for the money back now that she is in prison.
2. The so-called E-ticket that would allow police to write citations and tickets that would go automatically into a computer and eliminate the human aspect of processing – or losing tickets that were bogus.
3. Connected to that topic (No. 2) also is whether police and courts will have a computer system that will talk to each other. (And maybe include DMV at some point)
4. What additional oversight is needed at the Vermont State Police to ensure that an alleged campaign of writing 1,000 bogus tickets for at least 13 years and an unknown amount of time for filing bogus timesheets would never get caught. Are more safeguards needed from the outside? Why was there no connection between tickets written and the money received at the traffic bureau?. Towns certainly account for each ticket. Each barracks does not, nor does headquarters?

Trying to finish this up legislative advance for a Sunday story.

Mike Donoghue

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: last minute entry

I have added the reappointment of [REDACTED] to the Governor's Council on Energy and the Environment.

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

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:55 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 28 (FINAL):

ADDISON INDEPENDENT:

Vermont Gas seeks PSB OK for Addison project

SOUTH BURLINGTON —Vermont Gas Systems on Dec. 20 announced that the company has filed with the Public Services Board (PSB) a petition for a Certificate of Public Good for the Addison Natural Gas Project.

The company said this natural gas pipeline, if permitted and built, would provide significant economic, environmental and reliability benefits to Vermont as well as advance Vermont's longer-term goal to extend service to the Rutland area.

"This project will bring to Addison County the same economic and environmental benefits that have been enjoyed in Chittenden and Franklin counties for years," said Don Gilbert, president and CEO of Vermont Gas, in a press release. "Over 3,000 homes and businesses in Addison County will save \$1,500 to \$1,900 per year by switching to natural gas. In total the project will reduce Addison County's energy bills by over \$200 million over the next 20 years and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 300,000 tons over that same period."

According to Tim Lyons, vice president of Sales and Marketing at Vermont Gas, natural gas is 43 percent less expensive than fuel oil and 51 percent less than propane.

"As we have learned from our recent expansions to communities in Chittenden County, Vermonters want natural gas service. Not only will they save money by heating their homes with natural gas, they will no longer have to make large up-front payments for their heating fuel each year and will be able to take advantage of Vermont Gas' award-winning energy efficiency programs," Lyons said.

Vermont Gas has been working over the last two years to develop the 43-mile pipeline. The company met a major milestone with the submission of the necessary plans, studies and reports to support the PSB filing. As proposed, the project route travels through 11 communities. It follows existing rights-of-way along the path proposed in the past for the Circumferential Highway and then a series of utility and public road corridors to Middlebury and Vergennes.

"Overall the project to expand natural gas service to Addison County has the support of the towns and communities along the route. However, we are aware there are some concerns with a section proposed to follow public rights-of-way along roads in portions of Hinesburg and Monkton," Gilbert said. "Vermont Gas has committed to work with those concerned and the various permitting agencies that ultimately approve the routing to explore alternatives and refine the route as appropriate and allowable."

The next step for the project is a thorough review of the proposed project by the Vermont PSB and other state and federal regulators. If approved on the schedule proposed, the Addison Natural Gas Project will bring service to Middlebury and Vergennes in 2014 and 2015 and will enable future expansion to other Addison County communities such as Bristol, company officials said.

Interested communities and landowners can visit the project website at www.addisonnaturalgas.com or call (802) 951-0399 for more information. The filing is posted on the website.

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS:

Shumlin: Vermont gun culture could be 'model' for nation

Governor says state's voice important in national firearms policy debate in wake of Newtown tragedy

JOEL BAIRD

Vermont's strong, safe and relatively unregulated gun culture might contribute to a broader, "50-state" solution to curb firearms violence, Gov. Peter Shumlin says.

A nationwide policy regarding preventative measures, currently under discussion in Washington, should take priority over state-by-state efforts in the wake of the Newtown, Conn., killings, the governor told the Burlington Free Press on Thursday — the first day since the Dec. 14 massacre that Shumlin has spoken in interviews about firearms policy. Shumlin, a long-time hunter, said he and most Vermonters view firearms as "tools" to manage natural resources — and not accessories to a culture of violence.

"Vermont should be a model for the country," the governor said. "We're not a state that glorifies weapons of war that are of little practical use to a civilian.

"We have tremendous respect for our natural resources, for hunting and a really responsible approach to using weapons, and we use them to manage our natural resources, and to keep our farms strong," Shumlin continued. "We use them as a tool to prosperity and quality of life."

Shumlin said he had once shot an assault weapon at a shooting range, but he's partial to more practical firearms: His hunting rifle of choice is a Remington 708.

"Bolt action's the only way to go," he said.

"I will defend the rights of sportsmen and -women to own weapons until my dying day," Shumlin added. "But in all my years of hunting, I've never seen an assault weapon in the woods. People don't use machines of war to shoot whitetail deer."

The governor said recent efforts to outlaw large-magazine assault rifles in Vermont's largest city, Burlington, are beyond his purview.

"Let's put it this way: I'm very careful about commenting on individual legislative initiatives in our cities and towns, because I'm a big believer in local control — and that's not my job, and I hope they return the compliment," he said. Shumlin said he would likewise sidestep the national debate.

"I'm not in Congress; I'm not the president. I'm spending my time on jobs and economic development in Vermont," the governor said. "But I have a lot of confidence in the president's and vice president's approach to this, which is: Be inclusive, with the goal of not coming up with a solution that looks good, but really diving into the issues that are driving violence, and that are putting weapons in the hands of crazy, deranged people who shouldn't have them."

Might the governor's views signal a greater willingness by the powerful National Rifle Association to negotiate regulation?

That organization has recently released only tightly scripted statements. But the NRA knows Shumlin: In October its Political Victory Fund supported the Vermonter's re-election campaign.

The group's endorsement letter stated that Shumlin, as president of the Vermont Senate and later as governor, "opposed legislative efforts that would mandate unnecessary storage requirements of firearms and enact punitive taxes on lead ammunition."

The governor "also led the effort to support the creation and development of publicly accessible shooting ranges," the endorsement letter states.

Burlington says church approved as homeless shelter

Though North Avenue space allowed to house homeless overnight, church has announced no official plans

JOEL BAIRD

Technically, an under-used space at the North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington is suitable for use as a cold-weather emergency shelter for the homeless, city officials have determined.

The church has not formalized a decision to expand the use of its gymnasium, but a decision is likely to be made in early January, a church spokesperson said Wednesday.

City approval was granted for a zoning permit on Dec. 20.

The permit states that the church could host up to 32 pre-screened individuals from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m., but advised that it begin with far fewer people as protocols are established.

Local advocates for emergency shelter approached the church earlier this fall about the possibility of helping with anticipated overflows from the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), Spectrum Youth and Family Services, and the Burlington Emergency Shelter.

Mark Redmond, executive director of Spectrum, said Burlington's increase in homelessness mirrors a poverty-driven trend nationwide.

Spectrum must routinely turn away youth due to lack of beds, Redmond said: "They sleep in parks, behind restaurants, doorways, parking garages — it's pretty rough. We give out Sterno cans (commonly used to heat restaurant buffets) to help people stay warm. It's not ideal, at all."

With additional help from United Way, the Community Health Center and the Howard Center, Redmond's search intensified.

The quest was, in part, numbers-driven: The cost of the last-resort option of sheltering the homeless in motels jumped from \$1.4 million to more than \$2.2 million between 2011 and 2012, according to the Department for Children and Families, which foots the bill.

Over the same period, the number of unique homeless households staying in hotels leaped from 1,448 to 1,954, and the cost per night increased from \$45 to \$58.

Over the summer Redmond paid a visit to a church in Brattleboro that operates a shelter run by volunteers.

"I said, 'What the heck — if they can do it in Brattleboro, why can't we do it here?'"

Burlington Emergency Shelter's Valerie Brosseau proposed the North Avenue Alliance Church, with its 6,500 square-foot gym, as an option.

(Page 2 of 2)

From the onset, Senior Pastor Jim Stewart was receptive, Redmond said — and he described the church leader as "a hero" for even considering the possibility.

"I give him and I give the Church a lot of credit for going out on a limb on this thing. And I hope we're able to pull it off," Redmond said. "I think when we really explain to people what we're doing, what the precautions are; how we're organized — I really think people will say, hey — this is a good thing."

Stewart declined to comment on the issue until he had discussed it further with members of his congregation and with parents of children who attend pre-school at the church.

But in his letter to the DRB, the pastor wrote: "I view the work of caring for the homeless as an integral part of our church's mission and vision.

"While we have absolutely no intention of proselytizing or enrolling homeless individuals in North Avenue Alliance, the idea of providing shelter for those who have no shelter, particularly during the coldest months, is consistent with everything we profess and believe as a church," Stewart added. "We take very seriously the command to 'do good and to share with others' (Hebrews 13:16) even if they do not agree with our theology or worldview."

A spokesperson said Stewart plans to meet with homeless advocates and members of the church community on Jan. 2 to discuss how North Avenue Alliance might best steer its mission.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:34 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 28:

VPR:

Edgar May, Former State Senator And Pulitzer Winner, Dies

JOHN DILLON

Friends and family are recalling former State Sen. Edgar May as a dedicated public servant and a champion for the disadvantaged.

May - a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who became a liberal voice in Vermont politics - died Thursday at 83.

May had a long and varied career, one that made him a confidante of the Kennedys and took him to the heights of the Johnson Administration .

But he started as a newspaper reporter. In 1961, he won the Pulitzer Prize as a reporter for the Buffalo Evening News for an investigation of the welfare system in New York State.

His sister, former Vermont Gov. Madeleine May Kunin, said her brother posed as a case worker to get the story.

"He really had a passion for improving people's lives. He was dedicated to public service," she said.

Kunin said May had suffered a stroke about three weeks ago. He died in Tuscon, Ariz., where he maintained a winter home.

She said her brother advocated for the disadvantaged throughout his career.

"He had a warmth about him in relating to people. And he loved politics but it wasn't his whole life. And I think he made a really large contribution," she said. "And on a personal level, he was my big brother."

May was born in Switzerland and came to the United States when he was ten years old. In a 2008 StoryCorps interview, Kunin and May talked about their arrival in New York in 1940 as Jewish refugees fleeing the growing Holocaust in Europe.

"It was a ship built for 900 passengers and there were 2,000 passengers many of them refugees like us on that ship," May said. "And I remember early that morning our mother had us go out on deck. And there appeared the Statue of Liberty out of this fog. And all of sudden everybody on deck - there must have been hundreds of people on deck - started to applaud and yell and shout."

May was a Democrat and served in the Vermont House during the 1970s as a representative from Springfield. He was elected to the state Senate in 1982 and served for eight years, including as chair of the Appropriations Committee. Vermont Congressman Peter Welch was Senate President at the time. He says May had the harder job overseeing passage of the state budget.

"He had a legislative skill that is rare. He would know what needed to happen by the end of the session. And I'd see him in the cafeteria talking to somebody in January and wonder why. And it would make sense three months later," Welch

said. "He'd be bringing somebody into the discussion getting them involved and setting it up so we could cooperate and get things done. And boy, his skills are certainly in short supply in the nation's capital."

After he retired from politics May maintained his involvement in civic life. He spearheaded an effort in Springfield to build a community health and recreation center, a facility that now bears his name. Springfield lawyer George Lamb says May was the inspiration behind the project as well as its chief fundraiser and organizer.

"Phrases like larger than life are perhaps over-used but not as pertains to Edgar. He was indeed. And Edgar had difficulty taking no for an answer. As he told me many times that was not in his vocabulary as far as building the center in Springfield," Lamb said.

May did not want the center to be an exclusive place that only the well-off could afford. So it has a sliding fee scale and a scholarship program to make it accessible to all.

"He told us all many times, 'I'm building this center so people can be on the inside looking out and not on the outside looking in,'" Lamb said.

Former Gov. Kunin says May's experience as an immigrant left him with a deep appreciation for the American dream.

May himself attributed that life lesson to his mother. He said she spoke to both children when their ship landed in New York.

"And I think both Madeleine and I remember what she said,' She said, 'This is America. Anything is possible in America,'" May said

Friends and family said May lived fully that life of infinite possibilities.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Putney mulls over fire station roof repairs

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

PUTNEY — The town's long running problem with the fire station roof could be headed for the courts, and taxpayers might have to find the money to repair the structure.

Putney only put up its new fire station six years ago, but Town Manager Cynthia Stoddard told the Selectboard recently that the roof needs to be replaced.

According to Stoddard, Wesfield Construction, the general contractor for the project, has been back at the site to re-nail the shingles as they have been blowing off.

But Travis Slade of River Valley Roofing inspected the roof recently and he says the roof needs to be replaced.

The project could cost up to \$50,000 and now the Selectboard is considering getting an attorney involved.

And Stoddard said she is building the 2014 budget with a possibility that the town might have to come up with some of the money to pay for the roof repair.

"Right now we don't what we are going to do," Stoddard said. "No one is making a decision right now. We are trying to figure it out."

Town meeting members approved the project in 2005, and the building went up in early 2006. But almost from the start the town had to contend with issues with the roof shingles.

When Slade got up on the roof recently he found that the laminated shingles were not nailed down correctly. He did not find a single nail on the line that they were supposed to be on and the shingles have been blowing off in the wind.

Slade said there might be some water and ice damage and he recommended that the roof be replaced. He said the existing roof can not be repaired.

Stoddard said the roof was supposed to last up to 30 years.

According to notes from the Dec. 12 Selectboard meeting, the town is going to contact Wesfield Construction and "unless they agree to replace the roof we would have to take legal action."

"We talked to the contractor but they have not reopened yet," Stoddard said. "We have to wait to see what they will say."

When the fire station was built the Putney Selectboard got Landmark College, the Putney School, the Grammar School and Greenwood School to contribute payments in lieu of taxes to help finance the \$980,000 fire station.

The schools cover about 90 percent of the financing, annually, but Stoddard said it is unclear how the financial contributions would affect any future costs the town might have to take on to repair the roof.

Stoddard said she hopes to have the issue somewhat resolved before Town Meeting.

Many take heed to winter weather warnings

By DOMENIC POLI

BRATTLEBORO — New Englanders are not strangers to snowstorms. And it seems as though many locals were able to avoid the potential problems and accidents which could have come with yesterday's winter blast by taking heed of warnings from officials and meteorologists.

Most nearby communities were spared the barrage of emergency calls Thursday, leaving some officials to believe residents are learning to better prepare for winter weather and to not take unnecessary risks. Brattleboro Police Chief Gene Wrinn said there had not been any accidents on town roads and suggested perhaps more people are adjusting their speeds appropriately and increasing their brake time. He said giving oneself more time to stop a vehicle is crucial to reducing the risk for an accident or injury, as well as always wearing seatbelts and having snow tires on the vehicle. Wrinn said snow tires, as opposed to all-season tires, are designed for wintertime precipitation and add much-needed traction to help a vehicle stop and go in the snow.

He also said the fact that area school children are on winter break probably contributed to the lack of accidents because parents were not spending extra time on the roads driving their sons and daughters to school and most teenage drivers stayed indoors.

Bellows Falls Police Chief Ron Lake said the weather slowed down traffic dramatically Thursday and there were no accidents reported as of 1:30 p.m. He said most people probably got their important tasks completed Wednesday in anticipation of the storm. "People are staying inside, doing the smart thing," he said. He advised everyone to avoid driving unless it is absolutely necessary.

Rockingham Highway Department Supervisor Mike Hindes said he started work at 2 a.m. on Thursday, when there was about two inches of snow on the ground. He said parts of Bellows Falls had as much as six or seven inches by 1:30 p.m.

Hindes said his crew started salting roads at 9:30 a.m. and were finished by 11:30. He said the roads were being scraped constantly starting at 3 a.m.

"We're doing well. This is a good, old-fashioned New England snowstorm. It's about time," he said. "The roads are a bit greasy, but that's the nature of the beast."

He said he has a seasoned crew of 11 full-time workers in addition to two part-timers to take care of sidewalks and four people who shovel.

Not every nearby town was as fortunate as Brattleboro or Rockingham, as the Vernon Police Department reported a two-vehicle accident at approximately 12:06 p.m.

After returning from the scene, Police Chief Mary Beth Hebert said a man was operating a sedan on Route 142 when the vehicle slid on snow and veered into the other lane, where it struck a plow truck and knocked the plow off. Hebert said there were no injuries but the sedan was likely totaled.

Officer Noah Sanctuary, of the Walpole (N.H.) Police Department said a few vehicles swerved off the road Thursday but there were no major accidents, as the highway department spent the day clearing the streets. He advised all drivers to keep a greater distance between them and the vehicle in front of them in case of emergency stops.

Wilmington Town Clerk Suzie Haughwout said it was quiet in her neck of the woods and the office had no customers all day. She said she noticed Route 9 was covered with snow on her way in to work but called it "normal Vermont living." Lake, from Bellows Falls, said it is important to plan for any type of storm, whether it brings snow, hurricane winds or hail. He said all preparations should be taken the day before a storm is believed to strike.

Wednesday was a busy day at Fireside True Value on Putney Road, where head cashier JoAnna Babbitt said people came in droves to purchase shovels and salt. She said Thursday morning also saw a bit of a rush, but business slowed down by the afternoon because most people were in their homes waiting out the storm. She said she expects more customers to get equipment and supplies once the current storm subsides.

Lamont Barnett has owned The Rock and Hammer jewelry store at 26 The Square for about 23 years and said fewer customers walking through the door during storms is nothing new.

He said Thursday was slower in terms of the number of people in the store but said sales were average. He credited the slowdown to both the weather and the fact that the holiday shopping season is over. He added, however, that Wednesday was quite busy.

Barnett, who does not have an online store, said business typically picks back up fairly quickly after a storm.

"As long as they keep the streets cleared, people will be out and about again (today)," he said.

BENNINGTON BANNER:

Lots of snow, little damage in storm

KEITH WHITCOMB JR.

BENNINGTON — The state's first big winter storm brought lots of snow and preparation by emergency officials but came with little in the way of crashes and power outages.

"We've been dealing with a couple of accidents," said Vermont State Police Lt. Reginald Trayah, commander of the VSP barracks in Shaftsbury. "For the most part it's been slide-offs."

He said there had been no serious crashes or injuries as of Thursday afternoon, when the storm began to taper off. He said other VSP stations farther north experienced some weather-related troubles, but Bennington County was largely spared.

"Our saving grace from this was that it was during school vacation and a lot of people knew about it," Trayah said. Schools have not been in session because of the holidays and the storm had ample attention from the media, as it was part of a system that went over the Midwest during Christmas and was blamed for the deaths of six people along with power outages and transportation hindrances.

Trayah said he did not have to put additional troopers on staff to manage traffic issues.

Stephen Kauppi, chairman of the Pownal Select Board and owner of a towing service said his town was fairly quiet in terms of crashes. He said one vehicle went off the road near Armstrong's farm stand on Route 7. Most of what he heard about was over the scanner and came from the northern part of the county.

Bennington Town Manager Stuart Hurd said while roads were slippery, crashes were minimal. "There haven't been any major problems," said Hurd. "People stayed off the roads, which was pretty nice."

At around 2 p.m. he said the storm was largely over with and Bennington's road crews had been keeping ahead of it, putting down salt and sand as well as plowing.

According to Evan Heller, of the National Weather Service station in Albany, N.Y., two reporting stations in Bennington returned snow reports. Woodford reported 21 inches at 11:17 a.m., Thursday, the highest in this area, while the Landgrove station reported 12 inches at 11:37 a.m. Heller said another inch was expected to fall over Thursday night. On average the Bennington area received between five and 12 inches of snow.

Green Mountain Power, the state's largest electric utility, did not experience the widespread power outages it had been bracing for.

"Thanks to temperatures that remained well below freezing and moderate winds, this winter storm has not resulted in widespread outages for GMP customers," wrote GMP Spokesman Jeremy Baker in an email. "We will continue monitoring the weather and quickly restoring power if outages occur."

According to Robert Schell chief of field operations for the Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, no roads had to be closed because of the storm and only minor power outages were reported. Schell wrote in an email that more snow is expected to fall, making driving difficult. Anyone who can avoid road travel is being asked to do so, and if driving is a must to go slowly and allow for the added time the trip will take.

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety has some tips for handling the snow when off the road. People should:

- Make sure their homes have working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.
- Keep heating vents clear of snow to prevent CO from backing up into the home.
- Don't use generators or grills inside and follow the directions in their users' manuals.
- Keep emergency exits clear of ice and snow.
- Store ash from woodstoves in fire-resistant containers. Keep a lid on the container and put it outside away from the home and things that can burn.
- Keep an eye on roofs where snow is piling up to avoid a collapse.

- The elderly and those with special needs should alert local utilities and officials of those needs should there be a power outage. People should also check on their elderly neighbors to make sure their needs are set and to offer help for snow removal.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:23 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 28:

WCAX:

YEAR IN REVIEW: ENERGY

KRISTIN CARLSON

BURLINGTON, Vt. - The future of Vermont Yankee took center stage in January-- a federal judge ruling against the state of Vermont in its quest to shut down the plant.

"Gut reaction is I am very pleased with this ruling," Rep. Mike Hebert, R-Vernon, said Jan. 20. "It is what the town of Vernon hoped would happen."

"This is a dinosaur of a plant being run by Keystone Kops," Paul Burns of VPIRG said Jan. 20.

The ruling said the Legislature should not have considered safety issues when voting against a new license for the plant.

Yankee's old license expired in March. It is still open. A federal appeal is pending. And now the state Public Service Board is holding hearings on whether to grant the plant a certificate of public good, allowing it to stay open for another 40 years.

A mega power merger fueled controversy-- Green Mountain Power and its plan to buy Central Vermont Public Service. Some worried about a Canadian conglomerate controlling most of the state's electricity.

"It's like anything else-- when you have a monopoly there's no competition," Sen. Vince Illuzzi, R-Essex/Orleans, said Jan. 20.

But GMP's decision to not refund \$21 million to CVPS ratepayers drew the most public outrage. Thousands signed a petition saying CVPS owed customers checks to make good on a deal allowing CVPS to charge higher rates to bail the company out 10 years ago.

"This is a campaign that is about fairness, doing what is right," Greg Marchildon of AARP Vermont said Jan. 18.

But GMP won that fight. The merger went through in June and that \$21 million went into an energy efficiency fund, not directly to customers.

"The order clearly highlighted the value to Vermonsters," GMP President Mary Powell said June 15.

Part of the GMP merger-- turning CVPS's hometown into a solar city.

"Eighty percent of the property will be filled with solar panels," Steve Costello of GMP said Aug. 2.

The company is investing hundreds of thousands to showcase solar energy in Rutland, planning to turn a blighted section of Cleveland Avenue into a solar farm churning out 150 kilowatts each day.

Drama in July as protesters took on a wind farm atop Lowell Mountain, trying to block the arrival of the first turbine parts.

"What we're trying to do is to make this an example of bad decision making for the entire state, so that it doesn't happen again on some other ridge line," protester Steve Wright said July 16.

The scuffle just one of many demonstrations that sometimes slowed but did not stop GMP's project.

As the turbines went up, so did calls for a statewide moratorium on wind projects. Neighbors complaining about the view and the noise.

"I was shocked to hear them this far, especially that loud," Mike Nelson of Albany said Nov. 14.

No moratorium, but wind developers rushed to complete projects from Lowell to Georgia in time to cash in on federal tax credits. The incentives expire at the end of the year.

The loss of those tax breaks also meant a hit for wind companies. Vermont-based NRG Systems cut 30 jobs-- one-third of its staff.

"It was just heartbreaking frankly to lay people off," Jan Blittersdorf of GMP said Oct. 1.

After much debate, Montpelier will partner with the state on a big biomass facility to heat buildings throughout the downtown.

And 2012 closes with a looming battle over a natural gas pipeline under Lake Champlain. Vermont Gas and International Paper in Ticonderoga, N.Y., made a deal. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo came through with money to help fund it. Now, it needs permits.

Vermont Gas is also working to get permits to extend its pipeline south from Chittenden into Addison County.

STORIES ON DOWNHILL AND CROSS COUNTRY SKI AREAS PSYCHED AFTER SNOWSTORM

FOX44:

Snow Storm Slows Business on Church Street

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Thursday's snow storm brought some people to downtown Burlington.

"It's just a beautiful day to walk around. I love the snow," Michael Tonn said while getting a coffee.

The storm drove others away.

"It's been a little slower than usual," Mike Frank said while manning the Bluebird Tavern on Church Street.

Tonn took a quick walk with his dog to get a mocha at Bluebird Tavern.

Others had the same idea but not enough for the coffee shop to stay open.

"We're shutting down early today actually because business has been not usual," Frank said.

The stuff that kept customers away had plow truck drivers working all day.

"We'll be at it all night then we gotta haul snow away tomorrow," Adam Driscoll said while plowing snow from a parking lot.

Church Street Marketplace employees still had to pick up trash and also cleared Church Street for shoppers.

"We'll be out here til it's all gone," a Marketplace employee said.

While some people work others are ready to play.

"We were supposed to ski," Tourist Laura Candoff said.

"But the weather's bad," Jack Candoff said.

The storm kept them away from slopes Thursday but drove them downtown.

"This is definitely one of the biggest storms," Jack Candoff said.

But some people on Church Street were only out as long as it took for a snap shot of the snowy storm.

"It's so pretty. We came for the snow we knew there was a blizzard coming," Madison Candoff said.

VTrans Works To Clear Roads While Dealing With Dangers

COLCHESTER, Vt. - From cars stopped in the middle of Interstate 89.

"It's a good way to get yourself killed," said VTrans employee Jerry Dubois.

To cars flying by and some ending up in ditches, Dubois sees a lot while he's out clearing the snow.

His day began around 4 Thursday morning and Dubois doesn't know when it will end as the snow is expected to last throughout the day.

While Dubois enjoys the long shift, he doesn't look forward to what he might encounter.

"They like to crowd you, the tractor trailers like to crowd you, especially when you come into the bridges," said Dubois.

And when they get that close Dubois says it can lead to accidents.

"I've banged off bridges before. I've broken mirrors before from off a truck," said Dubois.

The other issue is when cars go speeding by.

At times Dubois had to slow down to 20 miles per hour, but we witnessed a number of people driving by going much faster than that during our hour-long ride along on I-89.

He doesn't mind when people go by, but he says doing so isn't necessarily the safest thing to do.

"They're on their own if they're going by me," said Dubois.

This as we found out can be dangerous thing to do.

VTrans leaders say there weren't too many crashes or road closures.

They say that's probably because the storm was mostly snow which is easier to clear than ice.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:18 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 28:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Edgar May's life was an immigrant success story SUSAN SMALLHEER

SPRINGFIELD — Edgar May, a longtime political force in his adopted hometown of Springfield and his adopted home state of Vermont, died Thursday morning in Arizona.

May, 83, was a man of many careers and embodied the quintessential immigrant's success story: a Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist, a longtime Vermont legislator, the former chief operating officer of the Special Olympics and a key administration figure in the Kennedy and Johnson years war on poverty.

He also helped establish the Howard Dean Center, which finally brought college-level education courses to Springfield, another longtime May dream.

May, a native of Zurich, Switzerland, immigrated to the United States in 1940 when he was 10 years old with his widowed mother and 6-year-old sister Madeleine, who went on to become Vermont's 77nd governor. The Jewish family was fleeing the Nazi threat in 1940.

The two siblings shared a profound love of Vermont; both started their professional lives in journalism and ended up in government.

Former Gov. Madeleine Kunin said Thursday that her brother had suffered a stroke about three weeks ago at his winter home in Green Valley, Ariz. He died at the hospice at the Veterans Administration Hospital for Southern Arizona on Thursday morning, she said.

Kunin, who had just returned from Arizona, said her brother died very peacefully and was in no pain.

"He was very proud to be an American citizen," she said, noting she and her older brother got their passion for public service from their mother and her belief in the possibilities in America.

Even though Kunin reached the Vermont Legislature in 1972, two years before he did, she said, "He was always my role model."

Kunin said she and her children flew from Vermont to Arizona during the past 12 days to be with May and to say their goodbyes.

"In his final days, he said, 'I've been very lucky,'" she said, listing his diverse and highly successful careers ranging from investigative reporter to chief executive officer of the Kennedy family's Special Olympics.

Gov. Peter Shumlin said he served with May in the Legislature — when May was the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Shumlin was a rookie House member from Putney.

"Edgar had such extraordinary practical skills. He could balance (a) budget and he convinced people you couldn't spend money you didn't have in really tough times. And he never lost his commitment to people who didn't have a voice," said Shumlin, a fellow Democrat. "You didn't get anything done without Edgar."

"This is a huge loss to Vermont," said Shumlin, who marveled that May never ran for higher office. But May was happy serving the people he knew and lived in his community, he said.

"Edgar was a guy who was comfortable in his own skin," said Shumlin.

A dapper man whose European heritage never left him, May was nonetheless known for making friends across the political aisle and class spectrum, enjoying equally a high-level political discussion to talking about the best way to pluck a wild turkey. He had keen political instincts. Back in March 2004, he predicted a little-known state senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, would eventually become president.

He spent a year undercover in the New York welfare system for the Buffalo Evening News, which won him the Pulitzer. That work caught the attention of Sargent Shriver, the brother-in-law of President John Kennedy, who brought him to Washington to work for him. It was a personal and professional relationship that lasted until Shriver's death in 2011.

May's coveted invitation to Shriver's daughter Maria's wedding to Arnold Schwarzenegger in April 1986 even spiced the timing of the adjournment of the 1986 Legislature, as May was key to final negotiations, but was eager to make the trip to Hyannis for the Kennedy family nuptials.

George Lamb, a Springfield attorney, worked closely with May on his dream of a recreation center in Springfield for everyone, regardless of age, finances or physical ability.

"This is a day of sadness and a day of joyousness," said Lamb. "Think about the legacy Edgar has left the town of Springfield and this part of Vermont and New Hampshire and all the people who are going to enjoy this in generations going forward. It's emblematic of a life well-lived."

May served 16 years in the Vermont Legislature, eight years in the House, elected first in 1974 and eight years in the Senate, served until 1991.

May was selected to head the Senate Appropriations Committee the same year his sister was elected governor, a move that raised questions about the siblings' power.

But not with the Republicans in the Senate, said Sen. William Doyle, R-Washington, the current dean of the Senate. No one, Doyle said, doubted May's integrity or ability to oversee the budget proposed by the Kunin administration.

"He was greatly respected," said Doyle, a Republican. "I told him the Republicans thought he would make an excellent chair and he turned out to be an excellent chair. By today's standards, Edgar was very bipartisan. One of his best friends was Bob Gannett," he said, referring to the late Sen. Robert Gannett, a Republican from Brattleboro.

Rep. Peter F. Welch, D-Vt., first met May when he was running for the state Senate from Windsor County in 1980, the two Democrats became seatmates after May was elected to the Senate in 1982.

Welch said May was a talented communicator and politician. "He was the best politician I served with," said Welch, who was Senate president while May was head of Appropriations. May could think strategically, with the long view better than anyone, he said.

"I really admired the combination of aggressive commitment to getting things done and his restraint, which is so missing in leadership and politicians now," said Welch.

"Every day was about trying to make things better for the people of Vermont, especially for poor people. He dedicated his life to helping folks. He loved good writing, reading and good food. He knew how to live life."

Welch said while it was obvious May was at times in great pain from injuries he received in a 1960s car crash that claimed the life of his first wife Louise, "he never complained."

Welch said May easily could have been elected governor, but might have been held back by his health issues.

Stephen C. Terry, vice president of corporate development and external at Green Mountain Power, and former managing editor of the Rutland Daily Herald, was a close friend of May's. Terry said May first came to Vermont to work for a weekly newspaper, the Bellows Falls Times in the 1950s, and went on to bigger newspapers, but eventually returned to Vermont.

His historic home, Muckcross, the former home of Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Co. executive W.D. Woolson, was a great love of May's.

"He was an early believer in renewable energy," Terry said, laughing, recalling the effort May put into keeping a small DC-power hydro station working that provided Muckcross with electric heat.

After he left the Legislature in 1991, Shriver again called him to Washington, D.C., to head up the Special Olympics, Terry said, and then May returned to Springfield and set his sights on establishing the recreation center.

"He shook every foundation tree and every corporate tree that could possibly be shaken. It was interesting. He never seemed to stop," said Terry, who recalled May "loved to ski, particularly at Okemo Mountain, and loved to cook, eat good food and drink fine wine and talk."

Bob Flint, the executive director of the Springfield Regional Development Corp., first met May when he was a radio reporter at then-Springfield radio station WCFR, and later worked with his closely on the creation of the rec center.

"When he was in the Legislature, he participated in the Citizens Forum, and in typical Edgar fashion held the record for the longest opening statement," recalled Flint with a laugh Thursday. "I think it was 18 minutes of a 30-minute show."

"At the end of the day, he was always a journalist. He had such a curious mind and he learned long ago not to accept what is said and to give a voice to those who needed it," said Flint.

He later worked with him to found and fund raise for the recreation center.

Al Craigue of North Springfield was 54 years old when he first met May. Craigue said he was coming off surgery when his doctors recommended he join the just opened recreation center. "I am legally blind and disabled," said Craigue, who said a "fondness for beer" had gotten him into trouble in the past. He called the rec center and by sheer coincidence got May on the line.

"He told me they have a scholarship program for people who don't have a lot," said Craigue, who said he depends on a disability check. "He said 'I'll sponsor you, no problem,'" recalled Craigue on Thursday afternoon.

"He was a very nice man and I'd never met him until March 2007 He helped me. He just seemed to be kind and didn't care if I was white, black or green," said Craigue, who said he still goes to the recreation center daily. "He treated me with respect. In my book, he was a great man."

Kunin said the family was still finalizing plans for his memorial service, which she said would be held in Springfield, at the recreation center bearing his name, sometime in the new year.

Storm batters East Coast

MONTPELIER — More than a foot of snow fell on sections of Vermont on Thursday, delighting winter enthusiasts and business owners dependent on snowy conditions.

Across central Vermont, reports on social media were consistent with estimates of 12 to 14 inches. Other sections of the state, including Warren, were reporting 20 inches, according to online statistics provided by the National Weather Service.

Only minor accidents were reported across the region. The bigger problem was on a more national scale.

The storm, which has killed more than a dozen people as it made its way across the United States and Canada this week, trapped airliners in snow or mud and frustrated travelers still trying to return home after Christmas.

The storm, which was blamed for at least 16 deaths farther south and west, brought plenty of wind, rain and snow to the Northeast when it blew in Wednesday night. Lights generally remained on and cars mostly stayed on the road, unlike in many harder-hit places including Arkansas, where 200,000 homes and businesses lost power.

By afternoon, the precipitation had stopped in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts, though snow continued to fall in upstate New York and northern New England. Parts of snow-savvy New Hampshire expected as much as 18 inches.

Dale Lamprey, who was clearing off the sidewalk outside the legislative office building in Concord, N.H., already had several hours of shoveling under his belt by 8:30 a.m. Thursday and didn't expect it to get much better.

"I'm going to be shoveling all day, just trying to keep up with the snow," he said. "Which is impossible."

The Northeast's heaviest snowfall was expected to be in northern Pennsylvania, upstate New York and inland sections of several New England states before the storm heads into Canada today, said National Weather Service spokesman David Roth.

While the East Coast's largest cities — New York, Philadelphia and Boston — saw mostly high winds and cold rain, other areas experienced a messy mix of rain and snow that slowed commuters and those still heading home from holiday trips. Some inbound flights were delayed in Philadelphia and New York's LaGuardia, but the weather wasn't leading to delays at other major East Coast airports.

On New York's Long Island, a Southwest Airlines jet bound for Tampa, Fla., veered off a taxiway and got stuck in mud Thursday morning. Officials said there were no injuries to the 129 passengers and five crew members. Though the area received heavy rain overnight, Southwest spokesman Paul Flanigan said it wasn't clear whether that played a role.

In Pittsburgh, a flight that landed safely during the storm Wednesday night got stuck in several inches of snow on the tarmac for about two hours. The American Airlines flight arrived between 8 and 9 p.m., but then ran over a snow patch and got stuck.

Earlier, the storm system spawned tornadoes on Christmas along the Gulf Coast, startling people like Bob and Sherry Sims, of Mobile, Ala., who had just finished dinner.

"We heard that very distinct sound, like a freight train," said Bob Sims, who lost electricity but was grateful that he fared better than neighbors whose roofs were peeled away and porches smashed by falling trees. In Georgiana, Ala., an 81-year-old man died Wednesday, a day after a tree fell on his home, emergency officials said.

Deaths from wind-toppled trees also were reported in Texas and Louisiana, but car crashes caused most of the fatalities. Two people were killed in Kentucky crashes, a New York man was killed after his pickup truck skidded on an icy road in northwest Pennsylvania, and an Ohio teenager died after losing control of her car and smashing into an oncoming snowplow.

In Arkansas, where two people died in a head-on collision, some of those who lost electricity could be without it for as long as a week because of snapped poles and wires after ice and 10 inches of snow coated power lines, said the state's largest utility, Entergy Arkansas.

Farther east, the storm knocked out power to more than 7,000 homes and businesses in Maryland, and utilities were preparing for more outages as the wind picked up. In New Jersey, gusts of more than 70 mph were recorded along the coast, and the weather service issued a flood warning for some coastal areas. There were about 800 power outages in Vermont, but only a handful in New Hampshire.

Schools on break and workers taking holiday vacations meant that many people could avoid messy commutes, and people were urged not to travel.

Few truckers were stopping into a TravelCenters of America truck stop in Willington, Conn., near the Massachusetts border early Thursday. Usually 20 to 30 an hour stop in overnight, but high winds and slushy roads had cut that to two to three people an hour.

"A lot of people are staying off the road," said Louis Zalewa, 31, who works there selling gasoline and staffing the store. "I think people are being smart."

Winter storm slams region

By Lucia Suarez

Vermonters had to dust off their snowplows and shovels Thursday when the storm that gave them the first real taste of winter in close to two years dumped double-figure inches of snow.

Rutland resident Julie Fox said she enjoyed going out to shovel the snow that accumulated in front of her house by the afternoon. She said it gave her an excuse to get some fresh air and exercise after putting away Christmas decorations.

"Last year I didn't shovel once," Fox said Thursday afternoon as snow continued to fall steadily in the city. "Last year it was like an extended fall."

It has been 658 days — since March 2011 — since Vermonters had more than 6 inches of snowfall from one storm. The storm began in southern Vermont and moved across the state before morning. The storm should be off the Gulf of Maine today.

"It's pretty moderate to heavy snowfall," said forecaster Brooke Taber with the National Weather Service in Burlington midafternoon Thursday. "It's going as expected."

At 4:30 p.m. Thursday, snow accumulation in Rutland City reached 6.5 inches and Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport reported 13 inches. In other areas it reached double digits. Danby reported 10.6 inches while Killington Ski Resort reported 15 inches. In other places, Salisbury had 13 inches, Waterbury 16.5 inches, and Chester had 10 inches.

Taber said the numbers were pretty close to what they expected. He said the snow was expected to taper off Thursday night with some snow showers and flurries expected today.

Even before the brunt of Thursday's storm hit with full force, local hardware stores reported a spike in business. LaValley Building Supply on Route 7 in Rutland was doing a brisk business in shovels, rock salt and sand.

"We're still in good shape on the roof rakes and the snow melt," said store manager Pat St. Lawrence.

With the storm keeping people off the road, customers who braved the weather and the road conditions were shopping for items they couldn't do without.

"The few people who have come in are buying shovels and salt and sand and all that kind of stuff," said David Dutton, who manages the Aubuchon Hardware store on South Main Street in Rutland.

Large storms can often mean a rush on rock salt, shovels and even snow blowers. But with last season's below average snow fall stores had more than enough inventory left over to meet demand.

At the Home Depot on Route 4, operations manager Jenny Bates said the store was fully stocked. She said the store sold a number of snow blowers the day before the storm.

Bates said the snow blowers "are lined up like soldiers, assembled, ready to go." She said prices range from \$99 for a power shovel to more than \$1,000 for one with all the bells and whistles.

Snow removal equipment wasn't the only items moving out the door.

"We have sold quite a few wood pellets ... people are stocking up on those to keep warm," Dutton said.

Across the state, road conditions were jeopardized by the consistent snow fall. Larry Dodge, a spokesman for the state Agency of Transportation Operations Center, said although all roads were open during the day, limited visibility caused many delays.

"A lot of slide offs," said Dodge in the afternoon on Thursday. "Nothing major. Nothing that is closing roads."

In Bennington, Lt. Lloyd Dean of the Bennington Police Department said there were no major problems by midafternoon. Dean said since late Wednesday night there had only been three cars off the road and two crashes. None of the incidents involved any serious injuries.

"A lot of people are staying home and they're driving much safer with this snowfall than they did Dec. 22 (when) there were nine crashes on the dayshift during a several hour period. People are now heeding the warnings and not driving and driving slower," Dean said.

Elsewhere Vermont State Police reported several vehicles off the road including a crash on Howe Hill Road in Sharon where a woman's vehicle slid into a snow bank and hit a tree.

Dorcas Freeman of Woodstock said she felt her car being pulled into a snow bank after she drove too close to the road edge, according to police.

Rutland City Public Works Commissioner Evan Pilachowski said the roads in the city were not good and that car traffic impeded them from clearing the roads as quickly as they wanted.

Earlier in the day Thursday, he asked local residents to not park on the roads if they could or to not drive at all because it would be easier to clear the roads.

"It's snowing harder than we can get ahead of it," said Pilachowski on Thursday afternoon. "Its pretty bad out there."

He said they prepared an overnight plowing crew after the storm tapered off to clear the roads for today's morning commute.

Air travel was also impacted by the storm as all commercial flights into and out of the Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport were canceled Thursday, said airport manager Dave Carman.

Carman said Cape Air hopes to resume its three daily flights to Boston this morning.

He said the daily inbound UPS flight arrived Thursday morning. However, Carman said he was unsure whether the evening UPS flight would take off.

The airport remained open Thursday, but he said poor visibility is a factor, even with the airport's new instrument landing system.

Although the snow storm brought with it a lot of headaches of having to plow and clear streets and sidewalks, for others it was an opportunity to hit the slopes.

Sherry Morse and her 10-year-old son Declan of Westford, Mass., decided to take several trips down the hill behind the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church off of Woodstock Ave.nue

"We have not had any snow yet," Morse said. "We came (Wednesday) to make sure we made it before the storm."

Town tackles panhandlers

By Gordon Dritschilo

The town is looking to rein in "aggressive panhandlers."

The Rutland Town Select Board has passed an ordinance restricting the activities of panhandlers, keeping them a certain distance from facilities like public toilets and ATMs and otherwise requiring them to moderate their solicitations. The board unanimously approved the ordinance at a meeting earlier this month, and town administrator Joe Zingale said it will take effect Feb. 2 if nobody files a petition for a public vote.

"We've had a few, in the past year, a couple citizen complaints," Zingale said. "I've gotten a few myself, at least three."

Zingale said individual board members also got calls about panhandling at the intersection by Green Mountain Plaza.

"People who would be stopped at the red light, they would walk up to them and stand there, talk to them," he said.

Another complaint noted panhandlers seemingly operating in shifts at the location. Zingale said there was also a safety issue.

"For people to be standing on that island and stepping out into traffic — that's not a good location," he said.

Under the direction of the board, Zingale said he contacted the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which provided him with a copy of an ordinance adopted in Burlington. That became the template for the town's ordinance.

"This will give us the authority to move the people along and prohibit what's going on," Zingale said.

The ordinance prohibits soliciting anyone waiting in line, in a parking lot or within 15 feet of a building entrance, public toilet, ATM, bus stop, handicapped parking space, pay phone, public information booth, financial institution or check cashing business.

Soliciting while intoxicated is prohibited, as is soliciting someone who has already declined a solicitation or in poorly lit areas. The ordinance also forbids panhandlers from blocking traffic, “recklessly touching” people and their property, using violent, obscene or threatening gestures or being “unnecessarily loud.”

The ordinance also states “No person shall solicit by stating that funds are needed to meet a specific need, when the solicitor has the funds to meet that need, does not intend to use funds to meet that need or does not have that need.”

Violations are punishable by fines ranging from \$50 to \$500.

Dan Barrett, a staff attorney for the Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that while he was not familiar with or aware of any complaints regarding the Burlington ordinance — or about the issue at all in Vermont — the Rutland Town one raised a number of red flags.

“Copying and pasting from one municipal ordinance does not mean that it’s lawful,” he said. “It could just mean nobody has challenged it.”

Barrett said a number of the provisions are already covered by state statutes on assault and disorderly behavior.

While the ordinance does not outright prohibit soliciting money, Barrett said he did not believe the prohibitions against soliciting too close to a bank or a public toilet would withstand challenge.

“The big problem with the ordinance is soliciting money is protected by the First Amendment, as is standing with a campaign sign,” he said. “I think the town could save itself a lot of trouble by not enacting it.”

Arlington manufacturer moving to Bennington in 2013

By Patrick McArdle

BENNINGTON — A manufacturing company in Arlington will be moving to Bennington next year after acquiring a building in the Morse Industrial Park, according to Peter Odierna, executive director of the Bennington County Industrial Corp.

At the former site in Arlington, the company was “space strained,” Odierna said. The new building, which is the former Miller Structures building, is about three times larger than the company’s existing site.

Eric Broderson, vice president of K&E, described it as a family business which his father, Peter, started in 1966 in New Jersey. The business is named for Eric and his brother Kurt.

“We moved up here in the mid-’80s, to the Southern Vermont area, so the business has been in Londonderry, East Dorset, Manchester, Arlington and, of course, now we’re getting ready to move down to Bennington,” he said.

K&E is a contract machine shop that runs jobs primarily for industrial customers. Broderson said it was like any other machine shop except that instead of cutting aluminum, brass or steel, employees are machining pieces made from plastics.

The industrial corporation has been working to develop a “composites cluster” in the Bennington area, encouraging the development of businesses that use carbon composites as a manufacturing material like Plasman and Kaman Composites Vermont. Those companies make parts used in products like automobiles, helicopters and medical scanners and K&E could fit in well with its new neighbors, according to Broderson.

“We have been growing now for about 13 to 15 months and it’s been steady growth. We had about a 20 percent growth rate last year so we’re expecting that again this year. We see more and more developments in plastics to reduce weight

in the aerospace (and) transportation industry and we see more use of it in the medical industry; that's where we're seeing most of the growth," he said.

Reducing the weight of a car or a plane is important because that makes it more fuel efficient.

Odierna said that helping K&E move to a larger location but keeping it in Bennington County was an example of the industrial corporation's strategy of "retaining and expanding local businesses."

Broderson said the main reason for moving from the site where K&E has been located since 1999 and choosing the larger building in Bennington was "pretty simple."

"Here in East Arlington, it was just not really cost-effective to add on another addition to the existing building we're in due to the land layout, wetlands, the costs and all the other stuff that gets involved in there," he said.

Broderson said the company has been looking, with the help of the Bennington County Industrial Corp., for several years but couldn't find the right site that had a building for sale and not space for rent. Working with Hoisington Realty, the building on Morse Road was found.

The actual move will probably take place in May, Broderson added.

While the move is primarily to provide more space, Broderson said it could lead to at least one new job at the company that currently employs about 25 people.

"Our feeling is, we have no space where we are now, so come May, I can see within the first 12 months adding an employee or two," he said.

Odierna said with the acquisition by K&E of the Bennington building, all of the large industrial spaces in Bennington County are now in use although the industrial corporation is continuing to develop its own park so more space will be available if employers show an interest in the area.

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 6:09 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; London, Sarah
Subject: FW: 10 minutes of your time on Friday please?

From: Donoghue, Mike [mailto:MDONOGHU@burlingt.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:49 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: 10 minutes of your time on Friday please?

Happy New Year.

Hope Santa was kind to you.

Can I please get a few comments about the Governor's plans on the following topics for the legislature?

1. The need for a Vermont law, like in some other states, for a mandatory way for state or local governments, who find themselves victims of some kind of fraud to go after the person's pension. Obviously Deeghan has issues. The Hardwick Electric woman agreed to put half her pension into a bank account, which looked nice until she was sentenced and she asked for the money back now that she is in prison.
2. The so-called E-ticket that would allow police to write citations and tickets that would go automatically into a computer and eliminate the human aspect of processing – or losing tickets that were bogus.
3. Connected to that topic (No. 2) also is whether police and courts will have a computer system that will talk to each other. (And maybe include DMV at some point)
4. What additional oversight is needed at the Vermont State Police to ensure that an alleged campaign of writing 1,000 bogus tickets for at least 13 years and an unknown amount of time for filing bogus timesheets would never get caught. Are more safeguards needed from the outside? Why was there no connection between tickets written and the money received at the traffic bureau?. Towns certainly account for each ticket. Each barracks does not, nor does headquarters?

Trying to finish this up legislative advance for a Sunday story.

Mike Donoghue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 4:28 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb
Subject: Susan Bartlett's going away lunch

She suggested next Thursday, Jan. 3, right after the 11 a.m. press conference on recidivism. So if that works for everyone (the gov has some open time after that presser, too), I'll coordinate it with staff. For payroll purposes, her last day is tomorrow. But she thought more people would be back from vacations and around next week.

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Bartlett, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: Governor Shumlin's Support for the Vermont Veterans Fund (VVF)
Attachments: Questions and Answers VVF.doc; ATT00001.htm; VVF Press release for fund solicitation for TV and radio 2.doc; ATT00002.htm; Shumlin's Letter to Accountants.doc; ATT00003.htm; Governor Highlights VVF Income Tax Check off.doc; ATT00004.htm

This was shipped along and who knows where it went. And I'm not suRe about the gov pushing one charity (worthy cause) over another.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary De Gasta <[REDACTED]>
Date: December 27, 2012 4:07:53 PM EST
To: "Bartlett, Susan" <Susan.Bartlett@state.vt.us>
Cc: "Reed, Richard" <Richard.Reed@state.vt.us>
Subject: Governor Shumlin's Support for the Vermont Veterans Fund (VVF)

Hi Susan,

I trust you and your family are enjoying the holiday season.

Since I had not heard from you I am forwarding the email I dispatched on December 13th which has undoubtedly been caught up in the plethora of mail you receive this time of year.

As you know, the VVF presents a VERY important source of funding for organizations attempting to meet the needs of Vermont veterans and is important project of the GVAC.

The GVAC needs Governor Shumlin's support, and personal involvement, to insure this year's fund-raising activities will be a rousing success. Unfortunately, the opportunity to influence Vermonters to generously contribute is running short.

Regards and Happy New Year,

Gary

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gary De Gasta <[REDACTED]>
To: Susan Bartlett <susan.bartlett@state.vt.us>

Cc: Reed, Richard <Richard.Reed@state.vt.us>

Subject: Governor's Support for the Vermont Veterans Fund (VVF)

Date: Thu, 13 Dec 2012 15:41:01 -0500

Greetings Susan,

I am writing on behalf of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council (GVAC) and the Vermont Veterans Fund Committee (VVFC) seeking your support and the assistance of Governor Shumlin to insure this year's Vermont Veterans Fund-drive activities will be successful.

During the November meeting the GVAC heard Governor Shumlin's commitment to support and publicize the VVF. The VVFC met on December 12th via teleconference to finalize its approaches and strategies for VVF support during this tax preparation season. The areas where the GVAC and the VVF believe the governor can significantly assist the VVF include:

1. Sponsor a VVF "kick off" press conference with two options:

Either invite to the press conference the leaders of organizations that have received this year's VVF grants. While somewhat "after the fact" (since the VVF grants have already been distributed), the event would be a meaningful start the fund-raiser.

Or, if the above meeting with grantees does not prove to be desirable or feasible, hold a general press conference acknowledging support for and to publicize the VVF. Governor Shumlin did a fantastic job in this regard two years ago with a personalized message captured on a video on his Website. His language and support was personal, concise and unequivocal and recorded on a video on his website. Some editing of the piece may make it usable this year.

2. Sign a letter to be dispatched to Tax Accountants/income tax preparers urging them to assist in the VVF effort (Accountant list available from the Office of Veterans Affairs).

3. Sign a letter to Veterans Service Officers and Community Service

Organizations soliciting their support and assistance in donating to and publicizing the VVF (VSO and organization lists available from the Office of Veterans Affairs).

4. Issue brief Public Service Announcements for print, radio and electronic media.

I have attached, for your consideration, four DRAFT documents which should be of assistance in preparing materials for the governor's consideration. The documents include:

- o Questions and Answers Regarding the Vermont Veterans Fund (general information)
- o VVF Press Release for electronic, radio and print media
- o Governor's Letter to Accountants/tax preparers
- o Governor Highlights of the VVF Income Tax Check off

You recall that, for a variety of reasons, efforts to publicize the VVF last year were woefully inadequate. Fortunately this year the Vermont Department of Taxes has already stepped up to the plate and revising the Vermont Income Tax form to highlight all three check off organizations, including the VVF. Now, with the support and assistance of Governor Shumlin, I am confident we can achieve a very successful fund-raising effort.

Since we are facing a real time-constraint, whatever you are able to do expedite this matter will be greatly appreciated. Ricard Reed, the Office of Veterans Affairs are I are available to assist. Please advise us how we can be of assistance.

Warmest regards for a joyous holiday season,

Gary

London, Sarah

From: U.S. Census Bureau <census@subscriptions.census.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Census Bureau to Complete Regional Office Realignment

The U.S Census Bureau's 18-month agenda to realign its field offices across the nation for the first time in 50 years will be completed by January 2013. The restructuring, announced on June 29, 2011, closes regional offices in Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Kansas City and Seattle.

See today's news release.

For additional information, read Acting Director, Tom Mesenbourg's Blog Post.



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

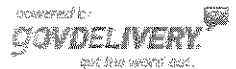
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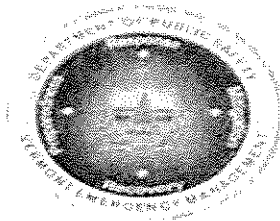
London, Sarah

From: Recovery Support Function Leads <SSF_RS_F_LEADS@DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Gosselin, Jason <Jason.Gosselin@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 3:44 PM
To: DPS - SSF_RS_F_LEADS
Subject: [SSF_RS_F_LEADS] FW: Velco Weather Outlook Valid rest of Thursday through Tuesday Jan. 1st 2013

FYI more information

Jason E. Gosselin
Emergency Management Specialist II
Logistics Section Chief
Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Email: Jason.Gosselin@state.vt.us
VEM Website: <http://vem.vermont.gov/>



From: Roger Hill storm warning message [mailto:storm.warning@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Roger Hill storm warning message
Subject: Velco Weather Outlook Valid rest of Thursday through Tuesday Jan. 1st 2013

Discussion: QUIETER COLDER WEATHER PATTERN EMERGING. UTILITY CONCERNS LIMITED. BEST PROJECT WEATHER MONDAY LAST DAY OF THE YEAR. WIND SNOW LOADING, MIX PRECIP CONCERNS ZILCH THROUGH NEW YEARS DAY. ARCTIC COLD BUT NOT EXTREME FOR NEW YEARS DAY.

Big snowfall: In progress rest of Thursday into early Friday morning but no utility concerns the rest of this storm system but more of a travel issue.

Best Project Weather: Monday Dec. 31st with weak ridging of higher pressure providing dry weather.

Beyond this period: Arctic Cold was likely lasting into middle of the week but not extreme.

<http://www.weatheringheights.com/Outlook.pdf> for all graphics

END/RH

London, Sarah

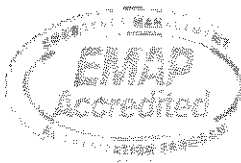
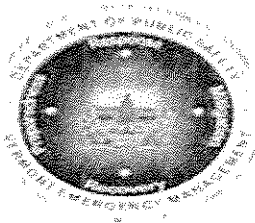
From: Recovery Support Function Leads <SSF_RSFL_EADS@DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Gosselin, Jason <Jason.Gosselin@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 3:42 PM
To: DPS - SSF_RSFL_EADS
Subject: [SSF_RSFL_EADS] FW: NWS Burlington: Quick Update regarding ongoing winter storm

FYI.

J

Jason E. Gosselin
Emergency Management Specialist II
Logistics Section Chief
Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Email: Jason.Gosselin@state.vt.us
VEM Website: <http://vem.vermont.gov/>



From: Andy Nash - NOAA/NWS Federal [mailto:andy.nash@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 1:41 PM
Subject: NWS Burlington: Quick Update regarding ongoing winter storm

Dear Emergency Managers and others,

The storm is following along pretty close to what we had expected, so I just wanted to give you a quick summary of what to expect from this point forward:

Additional Snowfall:

Across northeastern NY, across the northern Champlain Valley and northern Vermont: moderate to locally heavy snowfall will continue for much of the afternoon and early evening by late evening, these areas may see another 3 to 6 inches of accumulation. After midnight, snow will be focused mainly in the higher terrain of northern Vermont as well as the eastern part of the Champlain Valley with additional minor accumulations. The snow will steadily get lighter late tonight, but snow showers will still linger in these areas into Friday morning.

Across the southern half of Vermont: light to moderate snow will continue into the early evening and then taper off. Additional accumulations should be in the range of 1 to 4 inches.

Across the St Lawrence Valley: only light snow is expected the rest of the afternoon before ending this evening. Perhaps another 1 to 2 inches. It's anticipated that we will cancel the Winter Storm Warnings in this area later this afternoon or some point this evening.

Wind/Blowing Snow

Winds will gust at times 20 to 25 mph, especially across the Champlain and St Lawrence Valleys well into the evening. This will cause some blowing and minor drifting of the snow.

Anticipated Additional Impacts:

Nothing more substantial than we've already seen. Continued travel problems, even into Friday morning -- especially across northern sections of Vermont.

Latest information is available on our webpage: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/btv/> or call the office direct with any question at [1-800-863-4279](tel:1-800-863-4279).

Andy Nash

Meteorologist-in-Charge

NOAA/National Weather Service - Burlington VT

802-862-8711 x222

weather.gov/burlington

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:55 PM
To: EXE; louis_porter@yahoo.com
Subject: Schd - Friday, Dec. 28th

Friday, December 28th, 2012 Schedule

London, Sarah

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Spaulding, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Re: appointment list

Thanks Susan; this list and your later one re: look fine to me. On the Ed Board, we had discussed a few names at the last meetir are the two that come to mind, and there may have been others). Happy to continue thinking; Jeb may also have some ideas, among other folks there. thanks and see you soon!

Elizabeth H. Miller
Commissioner, VT Public Service Dept.

On Dec 28, 2012, at 5:16 AM, "Spaulding, Susan" <Susan.Spaulding@state.vt.us> wrote:

Attached is the appointment list for tomorrow morning. If I change anything I will let you know. Susan S.

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

<Appointment list 12-28-12.docx>

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: draft response letter.

Great. Let me know what time

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

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: draft response letter.

Tomorrow is better.

On Dec 27, 2012, at 1:59 PM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Any chance we (or you) can grab a minute to talk about this with Gov today?

>

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

> From: Lofy, Bill

London, Sarah

From: Lofy, Bill
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Wesley, Carolyn
Subject: Re: draft response letter.

Tomorrow is better.

On Dec 27, 2012, at 1:59 PM, "Wesley, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Wesley@state.vt.us> wrote:

> Any chance we (or you) can grab a minute to talk about this with Gov today?

>

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

> From: Lofy, Bill

> Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 10:41 AM

> To: GPS; Wesley, Carolyn

> Subject: draft response letter.

>

> Are you ok w this language in response to the many calls and emails we have received?

>

> "Dear mail.salutation_for_merging.merge,

>

> Thank you for writing to me in response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. The grief and shock that we all share after Friday's tragedy is overwhelming and has led to a national conversation about ways to stop violence in our communities. I want to thank you for taking the time to add your voice to that conversation.

>

> While there is no one policy change that can prevent a tragedy like this from happening again, we must discuss initiatives that will strengthen the safety of our communities. The role of firearms is one part of that discussion, and while I support the right of law abiding Vermonters to own guns, I believe it is appropriate to have a broader dialogue about what we can do to keep firearms out of the wrong hands. In addition, many Vermonters have written to me about the importance of reviewing school security procedures, increasing access to mental health treatment, and addressing the prevalence of violence in the media. All of these concerns warrant further examination and I will be working with my administration and legislators to determine how we can respond to this crisis at the state level.

>

> Addressing violence in our society is a nationwide effort and I have encouraged Congress and the President to enter into a vigorous and thoughtful debate about how we can prevent tragedies like this in the future. As citizens of this country, we are all called upon to reflect on the small actions we can take every day to build stronger, safer communities. I thank you again for joining me in this effort. Like all Vermonters, I am heartbroken by this tragedy, and my heart and thoughts are with the loved ones of the victims in Connecticut.

>

> Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance."

>

>

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: appointment addition

Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council: Operates the Vermont Police Academy and oversees the training and certification of state, county and local law enforcement professionals in the State of Vermont.

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

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:01 PM
To: 'Alex MacLean'; Appleby, Leigh; Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: Sensible Solution - GUNS

Thanks Alex. We will add this to our batch of letters to be responded to on this issue.

From: Alex MacLean |
Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Appleby, Leigh; Wesley, Carolyn; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Fwd: Sensible Solution - GUNS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Janet Reyes <j____1>
Date: Tue, Dec 25, 2012 at 12:34 PM
Subject: Re: Sensible Solution - GUNS
To: Ge Wu <aaron.memory____n>, whsorrell____, shap smith____, vt13@____, peter____

Ge,

Thanks for the reply to my Ideas. I have written to the leaders in the Emails you provided and Ce'ed them in this Email. Vermont needs to join the 21st century with an optional License to Carry Concealed improving on the current "no license needed" only option. NY, NJ, MA, CA & IL are the other extreme where no one but the rich and politically connected can protect themselves. I think we should put forward an initiative for an "Enhanced" Vermont License to Carry a Handgun and sell it as a OPTION so Vermonters can have reciprocity with other states. It would require the following: Training with live fire, fingerprint based background check, and a mental health check. This advanced permit would allow William Sorrell to negotiate reciprocity with other states. The stricter the requirements - the more states would accept the VT License for the Vermont traveler. Concealed carry is a huge movement with most states now offering it after strict standards are met. The only states that have retrogressed are Alaska, Arizona and now Wyoming. They have kept their licensing system for reciprocity, but are "constitutional carry" now. If we adopt a license option and publicize utilizing the reciprocity as a "carrot" more people will be trained. It would also exempt these trained people from school zones - a Federal law that allows those with licenses to pass within 1000 Ft of a school. One would still not be able to enter school grounds unless the State of Vermont allows it. There could be an exemption for teachers & administrators to enter school grounds PROVIDED they get the enhanced training a license like Louisiana. In states that allow this you just don't hear of teachers going berserk. No one would force a teacher to carry, and in fact the publicity would make a criminal intent on harming children think twice that someone MIGHT be armed there. In fact there may be no teachers who get the license or carry, but the criminals will be kept guessing. This is a great deterrent! This has to be presented as NOT another form of gun control, but a benefit for concealed and open handgun carriers. Craft the PR side of it properly and it would pass muster. In the aftermath of the horrible tragedy in Sandy Hook we should "strike while the iron is hot". The more people PROPERLY TRAINED the safer we all are! Let's get the ball rolling and model Louisiana. The template is already there on the Louisiana website.

Jan Reyes
Burlington, VT

Here is the Louisiana "Enhanced" permit here: http://safefireshooting.com/MS_Concealed_Carry.html

Look at Vermont on this list. It allows all others reciprocity, but there are no provisions for Vermonters to carry anywhere unless they buy an Expensive Florida, Arizona, Utah Non-Resident license. We need a license option in Vermont:

http://www.ctsportsmen.com/legislation/aac_permit_to_carry_pistols_and_.htm

General Info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concealed_carry_in_the_United_States

Vermont could model this with constitutional carry with restrictions and "Enhanced" VT License to Carry a Handgun with restrictions lifted:

"House Bill 506 was signed by the LOUISIANA Governor. Starting July 1, 2011 the State will have a procedure set up for those with a Permit/License to Carry to obtain an endorsement for certain training. The Law says: an instructional course in the safe handling and use of firearms offered by an instructor certified by a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training, or by any other organization approved by the Department of Public Safety, If you obtain this endorsement you will be allowed to carry in all places listed as off limits in 45-9-101 except for any police, sheriff or highway patrol station or any detention facility, prison or jail. The rules/procedure for obtaining an endorsement have been described to me as the following by a person who has been through the process. Take a class from a Mississippi DPS Certified Enhanced Permit Instructor".

On Sat, Dec 22, 2012 at 11:07 AM, Ge Wu <aaron.memory.09@> wrote:
Janet,

This is a very interesting solution. It will require a well trained teacher in every school to be in that position. It is a lot of responsibility for that person. The blog about not needing more than 2 bullets for self protection is great. I know there is a discussion at the state level about banning assault weapons. Your information will support this discussion very well. I strongly suggest that you write to the top state leaders. Here is their email contact information:

Governor Peter Shumlin: peter@shumlinforgovernor.com

Speaker Shap Smith: shapsmith@

President Pro Tem John Campbell: vt13@

Attorney General William Sorrell: whsorrell@

Go for it. The more these people hear from ordinary citizens, the more likely they will change their mind.

Best wishes,
Ge

On Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:15 AM, Janet Reyes <janet2012us@> wrote:

--
Alexandra MacLean

1-802-272-0443.

London, Sarah

From: Wesley, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: draft response letter.

Any chance we (or you) can grab a minute to talk about this with Gov today?

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

From: Lofy, Bill

London, Sarah

From: Ross, Chuck
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 1:43 PM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: Agrimark

Bill,
Thanks for placing the call to Lawrence. Lawrence was great as usual. I will be at the meeting. Will try to be there early so I am already in the room
chuck

Chuck Ross
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
802-828-5667

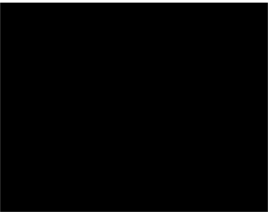
London, Sarah

From: Noonan, Annie
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 12:22 PM
To: Spaulding, Jeb; Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Cc: MoultonPowden, Pat; Miller, Lawrence
Subject: FW: Weekly Reports for BWE 12/22/12

Hi, All:

If you hear about these "mass layoffs", please don't panic as these are the traditional "seasonal" layoffs in the granite industry, as well as [REDACTED] Just an FYI.
Annie

From: Darcy Hamlin [mailto:dhamlin@labor.state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Noonan, Annie
Cc: Phillips, Tracy; Steventon, Rick
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports for BWE 12/22/12



Annie,
Kris has added a total for mass claims that were filed. This total is a combination of new and additional claims and represents 5 companies with the majority being in the school food service industry with the closing of the colleges for winter break.

Darcy Hamlin
Claims Center Manager
UI and Wages Division
Vermont Dept. of Labor
802-828-9150

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Noonan, Annie; Racine, Doug; Nealy, Diane; 'dave.yacavone@state.vt.us'; MoultonPowden, Pat; Miller, Lawrence; Camp, Lori; Bartlett, Susan; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb; Johnson, Harriet; louis_porter@yahoo.com; 'john.fisher@state.vt.us'; Lofy, Bill
Subject: Meeting Request for tomorrow

Hi Everyone,

Governor Shumlin would like to meet with you all to discuss education and workforce development. The meeting will run for an hour, possibly an hour and a half. Please let me know if you are available tomorrow, Dec. 28th at 3:30pm. Thank you.

Shana
802.371.7499

Scheduler
Governor's Office
802.828.3333

London, Sarah

From: Spaulding, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: appointment list
Attachments: Appointment list 12-28-12.docx

Attached is the appointment list for tomorrow morning. If I change anything I will let you know. Susan S.

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

London, Sarah

From: Trombley, Shana
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Noonan, Annie; Racine, Doug; Nealy, Diane; 'dave.yacavone@state.vt.us'; MoultonPowden, Pat; Miller, Lawrence; Camp, Lori; Bartlett, Susan; Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex; Spaulding, Jeb; Johnson, Harriet; louis_porter@yahoo.com; 'john.fisher@state.vt.us'; Lofy, Bill
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London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 9:25 AM
To: EXE
Subject: Fwd: 5K Road Race Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve) starting at 3 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cadorette, Wendy" <Wendy.Cadorette@state.vt.us>
Date: December 27, 2012 9:22:49 AM EST
To: BGS - Montpelier Complex <BGS.MontpelierComplex@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Bonnie.Sanders <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Bonnie+2ESanders@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Clayton.Clark <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Clayton+2EClark@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Ed.Polk <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Ed+2EPolk@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jane.Menard <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Jane+2EMenard@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Jennifer.Underwood <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Jennifer+2EUnderwood@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Leslie.Baker <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Leslie+2EBaker@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Scott.Barnett <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Scott+2EBarnett@state.vt.us>, /O=state.vt.us/OU=SOV_EXCHANGE/cn=Recipients/cn=Val.Cyr <IMCEAEX-O=STATE+2EVT+2EUS OU=SOV+5FEXCHANGE cn=Recipients cn=Val+2ECyr@state.vt.us>, "Amaral, Elizabeth" <invtemp@sec.state.vt.us>, "Ancel, Renee" <Renee.Ancel@state.vt.us>, "Antone, Carolyn" <carolyn.antone@sec.state.vt.us>, "Appel, Robert" <Robert.Appel@state.vt.us>, "Audet, Jenny" <Jenny.Audet@state.vt.us>, "Belville, Francine" <Francine.Belville@state.vt.us>, "Bernardini, Barbara" <Barbara.Bernardini@state.vt.us>, "Bernier, Marie" <mbernier@vermontartscouncil.org>, "Berube, Teri" <Teri.Berube@state.vt.us>, "Bilodeau, Joanne" <Joanne.Bilodeau@state.vt.us>, "Boyce, Rhonda" <Rhonda.Boyce@state.vt.us>, "Brooks, Francis" <sgt-at-arms@leg.state.vt.us>, "Brown, Karen" <karen.brown@state.vt.us>, "Bullard, Janet" <Janet.Bullard@state.vt.us>, "Cadorette, Wendy" <Wendy.Cadorette@state.vt.us>, "Carbo, Kelly" <Kelly.Carbo@state.vt.us>, "Carlson, Amy" <acarlson@sec.state.vt.us>, "Carrier, Janis" <Janis.Carrier@state.vt.us>, "Chamberlin, Brenda" <Brenda.Chamberlin@state.vt.us>, "Chenail, Bruce" <Bruce.Chenail@state.vt.us>, "Churchill, Connie" <Connie.Churchill@state.vt.us>, "Clasen, Michael" <Michael.Clasen@state.vt.us>, "Crockett, Jean" <Jean.Crockett@state.vt.us>, "Crowley, Annie" <acrowley@leg.state.vt.us>, "Daley, Paul" <pdaley@sec.state.vt.us>, DII - Datacenter Manager <DII-DatacenterManager@state.vt.us>, "Dimick, Leslie"

[<leslie.dimick@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:leslie.dimick@leg.state.vt.us), "Donovan, Paul" [<Paul.Donovan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Paul.Donovan@state.vt.us), "Dufresne, Elaine" [<edufresne@vermontartscouncil.org>](mailto:edufresne@vermontartscouncil.org), "Elliott, Brittany" [<brittany.elliott@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:brittany.elliott@sec.state.vt.us), "Emmons, Tonia" [<Tonia.Emmons@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tonia.Emmons@state.vt.us), "Evans, Lora" [<Lora.Evans@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lora.Evans@state.vt.us), "Ferland, Brad" [<brad.ferland@state.vt.us>](mailto:brad.ferland@state.vt.us), "Flanagan, Kathy" [<Kathy.Flanagan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Kathy.Flanagan@state.vt.us), "Flinn, Charlene" [<Charlene.Flinn@state.vt.us>](mailto:Charlene.Flinn@state.vt.us), "Fuller, Stephanie" [<Stephanie.Fuller@state.vt.us>](mailto:Stephanie.Fuller@state.vt.us), "Goodwin, Walter" [<Walter.Goodwin@state.vt.us>](mailto:Walter.Goodwin@state.vt.us), "Grassmann, Felix" [<Felix.Grassmann@state.vt.us>](mailto:Felix.Grassmann@state.vt.us), "Gray, Beth" [<Beth.Gray@state.vt.us>](mailto:Beth.Gray@state.vt.us), "Guy, Janice" [<Janice.Guy@state.vt.us>](mailto:Janice.Guy@state.vt.us), "Hebert, John" [<John.Hebert@state.vt.us>](mailto:John.Hebert@state.vt.us), "Hebert, Rosemary" [<Rosemary.Hebert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Rosemary.Hebert@state.vt.us), "Hester, Jim" [<jhester@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:jhester@leg.state.vt.us), "Hughes, Victoria" [<Victoria.Hughes@state.vt.us>](mailto:Victoria.Hughes@state.vt.us), "Huntsman, Bill" [<Bill.huntsman@state.vt.us>](mailto:Bill.huntsman@state.vt.us), "Isabelle, Jean-Paul" [<JP.Isabelle@state.vt.us>](mailto:JP.Isabelle@state.vt.us), "James, Pam" [<Pam.James@state.vt.us>](mailto:Pam.James@state.vt.us), "Janawicz, Scott" [<Scott.Janawicz@state.vt.us>](mailto:Scott.Janawicz@state.vt.us), "Johnson, Harriet" [<Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us>](mailto:Harriet.Johnson@state.vt.us), "Joubert, Ellie" [<Ellie.Joubert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Ellie.Joubert@state.vt.us), "Kellogg, Jeremiah" [<Jeremiah.Kellogg@state.vt.us>](mailto:Jeremiah.Kellogg@state.vt.us), "Labelle, Tricia" [<tricia.labelle@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:tricia.labelle@sec.state.vt.us), "Laferriere, Deb" [<Deb.Laferriere@state.vt.us>](mailto:Deb.Laferriere@state.vt.us), "Lamberti, Jaylene" [<jlamberti@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:jlamberti@sec.state.vt.us), "Lamos, Terry" [<Terry.Lamos@state.vt.us>](mailto:Terry.Lamos@state.vt.us), "Lapoint, Sheila" [<Sheila.Lapoint@state.vt.us>](mailto:Sheila.Lapoint@state.vt.us), "Lavery, Nathan" [<nlavery@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us), "Loftus, Margaret" [<Margaret.Loftus@state.vt.us>](mailto:Margaret.Loftus@state.vt.us), "Matott, Heather" [<Heather.Matott@state.vt.us>](mailto:Heather.Matott@state.vt.us), "Mattison, Lestyn" [<Lestyn.Mattison@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lestyn.Mattison@state.vt.us), "McConnell, Chris" [<Chris.McConnell@state.vt.us>](mailto:Chris.McConnell@state.vt.us), "McManis, Shawn" [<Shawn.McManis@state.vt.us>](mailto:Shawn.McManis@state.vt.us), "Metivier, Krista" [<kmetivier@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:kmetivier@leg.state.vt.us), "Miller, Janet" [<jmiller@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:jmiller@leg.state.vt.us), "Morey, Michael" [<Michael.Morey@state.vt.us>](mailto:Michael.Morey@state.vt.us), "Morse, Linda" [<Linda.Morse@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Morse@state.vt.us), "Moz-Knight, Melinda" [<Melinda.Moz-Knight@state.vt.us>](mailto:Melinda.Moz-Knight@state.vt.us), "Mulhall, Tom" [<Tom.Mulhall@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tom.Mulhall@state.vt.us), "Ng, Joe" [<Joe.Ng@state.vt.us>](mailto:Joe.Ng@state.vt.us), "Noonan, Tim" [<Tim.Noonan@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tim.Noonan@state.vt.us), "Palmer, Allen" [<Allen.Palmer@state.vt.us>](mailto:Allen.Palmer@state.vt.us), "Parker, Dennis" [<Dennis.Parker@state.vt.us>](mailto:Dennis.Parker@state.vt.us), "Pierce, Robert" [<Robert.Pierce@state.vt.us>](mailto:Robert.Pierce@state.vt.us), "Plastridge, Timothy" [<Timothy.Plastridge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Timothy.Plastridge@state.vt.us), "Powell, Doug" [<doug.powell@state.vt.us>](mailto:doug.powell@state.vt.us), "Pryce, Tonia" [<Tonia.Pryce@state.vt.us>](mailto:Tonia.Pryce@state.vt.us), "Putney, Renee" [<rputney@atg.state.vt.us>](mailto:rputney@atg.state.vt.us), "Rea, Bob" [<Bob.Rea@state.vt.us>](mailto:Bob.Rea@state.vt.us), "Robbins, Don" [<Don.Robbins@state.vt.us>](mailto:Don.Robbins@state.vt.us), "Robinson, Rita" [<Rita.Robinson@state.vt.us>](mailto:Rita.Robinson@state.vt.us), "Rockcastle, Sheri" [<Sheri.Rockcastle@state.vt.us>](mailto:Sheri.Rockcastle@state.vt.us), "Rutledge, Jonathan" [<Jonathan.Rutledge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Jonathan.Rutledge@state.vt.us), "Sanford, Greg" [<gsanford@sec.state.vt.us>](mailto:gsanford@sec.state.vt.us), "Satterfield, Kathy" [<Kathy.Satterfield@state.vt.us>](mailto:Kathy.Satterfield@state.vt.us), "Schraut, Karl" [<Karl.Schraut@state.vt.us>](mailto:Karl.Schraut@state.vt.us), "St. Onge, Peggy" [<Peggy.StOnge@state.vt.us>](mailto:Peggy.StOnge@state.vt.us), "Starr, Loring" [<lstarr@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:lstarr@leg.state.vt.us), "Swanson, Mary-Kay" [<mkswanson@atg.state.vt.us>](mailto:mkswanson@atg.state.vt.us), "Talbert, Lilly" [<Lilly.Talbert@state.vt.us>](mailto:Lilly.Talbert@state.vt.us), "Tibbetts, Terri" [<Terri.Tibbetts@state.vt.us>](mailto:Terri.Tibbetts@state.vt.us), "Tierney, Mike" [<Mike.Tierney@state.vt.us>](mailto:Mike.Tierney@state.vt.us), "Utton, Theresa L." [<tutton@leg.state.vt.us>](mailto:tutton@leg.state.vt.us), "Wells, James" [<James.Wells@state.vt.us>](mailto:James.Wells@state.vt.us), "Wood, Ray" [<capitol@abbeygroup.net>](mailto:capitol@abbeygroup.net), "Wortman, Linda" [<Linda.Wortman@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Wortman@state.vt.us), "Young, Linda" [<Linda.Young@state.vt.us>](mailto:Linda.Young@state.vt.us), "Zampieri, Kathy" [<alvthq@myfairpoint.net>](mailto:alvthq@myfairpoint.net)

Subject: 5K Road Race Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve) starting at 3 PM

Please note – Central VT Runners will hold a 5K road race taking place in Montpelier on the afternoon of Monday, December 31, 2012 (New Years Eve). The race starts at 3 PM, you could see runners along State Street until @4 PM. State employees should plan ahead so not to be delayed if you will need to leave parking lots during 3 – 4 PM. Police presence will be on sight assisting with traffic. See details below:

Sure, the race begins at 3:00 pm, starting on Davis Ave, continuing onto Court, across State Street, over the foot bridge, onto the bike path, right onto Baily Ave, across State again, onto Terrace Street, around Dairy Lane and then back down Clarendon to Baily, onto State Street and back to the Pavilion building, finish is on Court Street. We always have police presence to help with the traffic, but I agree it is really

helpful to warn anyone coming or going as they may be delayed if they try to get out of the parking lot between 3:00 and 4:00.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; Trombley, Shana; Kunin, Lisa; Burke, Ashley
Subject: I'm not going to attempt coming in

I'm hesitant to try to make it with the roads. I promise I will be in next Wed.

I processed payroll yesterday with Sue Allen, just in case I didn't make it today.

London, Sarah

From: Carrier, Janis
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:45 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex; London, Sarah; Bartlett, Susan; Spaulding, Susan; Appleby, Leigh; Richards, Alyson; Trombley, Shana; Kunin, Lisa; Roessle, Drusilla; Wesley, Carolyn; Burke, Ashley
Subject: Fwd: [SSF_RS_F_LEADS] FW: Velco Weather Alert continues for strong but marginal; winds and potential snow loading eastern Green Mountain slopes

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gosselin, Jason" <Jason.Gosselin@STATE.VT.US>
To: "DPS - SSF_RS_F_LEADS" <SSF_RS_F_LEADS@listserv.dps.state.vt.us>
Subject: [SSF_RS_F_LEADS] FW: Velco Weather Alert continues for strong but marginal; winds and potential snow loading eastern Green Mountain slopes

FYI

Jason E. Gosselin
Emergency Management Specialist II
Logistics Section Chief
Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
Work: 802.241.5375

Email: Jason.Gosselin@state.vt.us
VEM Website: <http://vem.vermont.gov/>

[cid:image004.jpg@01CDE40B.E4F3AB80][cid:image005.png@01CDE40B.E4F3AB80]

From: Roger Hill storm warning message [mailto:storm.warning@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 6:13 AM
To: Roger Hill storm warning message
Subject: Velco Weather Alert continues for strong but marginal; winds and potential snow loading eastern Green Mountain slopes
Importance: High

Velco Weather Alert continues for moderate to heavy snowfall eastern slopes of southern and central Green Mountains for slight potential snow loading later today and down-sloping

winds along western slopes of Greens and increasingly near the White Mountains across portions of Caledonia and Essex counties.

- Winds though more marginal – closer to 40 to 45 mph may begin to affect NE Kingdom adjacent to New Hampshire's White Mountains.

- Strongest winds across southern Vermont were lessening with a change in direction from easterly to northeasterly reducing threat in Bennington and Rutland counties mid to late morning.

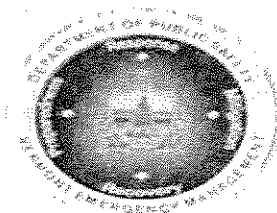
- Next conference call 9 AM.

Wind gusts in mph last 8 hours.

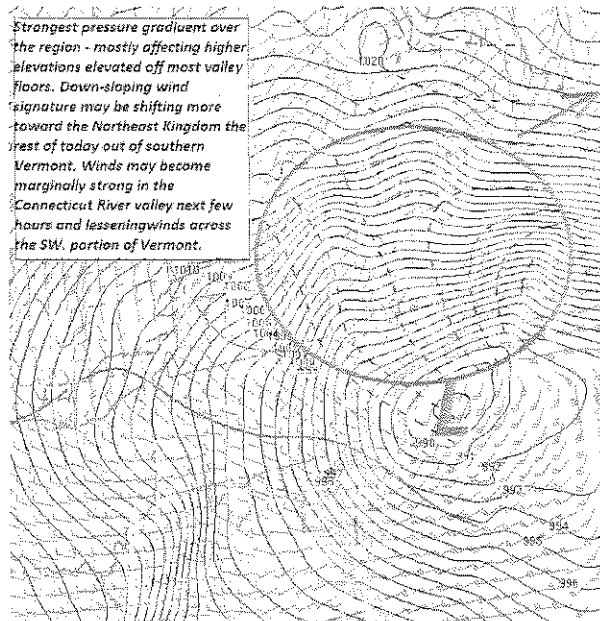
70 MMNV1<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=MMNV1&time=GMT> Mount Mansfield
48 VT MEN<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=VTMEN&time=GMT> VTrans Mendon
43 VTWOO<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=VTWOO&time=GMT> VTrans Woodford
39 AT451<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=AT451&time=GMT> Shrewsbury
37 KDDH<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=KDDH&time=GMT> Bennington Airport
35 VTRUT<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=VTRUT&time=GMT> VTrans Rutland
35 KRUT<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=KRUT&time=GMT> Rutland airport
34 DBYV1<http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=DBYV1&time=GMT> Danby

[cid:image001.png@01CDE3F9.28408010]

[cid:image002.png@01CDE3F9.28408010][cid:image003.png@01CDE3F9.28408010]



Strongest pressure gradient over the region - mostly affecting higher elevations elevated off most valley floors. Down-sloping wind signature may be shifting more toward the Northeast Kingdom the rest of today out of southern Vermont. Winds may become marginally strong in the Connecticut River valley next few hours and lessening winds across the SW. portion of Vermont.



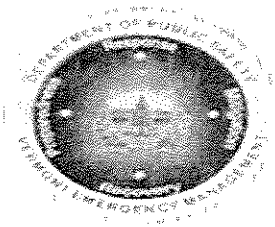
London, Sarah

From: Recovery Support Function Leads <SSF_RSF_LEADS@DPS.STATE.VT.US> on behalf of Gosselin, Jason <Jason.Gosselin@STATE.VT.US>
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:27 AM
To: DPS - SSF_RSF_LEADS
Subject: [SSF_RSF_LEADS] FW: Velco Weather Alert continues for strong but marginal; winds and potential snow loading eastern Green Mountain slopes
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png
Importance: High

FYI

Jason E. Gosselin
Emergency Management Specialist II
Logistics Section Chief
Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Cell: 802-249-1100
Email: Jason.Gosselin@state.vt.us
VEM Website: <http://vem.vermont.gov/>



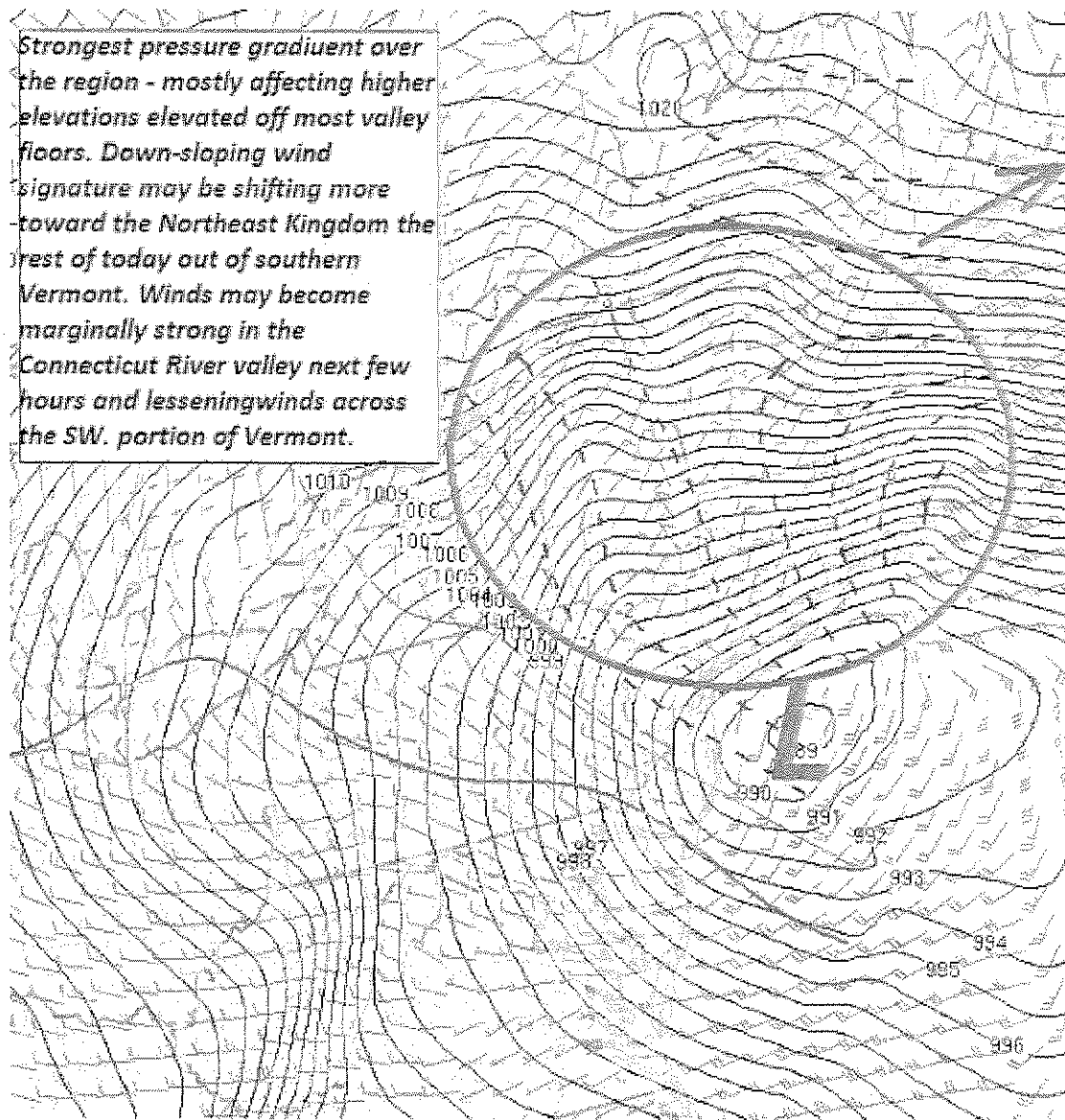
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- Velco Weather Alert continues for moderate to heavy snowfall eastern slopes of southern and central Green Mountains for slight potential snow loading later today and down-sloping winds along western slopes of Greens and increasingly near the White Mountains across portions of Caledonia and Essex counties.
- Winds though more marginal – closer to 40 to 45 mph may begin to affect NE Kingdom adjacent to New Hampshire's White Mountains.
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- Next conference call 9 AM.

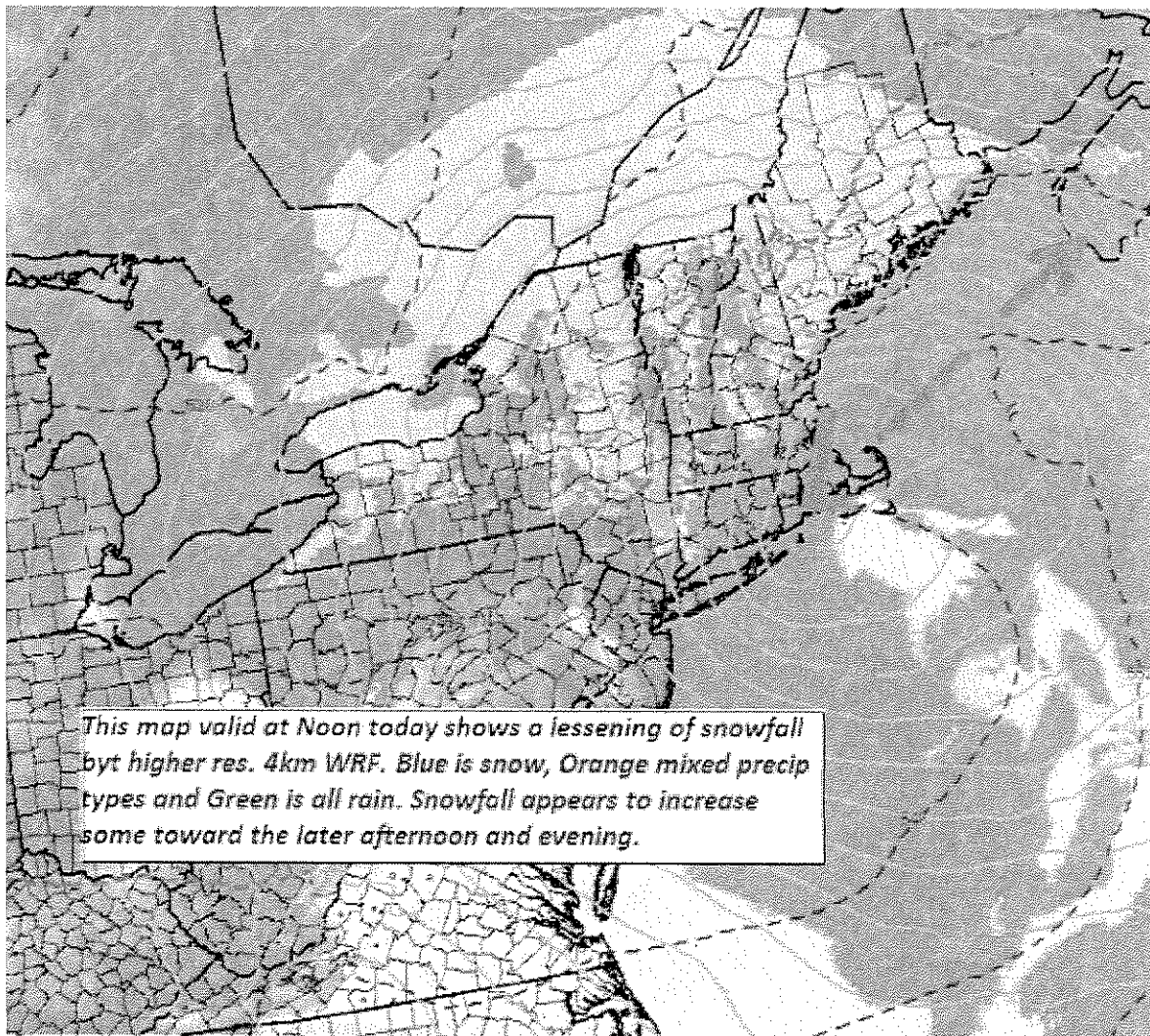
Wind gusts in mph last 8 hours.

- 70 MMNV1 Mount Mansfield
- 48 VTMEN VTrans Mendon
- 43 VTWOO VTrans Woodford
- 39 AT451 Shrewsbury
- 37 KDDH Bennington Airport
- 35 VTRUT VTrans Rutland
- 35 KRUT Rutland airport
- 34 DBYV1 Danby

Strongest pressure gradient over the region - mostly affecting higher elevations elevated off most valley floors. Down-sloping wind signature may be shifting more toward the Northeast Kingdom the rest of today out of southern Vermont. Winds may become marginally strong in the Connecticut River valley next few hours and lessening winds across the SW. portion of Vermont.



121227/1000 2hr stc pres chg (mb)



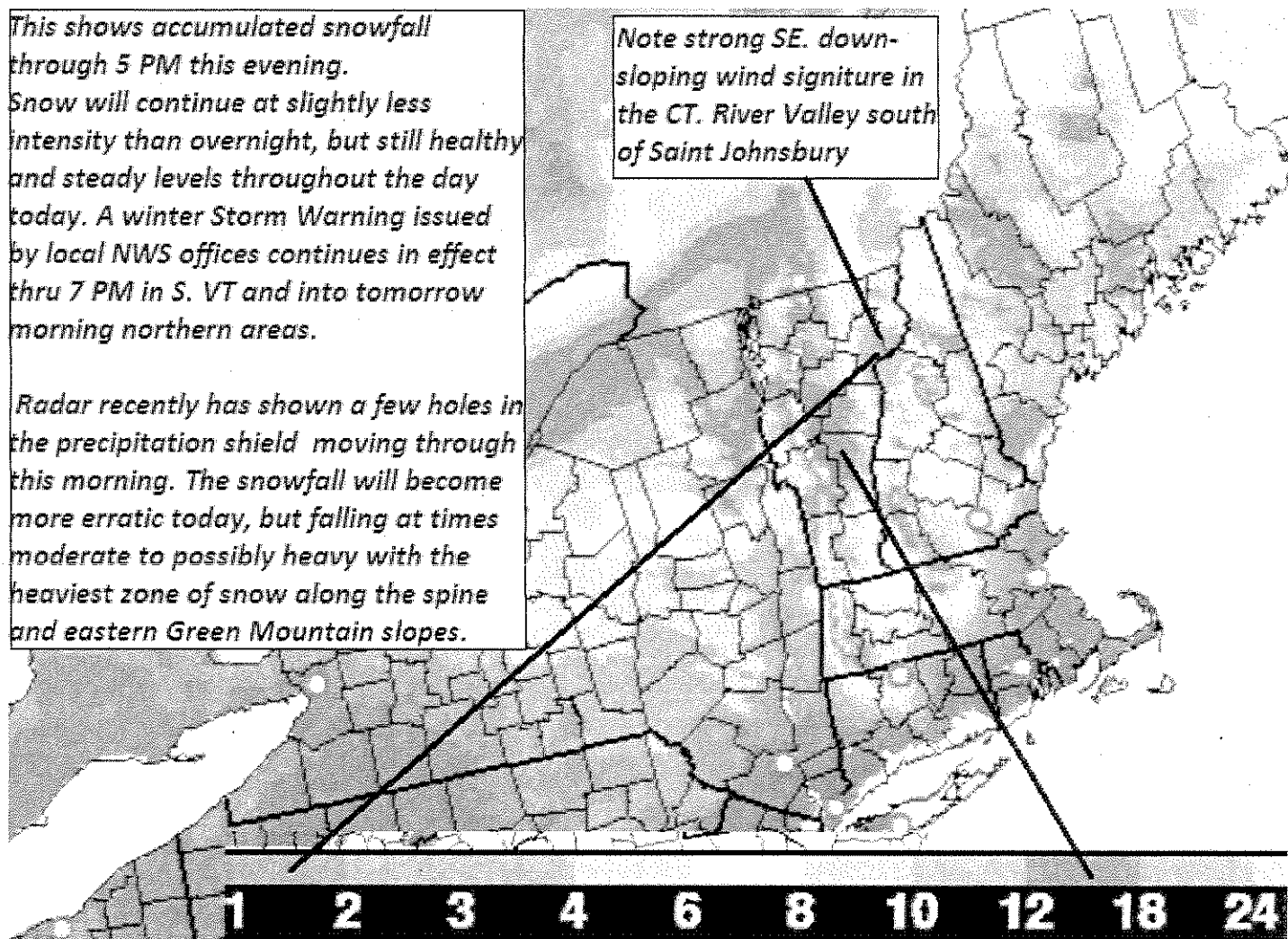
*This map valid at Noon today shows a lessening of snowfall
byt higher res. 4km WRF. Blue is snow, Orange mixed precip
types and Green is all rain. Snowfall appears to increase
some toward the later afternoon and evening.*

4km NAM CLCUMPTYPE/MSLP/THK THU 12/22/1700V011
INITIAL TIME = 12/22/170000P011

This shows accumulated snowfall through 5 PM this evening. Snow will continue at slightly less intensity than overnight, but still healthy and steady levels throughout the day today. A winter Storm Warning issued by local NWS offices continues in effect thru 7 PM in S. VT and into tomorrow morning northern areas.

Radar recently has shown a few holes in the precipitation shield moving through this morning. The snowfall will become more erratic today, but falling at times moderate to possibly heavy with the heaviest zone of snow along the spine and eastern Green Mountain slopes.

Note strong SE. down-sloping wind signature in the CT. River Valley south of Saint Johnsbury



London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Kunin, Lisa; Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: On my way

I'm here, and so is Ashley. Our roads were actually OK this morning. I was surprised. Suspect they will get worse as the day progresses.

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

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: On my way

I'm on the bus and should be there @ 9:00. Bus is running a little late.

Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Kunin, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Lofy, Bill
Subject: On my way

I'm on the bus and should be there @ 9:00. Bus is running a little late.

Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Marshall, Karen
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 7:27 AM
To: MacLean, Alex; Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Campbell, Chris; Thompson, Caro; 'Sharon Combes-Farr'; 'Michel Guite'
Subject: RE: Draft press release for Friday (there will be two issued; this one and another on broadband)

Looks good, thanks Sue.

Karen L. Marshall, Chief
Connect Vermont, Broadband and Mobile

phone: 802.828.6452 mobil
karen.marshall@state.vt.us

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2012 12:00 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill; Spaulding, Jeb; Marshall, Karen
Subject: Re: Draft press release for Friday (there will be two issued; this one and another on broadband)

Looks great, thanks Sue!

Alex MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
Deputy Chief of Staff
1-802-828-3333

On Dec 26, 2012, at 10:12 AM, Allen, Susan wrote:

For Immediate Release
Dec. 29, 2012
Send corrections, improvements! Sue

Contact: Susan Allen
802-279-8493

State Invests \$5 Million in Cell Service Expansion
Grant will improve cell service in 19 areas around the state

MONTPELIER -- The Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) Board has approved a \$5 million grant to expand cellular service within 19 areas in Bennington, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor counties. The award goes to VTel Wireless, an affiliate of Vermont Telephone based in Springfield. The cellular project, with a total cost of \$15 million, will

extend mobile voice and data service in two ways. VTel Wireless will be launching their own retail cellular service, and they will have roaming agreements with multiple major cell carriers.

"This investment of state funds for cellular equipment through VTel Wireless will fill in some of our most challenging gaps in southern Vermont. Connect VT, the VTA and our carriers are tackling our cellular challenge on all fronts. With our help, the industry and VTA are building towers, extending fiber, adding equipment for faster service, and using our expedited permitting process to get it done," said Gov. Peter Shumlin.

The state's commitment to finding effective ways to extend and improve cell service in Vermont's challenging mountain landscape is ongoing. Funding for the VTA award was made possible by an appropriation in the capital budget by the Legislature and is a part of Gov. Shumlin's Connect VT initiative.

"This project is the VTA's most significant award to date to expand cellular service, and it represents a tremendous step forward in our efforts," said VTA Executive Director Christopher Campbell. "We are pleased to support VTel's work to bring cellular service to underserved communities in southern Vermont."

One key aspect of the cellular project is that it will be based on substantial broadband infrastructure already being built by VTel Wireless. Broadband Internet access will become available to a significant number of currently unserved or under-served Vermont homes and businesses as VTel constructs a 4G (fourth generation) LTE-technology system known as Wireless Open World (WOW). The VTel Wireless WOW project is primarily funded by a combination of a federal stimulus grant plus a federal loan, as well as VTel's own investment.

Many of the WOW broadband service areas overlap with the 'target corridors' for cell service. Target corridors are main travel routes identified as either lacking cell service completely or having inconsistent coverage. Connect VT and the VTA identified over 100 of them in 2011 in order to focus funding and find solutions.

A sample of locations where cell service coverage will be improved:

- Andover Road from Andover to Weston
- Route 7 in Pownal
- Route 9 in Marlboro and Wilmington
- Routes 100 and 100a in Plymouth
- Route 100 in Wardsboro
- Route 103 in Mount Holly
- Route 133 from Pawlet to Middletown Springs

"Our original WOW wireless broadband project award did not include funding to tap into the cellular capabilities of our 4G/LTE network, or to provide 3G signal for phones that Vermonters already have. This award, and the recent FCC Mobility fund award, make our plan to bring cellular service to Vermonters possible. We look forward to launching cellular service in addition to our fixed wireless voice and data service with the WOW network. We have always believed that rural Vermonters deserve the very best technology," said Michel Guite, President of VTel.

Their cellular voice service equipment will be deployed on many of the same structures planned for the WOW project. VTel also will install small cell sites on utility poles. Small-cell equipment, deployed at relatively short intervals along roadways, will bring cell service to areas that are especially difficult to serve.

To prepare for technological advances already in the pipeline, the project does more than simply extend current 3G voice technology to these locations in southern Vermont. VTel Wireless will purchase core equipment that will ultimately make it possible for them to add mobile cell service to their entire LTE wireless broadband system, which will reach into the Northeast Kingdom.

According to Karen Marshall, Chief of Connect VT, "The mission to connect Vermont is twofold: to achieve universal broadband service and to vastly expand our cellular service by the end of 2013. Our cell carriers are investing heavily to

upgrade their existing networks to 4G/LTE at the same time we are seeking expanded coverage. This grant to VTel Wireless, a Vermont company, represents a significant investment in leading-edge micro and macro cell technology that will meet the needs of Vermonters. We are using the VTel Wireless broadband infrastructure of the WOW project as a foundation, then identifying where those sites overlap with Target Corridors. Our public funds leverage federal and private funds already at work as we avoid duplication of infrastructure and stretch our resources further."

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 7:25 AM
To: Lofy, Bill
Subject: I'm heading in. Cross your fingers

Jim is heading in in his big truck, so I should get into the office by 8. Just letting you know in case your drive is hairy or you want to wait a little bit before heading out.

Sue

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 6:17 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 27:

VPR:

Lamoille County Interested In Opening Morrisville Food Co-Op

AMY NOYES

Lamoille County is home to many small farms, yet buying local foods can be a challenge. That's why there's a push to open a food coop in downtown Morrisville.

Morrisville is where most of the people in Lamoille County do their food shopping. And there are two large grocery stores in town, including one that's open 24 hours.

Even though Lamoille County is also home to many farms, food processed and packaged hundreds or even thousands of miles away is often easier to obtain than food grown, raised or produced locally. That's why the town is working with a group of volunteers to try and start a downtown food coop. They're calling the effort MoCo - short for Morrisville Coop. Cheryl Hartt is on the MoCo steering committee.

"The first thing for me is bringing access to good food to people in Morrisville, and also access for farmers to get their food to people in Morrisville," said Hartt. "There are a lot of farmers in Morrisville, and I think farmer's markets are wonderful, but to have something that day-in and day-out people have access to good food is good, and important."

Hartt is no stranger to the coop model. She bakes muffins, cookies and quiches for Buffalo Mountain Coop, in Hardwick. She said Buffalo Mountain is the closest coop to Morrisville, but it's reached its capacity.

"It's very small and it's a very busy little coop," said Hartt. "They're very excited about the idea of us having one, actually, which is nice."

Sharon Dietz Caroli owns The Bee's Knees Restaurant in Morrisville, and her menu features local food. She says her customers come from Morrisville and surrounding towns, and she also sees visitors from the nearby ski resorts in Stowe and Jeffersonville. She says a coop will be another way to draw shoppers to Morrisville's downtown.

"The grocery stores are a draw to people beyond Morrisville, and having a coop just adds to that identity that this is a place to do your shopping," she said. "You don't need to go to Montpelier or Burlington to get good food."

A consultant is currently working on a grant-funded feasibility study for MoCo. One of the next steps will be recruiting member-owners to raise start-up capital for the store. If all goes well, committee members hope to have a coop up and running by the beginning of 2014.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER:

Snowstorm means jolt to the local economy

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN

Reformer Staff

BRATTLEBORO — Meteorologically, it might not be the perfect storm, but economically Thursday's projected snow fall might be just what Vermont is looking for to add a little bump to the economy.

With schools closed, tourists up for the holidays and last season's disappointing winter still on everyone's minds, Brattleboro Specialized Sports owner Bob Woodworth said a good dump in the days after Christmas can kickoff what he hopes will be a long, cold and white winter. "It sounds like something is coming tonight and we are looking forward to it," Woodworth said on Wednesday.

"Even those people who don't like snow have to root for this and what it will do for the Vermont economy."

Woodworth, who has been selling winter gear on Main Street in Brattleboro for more than two decades, said winter sports enthusiasts can experience a hangover, of sorts, after a winter like we had last year.

People are hesitant to upgrade after a warm, dry winter, he said, and newcomers might be unwilling to purchase snow shoes and cross country equipment after very little snow fell last year.

But a good solid base of snow, which meteorologists are predicting for Thursday, should go a long way toward forgetting last season and looking forward to a cold and snowy winter.

"After a year like last year people hold back," he said. "Last winter was a bust and we need something like this to forget that. People are excited about getting out and playing in the snow."

The major storm, which has already slammed the South and Midwest, was heading right for Vermont Wednesday, and The National Weather Service said the snow would start in southern Vermont Wednesday night and continue right through Thursday.

Some of the higher elevations in the region are expected to see more than a foot of snow before the storm moves on.

Stratton Mountain Communications Coordinator Meryl Robinson also said the storm is coming at almost the perfect time.

Families who spent Christmas at home were able to enjoy the holiday and then travel Wednesday to the mountain.

Robinson said Stratton could get more than a foot of snow, and with about 75 percent of the mountain already open due to man-made snow making, she said conditions should be peaking out during one of the busiest times of the year.

"We have a lot of loyal customers who joined us for the holidays, and this is about the best gift we can give them," she said. "It looks like it is going to be a busy week."

"After last year people are going to want to come up and get this while it is here," said Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce Director Jerry Goldberg. "A good, pure, white snowfall is just what the doctor ordered for this economy. It reminds people what a winter wonderland Brattleboro is in the winter."

All over Brattleboro Wednesday, supermarket lines were long, people filled their gas tanks, and hardware stores moved piles of shovels, scrapers and salt and sand.

"People hunker down and go nuts," said Goldberg. "It's time to make sure you have boots and mittens and food. It is good for the economy."

About a third of Vermont's annual tourism revenue is generated from winter business, according to Tourism and Marketing Department Communications Director Jun Butson, and this week is one the three busiest periods of the season.

When weather reports call for significant snowfall during a holiday week like this, it can have a significant impact on restaurants, inns and hotels, outdoor outfitters and ski mountains across the state.

"This mid-holiday season snowstorm is very good news for the ski and ride industry and all the businesses related to it," Butson said. "Nothing sends the message, 'It's a winter wonderland' better than Mother Nature laying down over a foot of fresh powder in our mountains."

Butson said the weather predictions are also encouraging cross country skiers, snowshoers, and snow mobile owners to dust off their equipment, which largely remained in the closets and garages last year, and get out.

"This is great news for everyone who visits Vermont in the winter," she said. "This storm is bringing ideal conditions for the New Year."

Brattleboro Public Works Director Steve Barrett said his crews were putting chains on tires and loading up on salt and sand all day Wednesday in anticipation of the storm.

Barrett also said the storm's timing is good because with the schools closed the department can concentrate on the roads throughout town.

When school is in session the department has to think about bus routes and school access when clearing the roads.

He said sometimes the roads can be more hazardous during the first storm because drivers have put off getting snow tires and are unfamiliar with driving conditions.

And the holiday week means there are more visitors, but he said the plows will be out all night so people can get out and enjoy all the snow.

"Bring it on," Barrett said. "This is Vermont. We love this."

'Major source of debate' Energy, health care and education on tap for legislators

By MIKE FAHER

Reformer Staff

BRATTLEBORO — State Sen. Peter Galbraith is not a fan of industrial wind power in Vermont.

About to embark on his second term as a Democratic Windham County senator, Galbraith said he wants to impose a moratorium on development of turbines on state land while also allowing affected communities to have more say in such projects. "This is an issue that certainly will be a major source of debate," Galbraith said.

He was among the Windham County state lawmakers who gathered recently at the Reformer for a discussion about the upcoming legislative session, which begins Jan. 9.

They expect the legislature to tackle big topics including the environment, health care and energy. One of the most discussed issues was education, with state Rep. Valerie Stuart saying the state must do more to promote readiness for kindergarten, college and careers.

The Democrat from Brattleboro's District 1 cited statistics including the fact that, when reaching kindergarten age, only 56 percent of Vermont children are deemed sufficiently ready for those classes.

Stuart, who hopes to again sit on the House Education Committee, also said postsecondary education is becoming increasingly important. "Over three quarters of the jobs of the future will require some sort of college education," she

said.

State Rep. Ann Manwaring, a-Wilmington Democrat representing Windham District 6, called for a “bottom up” approach to education policy that would emphasize policies that are working on the local level.

When it comes to educational results, “the needle isn’t moving very much, no matter how much we pay for schools,” Manwaring said. “I believe we really need to look at education as a system.”

Overall, she added, “we have to put public education and the success of it at the same level that we’ve put health care.”

That’s a reference to the state’s continuing effort to enact a centralized, single payer healthcare system by 2-017. Galbraith said he is concerned that the debate about how to pay for such a system could be “kicked down the road” to future sessions. “Unless you figure out how to pay for it, you really haven’t created a system,” he said.

The legislators addressed a variety of other issues including: — On the energy front, Galbraith believes encouraging greater energy efficiency is a much more effective tool for addressing climate change than wind power.

“Industrial wind in Vermont is about making a statement that we care about global warming at the expense of our ridgelines, when in fact we’re doing nothing about global warming,” Galbraith said. He wants to introduce legislation that would impose a moratorium on developing industrial size wind turbines on state owned land. Also, he wants to require that any such development would need the consent of affected communities.

That includes not only those towns that would host turbines but also those that are situated nearby within view of the towers.

“You need to define what is an ‘affected community,’” Galbraith said.

— Encouraging economic development hinges on such initiatives as broadband expansion, workforce development and creation of affordable housing, said state Rep. John Moran, a Wardsboro Democrat who represents the Windham-Bennington House district.

Moran wants a “worker-friendly State of Vermont” that offers livable wages.

“If you work and you still can’t afford to live, there’s a problem there,” he said.

— Moran also wants to encourage “open and responsive budgeting” at the state level.

“It will give us a (better) sense of how we’re allocating our resources,” he said.

— State Rep. David Deen, a Westminster Democrat representing the Windham 4 district, chaired the House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee in his last term.

Deen said he is interested in issues including storm-water management, pollution in the Connecticut River watershed and the controversial potential for transporting “tar sands” oil through the state.

“There will be legislation dealing with transmission of tar sands through pipelines in Vermont,” Deen said. — About 16 months after Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont, the Federal Emergency Management Agency — and its perceived shortcomings — still is on many legislators’ minds.

“I am going to put a spotlight on them and do some public hearings,” Deen said. — State Rep. Tristan Toleno, a Democrat who will be serving his first term representing Brattleboro’s District 3, said food issues, health and fitness and obesity are among his concerns.

— State Rep. Carolyn Partridge, a Democrat from the town of Windham who represents the Windham 3 district, chaired the House Agriculture Committee during her previous term.

She remains interested in issues including Farm to Plate and the mandatory labeling of food containing genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. Previous efforts to pass a GMO-labeling bill have failed.

EDITORIAL: Why not southern Vermont?

If at first you do succeed, try again!

We know that's not exactly the way that classic phrase goes, but please allow us to coin a new one for today.

After a successful 5-second showing in Times Square earlier this year, Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce Director Jerry Goldberg decided to make another go of this promotional endeavor ... and this time he brought along a couple of colleagues for the ride. (Truth be told, that 5 seconds was really more like 10 minutes of Times Square exposure, collectively.) Goldberg, along with the chamber directors for Mount Snow Valley and Manchester and the Mountains, has put together a new, 5-second clip, promoting Southern Vermont as a tourist destination via the big (and we mean big!) screens in New York's famous Times Square.

And what better time for such exposure than New Year's Eve?

According to a release, "the 5-second commercial features all three destinations with a series of local images. The spot will be featured on ABC's Astrovision screen as well as on the brand-new Times Square screen and will run in rotation on each screen 120 times from Thursday, Dec. 27, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2013."

(Remember when we said "big." That Astrovision screen is 5,000 square feet!) The promotion will also include a full-page ad in Horizon magazine, which is distributed to approximately 100,000 Wall Street Journal subscribers in the New York City metropolitan area.

"The big story this time is that those of us responsible for promoting southern Vermont, we really feel how important it is to promote southern Vermont as a major destination," Goldberg told the editorial board on Wednesday, following the announcement. "A lot of tourists are shooting up and shooting past. We're saying, 'Take a look around. You can find what you're looking for in Southern Vermont. And save some mileage to boot!'" The initial Brattleboro The One and Only campaign ran for a week in the beginning of September, and we lauded the creative approach at the time, promoting Vermont as not just simply a winter tourist destination.

So, did Goldberg see any success from that run?

"One of the reasons I did it was to get Brattleboro — the one and only Brattleboro — on people's screens," Goldberg said. "While the ad itself may not have done a lot, the coverage of the ad did a lot to get the name Brattleboro out there."

Indeed, the unusual campaign was picked up by various news outlets and must have created enough of a buzz to create fans of the idea.

"I think it shows, that my colleagues at Mount Snow Valley Chamber and Manchester and the Mountains chamber were on board immediately and without question ... They see the value there, too."

We applaud the move, also. It would appear, to many outside of the area, that a true Vermont vacation can only be had when you trek up into the central part of the state. But southern Vermont — Windham and Bennington counties —

fulfill the needs of any tourists. From the outlets in Manchester and the slopes at Mount Snow and Stratton, to the deep history on display in Bennington and the vibrant arts scene in Brattleboro and its surrounding towns, what more could one ask for? Add to that the plethora of local restaurants and bed and breakfasts, and you can't go wrong.

So we hope this effort does well to promote the values of southern Vermont to the rest of the country. And while we're at it, we'll pitch southern Vermont as a good place to "stay-cation" at, too — for daytrips or weekend getaways.

Kudos, once again, for our local officials thinking outside of the box to promote the good our region has to offer.

BENNINGTON BANNER FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT PREPARING FOR STORM (SIMILAR TO OTHER STORIES ON THIS).

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 27:

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD:

Bradford woman arrested in Newbury shooting death

NEWBURY — A 51-year-old Bradford woman is being held on a second-degree murder charge in connection with the Christmas night shooting of a 43-year-old man.

Anne-Marie Whiteway was arrested Wednesday in the death of Dale Rock, who died of an apparent wound to the head at his home in the neighboring town of Newbury, said Vermont State Police.

Police received a call shortly after 10 p.m. Tuesday that multiple shots had been fired at Rock's home and that a suspect had fled in a car. When troopers arrived, they discovered that Rock was dead.

Police interviewed Whiteway on Wednesday morning. Investigators have not revealed a possible motive for the shooting.

Whiteway was ordered held without bail at the Southern State Correctional Center in Springfield. She is scheduled to be arraigned today in Windsor Superior Court in White River Junction.

Rock's body was taken to the state medical examiner's office for an autopsy.

\$6 million bond may be sought for Waterbury wastewater

By David Taube

WATERBURY — The village could ask voters to bond for more than \$6 million for an addition to its wastewater treatment plant to comply with a state environmental regulation.

The price tag of more than \$6.7 million includes work from pre-engineering analysis to final construction, but the village would also need to pay around \$170,000 in recurring costs each year for operations, maintenance and sludge removal, the village's public works director, Alec Tuscany, said Wednesday.

Village officials expect the bond vote will be held at the annual village meeting in March. The village share of the bond would be around \$340,000 over 20 years, Tuscany said.

Although village officials anticipate 95 percent of the bond cost will be paid with state and federal funding, the state likely would not have its share fully earmarked until after local voters weigh in on the subject in March.

Tuscany said the village plans to increase the average single-family household's water and sewer bill by \$20 to \$25 each quarter to cover the local portion of the bond and recurring costs.

"We've been negotiating with the state to get a process that won't cost the ratepayers a ton of money to operate," said Mark Alberghini, a village water and sewer commissioner. "We want to proceed with this. ... It's been years in the making."

The new infrastructure, part of a proposed two-story building, would remove phosphorus sufficiently to meet a tougher standard that municipalities will be expected to comply with soon. The state has limited phosphorus output at the Waterbury plant to 0.8 milligrams per liter on average per month, but that standard is being toughened to 0.2 milligrams per liter.

The new standard is intended to reduce phosphorus levels in the Lake Champlain watershed. Waterbury is the last municipality still needing to make the upgrade, according to a 2010 state report. Municipal Manager Bill Shepeluk said that was still the case at a village trustees meeting this month.

Currently, the village has three "lagoons," or pond-like areas, for wastewater that help reduce phosphorus output. The lagoons were built in 1978 and never intended to do that job, Tuscany said.

In the past, the village had disagreed with the state about how to reduce phosphorus, village officials say. The village thought a previous phosphorus treatment, involving in-lagoon treatment, could be costlier than other alternatives, Tuscany said. Village officials say the village would have had to remove sludge from the lagoons more frequently, which can be very expensive.

Previously, the state had required the village to make improvements by the end of 2007. As the village was preparing design work for a cloth filtration system to reach the 0.8 milligrams per liter standard, the new 0.2 milligrams per liter standard was announced, in part as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was responding to a federal lawsuit filed against it by the Conservation Law Foundation.

That new 0.2 threshold hasn't yet been officially codified, but the village has agreed to meet it, village officials say.

Phosphorus levels coming into the plant, located on U.S. Route 2 just northwest of Parro's Gun Shop, currently are around 7 to 11 milligrams per liter, Tuscany said. The lagoons reduce that output into the Winooski River to 3 to 5 milligrams per liter, he said.

The improvements would add an intermediate step between the third lagoon and a disinfecting station.

The new phosphorus reduction system would be an enhanced chemical precipitation process, which would produce sludge as a byproduct.

The new structure would be 3,700 square feet with new equipment. The sludge byproduct would need to be removed from the site, possibly to the Moretown landfill. The sludge system would require two sludge storage tanks, a dewatering device and drying beds for further dewatering.

The recurring costs may require an additional half-time position, Tuscany said. Currently, two village staffers cover the wastewater treatment plant, but others fill in as needed. The job requires staff during the week full time as well as three hours each day on weekends.

Construction could begin around June, with the project completed by 2013.

City Place to share in \$6 million in state loans

Bruce Edwards

Barre's City Place and several other projects around the state will receive a total of \$6 million in new loans from the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

VEDA announced Wednesday it has approved a \$1.11 million loan for the \$15.4 million City Place project in downtown Barre.

DEW Construction of Williston will build an 80,462-square-foot building at 219-225 N. Main St. The building will serve as offices for 250 state employees from the Department of Education and Department of Human Services along with 42 workers from Central Vermont Medical Center.

According to VEDA, the developers expect 331 jobs will be located at City Place within three years of the project's completion.

Financing is also being provided by Mascoma Savings Bank and US Bancorp.

"We really looked at this as an important downtown redevelopment project," said Jo Bradley, VEDA's chief executive officer, on Wednesday.

She said it was important for VEDA to provide financing to make the project happen.

Bradley said bringing more than 300 jobs into the downtown would have a ripple effect on Barre's economy.

VEDA also approved loans for the following projects:

n \$1.4 million, Red Can Recycle Center, Colchester — Myers Container Service is developing the \$4.5 million recycling center.

The company will purchase 28 acres in Colchester and build a 12,230-square-foot office and shop and a 13,600-square-foot transfer station/recycling facility.

Myers Container Service employs about 58 people and expects the recycling center to create 17 jobs.

Merchants Bank is also providing financing for the project.

— \$224,000, Rhino Foods Inc., Burlington — Rhino will use the loan as part of its plan to purchase \$560,000 in machinery and equipment. United Bank is also providing financing for the project.

The upgrade in equipment will improve efficiency and safety, reduce waste, increase capabilities and address ergonomic issues.

Rhino's primary products are sold to ice cream manufacturers and quick service restaurants. Rhino also makes desserts for regional and national companies and makes the Rhino-branded Chester Ice Cream Sandwich. Rhino has 79 employees and expects to create 23 jobs within three years of the project's completion.

— \$74,000, Vermont Commercial Warehouse, Williston — The VEDA loan is part of a \$191,000 renovation and improvement project. The company provides dry storage and cooler and freezer space, as well as cross-docking, pick-and-pack, assembly and delivery services at its commercial warehouse in Williston.

The project involves the renovation of 12,000 square feet to lease to a new tenant. Green Mountain Co-Pack will operate a food and beverage manufacturing facility, warehouse and fulfillment center. Within three years of the project's completion, it is expected that Green Mountain Co-Pack will boost employment from six to 20 workers.

Key Bank is also providing financing.

VEDA made an additional \$1.7 million in loans through its Small Business Loan Program.

Bradley said VEDA has a number of projects waiting for financing approval in the pipeline.

"From my perspective, I'm feeling quite positive about the economy in general," she said.

In addition, VEDA approved \$1.37 million to farmers through the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corp. and \$98,705 through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which provides money to repair or improve existing privately owned drinking water systems.

In total, the \$6 million in new VEDA loans will support projects totaling \$28.5 million.

Fox44:

Ski Resorts Hoping to See More Snow During Nor'easter

BOLTON VALLEY, Vt. - The Nor'easter will come as good news to ski resorts who are hoping the storm will bring lots of fresh powder. After the sun goes down, the moon is just not quite bright enough.

Which is why for years Bolton Valley has been lighting up the slopes with night skiing.

"It's great being so close to Burlington we have a lot of people who will get out work or out of school and come skiing with us till 8 o'clock," said Josh Arneson, Director of Sales and Marketing at Bolton Valley.

This season is off to a great start thanks to some recent snowfall.

"We went from six trails last Monday to 34 today, so we continue to add more trails as we get more natural snow so it's tremendous," said Arneson.

Bringing out-of-stator's like the Hogan family from Massachusetts

"You forget how much fun it is to ski at night, it's dark and then the lights pop out and the shadows chase you down the hill, but this is great," said Art Hogan.

Hogan used to night ski in earlier years and now brings his son to carry on the tradition.

"It's awesome we came up an hour ago and it's perfect the snow is awesome, nowhere else really has night skiing so we always come up here," said Rush Hogan.

In the past week they've had 3 ft of snow and after the Nor'easter they are hoping to get even more.

"Everyone is watching the news they see the weather they see the storm is on the way, and that just gets them even more excited to get out there and get skiing," said Arneson.

WCAX:

Should Burlington ban semi-automatic weapons?

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Burlington city councilors are considering a measure that could ban semi-automatic guns within city limits.

Vermont law prevents cities from passing gun limiting legislation by ordinance. But Democratic Councilor Norm Blais says the city could ban semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines through a charter change.

Before it could take effect, the city council, Burlington residents, and the state legislature would all have to sign-off.

"But my fear and that of the people I've been working with is that if there's inaction at the federal level and if we don't get something done at the state level then at least we've addressed the issue here in the City of Burlington," said Blais.

The city will need to act on the proposal by its January seventh meeting in order for the matter to make it onto the March ballot.

Blais says he believes about five councilors are firmly on-board with the measure.

Mayor Miro Weinberger's communication director issued a statement tonight that reads:

"The mayor welcomes Councilor Blais' resolution and is reviewing it with the city attorney and police chief. The mayor was appalled and deeply saddened by the Newtown shootings and is very interested in finding solutions that protect Burlington."

What Vermont's safe roads policy means during storms

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Vermont, along with all the other northern states, has a policy when it comes to snow removal during storms. The goal is to keep the roads safe, but that does not mean bare pavement.

Vt. Transportation Secretary Brian Searles stopped by the WCAX News studio Wednesday to explain. Watch the video for more.

Winter storm and power outage safety tips

BURLINGTON, Vt. - If you've been wishing for more snow this winter-- it's coming and in full force.

A snowstorm is moving through the Midwest causing dangerous driving conditions. And it's expected to hit our region Wednesday night, dumping more than a foot of snow in some areas by Friday morning.

Green Mountain Power has called in 40 outside line workers ahead of the storm to help crews respond to power outages. Customers can report outages by calling 1-888-835-4672, visiting GMP's Outage Center page at www.greenmountainpower.com or by clicking the "Power Out?" button on GMP's Facebook site.

Officials remind everyone now is the time to prepare for the storm and check to see if there are any parking bans in your area. Winter parking bans are in effect in Winooski and South Burlington, where no vehicles can be parked on roads from midnight until 6 a.m. or they will be towed. In Burlington, no vehicles can be parked on the roads in residential areas starting at 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. or they will be ticketed and towed, and in the business areas (metered parking) from midnight until 6 a.m.

WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS FROM THE BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT:

With the threat of a winter storm over the days to follow in the greater Burlington area, the Burlington Fire Department would like to remind the public of key life safety messages related to winter safety:

KEEP GAS METERS AND APPLIANCE VENTS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE

If a vent is obstructed, an appliance may malfunction and create a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide. Snow and ice accumulation may impede emergency access to gas meters and could interfere with equipment operation. Be careful when using snow plows and don't push or pile snow around meters.

MAKE SURE CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE DETECTORS ARE INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME

SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS AND BUILDING EXITS

Make sure fire hydrants are clear of snow, at least three feet in all directions with a two foot path leading to the hydrant, so the fire department can readily find and access them during an emergency. Fire escapes, back doors and other exits should also be kept clear of snow and ice.

CONTACT YOUR GAS COMPANY IF YOU SMELL A GAS ODOR

Anyone who smells a gas odor should leave the area, call 911 and immediately contact their fuel supplier.

PROTECT GAS METERS FROM FALLING ICE AND SNOW

Falling ice and snow can damage meters and piping. If you are unable to safely remove snow & ice accumulations above meters, contact a qualified roofing contractor for safe removal. Protect the meter while you remove ice and heavy snow.

ADDITIONAL WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS CAN BE FOUND ON:

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety website at <http://www.vtfiresafety.org>

The Burlington Fire Department website at <http://www.fire.ci.burlington.vt.us>

NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS FROM VERMONT GAS:

KEEP GAS METERS AND APPLIANCE VENTS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE AND MAKE SURE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS ARE INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME

If a vent is obstructed, an appliance may malfunction and create a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide. Snow and ice accumulation may impede emergency access to gas meters and could interfere with equipment operation. Be careful when using snow plows and don't push or pile snow around meters.

PROTECT GAS METERS FROM FALLING ICE AND SNOW

Falling ice and snow can damage meters and piping. If you are unable to safely remove snow & ice accumulations above meters, contact a qualified roofing contractor for safe removal. Protect meters while you remove ice and heavy snow.

CONTACT VERMONT GAS IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SMELL A GAS ODOR

Natural Gas has an odor similar to that of rotten eggs. If you smell a gas odor, leave the area immediately and call Vermont Gas at (802) 863-4511.

WINTER STORM SAFETY AND POWER OUTAGE ADVICE FROM GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER:

- Before outages occur, be sure you have a phone that is hard-wired and does not rely on electricity.
 - Fill a bathtub with water before you lose service so the water can be used to flush toilets when the power is out.
- PREVENT UNSUPERVISED BATHROOM ACCESS TO CHILDREN.
- Treat any downed line as if it is live. Report the line to your local utility and fire department, stay at least 50 feet away from the line, and keep children and pets away as well.
 - If using a generator, read and follow the owner's manual before starting it. Never operate a generator inside any structure or near a structure. Use a transfer switch to ensure electricity is not accidentally fed onto a line where line crews must work.
-
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed as much as possible to prevent food spoilage.
 - If power goes out, turn off all electrical appliances except one light so you'll know when service returns. Then, turn equipment back on slowly.

- Never use grills inside garages, sheds or other buildings, as the fumes can be poisonous.

Vermont Foodbank to expand in Rutland

BARRE, Vt. - The Vermont Foodbank plans to expand.

The organization is in the process of finalizing a deal to partner with the Vermont Farmers Food Center in Rutland. The plan calls for a new, 4,000-square-foot distribution center. It would be built next to the Winter Farmers Market.

"Right now we're bringing it down in trucks, so this will be a great benefit both to the Foodbank and to all of the people in the Rutland County area," said John Sayles, the CEO of the Vermont Foodbank.

The Foodbank hopes to have a lease signed by early January. The goal is to then begin construction and have a new space open by the summer.