

WDEV-FM and AM

Programs and Issues – 2021

The Programs and Issues in this file are “representative” of our news and public affairs efforts – but do not fully demonstrate the breadth 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 Alexandra Montgomery 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 News & Citizen (Morrisville) – Tommy Gardner, Reporter
Tuesday: The Addison Independent (Middlebury) - John Flowers, Reporter
Wednesday: The Valley Reporter (Waitisfield) – Lisa Loomis, Reporter
Thursday: The Gazette (Hardwick) – Ray Small, Publisher & Editor
Friday: The Herald (Randolph) – Tim Calabro, Publisher

Vermont Viewpoint: 9-11am

This is our newsmaker public affairs interview program. Rick Cengeri, host a show that provides detailed analysis of the news plus a Vermont perspective on world events. His guests are varied and represent a wide spectrum. During the legislative session, Ric 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 Afternoon 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 Calvin Cutler from WCAX-TV News around 4:05PM and at 5:05PM, VT Digger.org reports – the state’s leading on-line investigative news site.

Waterbury Roundabout (Monday) – Lisa Scagliotti, Editor

Seven Days (Tuesday) – Courtney Lamdin, Reporter

Vermont Business Magazine (Wednesday)—Tim McQuiston, Editor

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 airs CBS Radio Sunday Morning, and “The Takeout with Majhor Garrett”, 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.



rundowncreator

Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Thursday ANS - 12/9/2021 › B3 Stowe Mask Discussion

Versions

1. 12/9/2021 7:02:05 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:12 ▾

00:00:12 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The Town of Stowe decided not to institute a mask mandate this week.

Tommy Gardner of the Stowe Reporter has more on why some business owners wanted one:

120921SOT Tommy Gardner A

More on this story at Stowe Reporter dot com.

save save and close close

Insert a... ▾

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 5 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT RVNN-7AM RVNN-8AM

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- (X) Weekly Reporter Stowe Reporter

Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

Killington Resort has updated their website to say the resort would reinstate a mask mandate.

All guests and employees, vaccinated or not, must now wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth while indoors or riding gondolas, quote "out of an abundance of caution to protect our team and others."

The Times Argus reports the policy went into effect on Monday.

The communications manager at Killington Resort, said the management was aware that COVID cases were rising and wanted to respond in a way that would make a visit safer for visitors and employees.

~~Killary~~ ^{and} pointed out the change only affected the policy for wearing masks while inside at the resort, not outside.

The policy also affects the Pico Mountain Ski Resort, which is, like Killington, owned by Powdr Corp.

~~Killary said~~ reaction to the masking policy, based on social media posts, was divided with some visitors accepting it readily and others more annoyed.

Masks are not required in lift lines or on chair lifts. ||

Management at Killington Resort is requiring all employees be fully vaccinated after the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a stay on the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced their vaccine-or-test rules are required for all employers with more than 100 employees.

New Text Document

The Montpelier City Council has for a second time, approved an indoor mask mandate.

Local 22 News reports the council members voted unanimously to mandate face coverings inside all buildings within the city limits that are open to the public.

Montpelier resident Diane Sophrin told the council she doesn't trust anyone not wearing a mask.

(120921SOT Diane Sophrin)

But Steve Whitaker called the mask mandate "a fool's errand", citing jurisdictional issues regarding the city's many state-owned buildings.

(120921SOT Steve Whitaker)

Councilor Lauren Hierl said that a mandate would increase ~~make~~^{mask} usage.

(120921SOT Lauren Hierl)

City Manager Bill Fraser says he doesn't understand why people would be reluctant to wear a mask.

(120921SOT Bill Fraser)

As stipulated by state law, Montpelier's mandate is now in place for 45 days. The City Council then has the ability to extend it for 30 days at a time if it wishes.



rundowncreator

Welcome, Lee! [\[Log Out\]](#)

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Tuesday ANS - 12/7/2021 › B6 Waterbury Mask Mandate Rejected

Versions

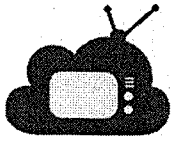
3. 12/7/2021 5:23:35 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:32

00:00:32 at characters per second

The Waterbury Select Board heard from local residents and a number of residents from other Vermont towns Monday night before deciding not to take any action regarding a local mask mandate to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Waterbury Roundabout is reporting that the board heard from 16 speakers, most of whom spoke in opposition to the mandate.

In Waterbury, cases have more than doubled since the end of July when the Delta variant of the virus began its surge. State Health Department data record 438 cases for Waterbury since the start of the pandemic, 239 of those have been identified since the beginning of August.



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Welcome, Brady! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 12/6/2021 › B3 Global Foundaries Vax

Versions

1. 12/6/2021 5:15:01 PM - Brady Farkas - TRT 00:00:29 ▾

00:00:29 at 20 ▾ characters per second

One of Vermont's largest private employers is requiring its workers to get vaccinated.

In a letter to employees, the head of GlobalFoundries says employees have until Jan. 4 to be fully vaccinated.

The company says it's required by federal vaccination rules for government contractors.

But the CEO Tom Caulfield also says it's imperative workers get vaccinated for the health of the company.

Employees who don't get vaccinated will be out of a job by the end of March, and it doesn't matter if they work in person at the Essex Junction plant or remotely from home.

save

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Length (30) :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

Four towns took up the issue of mask mandates on Monday night.

The City of Rutland said no.

The city's Board of Alderman president, Matthew Whitcomb, tells WCAX News they're sticking with what the Rutland Regional CEO is recommending, but a resolution encouraging people to wear masks and spending resources on supplies and education passed unanimously.

(120721SOT Matthew Whitcomb)

South Burlington and Essex Town voted in favor a reinstating a mandate. Officials from both municipalities say there's been very little pushback.

South Burlington's mandate only applies to city owned buildings, but officials will be asking businesses to put up signs educating people about mask wearing. They'll revisit the mandate in 45 days, then every 30 subsequently.

Essex Town's mandate includes all public places with several exemptions for children under two, those with disabilities, workplaces in which they make work unsafe to do, and while eating in dining establishments.

Charlotte also discussed a mask mandate on Monday, but didn't take a vote on it. Town manager, Dean Bloch, said it's unlikely they'll take the issue up again.

The town of Williston will bring up the issue tonight.

In Waterbury -



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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 12/6/2021 › B8 UVM MC Vax Pause

Versions

1. 12/6/2021 3:38:12 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:52 ▾

00:00:52 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The Vermont Daily Chronicle is reporting that the University of Vermont Medical Center and its affiliates have halted plans to require vaccination for all employees. The state's largest private employer will revert to the previous policy of allowing employees to test weekly instead.

Spokesperson Neal Goswami told the Daily Chronicle:

"As long as the courts pause the federal vaccination mandate, The University of Vermont Health Network's Vermont affiliates will continue to operate under the vaccination policy we originally announced in August, which mandates vaccination or weekly testing.

However, if at any point the courts allow the government to enforce its mandatory vaccination policy, we will comply with it."

Rutland Regional Medical Center announced a similar decision last week. The change was made due to a federal court preliminary injunction stopping, in all 50 states, the Biden administration requiring that all U.S. healthcare organizations receiving Medicare funding have 100% of employees vaccinated by Jan. 4.

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(X) Other VT Daily _____

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Length :30 (:60) 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

Burlington city councilors unanimously approved a mask mandate during a special meeting Wednesday, as the coronavirus continues to spread in the community.

Under the new mask ordinance, people indoors in public settings in Burlington need to wear a mask.

The ordinance must be reconsidered every 30 days.

It can also be dropped if Chittenden County drops to a moderate transmission level as defined by the CDC.

The new Burlington mandate follows a similar set of regulations as other municipalities with one major difference, there is an exemption for bars, restaurants, and gyms that screen all people for full vaccination.

follows WCAX News 3

UVM Medical Center President Stephen Leffler^A supports masking in indoor public spaces but also encourages people to get their COVID shots.

(120221SOT Stephen Leffler)

Mark

Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Levine says Vermonters underestimate when the masks are most effective -- which is at private events.

He says if you had four families over to your home, that is a much more dangerous environment to be in than heading to the supermarket.

and he says people should voluntarily consider masking up when having others in their home.

(120221SOT Mark Levine)

Brattleboro and Rutland Town have both voted to require masks for indoor public spaces, ~~but the town of Hartford has voted not to adopt a community wide mandate.~~

New Text Document

Business owners and residents in ~~the~~ Barre made it clear they do not want a mask mandate and the City Council obliged.

The Times-Argus reports that at its regular meeting Tuesday night, the council took up the idea of instituting a municipal mask mandate.

No one had requested a local mask mandate in Barre City, but City Manager Steven Mackenzie said he added the possibility to Tuesday's agenda to see what the council and the public~~s~~ thought about it.

There were about 50 people in attendance for Tuesday's meeting, ^{most of them} ~~with the vast majority of~~ them participating remotely.

Most residents who spoke were ~~also~~ opposed to the mandate. ~~Some said they would not shop~~ at stores that require masks while others said they've stopped going to businesses where masks aren't worn.

In the end, the council took no action and moved on to other business.



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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Wednesday ANS - 12/1/2021 › B2 Warren Mask Mandate

Versions

1. 12/1/2021 4:47:43 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:25 ▾

00:00:25 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The town of Warren voted to bring back a mask mandate at a select board meeting Tuesday night.

Many local businesses have already had a masking policy in place, The Pitcher Inn general manager Tracy Kelly spoke to NBC5.

(120121SOT Tracy Kelly)

Some at Tuesday night's meeting were not convinced that the mask mandate was needed, or that the town had the right to enact one.

The select board did not specify how long this mandate would be in place. They did say it can be revisited, revised, or revoked at any time.

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 - (X) Other NBC5 _____

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side



Welcome, Lee! [Log Out!](#)

Script Editor

Radio Vermont > Wednesday ANS - 11/24/2021 > B4 Gov on VV

Versions

- 1. 11/24/2021 11:36:11 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:33

00:00:33 at 20 characters per second

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT SIGNED THE BILL THAT WILL ALLOW VERMONT'S TOWNS TO PASS LOCAL MASK MANDATES.

BUT SPEAKING ON THE VERMONT VIEWPOINT SHOW ~~THIS~~ (WEDNESDAY) MORNING, SCOTT LAID OUT SOME REASONS WHY HE BELIEVES THE MANDATE WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE COVID CASE NUMBERS IN THE STATE.

(112421SOT PHIL SCOTT B)

THE GOVERNOR ALSO PRAISED SENATOR LEAHY EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING THE SENATE, DENIED HAVING ANY INTEREST AT ALL IN PURSUING LEAHY'S SEAT IN WASHINGTON, AND SPOKE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL SEEK A FOURTH TERM AS VERMONT'S GOVERNOR, *and when that decision may come.*

(112421SOT PHIL SCOTT A)

THE COMPLETE INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR SCOTT IS ON THE VERMONT VIEWPOINT PODCAST AT [WDEV.RADIO.DOT.COM](#).

save save and close close

Insert a...



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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Wednesday ANS - 11/24/2021 › B6 Prosecutor Fired

Versions

2. 11/24/2021 4:51:29 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:35 ▾

00:00:35 at 20 ▾ characters per second

A deputy prosecutor from Barre was fired from his job with the Lamoille County State's Attorney's office for refusing to become vaccinated or wear a mask.

The Vermont Daily Chronicle reports that Tom Kelly was let go on November 5th.

Kelly says he believes he contracted COVID in March of 2020, and has acquired some natural immunity, and cited a study from Israel that suggests natural immunity from one who has recovered from COVID is more effective than any immunity offered by any of the vaccines.

He refused to submit to a mandate from Lamoille County State's Attorney Todd Shove that since he was not considered to be vaccinated, he must either wear a mask, or submit to periodic testing.

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New Text Document

A federal vaccine mandate means health care workers at the UVM Medical Center must get a COVID shot or they will lose their jobs.

Under new guidance from the federal government, employees at health centers that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding must be fully vaccinated against COVID 19 by January 4th.

New York State had already required health care workers, including those at CVPH in Plattsburgh, to get their first does by late September.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire instituted a vaccine mandate on its own, requiring employees to be fully vaccinated by the end of September.

UVMHC officials say that [REDACTED] all employees must have their first shot by December 4th or they will lose their jobs.

Kimberly Moore, a registered nurse at UVMHC, is not vaccinated and she feels she is not ready to get the vaccine right now. She says this is a harsh reality for her and others in the same situation.

(111221SOT Kimberly Moore)

According to the hospital, 283 employees have yet to provide vaccine documentation.

In a statement, UVM Medical Center Spokesperson Neal Goswami said they intend to comply with the policy.

New Text Document

Vermont's House Speaker and Senate President Pro Tem want Governor Phil Scott to change some of the state's COVID strategies.

Speaker Jill Krowinski and Senator Becca Balint are calling on Scott and his administration to put in place a statewide mask mandate, after the last nine days have included five of Vermont's highest daily case counts.

Speaker Krowinski tells Local 22 News she's heard from parents, healthcare providers, educators and business owners who are burnt out, and feel guidelines haven't been clear enough.

(111321SOT Jill Krowinski)

Senator Balint said it's not just case counts prompting this sense of urgency, it's the increased pressure that Vermont hospitals and intensive care units are facing.

(111321SOT Becca Balint)

Legislative leaders may meet with Governor Scott on Monday. If the COVID outlook is still concerning in January when the Legislature reconvenes, lawmakers may attempt to take some matters into their own hands.

At the Governor News Conference on Tuesday, Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Michael Pieciak said the state's modeling does not anticipate cases decreasing over the next four weeks.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

The University of Vermont Medical Center and its affiliates have halted plans to require vaccination for all employees, a spokesman announced today.

The state's largest private employer will revert to the previous policy of allowing employees to test weekly instead.

An email from a spokesman for the UVM Medical Center said that "As long as the courts pause the federal vaccination mandate, The University of Vermont Health Network's Vermont affiliates will continue to operate under the vaccination policy we originally announced in August, which mandates vaccination or weekly testing, But, if at any point the courts allow the government to enforce its mandatory vaccination policy, we will comply with it,"

Rutland Regional Medical Center announced a similar decision last week.

The change was made due to a federal court preliminary injunction stopping, in all 50 states, the Biden administration requiring that all U.S. healthcare organizations receiving Medicare funding have 100% of employees vaccinated by January 4th.



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Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 11/8/2021 › B3 Vax Rules for Quarantine

Versions

1. 11/8/2021 4:59:01 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:33 ▾

00:00:33 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The state of Vermont is requiring unvaccinated state employees to use personal sick time if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 through their jobs and have to quarantine.

If someone exhausts all their sick time. they could be required to quarantine without being paid.

Fully vaccinated employees who are forced to quarantine do not need to use sick time.

The Vermont State Employees Association has filed a grievance saying the new policy was implemented by the administration of Governor Phil Scott without consulting the union.

State officials don't know how many state workers have been forced to use leave while quarantining.

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Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 12/27/2021 › B9 Brattleboro Vax Mandate?

Versions

1. 12/27/2021 5:49:53 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:10 ▾

00:00:10 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Brattleboro is discussing becoming the first Vermont town to instill a vaccine mandate.

Mike Dockerty of VTDigger has more.

122721SOT Mike Dockerty A

More on this story at vt digger dot org.

[save](#) [save and close](#) [close](#)

[Insert a...](#) ▾

New Text Document

After a record year for overdoses in Vermont, the city of Burlington is again evaluating the possibility of creating what they call a safe injection site for drug users.

The Burlington City Council has twice passed resolutions showing their support for overdose prevention sites but any potential site would still be years away and need to clear many legal hurdles.

Scott Pavek, the city's newly hired substance use policy analyst, tells WCAX News the aim is to provide a place where people can use illegal substances under the supervision of medical professionals who could help if an overdose occurs.

(122821SOT Scott Pavek)

Those using the space would also have access to resources including substance abuse prevention, housing assistance, and legal services.

Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan says he does not believe overdose prevention sites would violate state law.

(122921SOT TJ Donovan)

New York City recently opened two overdose prevention sites and health officials say they averted 59 overdoses in the first three weeks they were open. Rhode Island also recently unveiled a framework to make the sites a reality.

It's not clear who would pay for the Burlington site but city officials hope it would be a mix of public and private funding.

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Length : 30 : 60 (2:00) 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

Radio Vermont News

Revised: Jul-21

New Text Document

2021 is closing out another deadly year on Vermont's roads. There were 73 highway deaths in all-- the most the state has seen since 2012 when there were 77.

That is the exact opposite of what state police want to see, and as the calendar turns a page, they hope through collaboration and education, they can right the ship.

Of the 73 killed this year, 60% were unbuckled, 42% were driving drunk or drugged, and 31% were speeding.

10-5-21 Paul
Ravelin says state police can't ticket their way to fewer deaths.

122821SOT Paul Ravelin A

Next year, state police plan to work more directly in communities with educational programs, increased exposure to state police, and targeted partnerships with communities or local law enforcement. Ravelin says the goal is to meet the problem at the decision before it's too late.

122821SOT Paul Ravelin B

Ravelin says it isn't foolproof, but there really is only one goal for 2022.

122821SOT Paul Ravelin C

The 10-year average from 2011 to 2020 is 71.5 deaths, so 73 is only a bit higher. And in comparison to other decades, this year's number is still lower.

New Text Document

The Bennington police chief says gangs from Massachusetts are behind most of the recent drug arrests in the area.

Paul Doucette says his department is taking the issue seriously and they're working with federal law enforcement and police departments in Massachusetts.

As an example, Doucette says a raid last month on a Bennington home led to the arrest of seven people, some of whom had ties to gangs in the Springfield, Massachusetts, area.

Police recovered numerous firearms, some with extended magazines, drugs, drug paraphernalia and thousands of dollars in cash.

Doucette says the raid "opened the eyes of some people."

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

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QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 4 (See Cover Sheet)

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

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Revised: Jul-21

New Text Document

Friedman committed \$10,000 from chamber members and said he is asking each town to allocated \$5,000-\$7,500 in the coming year's budget.

Waitfield Select Board chair Christine Sullivan noted that that amount is well within the town's park's budgets and said it was good to know the program would be in place next summer.

"That's great to hear. I can't go find a Lawson's or Bourne's to give us \$10,000 every year. This is long term and it should just be done. To develop that ethos, that's the thing, to get kids involved. We want to take care of our recreation access points. That's our stock in trade."

Friedman added.

Board member Brian Shupe praised the project and the final report which Friedman submitted to the board. (Read that report here: <http://www.waitfieldvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/11.22.21-Meeting-g-Packet.pdf>)

() Vermont Viewpoint Show () Vermont News Show () Vermont Public Affairs () VT Digger Reporter () WCAX Reporter



Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Wednesday ANS - 11/3/2021 › B4 Opioid Overdose

Versions

1. 11/3/2021 3:15:59 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:35

00:00:35 at 20 characters per second

State health officials learned something in October: An animal sedative is increasingly contributing to opioid overdose deaths among Vermonters.

The drug, xylazine (ZY-la-zine), is used as a sedative, muscle relaxant and pain reliever in animals such as horses and cattle. It is not approved for human use.

In people, researchers say, it reduces the functioning of the central nervous system and can cause respiratory depression, slowed heart rate and low blood pressure.

But some Vermonters have apparently taken the drug along with opioids such as fentanyl and heroin.

Between January 2019 and July of this year, 26 Vermonters who died from an opioid overdose also had xylazine in their system,

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RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 4 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT RVNN-7AM RVNN-8AM

Note: RVNN = WDEV, WLVB and WEXP (simulcast news 5:00 Length)

Year 2021 () Jan-Mar () Apr-Jun () Jul-Sep (X) Oct-Dec
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- () Special Report / Bulletin
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 - () Weekly Reporter _____
 - () Other _____

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Length (.30) :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

Vermont's legislative economist says the massive flow of federal cash into Vermont during the course of the pandemic has left the state on the brink of an economic boom not seen in the last 30 years.

Tom Kavet says two factors are driving Vermont's economy -- the spread of the coronavirus and ten billion dollars in federal spending, which has led to state tax revenues coming in above target.

(120921SOT Tom Kavet)

Kavet says inflation, housing, and labor shortages could pose uncertainty to the economy and future tax revenues.

WCAZ NEWS reports

Lawmakers have their eyes on dumping more federal cash into the economy in 2022, including nearly \$600 million in leftover stimulus and an estimated \$2.2 billion from the infrastructure plan.

But Washington County Senator Ann Cummings, is among lawmakers already trying to address unmet needs due to a shortage of workers and low wages in critical areas like mental health, home health, and child care.

(120921SOT Anne Cummings)

State economists are slated to give their final forecast to the Legislature next month, setting the stage for upcoming budget negotiations this coming session.

New Text Document

Due to additional funding from the American Rescue Plan, eligible households will see a large increase in fuel assistance.

Brian Gecha, the owner of Gecha Fuels in Pittsford says last year at his time home heating fuel cost \$1.95 per gallon. This year it is up to \$3.05.

(111921SOT Brian Gecha)

Right now, it's ramping up but it will get really busy in January and February.

The number of people who qualify for heating assistance in Vermont is based on the poverty level.

The Crisis Fuel Assistance Program has doubled ITS benefits.

Instead of two deliveries of 125 gallons of fuel, households will receive two deliveries of 250 gallons.

One cord of wood has become two, and one ton of pellets is now two tons.

Nicole Tousignant at the Vermont Department for Children and Families says this year they are servicing about 600 more households, which means either more people have fallen below the poverty line or have decided to receive assistance.

(111921SOT Nicole Tousignant)

Tousignant says that even with the increased benefits and more people receiving assistance, she is not worried about the state running out of money.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 3 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT RVNN-7AM RVNN-8AM

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 - () Public Affairs () Vermont Viewpoint Show (WDEV 9-11)
 - () On-Location Report(s) () Weekly Reporter _____
 - (X) Other Local 22

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Length :30 (60) 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

The state of Vermont is expanding who will be eligible for emergency housing in hotels and motels this winter.

The Vermont Department for Children and Families has announced the Adverse Weather Conditions of the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program will be in use from November 22nd until March 1st.

Historically, the adverse weather program has been applied on a day-to-day basis, depending on weather forecasts and conditions.

To be eligible for the program, people must have an urgent need for housing, meet income guidelines and be unable to find housing on their own.

Before the pandemic, the emergency housing program served about 250 people a year.

The program currently serves more than 1,500 people.



Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Tuesday ANS - 11/9/2021 › B4 State Infrastructure

Versions

1. 11/9/2021 3:42:37 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:47 ▾

00:00:47 at 20 ▾ characters per second

With Congress's long-awaited passage of a \$1 trillion nationwide infrastructure package, Vermont is set to receive about \$2.2 billion to invest in roads, bridges, broadband, sewer systems and more.

After months of negotiations, the U.S. House voted late Friday to give final approval to the package meant to revitalize and rebuild the nation's aging infrastructure. The U.S. Senate had passed the bill about two months ago, and it now heads to President Joe Biden's desk for his signature

Vermont's independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders lauded the state's total allotment from the package as one of the largest infusions of federal money into Vermont in history.

According to breakdowns from Vermont's congressional delegation, most of Vermont's \$2.2 billion will go toward transportation: \$1.4 billion for federal-aid highway programs, and \$225 million for bridge repairs and replacements over the course of five years.

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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Wednesday ANS - 12/22/2021 › B10 Brookside Closes Early

Versions

1. 12/22/2021 4:49:04 AM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:32 ▾

00:00:32 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The Brookside Primary School in Waterbury will close a day early for the holiday break due to not enough staff to open on ~~Wednesday~~ ^{today} after six new COVID-19 cases were identified.

The Times-Argus reports that 16 cases have been reported at the pre-K-through-fourth-grade school in December alone.

The district has seen 29 cases this month -- as many as were identified from late August through November. Harwood Union Middle/High School has had seven cases this month; four were reported for Crossett Brook Middle School, one each in Moretown and Warren elementary schools and none in Waitsfield, according to school announcements.

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Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Wednesday ANS - 12/8/2021 › B7 Foster Families

Versions

2. 12/8/2021 7:28:23 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:45 ▾

00:00:45 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Vermont has a shortage of foster homes, and the pandemic is at least partly to blame.

State social workers say it's always been difficult to place older teenagers and children who need specialized care, but now finding appropriate homes for children of all ages, and at all levels of need, is posing an exceptional challenge.

It's no secret that the pandemic has put extra pressure on parents across the board -- and that includes foster parents.

Natalie Williams of VT Digger has more.

120821SOT Natalie Williams A

Although there are enough physical spaces to place each foster child in the state, the issue involves the right fit for each child. At times, the Department for Children and Families has had to place children outside of their district, approve an exception to the department's rule capping homes at four foster children, or split up siblings to find a safe home.

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Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Monday ANS - 11/22/2021 › B4 Harwood Substitutes

Versions

1. 11/22/2021 7:00:40 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:12 ▾

00:00:12 at 20 ▾ characters per second

The Harwood School District is having a hard time finding substitute teachers this year.

Lisa Scagliotti of the Waterbury Roundabout has more.

112221SOT Lisa Scagliotti C

More on this story at Waterbury Roundabout dot org.

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New Text Document

As winter approaches, Vermont's Agency of Transportation is dealing with a shortage of snowplow drivers.

Todd Law, VTrans Deputy Division Director tells Local 22 News that unfilled positions could lead to longer routes or reduced levels of service, and Vermont needs to fill about 30 openings for plow drivers.

(111821SOT Todd Law).

Law says these staffing shortages have led to more responsibilities for employees and, as a result, a slight change in their job title. Instead of 'Transportation Maintenance Workers' some employees are now "Transportation Operations Technicians" because of the extra work that needs to get done.

Those additional duties also mean additional dollars. Law says Wages are up from \$14 an hour to \$19, even without a Commercial Drivers License. Those with a CDL can make more. He anticipates an average winter this season, which may involve storms that exceed 16 hours of maintenance.

Many of Vermont's TOWNS say THEY are fully staffed, but the state is encouraging Vermonters to apply for full and part time positions through the state website.

Untitled

The University of Vermont Medical Center has been increasingly relying on travel nurses, who move from state to state and work on short-term contracts.

They are usually brought in to fill jobs long enough for hospitals to recruit permanent staff.

At the University of Vermont Medical Center, the state's largest hospital, travel nurses filled 366 full-time positions as of last Friday, representing 16 percent of the nursing workforce and five times more than the pre-pandemic average.

Most of these temporary workers are getting paid far more than their permanent counterparts, compounding a long-standing morale problem and costing the hospital millions.

Some nurses have even left the medical center to join the travel circuit themselves, and the hospital has backfilled their positions with yet more travelers.

UVM Health Network leaders acknowledge that the situation is unsustainable and say weaning off this expensive workforce is one of their top priorities. But exactly how they plan to do that — and whether their efforts will prove successful — remains unclear.

Staffing shortages have plagued hospitals across the country as the pandemic rages on and frontline workers burn out. Thousands of nurses have left the profession, or been forced from their job for refusing a vaccine mandate, while others have sought less stressful nursing jobs at doctor's offices or schools.

UVM Medical Center spent about \$20 million a year on travelers before the pandemic, then doubled that total in the fiscal year that ended in September.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 2 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT RVNN-7AM RVNN-8AM

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Length :30 (:60) 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

Untitled

Some Vermonters who are able to find antigen tests and then test positive are clogging up emergency rooms.

The emergency department at the Rutland Regional Medical Center has been overwhelmed with asymptomatic ~~folks~~ people.

The Vermont Hospital Association says it's hearing similar stories from other parts of the state.

The Rutland Center's medical director, Doctor Rick Hildebrant says some people who test positive with a rapid test go to the emergency room looking for a PCR test.

Hildebrant says those who are asymptomatic and receive a positive antigen test should stay home and reach out to their primary care provider.

He says the only time to go to the ER is if you have a positive test and are very sick, and tells WCAX News the flood of asymptomatic people is preventing others in need of immediate care from getting it.

(122321SOT Rick Hildebrandt)

Hildebrant says health department PCR testing is the best option for asymptomatic people, even though the results take a little longer.

He says by going to the emergency department, you are also potentially exposing yourself to someone with COVID who is very sick.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 1 (See Cover Sheet)

WDEV-AM/FM X WCVT RVNN-7AM RVNN-8AM

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- (y) Other WCAX

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

The Vermont Farm Show is off for 2022. It's being canceled due to COVID.

The annual Farm Show connects farmers and members of the public with various agriculture businesses, food producers and outreach organizations. There are also awards for farms, contests, demos and talks.

The event was supposed to happen in February.

Now, vendors need to contact the farm show by Jan. 7 for a full refund.

The Farm Show was also canceled in 2021 because of COVID.

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 1 (See Cover Sheet)

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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

State leaders want you to check with your insurance company before buying a COVID test kit to see if your plan qualifies for coverage under the new state directive.

Vermont Financial Regulation Commissioner Mike Pieciak says Blue cross Blue Shield of Vermont, Cigna, MVP Healthcare, and Medicaid, MUST cover the cost under the state's rule:

But, Pieciak says some coverage plans under those providers are regulated by the federal government and not the state. That means if you have a plan under federal jurisdiction, you will not qualify for reimbursement.

(122021SOT Michael Pieciak)

Also, Companies are only covering the cost of certain test brands.

And Pieciak says NOT all pharmacies are ready to file the reimbursement claims themselves. So, be prepared to pay upfront and keep your receipt so you can file the claim yourself after purchase.

You must submit your own claim for all online purchases, as well.



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Welcome, Lee! [Log Out]

Script Editor

Radio Vermont › Tuesday ANS - 12/7/2021 › B6 School Vax Program

Versions

1. 12/7/2021 6:50:38 PM - Lee Kittell - TRT 00:00:46 ▾

00:00:46 at 20 ▾ characters per second

Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont State of Education have announced that \$2 million in federal emergency funds is being committed to schools that ~~achieve~~ ^{reach} a student vaccination rate of 85% or higher.

Local 22 News reports that through the new School Vaccination Incentive Program, schools that reach these vaccination rates will be eligible to receive \$15 per student, for a minimum reward of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$10,000.

Those that achieve over a 90% vaccination rate can apply for an additional 50% of the original award, for a potential maximum of \$15,000.

Schools must be able to certify that they have met a vaccination threshold and have encouraged student participation with regards to how the funds are used. Funds will be awarded on a rolling basis through April 1, 2022 and must be spent by June 30, 2022. Public schools and approved and recognized independent schools are eligible.

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New Text Document

From the Governors Press Conference...

--Vermont COVID infection rates and hospitalizations showed improvement over the past week, now state officials are hoping to prevent a major rebound following the holidays.

Governor Phil Scott says they have been working with federal partners to get as many rapid test kits to Vermonters as possible, part of the state's newest testing strategy.

122821SOT Phil Scott A - This is a plan ~~to~~ to help VT schools.

More details on how they will be distributed will be available later this week.

--The latest forecast modeling prior to Christmas showed infection rates slowing, with cases increasing 4% over the past week. Officials have said they expect cases to rebound over the next month as the highly ~~transmissible~~ omicron variant gains a firm footing in the region. Federal health officials say it now represents about 45% of all COVID cases in the region.

--Hospital capacity has improved in Vermont over the past week with a 15% decrease in average ICU capacity. Officials say for those continuing to show up at ICUs over the past week, 85% were unvaccinated.

Here's DFR Commissioner Michael Pieciak with more.

122821SOT Michael Pieciak A

----Vermont Education Secretary Dan French says rapid tests conducted by families will be a key strategy to keep COVID out of schools following the holidays. He says his agency will once again delay loosening guidelines for masking in schools until at least the end of February. French says the vaccination rate of 5 to 11-year-olds ~~continues to make progress,~~ now totaling about 55%.

- AHS Secretary Mike Smith, in his final appearance before he retires this week, thanked Vermont state workers and the governor for their response and leadership over the course of the pandemic. He cited the state's low per capita death rate and high testing and vaccination rates, as among the many reasons he was proud to call himself a Vermonter. And he had a message for Governor Scott.

122821SOT Mike Smith A

RADIO VERMONT GROUP

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE 1 (See Cover Sheet)

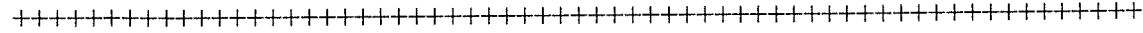
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Length :30 :60 2:00 5:00

WDEV Talk Show Segments (run from 10-mins. to one hour)

Description or Script: Attached or on Reverse side

New Text Document

Tuesday was Day 3 of the Vermont Department of Health's antigen test giveaway, where Vermonters can show up at VTrans sites and get free rapid tests.

Tuesday morning in Colchester, thousands of cars lined up before 8 a.m. to get the tests, which have gone fast in previous days.

The health department says each car is allowed two kits. The giveaways are on a first-come, first-served basis.

These tests are part of the 96,000 kits the state is giving away, ~~as announced last Thursday~~.

told WCAX

People at the bustling Colchester site, like Kristi Spangler of Burlington, ~~said~~ they felt lucky to have gotten tests before the site ran out at about 8:20 a.m.

122821SOT Kristi Spangler A

According to the Health Department's website, there will be another round of antigen test giveaways Wednesday from 8 a.m. until all the tests are given out in Bennington, Colchester, Dummerston, Mendon, Newport, Springfield, St. Albans, St. Johnsbury and White River Junction.

