Revised: Jan-14

WDEV-AM WEXP-FM WCVT-FM WLVB-FM X

Programs & Issues List

The Radio Vermont Group

1ST Quarter 2018

January 1 to March 31, 2018

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: State Push for Gun Control Legislation

Issue 2: EB-5 Settlement

Issue 3: School Funding Issues

Issue 4: Marijuana Legalization

Issue 5: Opioids

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WDEV-FM and AM

Programs and Issues – 2014

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 AP Radio News.

Radio Vermont News has developed reporter relations with WCAX-TV Channel 3 News. Monday-Friday a WCAX reporter 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:

(pending)

Tuesday:

The Addison Independent (Middlebury) - John Flowers, Reporter

Wednesday:

The Chronicle (Barton) - Bethany Dunbar, Editor

Thursday:

The Gazette (Hardwick) - Ross Connelly, Publisher & Editor

Friday:

The Herald (Randolph) - M. Dickie Drysdale, Publisher & Editor

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.

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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.

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.

During the **Saturday Midday News Service** (12:00-12:30PM), WDEV airs the President's Weekly Media Address and the Democrats' Response.

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.

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QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: v7633 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--SchoolShootingPlo - page 1 of 1 - 3/20/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Shooting Plot-Vermont,133 Judge rules teen to stay in jail pending shooting plot trial Eds: APNewsNow.

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP) - A judge has ruled that a Vermont teen accused of planning a massacre at his former high school will stay in jail pending his trial.

(JN0320)

Eighteen-year-old Jack Sawyer, of Poultney, is charged with attempted murder and attempted aggravated assault with a deadly weapon to carry out a mass shooting at Fair Haven Union High School.

Sawyer's lawyer filed a motion to dismiss the case. A hearing hasn't been scheduled yet.

The Rutland Herald reports Judge Thomas Zonay has rejected a defense argument that Sawyer had, at worst, been preparing to attempt a murder, but had not yet gotten to the point of attempting one when he was arrested last month.

Investigators say Sawyer described detailed plans for the shooting wrote about his plot in a diary titled "Journal of an Active Shooter."

Information from: Rutland Herald, http://www.rutlandherald.com/

AP-WF-03-20-18 1203GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/16/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Student Walkouts-Thursday,122

Essex students stage walkout Thursday after snow closure

Eds: APNewsNow.

ESSEX JUNCTION, Vt. (AP) - Hundreds of students at a Vermont high school poured out of their building to take part in their version of a national campaign of student walkouts following a snow day.

Essex High School had a snow day Wednesday, so students had to wait until Thursday to make their way outside into the cold. WPTZ-TY reports the Essex Junction walkout featured nearly a dozen speakers with students standing in more than a foot of snow.

Although the school was closed on Wednesday, a group of teachers led by Emily Danis say they came up with the idea of building 17 snowmen in front of Essex High School to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Information from: WPTZ-TV, http://www.thechamplainchannel.com

AP-WF-03-16-18 0619GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: v7973 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--AssaultWeaponsBan - page 1 of 1 - 3/15/2018

AP-VT--Assault Weapons Ban,122 Vermont lawmakers consider ban on assault weapons

A proposal that would ban certain guns with features like flash suppressors, secondary handgrips or folding stocks is being considered by Vermont lawmakers.

(LK0315A)

The proposal by Representative Martin LaLonde calls for a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and lays out criteria to specify which rifles, shotguns and pistols would fit the bill.

It would also ban the sale of new high-capacity magazines and establish a 10-day waiting period for all gun transfers.

Chris Bradley, president of the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, tells the Burlington Free Press that the legislation is meant to demonize popular weapons like the AR-15. He says his group will fight it "tooth and claw."

LaLonde says his constituents in South Burlington have asked for stricter gun laws.

AP-WF-03-15-18 1916GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/14/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Resource Officer,117 Rutland renews contract for school resource officer Eds: APNewsNow.

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont town is picking up the cost for its school resource officer with the federal grant funding the position expiring.

Rutland Police Chief Ed Dumas said Tuesday the School Board included \$38,000 in its budget toward the cost of Sgt. John Sly's position. The Rutland Herald reports the school budget and police budget were both approved last week during a town meeting.

Dumas says the federal grant expires on July 1, after which local funding will take effect.

Sly is on duty at Rutland Town Elementary School whenever school is in session. He is trained in the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate Training protocol created in response to the Columbine and Sandy Hook school shootings.

Information from: Rutland Herald, http://www.rutlandherald.com/

AP-WF-03-14-18 0908GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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SCHOOL WALKOUT 3/15/18

CV CAX / LK

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STUDENTS AT BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL WALKED OUT THEIR CLASSROOMS WEDNESDAY MORNING AS PART OF A NATIONAL PROTEST. lacksquare

MORE FROM CHANNEL 3'S CAT VIGLIENZONI.

(CV0314Y) :42

Q: BELIEVE IN

(TAG!)

SCHOOLS CLOSED BY THE WEATHER WERE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROTEST. MANY OF THOSE SCHOOLS ARE PLANNING TO HOLD THEIR PROTEST TODAY

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/13/2018

BC-US-School Shooting Plot-Vermont, 128

Prosecutor: Planned school shooting warrants attempt charge

Eds: APNewsNow.

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP) - Prosecutors say a Vermont teen had made enough preparations for a planned massacre at his former high school to warrant charges of attempted murder.

A lawyer for 18-year-old Jack Sawyer has asked for the charges to be dismissed, saying that the state's high court has ruled that a plot to commit a crime does not constitute an attempt.

The Rutland Herald reports that prosecutor Rose Kennedy responded with a filing Monday that argued Sawyer progressed from planning a crime to committing one when he took steps such as moving back to Vermont and purchasing a shotgun.

Investigators say Sawyer described detailed plans for a mass shooting at Fair Haven Union High School and wrote about his plot in a diary he titled "Journal of an Active Shooter."

Information from: Rutland Herald, http://www.rutlandherald.com/

AP-WF-03-13-18 1443GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/13/2018

AP-VT--Gun Restrictions-Vermont, 1st Ld-Writethru,128 Vermont Legislature renews discussion on gun restrictions Eds: APNewsNow. Will be updated.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Wermort Gov. Phil Scott says the debate about restrictions on gun ownership is continuing in the Legislature, even though lawmakers didn't present him a bill before they went on their weeklong, midsession break earlier this month.

With lawmakers back in Montpelier on Tuesday, Scott, a Republican, says he supports bills that are being considered by both the House and the Senate.

A number of pieces of legislation were passed by either the House or the Senate before the break. Now, lawmakers are working to find legislation that can pass both chambers.

Meanwhile, Vermont gun-rights activists were at the Statehouse on Tuesday as part of an "emergency appeal" of supporters to oppose most gun regulations through the Legislature. Students who support gun restrictions were planning a candlelight vigil.

AP-WF-03-13-18 1646GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/13/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Gun Restrictions-Vermont,128 Gun-rights supporters plan appeal against new legislation Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Gun-rights activists in Vermont are calling for an "emergency appeal" of supporters while several proposed gun regulations move through the Legislature.

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is encouraging hunters and other sportsmen to wear orange and spend Tuesday afternoon lobbying legislators for "no new gun laws." The Burlington Free Press reports the group supports a measure that would allow authorities to remove weapons from people deemed to be at extreme risk of violence or self-harm.

The group opposes measures that would require background checks for private gun sales and a measure that would give police discretion to remove guns from people who are arrested on domestic violence charges.

Students who support gun restrictions and the group Gun Sense Vermont are planning a candlelight vigil Tuesday evening.

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

AP-WF-03-13-18 0908GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Town of Warren votes to outlaw Assault Rifles

Warren, where Pat Leahy first announced his run for the US Senate and where Bernie marches in the 4th of JULY parade voted 39 to 9 to ask the Vermont Senators and congressman to seek legislation where assault rifles will be outlawed across the US. Citing that Dick Sporting Goods will take them off the shelves and LL Bean will as well, the discussion included a call to rescind the second amendment and all the NRA arguments for keeping the AK15 available in stores. After the moderator called for yea and nay with loud shouting, a hand vote carried the day in favor of the motion

Dave Sellers, citizen, warren.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/2/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Gun Restrictions-Vermont,125

Vermont gov. still hopes gun seizure bill can pass this week

Eds: APNewsNow; will be updated.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont Gov. Phil Scott says he's still hopeful the Legislature can give final approval to a bill that would allow police to seize firearms and explosives from people determined to be an extreme risk to themselves or others.

Scott, a Republican, said Thursday the Senate could send the proposal to the House for consideration before lawmakers leave for Town Meeting Day break on Friday.

Such immediate action would require rules suspension, but Scott says the issue has urgency and if lawmakers work together the proposal could reach his desk by Friday evening.

Scott says that once the "extreme risk protection order" bill is enacted, lawmakers could then turn their attention to other gun proposals when lawmakers return to the Statehouse in the middle of March.

AP-WF-03-01-18 1957GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/2/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Shooting Plot-Vermont,131 Lawyer for school shooting plot suspect to seek dismissal Eds: APNewsNow.

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP) - A lawyer for a Vermont teen accused of plotting a mass shooting at his former high school says she plans to file a motion to dismiss the charges.

Eighteen-year-old Jack Sawyer of Poultney pleaded not guilty last month to attempted murder and other charges.

Police say he described detailed plans for a massacre at Fair Haven Union High School. Officials say a threat assessment was begun for the teen but never completed after Sawyer ran away and dropped out.

Sawyer's arrest, and the deadly Florida high school shooting, has invigorated gun control efforts in the Vermont state Legislature.

The Rutland Herald reports that Sawyer's attorney, public defender Kelly Green, said in court on Friday that she plans to seek the dismissal of charges, arguing the state hasn't presented any evidence.

AP-WF-03-02-18 2040GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: v7660 Ovt-n r n AP-HI--DeathWithDignity- - page 1 of 1 - 3/1/2018

GUN CHECKS 3/1/18 CV CAX / LK

THE VERMONT SENATE HAS ADVANCED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PRIVATE SALES OF FIREARMS.

CHANNEL 3'S CAT VIGLIENZONI HAS MORE.

(CV0301X) :52 Q: CITIZENS

(TAG!)

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY AT WCAX DOT COM.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: v7642 Ovt-n r n AP-US--SchoolShootingPlo 2ndLd-Writethru - page 1 of 1 - 2/28/2018

*1110 AP-US-School-Shooting-Plot-Vermont,129 School was aware of teen accused in shooting plot

The acting principal at Fair Haven Union high school, where a former student is accused of planning a massacre, says a threat assessment was begun for the teen but was never completed.

(LK0228)

Jason Rasco testified Tuesday that 18-year-old Jack Sawyer showed a strong interest in the 1999 Columbine High School shooting during his time as a Fair Haven Union High School student.

He says Sawyer did a project on Columbine and created a Facebook page using one of the shooters' surnames.

Rasco said that in 2016, a threat assessment was done on Sawyer but was never completed after Sawyer ran away and dropped out.

Sawyer wrote in a diary that he had plans "to shoot up" his former high school.

Sawyer has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges.

AP-WF-02-28-18 2158GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/28/2018

AP-VT--Gun Restrictions-Vermont, 126

Vermont Senate poised to vote on gun removal proposal

Eds: APNewsNow; will be updated.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Senate is expected to vote on a proposal that would allow police to take firearms from people judged to be an extreme risk to themselves or others.

Under the proposal to be voted on Wednesday, a police officer would need to get an order from a judge before seizing any firearms.

The proposal doesn't go as far as a bill passed by the House last year that would allow police to remove firearms in certain cases without a judge's order.

Historically, Vermont has been resistant to gun restrictions, but last week, Republican Gov. Phil Scott said he was open to the idea after a teenager was arrested the day after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and charged with plotting a Vermont school shooting.

AP-WF-02-28-18 1439GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/24/2018

AP-VT--Gun Laws, 129

Vermont Senate panel approves gun removal in risk situations Eds: APNewsNow

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A panel of the Vermont Senate has approved a process for ordering people to relinquish guns and explosives if they are deemed at risk of violence or suicide.

The bill approved Friday by the Judiciary Committee gained new urgency after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and an alleged plot of violence at Vermont's Fair Haven Union High School.

The Burlington Free Press reports the bill would allow a family court judge to order a person to relinquish firearms or explosives for up to 60 days if a state's attorney or the attorney general's office can show that the person is at extreme risk of harming others or attempting suicide.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott says he wants the bill on his desk before Town Meeting Day March 6.

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

AP-WF-02-24-18 1542GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/23/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Gun Control-Vermont,118

Legislators, students urge passage of background checks

Eds: APNewsNow. Will be expanded.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont Democratic legislative leaders, the attorney general, lieutenant governor and students are calling for passage of universal background checks for all gun transactions following the Florida school shooting and the arrest of Vermont teenager in what officials say was a near miss on a high school shooting.

Also Monday, Republican Gov. Phil Scott recommended that legislators consider raising the gun-buying age to 21 and provide \$5 million in security grants to schools. He also has called for immediate security reviews of schools over the next several weeks.

Scott said his position on gun control is changing following the recent events. He said Monday that if the Legislature passes a universal background check bill he would probably sign it.

AP-WF-02-22-18 1753GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/23/2018

*6140 AP-BC-VT--School Shooting Plot-Vermont,133 Teen who shared plot messages wants more mental health talk Eds: APNewsNow.

FAIR HAVEN, Vt. (AP) - A teenager who turned over online messages to authorities from a Vermont youth accused of planning "to shoot up" his former high school says she wants to see more discussion about mental health.

Seventeen-year-old Angela McDevitt says she attended a treatment facility in Maine with 18-year-old Jack Sawyer. Police said the two were messaging each other online when Sawyer revealed his plans. Sawyer pleaded not guilty to attempted aggravated murder and other offenses.

WCAX-TV reports McDevitt says she struggles with her own mental health issues. She said she wants to see changes to how mental health factors into background checks when people are buying guns.

McDevitt says the current background check system does not do enough to dig into why someone is buying the gun and what they might do with it.

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

AP-WF-02-23-18 2125GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/21/2018

AP-VT--Gun Control-Vermont, 1st Ld-Writethru,129 Vermont GOP governor comments boost gun control efforts AP Photo RPWR103, RPWR101, RPWR102

Eds: APNewsNow; links photos; will be updated. With AP Photos.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - What Vermont officials consider a near-miss on a high school shooting is giving a boost to gun control efforts in the state Legislature.

Gun control supporters rallied outside the Statehouse in Montpelier on Tuesday before many headed inside to lobby lawmakers on the issue.

Vermont has long been considered to have some of the most lax gun control laws in the country. Over the years numerous efforts to add gun laws have failed.

But on Friday, Republican Gov. Phil Scott said he was open to discussing what he called gun safety measures as part of a broader discussion of ways to prevent violence. Scott made the comments after state police arrested a 19-year-old Poultney man and charged him with planning a shooting at the Fair Haven Union High School.

AP-WF-02-20-18 1711GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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STATE HOUSE GUN RALLY 2/20/18 EH VTD / LK

SOME STUDENTS AND GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES GATHERED IN MONTPELIER TUESDAY TO LOBBY LEGISLATORS FOR INNCREASED GUN CONTROL MEASURES.

V-T DIGGER'S ELIZABETH HEWITT HAS MORE.

(EH0220) :46 Q: WEEKS

(TAG!)

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY POSTED AT V-T DIGGER DOT ORG.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/10/2018

AP-VT--Guns-Mental Illness, 128

589 added to gun background check list under Vermont law

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A new report says more than 500 Vermont residents have been added to the national database of those barred from having guns because state courts ordered hospitalization or other treatment for dangerous mental illnesses.

A state law that took effect in 2015 requires state courts to report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System within 48 hours when a suspect in a criminal case has been committed to the custody of the Department of Mental. It also requires reporting when a court has ordered someone to be hospitalized or to undergo outpatient treatment because their mental illness makes them a danger to themselves or others.

The Burlington Free Press reports that 589 names have been added to the database from Vermont since the law took effect.

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

AP-WF-02-10-18 1805GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER VERMONT 05609-1001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20th 2018

Contact: Natalie Silver

802 595 8679

ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN RESPONDS TO ATTORNEY BARR'S ALLEGATION

Yesterday, Attorney Russell Barr made an allegation outside the Lamoille County courthouse that a state official involved in the state EB 5 program had sex with a minor in China (see VTDigger 3/19/18). In November 2017, the Barr Law Group made a public records request to the Attorney General's Office for records pertaining to "an arrest, detainment or holding of any state employee while traveling overseas in promotion of the Vermont Regional Center and its related projects." The Attorney General's office immediately conducted a document review and responded to the request stating, "the Attorney General's Office has no records relating to the arrest, detainment or holding of any state employee while traveling overseas in promotion of the Vermont Regional Center and its related projects." The public can find this request and the Attorney General's Office response on our website, here.

Additionally, similar requests have been made to other state agencies and to then Governor Shumlin's office in 2014. There were no responsive documents to those requests.

Attorney General Donovan said: "Any allegation of child sexual abuse by a State

Official, should be investigated regardless of where it occurred. I call on Attorney Barr to

immediately turn over the evidence he has to the proper authorities whether they be state, federal
or international so this matter can be properly investigated."

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE Z (See Cover Sheet)

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Former Gov. Peter Shumlin stayed at a luxury New York City apartment owned by Ariel Quiros, the man at the heart of the EB-5 Kingdom Con case.

VTDigger reports that Shumlin stayed at the apartment for several days in May 2013 and in June 2014 ... without paying. Quiros bought the luxury condo with money from EB-5 investors. The Securities and Exchange Commission last month ordered him to pay \$81 million in assets and \$1 million cash for his part in the swindle.

Shumlin administration officials are at the center of a lawsuit by EB-5 foreign investors. They claim the state-run agency responsible for overseeing the federal visa program for foreign investors was grossly negligent in overlooking Quiros' alleged Ponzi scheme. Vermont officials argue the state is immune from such legal actions. A hearing in that civil case is scheduled this afternoon in Vermont Superior Court in Hyde Park. Attorneys for investors are expected to lay out new accusations against state officials.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ______ (See Cover Sheet)

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There are new allegations against an unnamed state official, and now Vermont's attorney general wants to see the evidence supporting those claims. The claims were made by attorney Russell Barr who is representing a group of investors suing the state for their handling of the EB-5 scandal.

The lawsuit took a turn Monday when Barr told reporters after a court hearing that a state official was arrested in 2013 or 2014 for having sex with a minor in China on an official trip supporting the EB-5 foreign investor program. But Barr provided no evidence or information to support the claim

Judge Thomas Carlson didn't allow Barr to bring the allegation up in court, but Barr says he'll amend his clients' complaint to include the new claim.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/26/2018

AP-VT--Ski Resort Fraud, 125

Vermont has plan to release documents in ski resort fraud

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The state of Vermont has a plan to release documents related to the ongoing investigation of investment fraud at the Jay Peak ski

On Friday, the Department of Financial Regulation and the Attorney General's office filed a court motion to expedite disclosure of documents relating to the investment program used to fund projects at Jay Peak and other projects in northeastern Vermont.

Financial Regulation is working with a vendor to remove personally identifiable information from documents. The first 5,000 documents are ready to be released.

A judge recently approved a legal settlement with resort owner Ariel Quiros.

Quiros and his business partner, William Stenger were accused in 2016 of misusing more than \$200 million raised from foreign investors through the federal EB-5 visa program.

AP-WF-02-25-18 1516GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/17/2018

AP-VT--Ski Resort Fraud, 125

Receiver: Buyers interested in ski resort properties

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A federally appointed receiver says there's "plenty of interest" in a Vermont ski area rocked by investment fraud.

The Caledonian-Record reports receiver Michael Goldberg said Thursday he is beginning the process to sell Jay Peak and Burke Mountain. Goldberg says he's not sure how much the resorts will sell for. The profits of the sales will benefit defrauded investors.

A judge recently approved a settlement with former resort owner Ariel Quiros. Quiros and his business partner, William Stenger, were accused in 2016 of misusing more than \$200 million raised from foreign investors through the federal EB-5 visa program. The men have agreed to pay restitution and fines.

Jay Peak will be marketed first. Goldberg doesn't believe either property will be sold before November 2018.

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

AP-WF-02-16-18 1802GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/15/2018

AP-VT--Ski Resort Fraud, 2nd Ld-Writethru,137 Governor marks new attraction at ski resort hit by fraud

Eds: APNewsNow; Corrects to Wednesday, not Tuesday. Will be expanded.

JAY, Vt. (AP) - Two years after an investment fraud rocked the Jay Peak ski area, the resort is celebrating the opening of a new attraction as it continues to recover from the fraud.

Vermont Republican Gov. Phil Scott on Wednesday marked the opening of the Clips and Reels Recreation Center that includes an indoor wall-climbing facility, movie theater and arcade.

The facility was built with funds from a settlement with Raymond James Financial Inc.

Earlier this month, Miami businessman Ariel Quiros reached a proposed settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in which he agreed to repay more than \$81 million and give up ownership of Jay Peak and another ski resort.

Jay Peak also plans to build lacrosse and soccer fields with the funding.

This story has been corrected to show the celebration was Wednesday, not Tuesday.

AP-WF-02-14-18 1826GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Vermont Gov. Phil Scott has expressed his appreciation for the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission's work investigating a ski resort owner who has agreed to pay back \$81 million he was accused of using illegally.

Miami businessman Ariel Quiros was accused of massive fraud involving foreign investors' money in Vermont's Jay Peak ski area. He has agreed to give up ownership of two ski resorts and says he's pleased to be another step closer to resolving the claims against him.

The Republican governor and Democratic state Attorney General T.J. Donovan said Friday the SEC settlement with Quiros will provide a federal receiver with legal title to the Jay Peak Resort, the Burke Mountain Resort and other properties acquired by Quiros with investor money.

1 p.m.

The Securities and Exchange Commission says a Miami businessman accused of massive fraud involving foreign investors' money in a Vermont ski area has agreed to pay back more than \$81 million.

The SEC announced the settlement with Ariel Quiros Friday. It must be approved by a court.

The SEC says Quiros was accused of misusing more than \$50 million in investor funds to buy another resort and to pay for personal expenses such as two luxury New York City condominiums. And companies that Quiros owned allegedly failed to contribute about \$30 million in investor money toward construction at Jay Peak ski resort.

Quiros has agreed to give up ownership of the two condos, Jay Peak and Burke Mountain resorts and his stake in more than a dozen properties.

AP-WF-02-03-18 0005GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/13/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Tax Overhaul,130

Vermont considers income tax surcharge to help fund schools Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A proposed overhaul of Vermont's tax system would create an income tax surcharge to help fund schools and would aim to keep education costs down by linking them more closely with property taxes.

The House Committee on Ways and Means has approved a bill that would offset a \$60 million cut to property taxes with a surcharge on income.

The state's finance commissioner tells Vermont Public Radio that Republican Gov. Phil Scott wants to avoid property tax increases, but that shifting the source of the revenue misses the point.

The bill also includes a proposal floated by Republican Rep. Scott Beck to alter the property tax formula. He says the change would tie local tax rates more directly to school spending.

The House education committee is considering the bill.

AP-WF-03-13-18 1802GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/9/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Property Tax Increase, 131

Scott looks for more cuts to school district budgets

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Republican Gov. Phil Scott's administration says school budgets need to be reduced more in order to avoid property tax hikes.

Vermont Public Radio reports all but five Vermont districts won approval for their budgets Tuesday during the state's Town Meeting Day. Education spending is projected to rise by about 1.5 percent next year, which is less than what lawmakers expected.

Scott's commissioner of finance, Adam Greshin, says the governor appreciates restraint efforts, but there's more work to do. Greshin says property tax rates are still projected to rise by about 5 cents next year. The administration is looking to state policymakers to lower the increase to zero.

State Rep. David Sharpe, the chairman of the House Committee on Education, says school boards have done all they can to cut costs.

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

AP-WF-03-08-18 1636GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ______ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/7/2018

*6140 AP-VT--School Budgets, 128

School budgets below expectations, likely blunting tax hike

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - School budgets across Vermont have come in lower than expected, likely blunting an expected rise in property taxes.

WCAX TV reports that budgets on the ballots across the state rose on average by 1.5 percent. Last fall, Agency of Education Finance Manager Brad James projected a 3.5 percent jump.

Based on his initial estimate, James thought taxes would rise about 7 percent, or 9 cents for every \$100 of property value. He says the new numbers could knock as much as 5 cents off of that.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott says he wants to avoid any property tax increase at all, but James says that is unlikely.

The Vermont School Boards Association says the trend of school district consolidation spurred by Act 46 created much of the savings.

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

AP-WF-03-06-18 2122GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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ACT 46 2/9/18 SP TA / LK

THE STATE IS TAKING A LOOK AT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACT 46 SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION LAW AND WHAT IS COMING NEXT.

STEVE PAPPAS OF THE TIMES-ARGUS HAS MORE.

(SP0209Y)

QIMLAM

(TAG!)

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY IN THE PAGES OF THIS WEEKEND'S TIMES-ARGUS, ON LOCAL NEWSSTANDS AND ONLINE AT TIMESARGUS DOT COM.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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A bill in the Vermont House would change how you pay for schools.

It lowers property taxes by nearly \$60 million and raises the same amount in income taxes. It also sets a per-pupil spending base of about \$12,000. School districts spending more would face higher property tax rates. Currently, ALL districts are spending more than the proposed amount.

Gov. Phil Scott is opposed to the idea. He sent a letter to lawmakers yesterday outlining bills, including this one, that he is against because they include tax increases.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ______ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 1/19/2018

BC-VT--Vermont Schools-Tax Rate, 122

Officials suggest cuts in education ahead of tax increase

Eds: APNewsNow.

COLCHESTER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont Republican Gov. Phil Scott has suggested a mandatory reduction of staff at public schools among other ideas on how to balance next year's projected increase in the property tax rate.

Vermont Public Radio reports ideas include limiting which schools can raise their budgets and increasing the price teachers pay on their health insurance premiums.

Scott has blamed education spending for the 7 percent increase in property tax rates. The state is expected to spend \$1.6 billion on educating 76,000 students this year, one of the highest per-pupil costs in the country.

Secretary of Administration Susanne Young released the list of ideas to lawmakers Thursday. According to the memo, increasing the staff-to-student ratio alone could save the state \$30 million annually.

AP-WF-01-19-18 1708GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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On July 1st -- it will be legal to smoke weed and own up to four marijuana plants on private property. But for renters, that might not be the case. Vermont property owners can decide whether or not marijuana can be used, grown, or kept on their property.

Property owners do have the right to inspect apartments to see if tenants are using or cultivating marijuana. In order to do so, they need either get the tenants consent or give a 48-hour notice.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/2/2018

BC-VT--Bill-Marijuana Smell, 126

Lawmakers propose bill limiting marijuana odor

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Legal marijuana users in Vermont may want to invest in an air freshener.

The Burlington Free Press reports lawmakers are currently considering a bill that could allow cities and towns to classify marijuana odor as a "public nuisance" and a ticketable offense.

Current law prohibits people from consuming marijuana in public places, including sidewalks and hotels. The bill Republican Representatives Scott Beck and Janssen Willhoit introduced Thursday would give local governments more authority to regulate consumption on private property as well.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott's marijuana commission is supporting the bill. Still, Democratic Rep. Cindy Weed says lawmakers may be "jumping the gun."

The House Committee on Government Operations will vote on the bill Friday. If approved, it would go into affect July 2, 2018.

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

AP-WF-03-02-18 0950GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/27/2018

AP-VT--Marijuana-Saliva Tests,130

Vermont weighs saliva tests to screen drivers for marijuana Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A bill that would allow police to test a driver's saliva for marijuana is being considered by Vermont lawmakers as the state prepares to legalize the drug.

The roadside saliva test would not determine whether a driver was impaired, but motorists who test positive could be asked to submit to a blood test.

Vermont Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Anderson says screening saliva would be quicker than blood tests, which require a warrant and a trip to the hospital.

The Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says the bill would punish drivers who have small amounts of marijuana in their systems but are not impaired.

The Burlington Free Press reports the bill has been approved by the House Transportation Committee and is being reviewed by the judiciary committee.

AP-WF-02-27-18 1617GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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*6140 AP-VT--Medical Marijuana Fund, 128

State defends moving medical marijuana fees to general fund Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Supporters of medical marijuana in Vermont are complaining that fees meant to administer the program were redirected to the state's general fund, which was facing a nearly \$30 million revenue shortfall.

The commissioner of the state finance department, Adam Greshin, tells Vermont Public Radio that the one-time sweep of the medical marijuana fund was necessary to help keep the government running.

Greshin says the fund had carried excess money for years. In 2017, when the fund had a balance of \$500,000, lawmakers decided to move \$300,000 into the general fund.

Medical marijuana patient and activist Fran Janik says the special fund was established to ensure that no tax dollars went toward the medical marijuana program. He says it was unfair to spend the money on other programs.

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

AP-WF-02-14-18 1535GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/10/2018

AP-VT--Marijuana-Lake Champlain,131

Vermont legalizes marijuana, but lake is considered federal

Eds: APNewsNow.

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - While possessing small amounts of marijuana will be legal in Vermont later this year, it will remain off-limits on the waters of Lake Champlain.

The lake is considered federal water because it borders Canada. The Burlington Free Press reports that means those who have marijuana on board their boats could face federal charges.

U.S. Attorney Christina Nolan said her office has not charged a case related to possessing marijuana on Lake Champlain or boating under the influence in the past five years.

Starting July 1, adults can possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana, two mature and four immature plants. Gov. Phil Scott signed the bill last month, making the state the first in the country to authorize the recreational use of marijuana by an act of a state legislature.

AP-WF-02-10-18 1657GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 2/8/2018

AP-VT--Marijuana Conviction Expungement, 132

Lawmakers consider marijuana conviction expungement measure

Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Vermont lawmakers are considering a measure that would make it easier to expunge misdemeanor marijuana convictions.

VPR
Verment Public Radio reports the proposal would allow people who have been convicted of possession of up to 2 ounces of marijuana to pursue expungement immediately after serving their sentence. Current law forces those who have been convicted to wait five years before starting the expungement process.

The proposal follows Vermont's passage of a recreational marijuana law, which was passed last month.

People have to report convictions on forms like job and student loan applications. Robert Sand, director of the Vermont Law School's Center for Justice Reform, says people shouldn't be punished for convictions they have served time for.

A spokesman for Republican Gov. Phil Scott says the administration still needs to review the plan.

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

AP-WF-02-08-18 1517GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

WDE	v-am/fm_>> wcv	T	RVNN	I-7AM	RVNN-8AM		
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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 1/30/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Marijuana Ordinance,130 Mayor introduces marijuana growing ordinance Eds: APNewsNow.

BARRE, Vt. (AP) - The mayor of a Vermont city is proposing an ordinance that would require residents who grow marijuana to obtain licenses.

The Times Argus reports Barre Mayor Thomas Lauzon introduced a draft of the measure ahead of Tuesday's City Council meeting. Under the ordinance, growers would pay \$250 for a license and \$100 for an annual renewal. Growers using lights would be required to get approval by an electrician.

The proposal gives law enforcement the ability to inspect growing sites. Lauzon is considering instituting a private database for license holders, as well.

Some council members say the registry could cause issues with federal enforcement.

Lauzon says the ordinance will clarify state law concerning marijuana cultivation. The mayor says he is also concerned with preventing grow lights from becoming fire hazards.

Information from: The Times Argus, http://www.timesargus.com/

AP-WF-01-30-18 2006GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 1/23/2018

BC-US--Marijuana Legalization-Vermont, 2nd Ld-Writethru,144 Vermont governor signs pot bill with 'mixed emotions' Eds: APNewsNow. Updates with governor signing pot bill into law. Will be updated.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - Gov. Phil Scott has privately signed Vermont's recreational marijuana bill into law "with mixed emotions."

The Republican governor's office says Scott signed the bill Monday afternoon.

Once it takes effect on July 1, Vermont will become the ninth state in the country, along with Washington, D.C., to approve the recreational use of marijuana.

Vermont is the first state where the law was approved by the legislature. The other states and Washington authorized their laws through a vote of residents. Vermont has no legal mechanism that allows for a citizen referendum.

The law allows adults to possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana, two mature and four immature plants.

The bill passed both chambers of the Vermont Legislature this month.

This story has been corrected to show the governor had until 11:59 p.m. Monday to sign the bill, not that the deadline had passed.

AP-WF-01-22-18 1932GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: v7435 Onh-n r n AP-NH--ChildPornography- - page 1 of 1 - 1/19/2018

POT LAW ENFORCEMENT 1/19/18 SP TA / LK

THE SIGNING OF THE NEW MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION LAW WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WAY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DO THEIR JOB.

TIMES-ARGUS EDITOR STEVE PAPPAS GIVES US A FEW EXAMPLES.

(SP0119Y) :41 Q: USELESS NOW

(TAG!)

THERE IS MORE ON THIS STORY IN THIS WEEKEND'S TIMES-ARGUS.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

WDE	V-am/fm	WCV	T	RVNN	I-7AM	RVNN-8AM
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Printed: v7807 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--MarijuanaLegaliza - page 1 of 1 - 1/4/2018

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Latest on marijuana legislation in the Vermont House (all times local):

Vermont's House of Representatives has signed off on legislation that would allow adults 21 years old or older to possess up to 1 ounce (28.35 grams) of marijuana and grow marijuana at their homes.

(JA0104)

The legislation would make the Green Mountain State the latest to legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

The Burlington Free Press says the bill would not create a legal market for marijuana and would not impose any taxes.

The measure will have to return to the Senate for another vote. Senate leaders say a vote could come next week.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott has said he'd sign the legislation.

James Atherly has more.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/19/2018

BC-US--Trump-Opioids, 129

Trump opioid plan includes death penalty for traffickers

AP Photo NYSB721

Eds: APNewsNow. Will be updated. With AP Photos.

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump's plan to combat opioid drug addiction calls for stiffer penalties for drug traffickers, including the death penalty where it's appropriate under current law.

Administration officials say Trump also wants Congress to pass legislation reducing the amount of drugs necessary to trigger mandatory minimum sentences on traffickers who knowingly distribute certain illicit opioids.

The president is scheduled to unveil his plan Monday in New Hampshire, a state hard-hit by the crisis. He'll be accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, who has shown an interest in the issue, particularly as it pertains to children.

Trump has mused openly in recent weeks about subjecting drug dealers to the "ultimate penalty."

His three-part plan includes multiple steps to raise awareness, cut the illicit drug flow and expand proven treatment options.

AP-WF-03-19-18 0712GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE ______ (See Cover Sheet)

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Police say Wayne Oddo is tied to a deadly overdose at his home in Poultney last year. And today -- he's expected to finalize a plea deal.

Oddo plans to confess in court -- to housing drug dealers and letting them pay rent with drugs.

DK 0309

The plea agreement says he will admit that between January and March of last year - two people were staying at his place and storing drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, in exchange for a place to stay.

He's also expected to admit to being an addict and allowing the two people to stay with him in order to help feed his addiction.

Back in March of 2017 -- the body of 26 year old Alexandra Rooker was found wrapped in a tarp in Oddo's shed.

The Poultney man allegedly hid her body and never called the police.

His guilty plea could give him a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 3/5/2018

BC-VT--Fentanyl Overdoses, 125

Report: Vermont fentanyl deaths up significantly last year

Eds: APNewsNow. Will be expanded.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Health Department says the number of accidental overdose deaths in Vermont involving the synthetic drug fentanyl is up by a third, but the number of heroin deaths dropped.

In its annual report to the Legislature, the department says the number of overdoses involving fentanyl jumped from 51 to 68. The same statistics show that the number of heroin deaths dropped from 51 in 2016 to 41 last year, a drop of just under 20 percent.

Health Commissioner Mark Levine tells Vermont Public Radio there's a sliver of good news because the total number of overdose deaths appears to have plateaued.

Overall, 104 people died of overdoses in 2017, more than double 2012. But the 2017 total was almost the same as 2016.

AP-WF-03-04-18 1500GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: v7497 Onh-n r n AP-NH--Father-SonDeaths 1stLd-Writethru - page 1 of 1 - 3/1/2018

BARRE OVERDOSES 3/1/18

LK

BARRE CITY POLICE SAY THERE ARE SOME PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS ILLEGAL DRUGS IN THE AREA.

(LK0301)

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER TIMOTHY BOMBARDIER SAYS THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN OVERDOSES IN THE BARRE CITY AREA OVER THE PAST WEEK. POLICE DO NOT YET HAVE ANY SPECIFICS ON THE PACKAGING OR MARKINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR ON WHAT THEY SAY APPEAR TO BE A STRONG BATCH OF DRUGS.

OF THE SEVEN OVERDOSES, SIX OF THE INDIVIDUALS HAVE RECOVERED. THE SEVENTH RESULTED IN A DEATH THAT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

INFORMATION ON PREVENTING DRUG OVERDOSES AND ASSISTANCE WITH ADDICTION CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT HEALTHVERMONT.GOV.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: v7746 Ovt-n r n AP-VT--Leahy-DairyFarmer - page 1 of 1 - 2/9/2018

OPIOID MEETING 2/10/18 SP TA / LK

THE TIMES ARGUS IS HOSTING AN EVENT MONDAY EVENING, INVITING THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND CONCERNING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.

EDITOR STEVEN PAPPAS HAS MORE.

(SP0209X) :60

Q: CRISIS

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Fatal overdose in St. Johnsbury

Posted: Sun 7:42 PM, Feb 04, 2018 | Updated: Sun 7:44 PM, Feb 04, 2018

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt. (WCAX) A 31-year-old from St. Johnsbury is dead from an apparent overdose.

Police responded to Central Street in St.
Johnsbury Saturday afternoon for a report of an overdose. Police say first responders attempted lifesaving measures on Edwin Jones, 31, but he later died. The incident is still under investigation.



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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

AP-VT--Officer-Drug Evidence Theft,123

Former officer to plead guilty to drug distribution

Eds: APNewsNow.

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Court records indicate a former Vermont police officer accused of stealing heroin from a police evidence locker for a woman with whom he was having an intimate relationship has changed his plea to federal drug charges.

The Valley News reports 31-year-old John Breault has agreed to plead guilty to felony distribution of heroin as part of a deal with prosecutors.

The original complaint filed by an FBI agent says Breault gave the drugs to the woman, who was addicted to opioids, this past summer. Breault resigned from the Royalton police department in October 2017.

Breault's lawyer said Wednesday his client has accepted responsibility "since Day 1."

Breault is scheduled to plead guilty March 9. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Information from: Lebanon Valley News, http://www.vnews.com

AP-WF-02-01-18 1754GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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

*6140 AP-VT--Drug Distribution-Sentencing, 128 Woman sentenced to 6-month curfew for man's overdose Eds: APNewsNow.

HARTFORD, Vt. (AP) - A Vermont woman who police say sold drugs that led to a man's overdose has been sentenced to curfew for the next six months.

The Valley News reports the only exceptions to 23-year-old Taylor Benjamin's curfew include medical appointments, employment and 100 hours of community service.

Benjamin had pleaded guilty in August to a felony charge of dispensing heroin, misdemeanor drug possession and violating conditions of her release.

She said after her sentencing hearing Tuesday that she is doing well and she is putting her charges behind her.

Information from: Lebanon Valley News, http://www.vnews.com

AP-WF-01-24-18 2025GMT

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

ISSUE _____ (See Cover Sheet)

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Printed: - page 1 of 1 - 1/17/2018

*6140 AP-VT--Blue Cross-Opioids, 131

New report shows dramatic drop in opioid prescriptions Eds: APNewsNow.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A new report by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont states there has been a significant drop in the number of prescriptions being written for opioid pain medication in the state.

Blue Cross officials say new prescribing policies are a major factor in the decline, with the policies having gone into effect last July. Vermont Public Radio reports the guidelines limit how many pills may be prescribed at any one time and they encourage physicians to seek other pain management strategies whenever possible.

Currently, physicians are limited to prescribing an adult no more than seven pills at one time.

Don George, president of Blue Cross Blue Shield, says the policy has resulted in a 20 percent decline in the number of opioid prescriptions written in the last six months.

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

AP-WF-01-17-18 0716GMT