WDEV-AM $\sqrt{}$	WEXP-FM	WCVT-FM
WDEV-FM		WLVB-FM

Programs & Issues List

The Radio Vermont Group

4th Quarter 2018

October 1 thru December 31

Following is a list of major topic areas to be addressed in our news and public affairs coverage. Different items may be substituted depending upon current news events unforeseen at the outset of this quarter.

Examples of specific stories are given to help you identify if the topic fits the issue category.

Issue 1: Act 46 School Consolidation

Issue 2: School Threats

Issue 3: Marijuana Legalization

Issue 4: Opioid Addiction

Issue 5: **Hospital Finances**

WDEV-FM and AM

Programs and Issues – 2018

The Programs and Issues in this file are "representative" of our news and public affairs efforts – but do not fully demonstrate the breath of our reporting and our commitment to "live" local and relevant radio. Below is a summary of some of our major regularly scheduled broadcast efforts.

Monday-Friday:

Radio VT News provides extended coverage of local, state and regional news: 6:05am - 7:05am - 8:05am - 12:05pm - 4:05pm - 5:05pm Each Newscasts is 5 to 10-minutes in length and features a variety of reports.

At 7:30AM Mon-Fri – The Morning Briefing: 10-mins of World & National News

The Morning News Service airs from 7-9am – two full hours of news, weather, sports, travel updates, commentary, interviews, plus studio and phone guests. WDEV employs our own forecaster Roger Hill who details the micro-climate of the region while watching major national weather stories and climate change. The MNS is produced by Radio Vermont News with additional world and national updates from CBS Radio News.

Radio Vermont News has developed reporter relations with WCAX-TV Channel 3 News. Monday-Friday reporter Melissa Sheketoff joins the Morning News Service with a "live" interactive update to explore stories in much greater depth than available from wire service reports.

In our "Conversation with the Editor" series, we discuss major stories from some of Vermont's most respected weekly newspapers:

Monday: The Waterbury Record (Waterbury) – Lisa Loomis, Reporter Tuesday: The Addison Independent (Middlebury) - John Flowers, Reporter

Wednesday: The Chronicle (Barton) - Bethany Dunbar, Editor

Thursday: The Gazette (Hardwick) – Ray Small, Publisher & Editor

Friday: The Herald (Randolph) – Dave Crosby, Reporter

The Dave Gram Show: 9-11am

This is our newsmaker public affairs interview program. Gram, a longtime print journalist turned radio host, provides detailed analysis of the news plus a Vermont perspective on world events. His guests are varied and represent a wide political spectrum. During the legislative session, Dave originates his program direct from the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier (Fridays and during special event days). His program also goes mobile for events such as the Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO, the Tunbridge World's Fair and other gatherings.

The Midday News Service: Noon-1PM

An hour-long update of the very latest news, business report, sports, weather and a variety of human interest features. This is the most comprehensive lunchtime news hour of any Vermont radio station. With the "Special Assignment" section, Radio VT News often delivers lengthy segments of news conferences or legislative debate. We are committed to providing our listeners with more than a "sound bite" service.

The Evening News Service: 4-5:30PM

The very latest news developments, sports and weather, perfect for the drive home. Special updated reports on the day's breaking news stories with Cat Viglienzoni from WCAX-TV News around 4:05PM and at 5:05PM, VT Digger.org reports – the state's leading on-line investigative news site.

Stowe Reporter (Thursday) – Tom Gardner, Reporter Times-Argus (Friday) – Steve Pappas, Editor

Re-Broadcast of WCAX-TV News: 11-11:30pm

Since the conversion to all digital over-the-air TV broadcasts, many in our listening area told us that they missed WCAX news – no longer available to them "over the air."

Through special retransmission agreement with WCAX News, WDEV re-broadcasts the 11pm report as a service to the public. (This is occasionally pre-empted by late-airing sporting events such as when the Red Sox play on the West Coast.)

Saturday Morning:

Similar to weekdays, WDEV is "live and local" with updated news reports including the Morning News Service from 7-8am. This hour also features "For the Birds" a program dedicated to watching and listening to birds; "The Green Mountain Club" report – with opportunities to explore VT outdoors and take advantage of guided and organized hikes around the state.

Sunday Morning:

At 6:00AM, WDEV starts the day with "Now It's the News" a weekly news magazine show. National and International issues are explored in-depth with a variety of reporters and guests.

WDEV airs Red Sox Baseball, Norwich D3 Hockey, NASCAR racing, local stock car racing and high school basketball (boys & girls) regular-season and championship games. WDEV provide "Team Coverage" of every Town Meeting Day (March) plus coverage of Primary and General Election nights.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: v7776 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--SchoolDistrictCon - page 1 of 1 - 10/19/2018

AP-VT--School District Consolidation, 128
Officials: Debt issues won't hinder planned district merger



State education officials are one step closer to merging schools in the Washington Central Supervisory Union.

(LK1019)

The state Board of Education said the supervisory union's different debt levels in each of its five towns wouldn't affect a proposed merger. Officials are considering merging elementary school districts in Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester. The towns currently share a middle and high school district.

State officials are required to consider "greatly differing debt" when arranging district mergers. School representatives had hoped the provision would stop the planned merger.

Peter Peltz says that the U-32 high school has succeeded under the merger and that model could help area elementary schools.

Board officials say savings from the merger could help reduce debts for districts.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 10/24/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Mergers,130 Residents to vote on school closing

Eds: APNewsNow.

WINDHAM, Vt. (AP) - Residents in Windham, Vermont, may vote to determine if the local school is closed ahead of a planned district merger.

The Brattleboro Reformer reports the state Board of Education plans to merge the Windham School with other area schools. Plans for a town vote next month were affected when residents received incorrect information from the Vermont Secretary of State's office.

Windham School Board Chairwoman Carolyn Partridge says it's vital "for people to understand the intricacies." Partridge says taking young students down a steep hill by bus to another elementary school is dangerous.

As part of the plan, the school board will be given the option to sell or give the school to the town.

A community group is attempting to open an independent school to replace the Windham School.

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Information from: Brattleboro Reformer, http://www.reformer.com/

AP-WF-10-24-18 1551GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/1/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Mergers,112 State board votes to force school merger for 3 towns Eds: APNewsNow.



WESTMINSTER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Board of Education has voted to force a school merger between three boards, rejecting a recommendation from the secretary of education to leave the towns alone.

Westminster School Board Chair David Major said Tuesday he attended the board meeting and was present for the vote. Major tells the Brattleboro Reformer that the vote flies in the face of local votes in Westminster, Grafton and Athens.

All three towns voted overwhelmingly against merging schools in 2017.

Major says the Westminster School Board would be meeting in special session Tuesday to decide its path in the coming months, and that it is possible Grafton and Athens boards will be on hand.

Information from: Brattleboro Reformer, http://www.reformer.com/

AP-WF-11-01-18 0437GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/2/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Merger, 109

State board finalizes school merger plans ahead of deadline

Eds: APNewsNow.

NORTH CLARENDON, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Board of Education is finalizing plans for its statewide school mergers.

Wermont Public Radio reports the board met Monday in North Clarendon to discuss Act 46 details. Members voted to merge several districts while other combinations were rejected.

Board member John Carroll says some districts in the state will need extra support following the mergers. The board is considering relaxing deadlines for those districts as well.

Board member Stacy Weinberger says Act 46 has been a long process. Weinberger says it's important to keep a solid timeline with the plan.

The state Board of Education has two more meetings scheduled ahead of the Nov. 30 deadline.

Information from: WVPS-FM, http://www.vpr.net

AP-WF-11-02-18 1207GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

VTDigger Radio 11.7.18



David Gram <dgram@vtdigger.org>

Wed 11/7/2018 2:53 PM

Inbox

To: News Room <news@radiovermont.com>; Kenley Squier <Ksquier@radiovermont.com>; Charlotte Strasser <cstrasser@radiovermont.com>; Steve Cormier <SCormier@radiovermont.com>; Jon Noyes <jnoyes@radiovermont.com>; Dana Jewell <djewell@radiovermont.com>; Lee Kittell <Lkittell@radiovermont.com>; vtd-radio@googlegroups.com <vtd-radio@googlegroups.com>;

Here's a look at Vermont news from VTDigger.org:

SUPERMAJORITY

Tuesday's election results are pointing to interesting times ahead at the Vermont Statehouse, with Gov. Phil Scott able to claim a mandate and House Democrats gaining an effective supermajority.

VTDigger.org reports that Scott won with more than 54 percent of the vote over Democrat Christine Hallquist, while Democrats and Progressives won a combined 100 seats in the House, with some races still undetermined.

That means Democrats and Progressives will hold at least two-thirds of the 150-member House, enough to overturn a gubernatorial veto. The power shift comes after a two year legislative session in which Scott issued 14 vetoes, including of a \$15 minimum wage and paid family leave.

SCHOOL MERGERS

School district mergers were defeated Tuesday in Barre City and Barre Town, as well as in the Orleans Central Supervisory Union, setting up a showdown at the state Board of Education.

Under the Act 46 school consolidation law, the board is required to issue final decisions on school mergers this month. VTDigger.org reported that it held off on the Barre and Orleans Central mergers, wanting to give voters a chance to back them voluntarily.

Now that that hasn't happened, the questions on the two mergers go back to the state Board of Education.

The Orleans Central Supervisory Union includes the towns of Albany, Barton, Brownington, Glover, Irasburg, Orleans and Westmore.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: v0281 Ony-n r n AP-NY--FatalCrash-Inters 1stLd-Writethru - page 1 of 1 - 11/15/2018

STOWE - MORRISVILLE SCHOOL MERGER 11/15/18
TG SR / LK



AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE STOWE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM MERGING WITH THE MORRISVILLE/ELMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THURSDAY.

TOM GARDNER OF THE STOWE REPORTER WAS THERE AND TOLD US WHAT HAPPENED.

(TG1115)

:34

Q: WILL SUE

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY AT STOWE TODAY DOT COM.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/18/2018

AP-VT--School District Merger, 131

State board votes to merge districts despite opposition

Eds: APNewsNow.

BARRE, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Board of Education has voted to make the Arlington and Sandgate school districts join the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union.

Arlington and Sandgate now make up one of Vermont's smallest supervisory unions.

The SUs had opposed the plan and sought a six-month delay to study the idea.

The Bennington Banner reports the superintendent of Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union told the board Thursday that the SU will be dealing with a forced merger when its's asked to take on two new districts. He said it will overtax personnel and financial resources.

The forced merger refers to the acting state education secretary's recommendation to merge the Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, and Woodford districts into a grade pre-K-to-6 union elementary school district. The board will issue a final statewide plan by Nov. 30.

AP-WF-11-17-18 2047GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/28/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Merger,107 School boards to sue state over small school grants Eds: APNewsNow.



NEWPORT CITY, Vt. (AP) - A group of Vermont school boards plan to sue the state Board of Education to save small school grants.

The Caledonian-Record reports seven boards in the North Country Supervisory Union decided to move forward with legal action pending Act 46's implementation. Districts fighting forced mergers are also a part of the planned suit.

NCSU Superintendent John Castle says using small school grants to aid mergers violates the Brigham court decision, which outlines equal school funding. Castle says the grants have an even bigger impact on rural schools that have already made cuts.

Castle adds that small school grants were meant to even the state's funding formula.

Information from: The Caledonian-Record, http://www.caledonianrecord.com

AP-WF-11-27-18 1911GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

NATIONAL GUARD



A six-month investigation by VTDigger.org into a culture of drinking and sexual harassment among Vermont National Guard members has turned up reports of drinking both at home and overseas.

At the Burlington base, Guard members say there is a drinking area called the Afterburner Club that is off limits except for fighter pilots.

Overseas, instances of drinking and leaving the military base without authorization have been reported.

In one case, Lt. Col. Christopher Caputo, who was the highest-ranking Guard official on a deployment to Djibouti, was stripped of his command in 2013 after he and three other pilots were found at an unauthorized location off base.

In response, a spokesperson said the Guard does not tolerate a culture of excessive drinking and partying.

ACT 46

The State Board of Education has adopted its final plan to reorganize districts under Act 46.

Board

members voted 7-2 on Wednesday at a meeting at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans to dissolve 50 districts and create 18 new merged entities.

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, the legal deadline for the body to act on the consolidation law, in case any last-minute changes need to be made.

TRUCK CENTER FIRE

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



*6140 AP-VT--School Mergers, 1st Ld-Writethru,131

Residents vote to close school, avoid merger

Eds: APNewsNow. Adds sentence on Irasburg joining lawsuit.

WINDHAM, Vt. (AP) - Residents in Windham, Vermont, have voted to close a local school instead of moving forward with a forced merger.

The Brattleboro Reformer reports Windham School Board chairwoman Carolyn Partridge confirmed Monday that residents had approved the closing in a 67-to-11 vote. Under the plan, the grades K-6 school will be sold to the town along with its bus.

The school had been slated for a merger with other West River Valley districts as part of Act 46.

Windham plans to reopen the school as an independent program. According to Partridge, the school's two teachers support the decision.

In Irasburg, school officials have voted to join other school boards suing the state Board of Education against forced mergers. The Caledonian-Record reports the Irasburg School Board voted Monday to join the suit.

AP-WF-11-28-18 2138GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/3/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Merger,101

Final Vermont school merger plan would create 11 districts

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont has released a final plan to merge 45 districts in 39 towns to form 11 new union school districts.

Vermont Public Radio reports the State Board of Education plan released Friday also extends three existing districts. Meanwhile, nearly 30 communities plan to take their fight against the forced mergers to court.

Overall, the plan reduces 34 districts across Vermont.

The state's education agency says 63 percent of Vermont's K-12 students will live in a new union school district by July 2019.

Supporters said the 2015 school merger law will lead to more equity among the children in larger districts.

AP-WF-12-02-18 2011GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/4/2018

AP-VT--Consolidating School Districts,117 Forced school district mergers sparks backlash

Eds: APNewsNow. Will be expanded.

STOWE, Vt. (AP) - Efforts to force school districts to merge their boards and budgets in Vermont - a rural state with declining enrollment and rising education costs - have sparked backlash with more than 20 communities planning to take legal action.

The state Board of Education released its final plan on Friday to merge 45 districts in 39 towns to form 11 new union school districts. The state says the goal of the consolidation law that the decision is based on is to improve education outcomes and equity by creating larger and more efficient school governance structures.

A number of communities see it as a loss of local control over their kids' education and plan to appeal the forced mergers.

AP-WF-12-04-18 1755GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/5/2018

AP-VT--School Mergers-Windham, 122 Windham will wait on lawsuit before closing school Eds: APNewsNow.



WINDHAM, Vt. (AP) - The Windham School Board says it will wait to see the outcome of a lawsuit challenging Vermont's Act 46 before taking action to close its elementary school.

Board Chair Carolyn Partridge said Monday that the school board is also interested to see if the state Legislature takes action as towns raise concerns about the school district consolidation law. The Brattleboro Reformer reports the Windham school board joined about 25 communities this fall to be part of the lawsuit.

The goal of Act 46, which Partridge herself had supported initially in her capacity as a Democratic state representative, was to save the state money because of declining enrollments across the state. She now says the goal is to slow down the process.

Information from: Brattleboro Reformer, http://www.reformer.com/

AP-WF-12-05-18 1720GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: v0295 Ony-n r n AP-NY--TeenageGirl-Amber - page 1 of 1 - 12/6/2018

STOWE / MORRISTOWN SCHOOL MERGER 12/6/18 TG SR / LK

THE PROPOSED MERGER ON JULY FIRST OF THE STOWE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH THE MORRISTOWN/ELMORE DISTRICT IS PROMPTING THE COMMUNITIES TO BOTH COMBAT THE DECISION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND PREPARE FOR SEVERAL POSSIBLE OUTCOMES.

TOMMY GARDNER OF THE STOWE REPORTER HAS MORE.

(TG1206) :49 Q: AS WELL

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY IN THIS WEEK'S STOWE REPORTER, ONLINE AT STOWE TODAY DOT COM.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/13/2018



AP-VT--School Merger Lawsuit, 133

Bellows Falls high school joins lawsuit against mergers

A Vermont high school board has voted unanimously to join the legal fight over district consolidations

Eds: APNewsNow.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont high school board has voted unanimously to join the legal fight over district consolidations.

Bellows Falls Union High School's board voted 7-0 Monday night to join a legal challenge mounted by a group of 32 school boards statewide. The Brattleboro Reformer reports the high school board itself, which is made up of representatives from Rockingham, Westminster, Grafton and Athens, will be affected indirectly by the forced mergers.

Two weeks ago, the school boards of Westminster, Grafton and Athens voted to join the anti-merger lawsuit against Act 46, which encourages consolidation as schools face declining enrollment and rising education costs.

Westminster representative David Clark says he sees no harm in joining a lawsuit. Athens representative Don Capponecelli says the board could get answers about the plans for mergers from the lawsuit.

Information from: Brattleboro Reformer, http://www.reformer.com/

AP-WF-12-12-18 1548GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



ACT 46 SUIT

More than 30 Vermont school districts are filing suit to challenge forced mergers under Act 46.

VTDigger.org reports that the lawsuit challenges the State Board of Education's final reorganization of districts under the hotly debated school district consolidation law. November's order merged 45 districts across 39 towns into 11 new consolidated districts. Another 4 districts could be merged under the plan if existing union districts agree to absorb them. It's the second legal challenge to the mergers.

UVM ATHLETICS

The University of Vermont is cutting back on several types of athletic scholarships.

VTDigger.org reports that the programs affected will include men and women's cross country and track and field, as well as swimming and diving.

Current scholarships will be honored, but the two programs will not be offering any new scholarships this year.

The change comes as the university moves forward on plans to build a \$95 million athletic center.

LEAHY-FUNDING BILL

Efforts by Vermont U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and others to avert a government shutdown may be for naught.

VTDigger.org reports that if a spending bill co-authored by Leahy passes, the federal government can forestall a partial shutdown at least through February 8. The bill was supposed to go to a vote on the House floor today.

But now the president is threatening again to refuse to sign the bill if it doesn't include \$5 billion for border security.

GODDARD LAYOFFS

Plainfield-based Goddard College laid off about 15 employees in November and will let go of a similar number in January.

That's according to VTDigger.org, which cites a former employee of the school. Neither new Goddard President Bernard Bull nor interim marketing director Michelle Barber would say how many people were being laid off.

Goddard has struggled financially amid declining enrollment. Bull says he hopes stepped-up marketing to prospective students will help turn those things around.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

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ACT 46 / VSC 12/21/18 SP TA / LK



THE VERMONT SUPREME COURT DELIVERED A RULING TO A LEGAL CHALLENGE TO ACT 46, THE STATE'S SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION LAW.

TIMES ARGUS EDITOR STEVE PAPPAS HAS THE STORY.

(SP1221A) :28

Q: WASHINGTON COUNTY

THERE'S MORE ON THIS WEEK'S RULING IN TODAY'S TIMES ARGUS.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/26/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Bond Vote-St Johnsbury, 125
School officials push bond vote to 2019
Officials in St. Johnsbury, Vermont have decided to move a vote on funding for school upgrades to next year
Eds: APNewsNow.

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt. (AP) - Officials in St. Johnsbury, Vermont have decided to move a vote on funding for school upgrades to next year.

The Caledonian-Record reports interim St. Johnsbury School District Superintendent Dr. Brian Ricca said last week that the bond vote would take place in Nov. 2019. Administrators had previously planned to set the vote for March. School officials have proposed security upgrades and a new pellet boiler that will cost an estimated \$1.6 million.

Ricca says that he and others are "concerned with the lack of hard numbers" around the project. The district hasn't received information from Black River Design about a redesigned entrance. Officials are still waiting for more bidders about the new wood pellet boiler.

The building committee hasn't finalized details in the bond vote.

Information from: The Caledonian-Record, http://www.caledonianrecord.com

AP-WF-12-25-18 1535GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/26/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Merger Lawsuit, 1st Ld-Writethru,101
Court strikes down first suit challenging school merger law
The Vermont Supreme Court has struck down the first lawsuit challenging the state's authority under Vermont's school merger law.

Eds: APNewsNow. Adds info to first graf on school merger law.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Supreme Court has struck down the first lawsuit challenging the state's authority under Vermont's school merger law.

Judges concluded Washington resident H. Brooke Paige lacked standing to challenge the constitutionality of Vermont's school district consolidation law. The Times Argus reports Paige had appealed the lawsuit after it was dismissed earlier this year for other reasons.

The court affirmed the dismissal and also found a lower court had erred by granting Paige standing in the first place.

Paige's lawsuit had named the state, then-Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe, the state Board of Education and the Washington School Board as defendants.

AP-WF-12-25-18 1539GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 10/11/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Shooting Plot,122

School district spends \$275K on security upgrades

Eds: APNewsNow.

FAIR HAVEN, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont school district has spent more than \$275,000 on security upgrades in the months after police say they thwarted a school shooting plot.

WCAX-TV reports the Addison-Rutland district has added resource officers, security cameras and completed exterior renovations since Jack Sawyer's arrest in February.

Authorities say the former Fair Haven Union High School student planned a shooting at the school in a series of diary entries.

Schools superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell says she thinks about school security "every single day." She says the district is working to ensure students, faculty and staff are safe.

Sawyer faces misdemeanor charges of criminal threatening and carrying a weapon with the intent of harming another person. The most serious charge of attempted murder was dropped.

AP-WF-10-11-18 1557GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



COLCHESTER, Vt. (WCAX) A lockdown at Colchester High School has been lifted.

Police say they got the call after a student made a comment that would have jeopardized the safety of the school. And when they came have and couldn't immediately find the student, that's when they say the lockdown started.

Twenty minutes of disruption to classes at Colchester High School Wednesday morning ended without incident.

"It started about 10:32 and ended about 10:52," said Colchester Police Chief Doug Allen. "We were able to locate that student and determine that the situation was safe."

Police won't say what the comment was or who made it due to the ongoing investigation. They say it was not a hoax but that the campus is safe.

"There are no weapons in the school, harmful devices in the school. So we've determined the school is safe," Allen said.

Colchester Superintendent Amy Minor says they will always take steps to ensure safety. Staff and students regularly practice drills so they can react quickly to lockdowns. And she encourages parents and students to "see something, say something."

"The safety of our students is paramount," Minor said. "It was a student who reported information. And we're really thankful that students feel comfortable enough at Colchester High School to share when they're feeling concerned."

School officials would not comment on whether the student that made the threat is still in school. Police said they do not expect any charges to be filed.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/16/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Threat,111

District cancels classes following threat

Eds: APNewsNow.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont school district has cancelled classes because of a threat against its high school.

Springfield School District Superintendent Zach McLaughlin said in a Facebook post that officials decided to cancel all classes Thursday after the district couldn't complete a satisfactory risk assessment of a threat they became aware of Wednesday.

McLaughlin addressed an earlier threat in a Nov. 5 post. He said the New Hampshire authorities notified Springfield police about a "potential online threat" made over the weekend. Administrators met with the student and their family before concluding that the threatening statement didn't present a "real danger to the school community."

It's unclear if schools will be open Friday.

AP-WF-11-15-18 2007GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



Police at Harwood HS after threat on bathroom mirro

Posted: Wed 5:42 AM, Dec 05, 2018

MORETOWN, Vt. (WCAX) Harwood Union High School is open Wednesday, but police officers will be there further notice.

This comes after Superintendent Brigid Nease says a custodian found a threatening message on the boys' bathroom mirror.

Nease says the words "I am going to kill you" were written in liquid soap.

The superintendent shared this with the community through an email.

"A full report has been made to the Vermont State Police and we are working closely with them. School will open and a police presence will be at HUHS until further notice. Please speak with your students. We need from anyone who may have information about this situation, said Nease.

This isn't the first time police were brought in at the high school.

A student was charged with criminal threatening after police say a Facebook message mentioned using a cross to one to shoot up the school back in June.

Here's the full email sent by Superintendent Nease on Tuesday:

"Dear HUUSD Students, Parents, Faculty and Community Members,

I regret that I need to contact you this evening with unfortunate news. Between 4:30 and 4:45 today [Tuesc Harwood Union HS custodian discovered a threatening message written with liquid soap on the mirrors of bathroom in the high school. The message said, "I am going to kill you all".

Our team is in the process of implementing our crisis intervention plan and beginning a full investigation. I understand that some community members may have heard rumors about this as reports of such are com want you all to know the facts of what we know so far.

A full report has been made to the Vermont State Police and we are working closely with them. School will open and a police presence will be at HUHS until further notice. Please speak with your students. We need from anyone who may have information about this situation.

Every safety precaution possible will be taken until we can determine exactly what happened and who did t these times, we take every action very seriously and act accordingly.

We will keep you all updated as is reasonable and allowable until we get to the bottom of this. I am so sade this is happening in our caring, wonderful HUUSD community.

Sincerely, **Brigid Nease** Superintendent"

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/6/2018

AP-VT--Threat-Custodian Arrest,91

Police: Custodian wrote threatening high school message Eds: APNewsNow. Name is Dick Peck. Needs attorney comment.

DUXBURY, Vt. (AP) - Police say a custodian was behind a threatening message

found in a Vermont high school bathroom.

Vermont State Police have cited the 51-year-old Moretown man with misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and creating a false alarm for the message found Tuesday at Harwood Union High School.

Schools Superintendent Brigid Nease says the message read "I am going to kill you," and it was written in liquid soap on the boys' bathroom mirror.

Nease says video surveillance footage from the hallways helped in the investigation.

The custodian is due in court Thursday.

AP-WF-12-06-18 0605GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



MILTON, Vt. (WCAX) Police are investigating a threat made against a student at Milton High School.

Investigators say the threat was made on social media by a student from another district.

The Milton Town Schools Superintendent Amy Rex says the school was notified by police at about 1:30 p.m.

Police would not say what the threat entailed but they say it was directed toward the student and not the school.

After-school programs at the high school were canceled Thursday. Rex does not believe classes will be canceled Friday.

The district has requested an additional student resource officer at the high school for Friday.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



shooting plot By Neliana Ferraro |

Posted: Wed 12:05 PM, Dec 19, 2018 | Updated: Wed 12:48 PM, Dec 19, 2018

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. (WCAX) Police now say there were two students who came forward to help them unravel an alleged school shooting plot at Middlebury Union Middle School.

Middlebury police say one of the students who helped police overheard a teen plotting to shoot another student on campus and "anyone else." Another student offered to help that 14-year-old by getting a gun from a relative. The shooting was planned for Tuesday.

Police say the student behind the plot was taken to Porter Medical Center for psychiatric counseling and is in DCF custody. Prosecutors also got an Extreme Risk Protection Order so police could seize guns from the home of the second student's relative.

Wednesday morning, police clarified the timeline for us.

Police Chief Tom Hanley said they found out about the threat Saturday from the student who overheard the conversation. Officers interviewed 10 students over the weekend trying to learn more. But all they could find out were bits and pieces of information or vague rumors. It was only on Monday when a second student stepped up and reported there was a specific target, day and time picked out that police were able to find the student who allegedly made the threat.

"We definitely need brave, strong individuals to come forward and talk to us and let us know what's going on," Middlebury Police Det. Kristine Bowdish said.

"Just pay attention. Pay attention to the conversations that are going on in school. You know with social media today, it's not like two kids talking in a corner of the hallway. This is all over the place," Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley said.

Police say when they interviewed the student who made the threat, that student gave vivid details about the crime he intended to commit.

The chief says the case is still open. Neither of the kids involved in the plot are in school today.

Police say they take all threats seriously, not just ones with clear evidence like this.

Our Neliana Ferraro is gathering more details on this story and she will have an update for you on the Channel 3 evening news.

Passenger killed in Beekmantown crash
Related Stories

Student helps police foil alleged Middlebury school shooting plot

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Police still investigating Target bomb threat



SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (WCAX) We are learning new details about the bomb threat at Target in South Burlington over the weekend.

Police say the store got a call Saturday which prompted an evacuation of Target and the rest of the mall.

Investigators swept the building and deemed the threat not credible. The bomb squad was not called in.

The store reopened about an hour later.

South Burlington Police Chief Shawn Burke says they are still investigating and they are treating the call as a real threat.

"With the use of voice over IP systems and layer upon layer, it makes it very difficult to investigate and oftentimes investigations lead us outside of the confines of not only our city and our state but oftentimes outside the confines of our country," Burke said.

This was not the only Target that was threatened. Police say the store in Keene, New Hampshire, had a similar threat and they are investigating any connections or the potential that it was a local threat.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/18/2018



*6090 AP-NH--Police Recruit-Threats, 129

Police recruit accused of threatening graduation out on bail

A police recruit accused of threatening to kill fellow officers at his graduation ceremony has been released on bail on conditions that include staying out of New Hampshire

Eds: APNewsNow.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - A police recruit accused of threatening to kill fellow officers at his graduation ceremony has been released on bail on conditions that include staying out of New Hampshire.

Twenty-four-year-old Noah Beaulieu is required to live with his family in Connecticut. He can't come to New Hampshire except to see his lawyer or appear in court. He's charged with criminal threatening.

A police affidavit said other recruits told the Laconia officer to stop making the comments and that they weren't funny, but Beaulieu continued to talk about bringing machine guns and ammunition to the graduation ceremony. They also reported he said a movie would be made about him when he became a serial killer.

Beaulieu's lawyer'said his client never intended to harm anyone.

The ceremony went on as planned.

AP-WF-12-18-18 1337GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Description or Script:

David Gram < dgram@vtdigger.org>

Mon 12/17/2018 3:53 PM

Here's a look at Vermont news from VTDigger.org:

(Broadcasters: We are trying to track down a pronunciation for Boonchuilier in the last item. Will update if it becomes available.)

FORMER GUARD CHIEF

A former head of the Vermont National Guard is urging legislators and the governor to exert more oversight of the organization.

Retired Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville made the comments in response to a recent seven-part series by VTDigger.org about allegations including heavy drinking and sexual misconduct in the Guard.

Rainville served as the adjutant general of the Guard from 1997 to 2006.

She said she could not comment on the allegations raised in the VTDigger series because they occurred after her departure.

Lawmakers are expected to hold hearings on issues raised by the reports.

WORKPLACE POT

Some employers want to be able to randomly test for drug use now that Vermont has legalized possession of small amounts of marijuana and limited growing of pot.

Workplace testing is currently more restricted in Vermont than in many other states. Random tests are currently banned in the state unless required under federal regulations.

Vermont Chamber of Commerce President Betsy Bishop says it may be time to revisit the state's policy on workplace drug testing.

VTDigger.org reports that the issue will likely to be debated by lawmakers in 2019 along with

at a state of taxation and regulation of marijuana

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

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CANNABIS DRIVE-THRU

A Vermont company that makes and sells hemp-based CBD products has opened its first drive-thru in a leased former bank building in Brattleboro.

A Ceres Natural Remedies official tells VTDigger.org that customers can buy CBD products at the drive-thru now, and will be able to purchase medical THC products there in January.

Director of Product Development Bridget Conry says it's hoped the drive-through will be helpful to people with disabilities who use medical THC.

She says with the drive-through, they can stay in their cars and pick up their products.

SEWER OVERFLOWS

Last weekend's unseasonable rain led to more than 2 million gallons of untreated and partially treated wastewater flowing into rivers around the state.

VTDigger.org reports that Brandon, Montpelier, Rutland, St. Albans and Vergennes all reported combined sewer overflows to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Officials say St. Albans also released more than half a million gallons of partially treated wastewater and stormwater.

The state is working with cities and towns to reduce instances in which systems that combine sewage and storm water overflow. But officials say the work is expensive and will take years to complete.

CATHOLIC IMAGE

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: v7698 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--HelicopterMarijua - page 1 of 1 - 12/13/2018

AP-VT--Helicopter Marijuana Search Program, 108
Vermont State Police end helicopter-aided pot investigations



Vermont State Police have ended a longstanding program that used military helicopters to search for illegal marijuana farms.

(LK121**3**A)

State police decided to stop the aerial missions as the state Department of Public Safety focuses on opioid investigations. The flights had been a part of the Marijuana Eradication Resource Team and were partially funded by federal grants. Officials say the program confiscated as many as 6,400 marijuana plants annually.

Detective Lt. Casey Daniell says more troopers are needed to help support opioid probes.

Officials say state police will continue to investigate large-scale pot operations. However, police will now rely heavily on "confidential informant information."

Information from: WVPS-FM, http://www.vpr.net

AP-WF-12-13-18 1727GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/20/2018



*6140 AP-VT--Marijuana Legalization, 130

Panel proposes 26 percent tax rate on pot sales in report

A Vermont panel recommended a 26 percent tax rate on marijuana sales in its final report

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont panel has recommended a 26 percent tax rate on marijuana sales in its final report.

The Governors Subcommittee on Taxation and Regulation recommends a 20 percent excise tax, coupled with a 6 percent sales tax. Officials recommend that Vermont towns receive 5 percent of the excise tax revenue. Under the plan, towns with retail pot stores would get an additional 10 percent.

The 14-page report includes other recommendations like roadside saliva testing and the creation of a Cannabis Board of Control to regulate the state's industry.

Critics of the tax plan say the pot tax is too high and won't attract customers from the illicit marijuana market. State Sen. Richard Sears has said the rate should be lower.

The recommendations will move to the Legislature for any changes.

AP-WF-12-20-18 1849GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News



VERMONT HEALTH CONNECT

The state of Vermont is taking a bit of extra time to process applications for health insurance coverage through Vermont Health Connect.

State officials tell VTDigger.org December 15 – this past Saturday – was the deadline to sign up for insurance coverage that would be in effect as of January 1.

A surge in enrollments caused a system slowdown, and some people were unable to complete their applications by the Saturday deadline.

State officials say they can't formally extend the deadline, but this week are helping those who were unable to complete their applications through no fault of their own.

MARIJUANA TESTING

The governor's Marijuana Advisory Commission is urging a roadside test for marijuana before Vermont creates a commercial market for cannabis.

The state earlier this year passed a law allowing adults to possess up to an ounce of marijuana and to grow a limited number of plants. But it did not follow other states in allowing for retail sales.

The commission had been looking at whether and how to do that. VTDigger.org reports that the special panel's recommendation says a consistent and scientifically valid testing system should be put in place before retail sales are allowed.

UVM ATHLETIC CENTER

The University of Vermont has announced it will name its new athletic facility for Richard and Deborah Tarrant.

Also announced Tuesday night was a \$15 million donation toward the project by the Tarrants. Richard Tarrant is the founder of the IDX medical software firm and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate from Vermont in 2006.

The \$95 million project will be called the Tarrant Event Center. VTDigger.org reports that it will feature the renovation of the university's hockey arena, Gutterson Fieldhouse; the construction of a new arena for the men's and women's basketball teams. Patrick Gymnasium, where basketball games currently are held, will be transformed to be a fitness center for all students.

VERMONT-HEALTH CARE

Vermont Attorney General TJ Donovan is joining efforts to defend the Affordable Care Act following a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that the law is unconstitutional. Donovan says his office is joining a multi-state coalition that is seeking an immediate appeal, and is asking the judge to clarify the ruling's effective date.

The attorney general tells VTDigger.org the appeal likely will end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. The ACA so far has survived two challenges at the Supreme Court.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/11/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Marijuana Found in Barn,74

Police: 50 pounds of marijuana seized from barn

Police in Vermont continue to investigate 50 pounds of marijuana that were seized from a barn.

Eds: APNewsNow.

MANCHESTER, Vt. (AP) - Police in Vermont continue to investigate 50 pounds of marijuana that were seized from a barn.

The Bennington Banner reports Manchester police seized the marijuana on Nov. 15 after receiving a tip from residents. According to investigators, no arrests have been made at this time but police have "several persons of interest."

Police say the pot is worth between \$160,000 and \$200,000.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Manchester Police Department.

Information from: Bennington Banner, http://www.benningtonbanner.com

AP-WF-12-11-18 1711GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

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*6140 AP-VT--Marijuana-Vermont, 1st Ld-Writethru,127 Tax commissioner says marijuana tax won't be windfall

A Vermont commission looking at issues of public health, safety and the taxation and regulation of marijuana if sales were to become legal is finishing up its recommendations to the governor

Eds: APNewsNow. Updates from commission meeting. Will be updated.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont commission looking at issues of public health, safety and the taxation and regulation of marijuana if sales were to become legal is finishing up its recommendations to the governor.

It's likely the Governor's Marijuana Advisory Commission will recommend a 26-percent tax rate on marijuana sales.

Tax Commissioner Kaj (Ky) Samson, a member of the panel, told the commission Wednesday that a retail marijuana market will not create "a big windfall" of tax revenues for the state as is frequently perceived. A subcommittee has estimated that the state could bring in up to \$20 million in annual tax revenues.

Samson says the costs across state government to create an infrastructure to tax and regulate the market and educate the public quickly add up to the revenues.

AP-WF-12-12-18 2141GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



GUARD-CHURCH

A Williamstown pastor is under investigation by his church's parent organization after allegations he engaged in misconduct while chaplain with the Vermont National Guard.

VTDigger.org reports that the New England chapter of the Lutheran-Missouri Synod has opened the investigation into Calvin Kemp, the pastor at the Williamstown Lutheran Church.

This follows Heather King's telling VTDigger she entered into a coercive relationship with Kemp from 2005 to 2008. King said she feared she would lose her job as an assistant to Kemp if she rebuffed and reported his behavior.

Kemp retired as chaplain from the Guard in 2014. He declined comment to VTDigger.

MARIJUANA-MOLD

A leading Vermont grower and seller of medical marijuana has been struggling with mold infestations in its products.

Former employees tell VTDigger.org that mold issues at Champlain Valley Dispensary have sometimes been widespread and that the company has been slow to make changes to combat the infestations.

The possible consequences for thousands of patients at Champlain Valley Dispensary remain unknown because the state has no oversight over cannabis products.

The dispensary neither confirmed nor denied the mold issues, but said it has never received complaints about mold.

GOP DIVISIONS

Divisions between moderates and conservatives still are roiling the Vermont Republican Party. VTDigger.org reports that the latest sign is an email sent out by state party platform committee member Rick Cochran charging that some party members are plotting a revolt against current party leadership.

Cochran and state party Chair Deb Billado have tried to push Vermont Republicans closer to the national party and President Donald Trump. Other party members are allied with Republican Gov. Phil Scott, an occasional critic of the president.

Billado declined to comment to VTDigger.

TRANSGENDER PRISONER

Vermont's Corrections Department is being sued by a transgendered former prisoner who says she was housed with males despite asking to be placed with females.

A lawyer for 35-year-old Cammie Cameron says in the lawsuit she was beat up by another inmate after being placed at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield.

VTDigger.org reports that the suit seeks more than \$350,000 in damages.

Corrections Commissioner Lisa Menard declined to comment, citing the pending litigation.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/3/2018

BC-VT--Fatal Crash-Drug, 103

Tests: Driver in fatal crash had cannabis in blood

Eds: APNewsNow.

NORWICH, Vt. (AP) - Police say a driver in a crash that killed his passenger on Interstate 91 in Vermont had cannabis in his blood.

Police have charged 34-year-old Keith Cushman, of Lebanon, New Hampshire, with grossly careless and negligent operation with death resulting in Sept. 3 accident in Norwich. They said toxicology results confirmed cannabis was in his blood.

Police said Cushman's southbound car hit the median and rolled over. Thirty-seven-year-old Theodore Haley, who was thrown from the vehicle and then pinned under it, died at the scene.

It wasn't immediately known if Cushman had a lawyer, and a phone number couldn't be found for him.

AP-WF-12-03-18 2029GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



Gov. Scott marijuana commission announces tour schedule

By Press Release

Nov 28 2018, 11:45 PM | 0 comments

Share

Tweet

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0 Shares

News Release — Gov. Phil Scott

Nov. 16, 2018

Contact:

Jake Perkinson

Jake.perkinson@partner.vermont.gov

Tom Little: Tlittle@lclwvt.com

Montpelier, Vt. – The Governor's Marijuana Advisory Commission will host a listening tour throughout Vermont in order to provide Vermonters an opportunity for public comment on the draft reports produced by the Commission's Subcommittees on Roadway Safety, Education and Prevention and Taxation and Regulation earlier this week.

The draft reports document the findings and recommendations of the Subcommittees for review by the Commission. The listening tour is to give Vermonters the opportunity to further inform the Commission as it prepares to finalize its report and submit its recommendations to Governor Scott by December 15.

All three reports are available to the public at this time, and can be found online at

https://marijuanacommission.vermont.gov/commissiondocuments, as well as the links listed below.

Roadway Safety

Education and Prevention

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Revised: Sept-18



BURLINGTON, Vt. (WCAX) The Vermont Senate is preparing legislation to create a retail market for marijuana.

Senate President Tim Ashe says he expects a bill to be finalized by early January. The legislation will look to incorporate ideas included in a recently released draft report from Republican Gov. Phil Scott's Marijuana Advisory Commission.

"We're trying to incorporate as many things as we're seeing coming out of the governor's commission as possible. Some of that reflects just better information a few years later. Some of it is more input, which has contributed to a different way of thinking," said Senate President Tim Ashe, D-Chittenden County. "I think that the 26 percent total tax rate is probably a good starting point for the bill. Of course, the committees will take a look and make sure they think that that is sensible."

Ashe says the goal of a marijuana retail market is to undercut the illicit market.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

VTDigger Radio 11.15.18



David Gram <dgram@vtdigger.org>

Thu 11/15/2018 3:30 PM

To:vtd-radio@googlegroups.com <vtd-radio@googlegroups.com>; Kenley Squier <Ksquier@radiovermont.com>; Lee Kittell <Lkittell@radiovermont.com>; Jon Noyes <jnoyes@radiovermont.com>; Dana Jewell <djewell@radiovermont.com>; News Room <news@radiovermont.com>; Charlotte Strasser <cstrasser@radiovermont.com>; Steve Cormier <SCormier@radiovermont.com>;

Here's a look at Vermont news from VTDigger.org:

KINGDOM KILLING

Federal prosecutors say the girlfriend of a man found slain on a rural northern Vermont road last month joined her father in helping to plan and arrange the killing.

VTDigger.org reports that it's the first time the government has formally alleged that 27-year-old Krystal Whitcomb and her father, 51-year-old Shawn Whitcomb, were involved in the killing of Michael Pimental.

The Whitcombs are being held on federal gun charges. The government is expected on Friday to recommend at a court hearing on the case that they continue to be held.

SANDERS-WALMART

Fresh off a successful bid to get Amazon to raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour, Sen. Bernie Sanders is turning his attention to Walmart.

Sanders has proposed legislation he calls the Stop WALMART Act that would bar companies from buying back stock unless they adopt the \$15 wage and provide paid sick leave.

Sanders also would limit executive pay to no more than 150 times median employee pay.

Walmart's current minimum wage is \$11 an hour. Its CEO Doug McMillon was paid \$22.8 million last year.

RETAIL CANNABIS

A subcommittee to the Marijuana Advisory Commission appointed by Vermont Gov. Phil Scott is expected to recommend retail sales of pot, but with the highest taxes in New England.

The recommendation is to impose a 20 percent tax on marijuana and couple it with the state's existing sales tax of 6 percent and a local levy of 1 percent in some communities.

Massachusetts taxes cannabis sales at up to 20 percent, while Maine caps its pot tax at 10 percent.

Supporters of a tax and regulate system say they want to keep taxes within reason so as to remain

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

The Democratic mayor of Burlington has endorsed a long-ime Republican Vermont House member over his Democratic challenger.

Mayor Miro Weinberger's endorsement favors Kurt Wright over Democrat Robert Hooper, who is treasurer of the Chittenden County Democrats.

Hooper tells VTDigger.org that Weinberger's endorsement is not surprising, given that he has to work closely with Wright, who also leads the Burlington City Council.

The endorsement came in an ad Wright ran in a Burlington community newspaper, the North Avenue News.

DOCTORS — CANNABIS

The Vermont Medical Society is continuing to speak out against normalizing marijuana use in Vermont.

The doctors' group strongly opposed the law passed this year allowing Vermont adults to possess up to an ounce of the drug and to grow limited amounts of it. Now the group is coming out against proposals to tax and regulate marijuana.

The Medical Society passed a resolution this weekend saying that going to a commercial pot market would increase usage of marijuana. Legalization advocates are questioning that assertion.

Find more news at VTDigger.org.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

VTDigger Radio, 10.22.18

David Gram <dgram@vtdigger.org>

Mon 10/22/2018 2:56 PM



To:vtd-radio@googlegroups.com <vtd-radio@googlegroups.com>; Charlotte Strasser <cstrasser@radiovermont.com>; Steve Cormier <SCormier@radiovermont.com>; Lee Kittell <Lkittell@radiovermont.com>; Dana Jewell <djewell@radiovermont.com>; Jon Noyes <jnoyes@radiovermont.com>; News Room <news@radiovermont.com>;

Here's a look at Vermont news from VTDigger.org:

POT FINANCING

Vermont's financial industry is looking for ways to step up servicing of its cannabis sector.

David Silverman, president and CEO of <u>Union Bank</u>, tells VTDigger that his bank has chosen to work with a few companies producing or selling industrial hemp or cannabidiol.

Silverman says his bank engages in strict due diligence before entering into business arrangements with such enterprises. Brattleboro Savings & Loan is looking to finance medical marijuana providers.

Chris D'Elia of the Vermont Bankers' Association says he's been working with other banking groups in Washington to bring changes in federal law that would enable bankers to work more easily with the cannabis industry.

NORTHWEST NURSES

Nurses at the Northwest Medical Center in St. Albans are expected to vote this Wednesday whether to join a union.

VTDigger.org reports that the hospital administration is opposing the move, and it has the support of some of the nurses for its anti-union stance.

Union supporters say collective bargaining would help them address short staffing at the hospital and promote job security.

About 160 nurses are expected to vote on the union drive on Wednesday.

WAREHOUSE FIRE

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Vermont's rate for 2017 was the lowest in New England, while neighboring New Hampshire had the highest, at 37 per 100,000 people.



VTDigger.org reports that the national rate of fatal drug overdoses was nearly quadruple the rate of 6.1 per 100,000 seen in 1999.

Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine says the figures show both the state and the nation have a lot of work to do to combat drug abuse.

BURLINGTON PARKING

Burlington's Public Works Commission has approved changes to the <u>residential parking permit</u> program that include a \$10 fee per permit.

The commission voted 6-0 Wednesday night to approve the changes, which faced opposition from some residents who didn't want to pay the additional fee.

The new plan also caps the number of permits each household can obtain. It is expected to go into effect in January or February.

Public parking is not allowed on streets that have residential parking, which now covers eight miles across the city.

Find more Vermont news at VTDigger.org.

Colin Meyn News Editor VTDigger.org (802)777-2958

OVERDOSE DEATHS

Vermont's rate of fatal drug overdoses ranks 22nd in the country and equals the national rate of fatal overdoses of 22.3 per 100,000 people.

12/3/2018 3:06 AM

1 of 2

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 11/28/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Opioid Lawsuit-Bennington, 126 Town votes to join law firm's opioid lawsuit Eds: APNewsNow.



BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont town's select board has voted to work with a national law firm that plans to sue opioid makers over the drug crisis.

The Bennington Banner reports Bennington will not have to pay for litigation as part of the agreement with Sanford Heisler Sharp.

The law firm says instead it will accept 25 percent of damages won from opioid manufacturers, with 75 percent of damages going back into the community.

Sanford Heisler Sharp says it will work by gathering data to determine the cost of the drug crisis to Bennington. If the costs are significant enough, the law firm will then file a lawsuit in state court.

The firm says its attorneys have begun similar discussions with other Vermont communities including Manchester and Rutland.

Information from: Bennington Banner, http://www.benningtonbanner.com

AP-WF-11-27-18 1658GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

*6060 AP-MA--Addiction Obituary-Lawsuit ,131 Family of woman with opioid addiction sues city for records

Eds: APNewsNow.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) - The family of a 30-year-old Vermont woman whose obituary gained national attention for its discussion about her opioid addiction are suing a Massachusetts police department for information about the days leading up to her death.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday the family of Madelyn Linsenmeir, whose obituary was widely shared after she died Oct. 7.

The suit against the Springfield Police Department and city of Springfield says Linsenmeir was arrested in late September and later transferred to the custody of the sheriff's department.

It says she was rushed on Oct. 4 to the hospital, where she later died.

The complaint says lawyers for Linsenmeir's family have requested documents that might shed light on her arrest and detention, but haven't received them.

Springfield's city attorney didn't immediately respond to an email.

AP-WF-11-27-18 2052GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 10/24/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Needle Disposal Sites, 108

Barre needle disposal program helps clean up city streets

Eds: APNewsNow.

BARRE, Vt. (AP) - Officials in Barre, Vermont, say a needle disposal program has helped to clean up city streets.

City officials tell WCAX-TV the Greater Barre Safe Sharps Alliance's pilot program has collected over 100,000 needles over the past six months. There are 17 disposal containers placed throughout the city.

Barre Fire Chief Joseph Aldsworth says the department has received less calls about needles on the street.

Vermont Department of Health District Director Joan Marie Misek says concerns about vandalism were "unfounded." Misek says the units help patients managing chronic diseases as well.

The state has created a task force to implement the disposal system in other towns and cities.

Information from: WCAX-TV, http://www.wcax.com

AP-WF-10-24-18 1615GMT



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

*6140 AP-VT--Opioid Epidemic-Treatment Dollars-Vermont, 2nd Ld-Writethru, 126

Eds: APNewsNow. With BC-US--Opioid Epidemic-Treatment Dollars. Updates with state response.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont - a pioneering state in the fight against opioid abuse - is among states that have been slower to spend the first wave of emergency federal funding.

An Associated Press analysis finds that states are spending the funding differently under the 21st Century Cures Act grant program. The AP analysis found states that expanded Medicaid under President Barack Obama's health overhaul reported spending their allocations more slowly than states that didn't expand the health insurance program. Medicaid covers treatment for the poor.

The AP analysis found that Vermont has spent just 21 percent of the emergency funding while the state says it has spent more than double that. Either percentage is lower than the rates of spending by many states that did not expand Medicaid.

AP-WF-10-22-18 2134GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

Revised: Sept-18

Printed: v7798 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--Opioids-ProgressR - page 1 of 1 - 12/21/2018

AP-VT--Opioids-Progress Report,125 State releases progress report on response to opioid crisis



Vermont's Opioid Coordination Council has released a progress report on previous recommendations on how to deal with the ongoing opioid crisis.

(LK1221A)

The Council says it has developed a community collaboration toolkit and distributed naloxone kits to the nearly 170 emergency service agencies across the state. The Rutland Herald reports Republican Gov. Phil Scott said in a statement that the report highlights the work of the council to create a statewide system of support for addiction prevention and recovery.

Scott says the opioid crisis is "one of the most complex challenges we have faced here in Vermont and across the nation."

Vermont Drug Prevention Policy Director Jolinda LaClair says the progress report shows the state's efforts to follow up on the council's January recommendations.

AP-WF-12-21-18 1632GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News



Vt. releases progress report on opioid crisis response

Posted: Fri 11:48 AM, Dec 21, 2018 | Updated: Fri 11:50 AM, Dec 21, 2018

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) A Vermont panel has released a progress report on previous recommendations on how to deal with the ongoing opioid crisis.

The Opioid Coordination Council says it has developed a community collaboration toolkit and distributed naloxone kits to the nearly 170 emergency service agencies across the state. The Rutland Herald reports Republican Gov. Phil Scott said in a statement that the report highlights the work of the council to create a statewide system of support for addiction prevention and recovery.

Scott says the opioid crisis is "one of the most complex challenges we have faced here in Vermont and across the nation."

Vermont Drug Prevention Policy Director Jolinda LaClair says the progress report shows the state's efforts to follow up on the council's January recommendations.

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QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/18/2018



*6140 AP-VT--Methamphetamine Use-Vermont, 104

Officials: Meth looming problem for Vermont

The U.S. Attorney for Vermont says methamphetamine is threatening the state Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The U.S. Attorney for Vermont says methamphetamine is threatening the state.

The Burlington Press reports Christina Nolan said Drug Enforcement Administration Director Uttam Dhillon told her that the national meth problem will spread to Vermont. She said federal prosecutors are already handling more meth cases.

She spoke last week during a Vermont Press Association luncheon in Montpelier.

Authorities say large amounts of the drug are coming into the U.S. from Mexico. U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection seized nearly 61,000 pounds of meth in 2017.

Burlington Police Chief Brandon del Pozo added that meth "is on the rise" as heroin dealers traffic the drug.

Information from: The Burlington Free Press, http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com

AP-WF-12-17-18 1951GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

*6140 AP-VT--Hospital CEO-Resignation, 127

Health care system CEO resigns amid financial troubles

The CEO of a struggling nonprofit health care system in Vermont has resigned Eds: APNewsNow.

 ${\tt SPRINGFIELD}, \ {\tt Vt.} \ ({\tt AP})$ - The CEO of a struggling nonprofit health care system in Vermont has resigned.

Springfield Medical Care Systems CEO Tim Ford stepped down Wednesday. The health care system includes Springfield Hospital and health centers in Charlestown.

Springfield Hospital said in a statement that the hospital is "facing challenges created by a declining population, rising costs, below-cost reimbursements from payers, and an increase in the number of patients who are unable to pay for care."

Ford's resignation follows months of financial issues and complaints from employees. According to an August filing with Green Mountain Care Board, SMCS had projected a \$2.5 million deficit for 2018.

 $\,$ CFO Scott Whittemore resigned last week. Chief of Practice Operations Josh Dufresne will serve as the primary administrator until an interim CEO is selected.

AP-WF-12-13-18 1558GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington is the target of a new lawsuit alleging sexual misconduct by a priest with young boys.

The plaintiff's lawyer Jerome O'Neill says there appears to be a narrow legal path around Vermont's statute of limitations. O'Neill says that's because his client, who lives in Texas, didn't learn until last year that the diocese had tried to cover up its role in the case.

VTDigger.org reports that Burlington-based O'Neill has secured more than \$30 million in priest misconduct settlements from the church.

The suit says Alfred Willis was a priest in the diocese from 1976 to 1985, working in Burlington, Montpelier and Milton and repeatedly molested young boys.

SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL

Southeastern Vermont's Springfield Hospital appears to be having some serious financial problems.

VTDigger.org reports that several area vendors and contractors who provide goods and services to the hospital say the hospital hasn't been keeping up with bills and has large arrearages.

One affiliated eye doctor, Richard Lane, says he was surprised to walk into a freezing cold office a few weeks ago. When he called the fuel oil dealer, he was told the hospital was behind on fuel payments.

Meanwhile, the hospital's chief financial officer abruptly left his job last week. BURLINGTON POWER PLANT

Burlington's been trying to figure out to do with an old coal-fired power plant on the Lake Champlain waterfront for decades. Now there's a new idea.

Neale Lunderville, head of the city's Community and Economic Development Office, says he'd like to see the building partially demolished. He told the City Council on Monday evening that he'd like to keep its frame up o create a new structure for open-air events.

One idea for colder months would be to crate a public skating rink in the facility.

VTDigger.org reports that the council appeared strongly supportive of the idea.

MANURE SPREADING

An early start to winter is causing manure problems for Vermont dairy farmers.

State law bans spreading manure from December 15th to April first, or when fields are wet or snow-covered. Rain at harvest time and record snow in November left little time for fields to dry out and manure spreading to et done.

State agriculture officials told VTDigger.org that nearly 60 farmers have reached out to the Agency of Agriculture concerned that the ban on applying manure on snowy fields will leave them with brimming manure storage Areas this winter.

Some farmers have been given permission to spread on snowy fields.

Find more news at VTDigger.o

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Radio Vermont News

Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 12/20/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Hospital Finances, 125

Governor appointee to assess, help struggling hospital Republican Gov. Phil Scott has appointed a former hospital executive to evaluate, monitor and help Springfield Hospital as it deals with financial troubles, that the governor calls "a very serious situation." Eds: APNewsNow.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. (AP) - Republican Gov. Phil Scott has appointed a former hospital executive to evaluate, monitor and help Springfield Hospital as it deals with financial troubles, that the governor calls "a very serious situation."

Scott said in a statement Wednesday that Tom Huebner, the former chief executive officer of the Rutland Regional Medical Center, will work with Springfield officials as they determine what went wrong and how to fix it.

Last week the CEO of Springfield Medical Care Systems, a nonprofit health care system that includes Springfield Hospital, resigned, following months of financial issues and complaints from employees.

Scott says Huebner will represent the governor's office and work with the hospital board and administration "to ensure there is a plan in place to restore the hospital's fiscal stability."

AP-WF-12-20-18 0515GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Radio Vermont News

*6140 AP-VT--Hospital CEO-Resignation,127

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AP-WF-12-13-18 1558GMT