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CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

North Country Officials Prepare For Regional COVID-19 Response

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

Three days after a state of emergency was declared in New Hampshire to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, health care, emergency response and school officials across the North Country met for a conference call Monday to work out the logistics of a regional emergency response if it becomes necessary.

Hosted by the North Country Health Consortium, the conference focused on the Regional Public Health Emergency Annex (RPHEA), the local emergency operations plan that provides a framework for operations and organizations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from health emergencies in the designated North Country Public Health Region, defined as northern Grafton County and all of Coos County, and one of 13 regional public

health networks in New Hampshire.

"COVID-19 is something we have now identified as a public health emergency," said Nicole Woods, public health emergency coordinator with NCHC, the mission for which is to support and supplement any local emergency response plans.

Every day, NCHC is building partnerships in the area, reviewing the latest updates, and working with the state to determine the risks associated with COVID-19, she said.

"At this time, we are working with some of our medical reserve corps, as well as volunteers, to address how we can potentially utilize people in this pandemic and how we will be able to help our service area by training these people to potentially help in the future," said Woods.

As of Monday afternoon, there were 13 confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire, 95 people awaiting test results, 379 people tested so far, and 450 people with symptoms similar to

COVID-19 being isolated and monitored, said NCHC CEO Nancy Frank.

The RPHEA supports mass care, medical counter-measures dispensing, medical supplies management and distribution, and prepares for a medical surge.

During a public health emergency, the regional Multi-Agency Coordination Entity (MACE) mobilizes public health response facilities to provide public health services and supports the RPHEA by coordinating and sharing information for multiple agencies, and coordinating staff and volunteer activities, resources and public information.

Critical facilities in the response include Littleton Regional Healthcare, Weeks Medical Center in Lancaster, Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, and Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook, and Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin.

Primary regional response sites that can serve as settings of public information or emergency

services include Lancaster Elementary School, Littleton High School, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, the Colebrook School District, Profile School in Bethlehem and Lafayette Regional School in Franconia.

The plan also involves the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), a federal inventory of medical supplies and equipment, medicines, and antidotes that are deployed to the state when state and local resources are insufficient.

The primary SNS contact is Woods and the backup SNS contact is Bethlehem Fire Chief Jack Anderson.

Primary public communications within the public health emergency response framework will be done through Grafton County dispatch and the NCHC web site and social media page.

Plan development involves determining risks, building partnerships, developing plans, training

See **Response**, Page 10

Bars, Restaurants Closed For 3 Weeks

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

To contain the spread of coronavirus, the governors of New Hampshire and Vermont have ordered all bars and restaurants closed for the next three weeks.

The shut-downs will run to April 7 in New Hampshire, and April 6 in Vermont.

In the meantime eateries will be allowed to offer take-out, delivery and drive-through services.

Establishment owners agreed: It will be tough.

"It certainly impacts our operation," said Shane Switzer, owner of The Pizza Man in Lyndonville. "We have to try and make the best of it, keep the lights on, hope that people still need to eat, and take it as it comes."

The announcements also banned gatherings of more than 50 people, indoors and outdoors.

The shutdown will lead to widespread layoffs.

John Alberini, owner of Alburritos in Littleton, estimated that 15 or his 18 employees will be out of a job, at least temporarily.

"The happiest part of my job is having these people work for me ... actually feeding these families and giving people opportunity ... it's a really big part of my life and what I live for," Alberini said. "It hurts me a lot to lay people off, for any reason."

According to New Hampshire Gov.

Chris Sununu, laid off workers will immediately qualify for unemployment benefits.

"Service industry employees affected by this temporary change will be able to qualify for unemployment benefits effective immediately [Tuesday, March 17], where we will announce steps and set up a hotline and website for any worker adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," wrote Sununu on Twitter.

To cope, most eateries will introduce or increase take-out and curbside pickup options. Some will offer delivery.

"We're putting together a game plan," said Steve Bromley, owner of the Littleton Freehouse Taproom & Eatery, who estimates most of his 42 employees will be impacted by the closure. "We've had takeout since we opened, we offer our full menu. We have those systems in place, we're just going to hope to expand on that."

Most restaurants expect to take precautions to limit contact during transactions.

Several are developing plans for curbside service including Alburritos, The Free House, Schilling Beer Co., and Lago Trattoria in Newport (which began the practice a week ago).

"We're pushing for people to use credit cards, we have a mobile credit card machine, so they don't have to get out of their cars," Alberini said. "They don't have to come in and we can stay sanitary."

Local restaurant owners were under-

standing of the shutdown.

Most have spent the past week preparing themselves. Pizza Man had already planned to close its dining room Wednesday to formulate solutions, The Freehouse had cut back on its orders, and Alburritos management devised multiple contingency plans over the weekend.

"If you didn't see this coming you weren't paying attention," Alberini said.

Those contacted for this story expressed confidence in their ability to weather a three-week stoppage.

"If it lasts longer than a month, we'd start to worry a bit," said Bromley. "Right now we're worried for our staff more than our business."

Alberini echoed that statement, saying laid off employees would have a place to come back to when he shutdown was over.

"As far as paying the bills and keeping the lights on, it's all set," he said. "We'll come back. We'll start at zero. We'll build it back up and we'll kick butt."

However they expressed concern for other restaurants — the small mom-and-pop shops or those relying almost exclusively on dine-in customers — who might be hardest hit by a three-week closure.

"I hope it doesn't put anybody out of business," Switzer said. "There's a lot of restaurants around that can't modify their business plans to make take-out and delivery work, and they will be hurt over this."

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- Rosa Flamingo's, 2312 Main St., (603) 869-3111
- The Maia Papaya, 2161 Main St., (603) 869-9900

FRANCONIA

- The Dutch Treat, 317 Main St., (603) 823-8851

LANCASTER

- Granite Grind, 70 Main St., (603) 788-8211
- Lancaster House of Pizza, 95 Main St., (603) 788-0964
- Delivery available
- Polish Princess Bakery, 73 Main St., (603) 788-8222
- Scorpions Pizza and Sports Pub, 180 Main St., (603) 788-3660

LITTLETON

- Alburritos, 106 Main St., (603) 444-3338
- Delivery available through Kirk's Delivery (603) 616-6116
- The Beal House, 2 West Main St., (603) 444-2661
- Chang Thai Cafe, 77 Main St., (603) 444-8810
- Delivery available through Kirk's Delivery (603) 616-6116
- Gold House Pizza, 87 Main St., (603) 444-6190
- Delivery available through Kirk's Delivery (603) 616-6116
- Healthy Rhino, Littleton
- Will conduct business through locked doors, via phone orders only, during limited daytime hours (M-Sat., 9-3), until further notice.

- The Inkwell Coffee & Teahouse, 42 Mill St., (603) 324-0942
- Jing Fong, 60 Main St., (603) 444-6688
- Delivery available through Kirk's Delivery (603) 616-6116
- Littleton Freehouse Taproom & Eatery, 28 Cottage St., (603) 575-5410

- Taste The Thai, 406 Union St., (603) 575-5488

SUGAR HILL

- Polly's Pancake Parlor, 672 Route 117, (603) 823-5575

WOODSVILLE

- Shiloh's Restaurant, 202 Central St., (603) 747-2525

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

NEK, North Country Nursing Homes Suspend Visitation; Senior Centers Halt Programs

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

As concerns and uncertainty persist about what will be the full impact of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also called COVID-19, which has now been classified as a pandemic, senior centers and nursing homes in the North Country are taking extra precautions to keep their residents safe.

The Grafton County Nursing Home in North Haverhill, the Coos County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown, the Bel-Aire Center nursing home in Newport have now prohibited all outside visitors from entering.

Senior centers that include the Littleton Area Senior Center, which has seen a drop in its usual number of participating seniors, have suspended some activities and are putting an even greater emphasis on disinfection.

The suspension on visitation at the Coos County Nursing Hospital, which currently has 76 residents, went into effect at noon on Friday.

The suspension is for two weeks, but if some-

one nearby tests positive, it would be extended another two weeks, said its administrator, Laura Mill, who called it fluid, wait-and-see situation.

"We are staying at heightened alert," she said.

That alert also means outside activities are suspended and all staff is screened to ensure no one is coming to work ill, said Mills.

In addition, the Coos nursing hospital is making sure it stays in touch with all family members.

"It's definitely sad," she said. "They get some family members visiting every day. That will be the most difficult."

She encourages anyone to call the home if they want to speak to a resident and staff can set up a meeting on FaceTime or Skype, she said.

Daily cleaning has taken on new emphasis.

"We were already at a heightened level anyway because of flu season, and infection prevention is a big part of what we do, but even that has been stepped up," said Mills.

High-touch areas are given extra cleaning as is any item coming in from the outside.

Inside, the routines are largely unchanged.

"Right now, it's business as usual within our walls," said Mills. "We are our own little community here. The activities and dining room will continue as normal. We're just trying to limit what comes in from the outside."

She said, "We are learning as we go. If anyone has any questions, please call us."

This week in Orleans County, the Bel-Aire Center, a 58-bed facility run by Genesis Health-Care, suspended visits.

There is no social contact except under special circumstances, such as visits to end-of-life residents.

While family members are allowed in for those situations, they must sanitize their hands, wear a mask, and stay in one restricted area, said Bel-Aire's superintendent, Rosemary Mayhew.

Vendors are not allowed in and must leave packages or items outside, employees are screened for illness, and temperatures are taken of anyone who comes through the door, and if the temperature is up, they are not coming through the door, she said.

"We are restricting anyone who comes into the building," said Mayhew. "I have family

members who are employees and they are not coming in for visits when they are not on duty."

All outside activities have also been canceled and everything is being done internally.

For the elderly population, COVID-19 has a 20-percent mortality rate, she said.

"That's why we're very strict," said Mayhew.

She said, "We get daily updates from the CDC [Centers for Disease Control], CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services], and from our company. I would say it's a fluid situation and we change when we get the next memo."

On Thursday, Grafton County's nursing home closed its doors to all visitors and issued a notice to the public.

"We've taken that precaution in order to protect our the residents of the nursing home," said Grafton County Administrator Julie Libby. "That is a high-risk population and that is advice by the CDC and CMS. Other than that, we are following infection prevention methods and communicating with our employees not just about the nursing home, but all about county

See **Seniors**, Page 10



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CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Hotels Across Region Hit As Coronavirus Halts Tourism

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

Want a room? There are plenty.

Hotels and motels across the region are feeling the impact of coronavirus.

Efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, including the state-ordered shutdown of bars and restaurants and federal recommendations to limit crowd sizes, self-quarantine and practice social distancing, have dried up the local travel and tourism industry.

Even during the customary mud season slowdown, the drop-off is clear.

"We're in between seasons, so it's a downtime, but we normally have a fairly consistent trickle of tourism, and that has come to a complete stop," said Brian Berryman, co-owner of the Lancaster (N.H.) Motor Inn with his wife, Ruby. "The few reservations we've had for the next six weeks have canceled. So we really have no bookings for this period of time."

The story is the same all over.

Up by the Canadian border, the 83-room New-

port City Inn and Suites and 53-room Derby Four Seasons are over 85 percent vacant combined, according to owner Darrick Granai.

As people nix travel plans, Granai finds himself juggling multiple priorities (preserving jobs, maintaining public health, and keeping his businesses afloat) in the face of an uncertain future.

"My big fear is this won't be over quickly," said Granai on Wednesday. "We only have two people coming in tonight. If that continues, more than likely we'll shut down [the Derby Four Seasons] and tell [our guests and workers] to come to the Newport City Inn."

It reflects a national problem.

Across the country, hotel occupancy for March 8-14 dropped 24.4 percent (to an average of 53 percent) and revenue per room fell by 32.5 percent (to \$63.74).

The economic impact of the outbreak on the hotel industry is already bigger than "September 11th and the 2008 recession combined" said Chip Rogers, CEO of American Hotel & Lodging, earlier this week.

In this area the Jay Peak and Burke Mountain resorts ended winter operations earlier than expected and Thayer's Inn in Littleton closed through April 7.

To combat that, industry officials are seeking a \$250 billion bailout, with \$150 billion in direct relief for hotels and employees and \$100 billion to suppliers.

"Thirty-three thousand small business hotels across the country are facing the difficult decision right now whether to close their doors and lay off millions of people over the next few days," Rogers said.

For local hotel owners, the primary concern is their workforce.

In Newport, Granai continues to maintain a staff of 25 full- and part-time workers.

"My first worry is my employees. Once I take care of them, then I'll start to worry about myself and my family," he said. "I'm coming up with as many ideas as I can to keep people as whole as possible."

Sonny Patel, owner of the 41-room Coos Motor Inn in Lancaster since 2004, echoed that statement.

Despite a slew of cancellations recently (esti-

mated at around 50 nights worth), with occupancy down 20 percent from last year, he had no plans to lay off his six-person staff.

"I have employees who have worked for me for many, many years," he said. "They work hard in the summer and it's my responsibility to give them hours in the winter. It doesn't matter if we're slow or busy. I make sure they get their checks."

Another reason it's important for local hotels to remain open: They support essential services.

Granai said many of his current guests were medical professionals supporting North Country Hospital.

"My goal is to stay open for the emergency response workers," Granai said. "I live in this community. I don't want there to be a shortage of doctors and nurses for lack of a place to stay. That'd be horrible."

The same is true for the Berryman's, whose current guests (five of their 37 rooms) are medical professionals.

"Those medical professionals would have been here anyway, but we're actually putting out feelers for additional travelers that are here specific to this emergency," said Brian Berryman. "We have a connection to [local medical facilities] and want to make ourselves available for any sort of short term response."

Added Ruth Berryman, "It's hard to find housing in Lancaster and we are less than five minutes from the hospital."

The Berryman's took over the Lancaster Motor Inn last June. Their goal was to revive the facility as a public center, re-opening its bar and function rooms (the 50-capacity Retro Room and 150-capacity Banquet Room).

This week they had three events cancel: A banquet (estimated attendance over 100), a wedding shower (40) and a retirement party (100).

"That's one of the more unpleasant side effects of this," Brian said. "Yes, there's an economic loss, but there's a real sentimental and emotional loss having those events canceled."

"But we're certainly not mad or upset with anyone for canceling, that's what they are supposed to be doing at this moment."

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A sign indicates that Thayer's Inn in Littleton will be closed until April 7 in response to the coronavirus outbreak which has devastated the travel and tourism industry, causing a sharp decline in occupancy rates and forcing some hotels to lay off staff or halt operations. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Worship Ceases At Some Churches, Continues Cautiously At Others

BY DANA GRAY
Staff Writer

Most houses of worship in the region that responded to an inquiry about responses to coronavirus intend to continue corporate worship services but emphasize more hand-washing and less hand-shaking.

Four responding churches intend to suspend services through at least the end of the month.

Rev. Curtis E. Metzger, Rector at **All Saints' Episcopal Church, 35 School St., Littleton, N.H.** initially responded to say precautions were being implemented to continue corporate worship but then sent a message later Friday that stated, "Email from the Bishop this afternoon asking us to suspend public worship until Palm Sunday (April 5) at least."

The Reverend Ann Hockridge at **Third Congregational Church, East St. Johnsbury**, and the **Lower Waterford Congregational Church, Lower Waterford**, stated that worship services have been suspended through the end of March. Decisions about

Palm Sunday (April 5), Holy Week, and Easter (April 12) will be made later in the month, said Rev. Hockridge.

"I grew up outside of Philadelphia, where every cemetery has numbers of headstones for people who died during the 1918 'Spanish Flu' Pandemic. I assumed every cemetery across the country told the same story. It was only earlier this week that I learned that early social distancing in other cities, like St. Louis, dramatically lowered the infection and death rates in those cities," she stated.

Together with the Reverend Susan Ohlidal Rev. Hockridge is suspending events for Convivia/StJ through the end of March. This includes Pub Theology, which meets every Wednesday night at the Kingdom Taproom, and the Table Gathering, which meets every other Tuesday night at Bread and Butter Cafe.

On behalf of **United Community Church** on Main Street in St. Johnsbury, Dr. Betty Keller wrote, "We are suspending gathering in person for worship services at least through the end of March, and worshiping using online technology. We will be deciding how to proceed on March 30."

Dr. Keller shared a letter from the pastor,

Rev. Elisa Lucozzi, to members that noted, "We will continue to worship on Sundays at 10:00 am on Facebook live. We will invite you to send prayers via email or even call so that we can include them. You do not have to have a Facebook account to join us for worship. Just follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedCommunityChurchUCC/>. I will also make the full script of worship available via email and paper copies to be mailed or delivered to mailboxes of members who live in town.

Also in St. Johnsbury, the **Universalist Unitarian Congregation** of St. Johnsbury will be closed to worship gatherings. The Reverend Susan-Lynn Johns stated, "We have suspended services beginning this Sunday until the end of the month when we will reassess as more is known about the spread of the virus. We will be worshiping via Zoom conferencing so that we can interact with each other. Our Saturday meal will be held [today], but subsequent meals will probably be take-out."

Additional responding churches intend to keep their doors open for corporate worship but reinforce the notion that "cleanliness is

next to Godliness."

Christ United Methodist Church, Lancaster, N.H. plans no immediate changes. Precautions are being made concerning church-related visitations at nursing homes or the elderly.

Advice given to congregants "Use common sense; hand washing; consider avoiding close proximity especially when coughing, avoid hand-shaking; a wave or verbal greeting is good."

Pastor Clifton Bullock at **Union Baptist Church, Route 5, Waterford** said, "We are not altering our services but will encourage people to take proper precautions such as: staying home when sick; wash hands before and after service; greeting each other without hand-shakes or hugs. Use of hand sanitizer is readily available."

"Our message to our people is to be cautious and use wisdom as God has granted to us," he noted. "We do not respond in fear as our lives are in the control of our Loving Heavenly Father and our confidence is in Him."

Pastor Rick Menard said **New Beginnings**

See **Churches**, Page 10

Outbreak Prompts Spike In Gun Sales

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

It's not just toilet paper and hand sanitizer. There's also a run on weapons and ammunition.

Gun stores across the region are seeing a spike in demand, with customers concerned about the far-reaching impacts of the coronavirus outbreak.

"It's crazy," said Gary Griswold, owners of Gateway Sports in Wells River. "So far today we've already sold out of two different calibers of ammunition, and we had a pretty good stock of it."

Village Gun Store in Whitefield, Wright's Sport Shop in Newport and Rite Way Sports in Hardwick have also seen brisk business.

They describe it as unlike past buying sprees, which typically occurred after elections or mass shootings, or following the proposal of legislation.

"We've had a lot of shells going out. People are really stocking up," said Wright's owner Ron Wright.

It may not be entirely due to coronavirus. Gun sales tend to spike in presidential election years and during tax-return season.

However, this surge in demand is more than that, Griswold said.

"I wasn't expecting this at all," he said.

Coronavirus has spread worldwide with nearly 200,000 cases and 8,000 deaths as of Tuesday, including 6,300 cases and 100 deaths in the United States, putting some areas in lockdown, prompting the White House to advise against gatherings bigger than 10, and causing some to fear the breakdown of the social order.

According to Forbes, stocks for publicly traded gun-sellers had gone up, online retailer ammo.com reported a 68 percent jump in sales, and background checks for gun purchases in February were up 36 percent from last year.


In Depth New Hampshire reported brisk business in the southern part of the state, with stores packed with customers, and dealers struggling to meet demand.

"People get nervous, they say 'I want to make sure I have stuff to protect myself.' They're afraid people won't have food and will start breaking in," Wright said.

Whatever customers motivations, Wright said his concerns are with the local workforce.

"I think I can ride it out for a while ... and with the amount of meat I have in my freezer I could live for a year, no problem," Wright said. "But I feel bad for the help. A lot of mine lives from week to week."

Added Griswold, "I hope it's over with as quickly as it started."



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CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Residents React To New Reality Of Pandemic

BY AMY ASH NIXON
Staff Writer

Across the region, fears about the coronavirus and the real-time responses are affecting people's lives in the North Country and the Northeast Kingdom.

We asked local readers what they're experiencing, and heard from dozens of people, who work in health care, day care, elderly care, Girl Scout moms, people worried about their children who are far away, and who are worried about losing their jobs as the economy becomes quickly very frightening.

Karen Kebbie Thompson of Lyndon said, "I own an eldercare home. Big red flags everywhere."

Janet Givens of Danville said she's adapting her life to the new coronavirus reality, "For starters, I'm doing more Zoom meetings. I'm washing my hands more conscientiously. I bought extra dishwasher detergent the other day. Dishwasher detergent? Of all the things one might stock up on!"

"I live on 30 acres with my 81-year-old old hubs and 90-year-old mother, with only one neighbor, also in their 80s. I think more than usual about keeping my own resistance up. I tend to turn off TV news, but that's not new," said Givens. "I agree with an earlier comment, the most unnerving thing about this epidemic (pandemic) is the unknown, the initial misinformation from our feds, and the lack of preparedness

for it. Does not give one a sense of confidence."

Michele Ann Avery of North Haverhill reported "Well they closed the Senior Center where I work, so there's that. We are still going to make sure the Meals on Wheels programs keep going. Those seniors not on the program, but are in need can call to apply."

"I also expressed that I would try to help out families who may need assistance with lunches for their children (those who usually get free hot lunch)," said Avery. "But so far our schools are still running."

Avery said, "However, I was contacted by an old high school classmate of mine who is sending support funds should the need arise. That's a wonderful sign of how we are all connected and need to take care of each other."

"As for me, I feel so very blessed to live in my community where I know has the strength to unite in times such as this," said Avery. "That is where we will see the growth come from, this seed of community that will rise up to meet any challenges that come our way. Of that I am certain."

Avery said she went to Wal Mart to pick up some things she had ordered online in recent days, and said, "I did not expect anything different when I headed to the (online pickup tower at the store) but I immediately felt a tension through the store like never before."

"I took a moment to walk towards the back and noticed some carts full to overflowing with what appeared to be the last of the TP and also noticed the daggers in the eyes of those who had none in theirs," reported Avery. "So sad; I could not remain in the store with the uncomfortable level of stress."

She added, "I'm thankful for the call to prayer and I advise all to reach out and lend a hand and offer kindness and compassion."

Dawn Bodenhamer, a Northeast Kingdom Girl Scout Troop leader and mother of two girls, said both her daughters' schools have been interrupted.

Girl Scout cookie sale season has been cut short, the East Haven resident said on Monday.

Like other parents across the region - and country - she said she is scrambling to care for her youngest and not lose her job.

"But no real complaints here," she said, "More worried about what this will look like in a week or two."

Renee Williams of Lyndon said, "I do not know how I feel about it all to be honest. I try to read the facts and not get involved in heated debates on social media about how one should respond to the COVID-19. I think my fear comes from 'not knowing'."

"I do know that we are not given the full picture. How does it affect me personally? Well I have a Type 1 diabetic 14-year-old daughter and two elderly (80+ yrs) parents to take care of. If they should get this COVID-19 I would be devastated and fearful. I do not think my first thought would be 'meh it is just the flu.' So I am fearful, cautious and nervous of the unknown. I also wish people would meet in the middle. It seems they are either in freak out mode or hey relax mode."

Dianne M. Comeau Peyton of Lunenburg reported, "I'm not affected here in Lunenburg other than being disgusted with the media's taste for inciting mayhem and panic. This strain has a much higher than 70% recovery rate in otherwise healthy people making the mortality rate less than 1%. Hardly worth tanking the U.S. economy over."

Julie Hinman of Burke said, "It's real, we need to take it serious. My sister is a nurse in Seattle and she said, 'stay home and wash hands.' Media could calm down a bit, too, they are truly scaring people."

Susan Ohlidal of St. Johnsbury said, "One concern of mine is the further isolation of our elders and those who rely on group gatherings or activities for basic needs and socializing. For ex., what happens if we cancel the community meals at churches or meal sites? If you are a volunteer somewhere and count on it as a social support, and you are 'laid off,' you are more isolated. This kind of secondary or tertiary impact from the virus present challenges in our care for ourselves and each other."

Celeste Marie York-Girrell of Sutton said, "One church I know is

doing take out lunches so folks can get the food they need without the 'crowd.'"

"Because of my medical conditions, which usually do not slow me down, I have to be careful about becoming exposed to this new germ. However, I do think the media hype is not serving any purpose," she added.

I did stock up on fruits and veggies; I have movie(s) to watch, books to read, and friends to call. I don't anticipate much to be different except for the miles I won't be putting on my car," shared York-Girrell.

On an economic reality front, Michael Channon of Newark reported, "My wife Sarah lost her new job after three days and W.B. Mason, because they're eliminating the position through the economic uncertainty over the Coronavirus."

Jordan Charland, who is from West Burke but lives in Monkton and works in Shelburne, said, "I work at a childcare and the 'panic' is effecting us now because we are running out of soap to have children and staff wash their hands. We have limited latex gloves, hand sanitizer or any disinfectant to keep our classrooms clean and help prevent the spread of basic germs the kids have. We are obviously taking precautions to find the supplies we need."

Dakota Butterfield of Barnet said, "Our daughter is in a Masters program at The University of Texas in Austin. She's awaiting test results — fever, chills, cough. Living alone in a small trailer, no good way to self quarantine and we can't help her. Just want to get her home, but how can we put her on a plane if her test comes back positive? She has a history of asthma so we worry about her lungs."

Ellen Findlay Moore of East Haven said, "It is impressive watching our local hospitals, medical facilities and schools creating crisis plans, working together and supporting each other creatively to cooperate with the CDC and save lives."

James Nagle of Lyndon said, "Media hysteria is effecting all of us. Other than that, the actual threat to me is not as significant as contracting the common flu, for which I am vaccinated. I have lost value in my retirement funds but I am not pulling out of the market."

"I have lived through many a viral attack on my body. In fact, according to an MIT microbiologist, doing all we can to boost our immune systems is the best defense against the constant attacks on our bodies," said Nagle. "Good nutrition, clean air, clean water and practicing good personal hygiene is sound advice. Fighting over toilet paper in Walmart due to media driven hysteria is counterproductive and bad for our nation and our society at large."

Joyce Claire Evans of Passumpsic, said, "I'm grateful for the people reaching out to help with lunches for families who depend on the free lunch program, people offering to run errands for those who are comprised health wise."

Aprile Flynn Stoddert of Lyndon said, "We went shopping and it is AMAZING the things people are hoarding. Some items like disinfectant I understand but other items defy logic. To survive, it seems people need real butter, Doritos, masses of seltzer and bottled water, regular coffee creamer and more kitty litter than a cat needs in a lifetime."

"And everyone was buying water which made me wonder if they know something I don't. Is our water supply in the NEK at risk? Will it still come out of the tap? Should I be prepared to boil it?" asked Stoddert. "I am amazed by the patience of people. The store was crowded and the lines, even with every lane open were long, but residents of the NEK are hardy and don't let the panic make them rude."

Stoddert said, "Everyone was polite and helpful... amazed at the craziness ... but willing to pull together. In spite of hoarding quick-cooking oatmeal, the people around you are good people and good neighbors. If you have to go through a crisis, these are the people you want around you."

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CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Littleton Veterinarian Gives COVID-19 Update For Clients

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

The client visiting Companion Pet Care of Littleton on Friday, who later tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, had a history of travel, said the clinic's owner.
Veterinarian Billie Winter was unable to be

reached before press time on Tuesday, but in a later email said the notification came late Monday afternoon by the individual, who is not being named by Winter or the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services for privacy reasons.
"I called the NH DHHS initially late Monday afternoon and received general informa-

tion about what constituted an exposure to the COVID-19 virus, and under what circumstances a quarantine might be required," she said.
On Tuesday morning, she called and requested more information regarding CPC's specific situation, as she had not been notified officially that the department had confirmed there was a COVID-19 positive patient.
After investigating, Winter said DHHS contacted her Tuesday afternoon to let her know they had indeed confirmed that the person was COVID-19 positive, and the department helped her evaluate the exposure of CPC employees.

essential service," she said.
To reduce infection risk to staff and clients, access to the clinic building is currently being restricted.
As a result, car-side service is being implemented, whereby clients can contact staff from the parking lot, either by calling from their cell phones or knocking on the door, and then returning to their cars, after which a staff member will come to the car, take the pet's medical history, and then escort the pet into the building for an examination and treatment with one of CPC's veterinarians.

Virus Spurs Unemployment Benefit Expansion In N.H.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire residents unable to work or those facing reduced hours because of the coronavirus pandemic will have access to immediate unemployment benefits, as well as temporary protection from losing their homes or having their utilities shut off.
Gov. Chris Sununu issued several executive orders Tuesday, a day after he banned both large public gatherings and dine-in service restaurants. The latter decision was made in part to prevent St. Patrick's Day revelers from flooding into the state from Massachusetts, which enacted similar restrictions over the weekend, Sununu said.
"Unlike some larger states like Texas or Oklahoma, we have such common interstate travel over of our borders," said Sununu, a Republican. "All of those factors and data points are brought into consideration before we make any serious decision."
A look at how the spread of the virus is affecting the state:

THE NUMBERS

As of Tuesday, more than 25 people in the state have tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.
Health officials have said most of the state's cases were infected via international travel, domestic travel or close contact with another patient. But the nine additional cases announced Tuesday had no identifiable risk factors, meaning the state is beginning to see the coronavirus spread in the community.
All of them are isolated at home and none of them have been hospitalized. For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough, and the vast majority recover.

For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, or death. People with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover, according to the World Health Organization.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Republican Gov. Chris Sununu issued an executive order Tuesday allowing a broad group of people affected by the virus to request unem-

ployment benefits. Those eligible include workers at businesses that temporarily close due to COVID-19; those who are told to self-quarantine by a health care provider, employer or government official; those who need to care for ill or quarantined family members; those caring for children because of school and daycare closures and self-employed individuals unable to operate their businesses.
Applications can be submitted online or by phone, and the usual one-week waiting period is being suspended. Richard Lavers, deputy commissioner of the Department of Employment Security, said he hopes it will help people who are reluctant to quarantine themselves because they fear losing income.
"This will allow us to provide critical resources right away at the onset of a reduction in work," he said at a news conference. "In times such as these, the unemployment program is an incredibly valuable resource for our local economy."

Lavers said the state's unemployment trust fund stands at \$300 million, about \$30 million more than the amount available when the 2008 recession hit. The state typically has about 500 people initial claims each week, plus about 4,000 existing claims. During the recession, those numbers rose to 4,000 initial claims per week, with 35,000 to 40,000 continuing claims, Lavers said. The current average payout is \$333 per week.

PROTECTIONS AT HOME

Sununu also issued an order prohibiting providers of electricity, gas, water, phone service and other utilities from disconnecting or discontinuing services for nonpayment for the duration of the 21-day state of emergency he declared Friday. Another order prohibits landlords from starting eviction proceedings for those in difficult financial situations, and it bans foreclosure actions, as well.

EMPTY CHURCHES

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, responding to an earlier order from Sununu to ban public gatherings over 50, is prohibiting the general public from attending mass. Priest will continue to offering daily and Sunday mass but the pews will be empty. The Diocese is not set up to stream the services but did encourage parishioners to watch mass from other places on EWTN Global Catholic Network or Boston Catholic

See **Unemployment**, Page 11



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Obituaries

Priscilla (Nelson) Melahn

Priscilla (Nelson) Melahn, 85, of Bradford, Vt., died Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the Blue Spruce Home, Bradford.

She was born in Haverhill, N.H., Oct. 21, 1934, a daughter of Leroy and Martha (Kendall) Nelson and graduated from Woodsville High School Class of 1952, and also from Pierce Business College, Concord, N.H.

On Jan. 14, 1956, she married John C. "Jack" Melahn, Jr., and following his career and discharge in 1972 from the United States Navy, they moved to Bradford. For several years Priscilla worked at Gray & Blake Insurance in Bradford, and later for St. Johnsbury Trucking Company. She was a member of the Bradford United Church of Christ and had previously served on the flower committee.

She was predeceased by her husband Jack on Sept. 5, 2012, three sisters Martha Sayers, Della Heywood and Louise Elder, and a brother Harland Nelson.

Survivors include their three children Deborah Melahn and wife Debra of North Fort Myers, Fla., Dennis Melahn and wife Cathy of Gilbertville, Pa., and David Melahn and wife Jayne of Lebanon, N.H., and four grandchildren, Regina, Krystyna, Allison and Katelyn, along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A calling hour will be on Thursday, July 30, 6-7 p.m. at Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch St., Woodsville, N.H.

A memorial service will be on Friday, July 31, at 11 a.m., at the Bradford United Church of Christ, 145 Main St., Bradford, Vt. Burial will follow at the Sawyer Cemetery, Bradford.

For more information or to sign an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com.

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements.



Priscilla Melahn

Bryan Scott Gould

Bryan Scott Gould, 58, Woodsville, N.H., died on Friday, March 13, 2020.

Bryan was born in Haverhill, N.H. on April 25, 1961 to Llewellyn L. "Buster" and Dorothy L. (Leonard) Gould. He was a graduate with the Class of 1979 of Woodsville High School. Following high school, he received his Associates Degree from New England Institute in Boston. On Nov. 9, 1985, he married Melissa A. Trimble.

Bryan began working at Ricker Funeral Home at age 16. Following Mortuary School in 1983, he worked for three years at

Ricker Funeral Home in Lebanon, returning to work in Woodsville in 1986. Along with his wife, Melissa, they purchased the funeral home in January 2006.

He enjoyed being in the woods, listening to Irish music, particularly the High Kings, and walking their dogs, Abbie, Buckshot, and Ozzy. Over the years, he loved following Woodsville High School athletics, especially during the seasons when his sons were participating.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Melissa A. Gould of Woodsville; their sons, Scott T. Gould of Martinsburg, W.V. and Kyle B. Gould of Towson, Md.; a sister and a brother; along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Calling hours will be on Wednesday, March 18th from 4-7 p.m. at Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch St., Woodsville, N.H.

A funeral service will on Thursday, March 19th at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home.

A private burial will be held in the spring in Pine Grove Cemetery, Woodsville, N.H.

Bryan would prefer that memorial contributions be made to the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, PO Box 626, Concord, NH 03302-0626.

For more information or to offer an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com.

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements.

Marie Claire Anita (Marcotte) Paquin

Marie Claire Anita (Marcotte) Paquin, age 95, of St. Johnsbury passed away with her family by her side on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at Maple Lane Nursing Home in Barton, Vt. She received excellent care since 2005 while being treated for Alzheimer's.

She was born in Fish Bay, P. Quebec, Canada, on July 22, 1924, the sixth of thirteen children born to the late John Marcotte and Melvina (Steban) Marcotte. Joe and Claire married in October of 1944 and celebrated their 66th Anniversary in October 2009. They emigrated to this country on December 7, 1951 and on May 1, 1959, became proud naturalized citizens. They enjoyed spending time at their camp on Joe's Pond sharing good times with family and friends. Claire enjoyed travelling to Portugal, Canada, Hawaii, and New England. She was an excellent cook, seamstress and in her spare time enjoyed playing Bingo. She was a past member of the Emblem Club and a devout Catholic at St. John the Evangelist Church. She worked very hard to provide for her family, was a wonderful wife, mother, grand- and great-grandmother, and will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Claire is survived by six of her children: Huguette Faust and her husband, Romeo, of Orleans, Vt., and her children: Eric, Aaron, and Adam; Claudette Cassidy of Lyndonville; Richard Paquin and wife, Joy, of Pike, N.H., and their children: Ethan and Nathan; Serge Paquin of St. Johnsbury; Francine Costa and husband, Orlando, of Naples, Fla., and their children: Christopher and Amanda; Doris Hartshorn and husband, Terry, of Monroe, N.H., and their children: Tiffany Ayotte, Ian, and Alex; 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on March 18, at 1 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church on Winter Street in St. Johnsbury, Vt. Burial will take place later in the spring.

Memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com



Marie Paquin

Bradford, Vt.

Bud was born in Ashfield, Mass., on September 15, 1928, to Clifton William and Mildred Evelyn (Bradford) Scott. He was a graduate of Sanderson Academy, Class of 1946. He then graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1948. On June 30, 1951 he married Bernice "Bunny" Willis.

A self-employed dairy farmer, Bud and Bunny moved lock, stock, and barrel from Apple Valley in Ashfield, Mass., to Newbury, Vt., in 1980. He belonged to and held offices in both the Massachusetts and Vermont Holstein Associations as well as with DHIA and Farm Bureau.

As a young man, Bud played baseball and basketball on high school, college and town teams. He loved to water ski. He was an avid fisherman and loved to play golf in his later years. In Ashfield, he was a school board member and was on the committee to create the Mohawk Trail Regional School district. He belonged to the Grange in Buckland, Mass., and was a member and trustee of the First Congregational Church of Newbury.

While farming in Apple Valley, Bud was a sugar maker for many years and had more than 6000 taps. Over the past few years, he and Bunny have pieced together several hundred jigsaw puzzles. It was Bud's vision to have a family camp that would be enjoyed for generations to come. The camp in the Adirondacks was a happy place for the Scott family over the years. He also raised border collies, bred golden retriever/labs and had a vision to start growing a successful Emu business.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Bernice "Bunny" Scott of Newbury; four children, Diane Langley and husband Stephen of White River Junction, Vt., Debora Erb and husband Douglas of Landaff, N.H., Larry Scott and wife Peggy Hewes of Newbury, and Doreen Morris and husband Richard of Haverhill, N.H.; eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; a brother, Frederick Scott and wife Lois of Brooktondale, N.Y.; many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister Gladys Sellew and a brother Edward Scott.

Calling hours will be on Monday, March 16th from 5-7 p.m. at Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch Street, Woodsville, NH.

A celebration of life will be on Tuesday, March 17, at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Newbury, 4915 Main Street South, Newbury.

Burial will be in the spring in Oxbow Cemetery, Newbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Newbury Greenspace, FCC of Newbury Greenspace, PO Box 165, Newbury, VT 05051

For more information or to offer an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements.

Geraldine B. Bednarz

Geraldine B. Bednarz, 80, passed away unexpectedly on March 9, 2020 at her home in Sheffield, Vt.

She was born November 2, 1939, in Hartford, Conn., to Louis and Priscilla (Watson) Agnoli. She grew up in East Windsor, Conn., graduating from East Windsor High School in 1957. In 1958, she married Paul Bednarz and in 1988, they moved to Vermont where they built their dream log cabin and retired.

Geraldine excelled in a multitude of professions. First started work in Hartford, Conn., in an insurance company and lastly was a machinist in Littleton, N.H. Early on she was involved in Girl Scouts as a troop leader in Enfield, Conn. A nature lover and avid gardener who loved flowers of all kinds. Geraldine loved watch-



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Roger Bradford "Bud" Scott

Roger Bradford "Bud" Scott, 91, of Scott Road, Newbury, Vt., died on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Blue Spruce Home in

Dalton Residents Vote To Eliminate Police Department

After Dalton voters in past years rejected several proposals to eliminate the Dalton Police Department, voters at town meeting last week gave the latest town meeting warrant article the green light.

In a 47-10 vote, they approved Article 4, which asked them to see if the town will support contracting with New Hampshire State Police to conduct regular patrols and non-emergency calls.

The coverage, states the article, is in addition to the emergency coverage that has been provided to the town for the past three years, and the state police coverage will be paid for with a \$15,000 annual police department operating budget.

If the article didn't pass, Dalton would have retained its current police coverage.

For the past three years, the Dalton Police Department has been a one-man department, manned by John Tholl, the officer in charge.

On Thursday, Tholl, a retired state police sergeant, said he respects the vote and had been considering resigning as Dalton officer in charge in the event the article failed and the department was retained.

"In my view, you cannot provide any meaningful coverage to Dalton for \$15,000 a year," he said.

Tholl came to the department when there were three officers, but the previous board eliminated those positions.

He said he made a point to under-spend the budget and always be on the clock when there was a specific job to do, such as pistol permits of whichever investigation was lined up, instead of sitting at a desk and collecting hourly pay.

After the town vote, though, Tholl said he doesn't know what to do with the department's equipment and its firearms that need to be secured.

"Records also need to be preserved," he said. "There's a lot of sensitive information and there's a requirement they be kept for a couple of years."

See Dalton, Page 14

Obituaries

Continued from Page 8

ing and feeding birds, woodworking and was an animal lover particularly all her dogs over the years. Clowns and thimbles were among the many things she collected. Spending time with family and friends was very important to her.

Survivors include her husband, Paul; son, Ken (Laura) Bednarz of Broad Brook, Conn.; daughter, Karla (Brent) Staubach of Colchester, Conn.; brother, Rodney (Debra) Agnoli of Thetford Center, Vt.; sister, Gail Brown of Barton, Vt.; four grandchildren, Samantha "Sam" and Sydney Staubach and Nicholas and Christopher Bednarz; many nieces and nephews.

Charitable donations may be directed to Riverside Rescue, 236 Riverside Avenue, Lunenburg, VT 05906 www.riversideanimalrescue.org

Services will be held at a later date.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.guibordfh.com.

Laurel Jeanette "Lolli" Goodwin

Laurel Jeanette "Lolli" Goodwin, 73, died Monday, March 9, 2020, at the Grafton County Nursing Home, North Haverhill.

She was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt. on March 29, 1946, a daughter of Norman and Marion (Hatley) Murray and was raised in Groton, Vt. and graduated from Groton High School.

Survivors include her daughter, Valerie Joda and husband Stephen of Centennial,

Colo.; a grandson, Noah Bogie and wife Brittany Fulton Bogie and twin great grandsons Jacob and Caleb Bogie of Monroe; her siblings, Norma Murphy, Judy Thresher, Janie Tuite, William Murray, and James Murray; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

In keeping with Lolli's wishes there are no public services being planned.

For more information or to sign an online condolence please visit www.rickerfh.com.

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting with arrangements.

Josephine Lavoie

Josephine Lavoie of Londonderry, N.H., quietly died at the skilled nursing facility, Courville of Nashua, on March 10, 2020. She was the dear and loving wife of Maurice Lavoie. She was just a few weeks away from her 88th birthday. They were married for 48 years and while they did not have any children of their own, they tried to serve God's children through other avenues.

She was born in 1932, a daughter of the late John and Rose Flynn (Cullen) of Lacoon, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim, Ireland. Her home was in beautiful Glenfarne Valley. She was raised on a small and typical Irish family farm and she was one of eleven children made up of seven girls and four boys.

At the early age of fifteen, Josephine entered the religious life by joining the Franciscans Sisters of the Atonement and faithfully served her God with them for twenty-three years. She came to the United States between the years of the late 1940's

to the early 1950's. In her religious life she was on the mission band and ministered and served the Lord in many locations including Philadelphia, New York City, New York state, Maine, and New Hampshire.

In 1968, she became laicized from her religious order but continued to serve God as a lay person on other veins. She became involved in various Catholic/Christian ministries. She was active as a Eucharistic Minister, the prison ministry, a teacher in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to the young. The prison ministry included corresponding with various prisoners, informing them of the love and mercy that was available to them from the person, and the God, of Jesus Christ.

In 1968, she met her husband to be Maurice, in Boston and they were married in March of 1972. During Josephine's married life, her first (and only) job was as the primary accountant for the Greater Nashua Day Care Center, located on Shattuck Street in Nashua, NH. She worked there for nearly twenty-five years and retired in the early 1990's.

Josephine has been pre-deceased by nine of her siblings. In addition to her husband of Londonderry, her lone family member living is a sister, Francis Kelly, of Sweetwood, Killarue, Co. Leitrim, Ireland.

Josephine will be waked at St Mark's the Evangelist Church, 1 South Rd, Londonderry on Sunday, March 15th from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. Her life will be celebrated, also at St Marks, on Monday, March 16th with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00am. Her burial process will be at a later date in Littleton, NH. Due to lent and all services occurring in the Church, flowers need to be omitted and will not be accepted for services. Donations in her memory may be made to Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, 2 Quincy St., Nashua, NH 03060. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium of Derry and Londonderry are assisting the family with arrangements. To send a condolence, please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

ACROSS

- 1 Sketcher's need
- 7 Paramount rival
- 10 Home furnishing
- 14 Fall
- 15 Conquistador's quest
- 16 Sultan's cousin
- 17 Fruit cake ingredient
- 18 Philosopher —tzu
- 19 Prefix meaning "billion"
- 20 First staging of a play (2 wds.)
- 23 Not deserved
- 26 Not Dem. or Rep.
- 27 Diminish
- 28 Put to flight
- 29 Actress — Wallace-Stone
- 30 Bag thickness unit
- 31 Tonic go-with
- 32 Electric bridge
- 33 Natural gifts
- 37 PC bailout key
- 38 Rumor, perhaps
- 39 Nay opposite
- 40 Iron source
- 41 Certain salon services (2 wds.)
- 43 Once possessed
- 44 Sheep call
- 45 Words of surprise
- 46 Max opposite
- 47 Slender
- 48 Sweater letter
- 51 Deep black
- 52 Tackle-box items
- 53 Ungenerous (hyph.)
- 56 Rara —
- 57 Rd.
- 58 Soothsayer
- 62 Muchacho

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

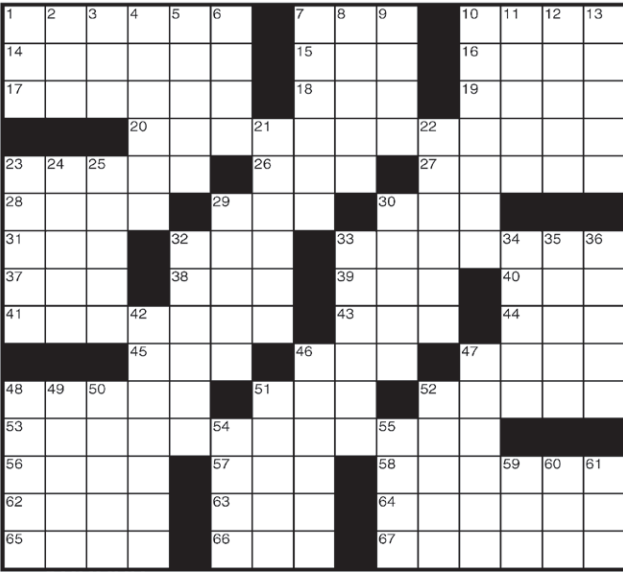
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DOWN

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- 2 Vive le —!
- 3 Promising
- 4 Germinate
- 5 Marry secretly
- 6 Lalique or Descartes
- 7 Illinois city
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- 9 Synthesizer inventor
- 10 Easy to read
- 11 Pablo's girl
- 12 Strength
- 13 Chatter
- 21 Brother's girls
- 22 Hammered in
- 34 Aristocratic
- 35 Hiker's need
- 36 Garment parts
- 42 Nixon predecessor
- 46 Only
- 47 Quiet
- 48 Fridge maker
- 49 Denims
- 50 Special effort
- 51 Kicked around
- 52 Show again
- 54 Summon electronically
- 55 Volume
- 59 Mongrel
- 60 Hang back
- 61 Cathedral town



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Churches

Continued from Page 5

Christian Church, 72 Moose River Dr., St. Johnsbury will be encouraging the use of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes during worship gatherings.

“We do not really see many changes in the way we do things yet; we will pray, worship, preach and continue to fulfill our mission statement which is ‘To bring the healing love and power of Jesus Christ to a lost and hurting world,’” he wrote.

One change to their outreach was imposed by the Department of Corrections. Many volunteer services will be put on hold for now and the number of prison ministry volunteers is being cut way back for now.

Should the future hold a suspension of corporate worship, Menard noted, “We like many other houses of worship are geared up and livestream our services so a few of us can actually produce a live service if necessary, even from our own home if need be.”

Services will continue at **St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 51 Elm St., Lyndonville**, noted Darcie McCann, senior warden, but the virus necessitated a change in communion.

“The sharing of the wine, representing the blood of Christ, has been stopped for the foreseeable future due to the Covid-19 situation and we have been advised by our bishop to take all necessary precautions to stem the spread of the virus,” she wrote. “We are telling folks to be careful and stressing that you don’t need to be at church to honor and follow God. We tell them to follow their hearts and to do what is best for them and their families.”

Pastor Nick DeYoung wrote to congregants at **Faith Bible Church, 335 Union St., Littleton, N.H.** “at this point, we are not going to postpone or cancel worship gatherings, though we are going to put some actions in place to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. As a multi-generational church, we are blessed with members and attendees from all walks of life. The leadership wants to make sure that we are caring for those who are most vulnerable to infection.”

He closed his message by stating, “God is in control, and we remain faithful to being a light in the community, especially during difficult times.”

Lyndon Bible Church, 250 Brown Farm Road, Lyndon is making changes to communion procedures but intends to remain open for corporate worship.

Pastor Joel Battaglia stated, “We are changing our communion procedures to avoid passing elements instead letting each individual come and take the elements themselves.”

In a message to church attendees, he wrote, “First of all, we need to respond in faith not in fear ... Secondly, as the Bible says, we need to be wise ... Thirdly, we need to love and serve our neighbors.” He noted Bible verses to support his points.

Additional measures at LBC include possibly suspending fellowship time with food.

Fr. Mark Dollard at **St. Rose of Lima Parish, Littleton** and **Our Lady of the Snows Mission Church, Franconia** stated the practice of a common cup for the Communion of the Precious Blood has been suspended.

Additionally, “no shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace during the Masses, no shaking of hands from the Clergy to the parishioners as they enter and exit the churches. People have been asked to stay home if they don’t feel well or feel uncomfortable being at church around other people.”

“The Holy Water Fonts have been drained and cleansed.”

Fr. Dollard noted, “All social activities have been postponed until permission to reinstate has been given by the Bishop of Manchester, the Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci, including St. Patrick’s Day Supper, Soup Nights after the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights, and the 1st Sunday of the Month Pancake Breakfast.”

Home, nursing home, and hospital visitations have been suspended to just emergency situations.

Seniors

Continued from Page 3

facilities, following CDC guidelines.”

At the moment, suspension on visitation to the nursing home, which has a current resident population of 124, is indefinite, she said.

The ban also includes no active providers for activities coming in from the outside.

To communicate with family members, residents have telephones in their rooms and the nursing home will also try to set them up on FaceTime and Skype.

Currently, New Hampshire has six presumptive coronavirus cases, two of them in the county of Grafton.

“We will do our best to keep communicating with family members to help keep their minds at ease the best we can during this time,” said Libby.

In the county’s letter to family and friends of the Grafton County Nursing Home, nursing home administrator Craig Labore said there is no confirmed case of COVID-19 in the home, but the risk to older people is high, with a World Health Organization report estimating the mortality rate for those over 80 at 21.9 percent.

There is a risk that people who appear healthy will enter nursing homes and infect residents, he said.

“The current COVID-19 outbreak situation means it is critical that we take every precaution possible,” said Labore. “We must prevent the virus from entering

our home. Protecting our residents’ health and safety is our top priority.”

On late Friday afternoon, North Country Hospital announced that Derby Green, its nursing home in Derby, will not be accepting visitors.

The Littleton Area Senior Center in Littleton, one of eight senior centers in the county run by the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, has curtailed its activities, including the bone builders program and AARP appointments, said its new director, Robin Kristoff.

The daily luncheon is still running, at least for the moment.

“We started canceling non-essential activities not related to our daily lunch,” she said. “We’re still running Meals on Wheels and essential programs ... All the Grafton County sites are weighing safety versus the needs of the seniors we are serving.”

Safety measures also include directing seniors to hand sanitizer and keeping a daily log of everyone coming and going, just to have it on record in the event it is needed, said Kristoff.

While the daily luncheons can draw 40 to 70 seniors on any given day, only 18 showed up on Thursday, she said.

“People have definitely been staying home on their own and minimizing their risk,” said Kristoff.

Inside, regular scrubbing and disinfecting of high-touch areas is being done even more frequently, on every surface, table, door knobs, handles, and places to sit, said Kristoff.

Response

Continued from Page 2

staff and volunteers, and evaluating plans, said Woods.

The state has identified 211 as the number to call for those seeking updates on COVID-19, said Frank.

Local Response Plans So Far

“In Lancaster, we’ve worked in the last 10 days to set up a regional command system for 10 or so towns, both in our catchment area and the border of Vermont,” said assistant Lancaster Fire Chief Ted Joubert.

Most of LFD’s public partners have joined in, including the hospital, school district and town entities, and the last 10 days have been spent networking; the next step is to work on a command structure, he said.

Littleton Regional Healthcare has restricted access to prevent patients and staff inside from becoming infected.

“There’s a lot going on and it’s influx and dynamic as we react to never-ending changes from DHHS [the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services] and the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control],” said LRH security supervisor Brad Sargent.

“Anyone coming to the hospital is going to find that access is being restricted to two

points,” said Sargent.

All those coming in, including employees, are being screened at the entry points, he said.

The cafeteria has been closed to the general public and the hospital is working with providers to limit all non-essential appointments for the rest of the week, said Sargent.

Also closed to public use are LRH’s conference and community spaces. In addition, LRH events are canceled.

Cottage Hospital in Woodsville has an active incident command center for the Woodsville-Haverhill area and has implemented a no-visitor policy, per CDC guidelines.

Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital has been meeting with its regional partners for the past week and is monitoring the situation.

Next Steps

After arriving to deal with the N1H1 virus in 2009, there are two public health trailers in the North Country, one in Colebrook that can serve Coos County, and one in Haverhill that can also serve the Littleton area.

Both can distribute some emergency supplies if needed, said Woods.

If necessary, a supply of small- and regular-sized masks are available to give people, and the NCHC will put out a survey to communities this week asking them which supplies they think they will need, she said.

Signs have been put up directing people to wash their hands.

“People know it, but it doesn’t hurt to remind them,” she said.

Signs are also posted on the door asking those with a cough or who have traveled in the last 14 days to not enter the senior center and to stay at home.

The senior center is also stockpiling more frozen meals in the event it has to do a bulk delivery.

“It’s not ready yet, but we are working on it and want to have that capacity,” she said.

The Lafayette Center, the residential nursing home facility for seniors in Franconia, and the St. Johnsbury Health and Rehabilitation Center, both run by Genesis HealthCare, are also taking precautions.

“Since the outbreak began in China, our management team, clinical leadership and chief medical officer have been meeting regularly to address current concerns about an outbreak of the coronavirus in the United States, and the possibility of this impacting our center,” said Lori Mayer, spokesperson for the Lafayette Center.

“We are currently receiving regular updates on the latest admission screening guidelines and infection control protocols. Everything we are doing is in collaboration with the CDC and the Department of Public Health. At this time, we have also enhanced employee and patient screenings and precautions, and are limiting visitors.”

The trailers also have a limited number of cots, as well as alcohol swabs and some masks with face shields.

The regional MACE would be activated on orders from the state, and NCHC is working with the local partners to ensure MACE operations are ready to operate, said Woods.

Currently, there is no immunization for COVID-19, meaning there will be no points of dispensing (PODs) set up to administer a vaccine. When a vaccine becomes available, the trailers could be utilized.

In other parts of New Hampshire, drive-through testing sites have already been set up for suspected cases.

“A vaccine is 12 to 18 months out so the necessity for opening PODs in New Hampshire is quite a ways away,” said Jim Richardson, NCHC’s public health emergency preparedness coordinator for the North Country region.

As for testing, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services in Littleton is preparing to have drive-through swab clinic sites, initially for ACHS patients suspected of possibly having COVID-19.

NCHC plans to have a followup meeting, either another teleconference or in person depending on the status of the virus, in April, said Woods.

Unemployment

Continued from Page 7

Television.

"It pains me terribly to have to make this decision," Bishop Libasci said in a statement. "But we are mindful of our obligation to protect the most vulnerable and protect the common good."

COLLEGES

New Hampshire's public university system has adjusted its response.

The four schools that make up the system — the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College and Granite State College — last week announced varying approaches in terms of resuming classes after spring break.

But by Tuesday, all campuses had switched to remote learning at least until April 3. While campuses remain open for essential work, students currently not on campus have been instructed not to return before April 5 unless an exception is granted by one of the schools.

Officials also are working with state, federal and local authorities to set up testing and isolation facilities to serve students, employees and surrounding communities.

Private schools also are switching to remote learning. At Dartmouth College, where a graduate student who lives off campus has tested positive for COVID-19, all classes will be taught remotely until May 1, and undergraduate students have been told not to return.

DINE-IN SHUT DOWN

New Hampshire is joining other states in restricting restaurants and bars to takeout, delivery and drive-through service in hopes of slowing the spread of the new coronavirus.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu announced his decision Monday, a day after neighboring Massachusetts made a similar move.

"Knowing neighboring states have closed restaurants and bars has caused New Hampshire to evaluate those states' actions and their impact on New Hampshire's population risk profile," he said in a statement. "This action will help slow the spread of this virus in New Hampshire. We do not take this decision lightly. This will be hard, but we are all in this together."

Other places with similar restrictions include Rhode Island, Illinois, Ohio, Washington state and New York City.

New Hampshire's directive, which extends until April 7, also will ban public gatherings of 50 people or more.

STATEWIDE SCHOOL CLOSURES

Sununu issued an order Sunday closing K-12 public schools until April 3. The order gives districts until March 23 to begin offering remote instruction.

Sununu said he will issue directives to make sure parents who need to miss work to care for children would be able to access state unemployment benefits. He also said the state would expand access to childcare.

COURTS SUSPENDED

New Hampshire's circuit, superior and supreme courts will remain open on a restricted basis through April 6, with nearly all in-person proceedings halted.

Exceptions include bail-related matters and plea agreements; requests for protection orders and hearings in domestic violence and juvenile abuse cases; and emergency proceedings, including those related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In-court proceedings are limited to attorneys, parties, security officers and other necessary people as determined by judges.

MEDICAL PROCEDURES POSTPONED

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health began delaying some elective procedures Monday in an effort to focus on preserving critical supplies and equipment as the virus spreads.

The health system includes Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, several affiliated smaller hospitals and two dozen clinics across New Hampshire and Vermont. Providers have begun contacting patients whose procedures will be delayed.

The new policy does not affect doctor's appointments, well visits, urgent care or emergency procedures. Those who don't receive calls should arrive as scheduled for procedures.

NO VISITORS FOR PRISONERS

Visitors and volunteers will not be allowed at New Hampshire's state prison facilities until at least April 3. The Department of Corrections said the ban includes visits from attorneys, but it will make

accommodations to keep inmates in touch with their attorneys electronically.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

On Monday, state officials offered guidance to city councils, boards of selectman, zoning boards and other groups trying to figure out how to continue their work while minimizing the spread of the new coronavirus.

Gov. Chris Sununu and Attorney General Gordon MacDonald sent a memo to municipal officials and others about the state law requiring such groups to hold their meetings in public. They said in the event of an emergency, a board may meet electronically, but it must still give the public 24 hours notice. Such meetings must also provide public access, which could include providing a call-in number for meetings conducted by phone.

MAPLE MONTH CANCELED

The sap is still flowing, but maple syrup producers won't be welcoming crowds this month.

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association said Monday it has canceled the rest of Maple Month, when sugar houses are open to the public statewide for tours, syrup tasting and other treats. The biggest crowds were expected for March 21-22, dubbed Maple Weekend.

The association said syrup and other maple products will still be for sale. Some sugar houses may offer off-hours pick up or will sell their products online.

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Postponements, Cancellations and Scheduling Changes

SENIOR SERVICES

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

• West Burke and Lyndonville congregate meals will be pick up or deliver only beginning Tuesday, March 17.

• North Troy congregate meals will be pick up or deliver only beginning Wednesday, March 25 (1x per week).

• West Barnet Senior Meals: The dining room will be closed to on-site meals until further notice. We will deliver to homebounds as usual. Take-out meals will be available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call ahead to order: Jan at 802-535-7860, Jane at 603-638-4002, or Meal Site 802-633-4068 Wednesday morning before 10 a.m. This will be on-going until further notice.

• March for Meals benefit lunch at Cornucopia (3/27), "Italian Night" dinner at the W. Burke Meal Site (3/24) and March for Meals Turkey Dinner at the Lyndon Meal Site/Darling Inn (3/26) will be rescheduled.

• Services provided at the Hardwick Area Health Center and Island Pond Health Center have been suspended for 30 days.

Littleton Area Senior Center

• All eight senior centers managed by the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council – will be closed until further notice. Meals on Wheels deliveries will continue.

NVRH Veggie Van Go

• Mobile Food Pantry has a temporary outdoor location drive-through for March 19, from 10-11 a.m. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. and take only the food for your household. Food from the VT Foodbank is meant for personal use. Bring your own grocery bags. Look for volunteers for signs and traffic direction. Contact 748-7590 for information.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations have suspended operations due to coronavirus concerns.

REGIONWIDE

• The Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains have suspended all activities until April 13. Cookie booth sales are suspended through April 13.

• The offices of NEK Habitat for Humanity at 459 Portland St. in St. Johnsbury will be closed to the public until further notice. Staff will continue to return calls, monitor email and postal mail, and respond to applications for home repair assistance.

• Vermont Fish & Wildlife officials have postponed all hunter, bowhunter and trapper education courses. In the meantime, Vermonters can do online work for hunter education, bowhunter education, or trapper education. Information about classes and the online homework: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunter-education>.

BROWNINGTON

• Seed Launch and Informational event at Old Stone House Museum in Brownington on 4/4 has been postponed.

FRANCONIA

• Abbie Greenleaf Library closed 3/16 until

further notice. The library noted that people with overdue books who want to renew should not worry about it; just hold onto the book until the library re-opens.

• Lafayette Recreation, all programs, lectures and classes (tentative re-opening 4/6)

GREENSBORO

• The Greensboro Public Library will be closed until further notice.

— Book and movie pick-up and delivery avail. Call (802) 533-2531, or email greensborofree@gmail.com.

LANCASTER

• Weeks Memorial Library all youth programs and Travel Nights cancelled until further notice

LISBON

• Boys and Girls Club of the North Country (tentative re-opening 3/23)

LITTLETON

• All Saints' Episcopal Church services suspended until at least 4/5

• Dinner Bell community meal hosted by All Saints Episcopal Church will be take out only, every Tuesday starting at 5 p.m., until further notice

• First United Methodist Church

— Announced two-week closure, all church and activities canceled

• Littleton Parks & Recreation

— After school program suspended until further notice; Easter Bunny Breakfast canceled

NEWPORT

• NEK-TV facility closed indefinitely

— Broadcasts will continue. The station will use discretion in deployment of field & community producers. Call in advance (802-334-0264) about dropping off or picking up projects.

SHEFFIELD

• Pet vaccination clinic on 4/21 has been canceled

— Dr. Steen has agreed to vaccinate pets at his office by appointment, (802) 748-1400

ST. JOHNSBURY

• Third Congregational Church services suspended through end of March

• United Community Church services suspended through end of March

• Universalist Unitarian Congregation services suspended through end of March

WATERFORD

• Lower Waterford Congregational Church services suspended through end of March

WHITEFIELD

• Public Library closed 3/17 through 4/3

— The library board will re-evaluate the situation on 4/1, patrons with material may keep them until the library re-opens or return them through the book drop

ARTS & CULTURE

The following events have been canceled or rescheduled due to coronavirus concerns.

KINGDOM COUNTY PRODUCTIONS

• All remaining Kingdom County Production Presents spring shows (Peking Acrobats, Paula Poundstone, David Bromberg, Red Baraat)

COMMUNITY VOICES

Toilet Paper, Bike Rides and a little bit of Panic



BY AMY LAWTON
McKEEVER

The coronavirus has been in the news for a while now. I've been paying attention to it all along, so it isn't a surprise or anything, but still, when Governor Sununu declared a state of emergency last Friday, I felt myself start to worry a bit. In the few days since his declaration, my worry has started to feel more like anxiety – and this evening, when I got a text from a friend telling me that the Co-op has been inundated with people from down south who are already seeing a food shortage in their area – well, that anxiety started to feel like full-blown panic.

What is coming? Am I ready for it? The world seems a bit upside down, and I'm left feeling unsettled, stuck between wanting to make sure I am able to keep my family safe and healthy over the coming weeks, and at the same time not wanting to get hysterical and over-react, which just feeds into the hysteria and makes it worse. This is the difference between grabbing all four packages of toilet paper left on the shelf at the store or just buying the one I need and leaving the rest for other people, who will hopefully only take their fair share as well.

I'm also trying to stay calm for my kids. I was doing alright up until a couple of days ago – and I knew it because "coronavirus" seemed to have taken the place of "cooties" from when I was a kid, as I listened to my daughter yell to her brother from the living room: "eeeww, don't touch me, you have coronavirus!!" Today, though, as I was nervously looking through the pantry and counting boxes and cans, I could tell the kids were sensing my growing unease. My daughter jumped up and started making a list of the items I was mumbling to myself that we needed to get. My son started rifling through the freezer. "It'll be alright," I tell them, and we talk about taking care of each other. But I've never been good at masking my emotions, and I know that when they look at my face they can see my worry.

It's hard not to be uneasy. Events and public gatherings, sports seasons – everything is being cancelled. And just today, we found out that schools are now closed until the beginning of April, when the situation will be re-evaluated.

This feels surreal, as if I'm a character in some dystopian novel, where institutions slowly start shutting down and then before you know it I have to guard the stream in our backyard with a slingshot against "outsiders" coming in and stealing our fresh water.

So yeah, I'm uneasy. Anxious. I hesitate to use the word "scared" because that feels too emotionally charged. But I've got a pit in my stomach for sure.

So, what do we do? What am I doing? This past weekend, we tried

to keep things as normal as possible. Yesterday I made a loaf of bread for our neighbors down the street who just had a new baby. My kids, plus the neighbor kids, hopped on their bikes and rode down to deliver it. They oohed and aahed at the new baby (from a distance) and, when they returned, told me excitedly how cute she is. We had a bonfire in the burn pit, trying to clean up all of winter's debris that has settled in the yard. We ate dinner and went to bed on time and yes, there was still recycling to be taken out and the dog to feed, much to the chagrin of my kids, who thought that maybe chores would get forgotten about since the world feels so upside down. No such luck, I told them – we're just keeping things as normal as possible. Yes, you still have to brush your teeth.

These routines help me stave off some of the anxiety that is bubbling near the surface of my brain. I hope the everyday routines help my kids, too, as they watch, wide-eyed, at their world becoming drastically different, almost overnight.

"Look out for each other," I reminded the five kids as they headed off on their bikes down the road to deliver that bread. Let's remember that, too, in this unsettled time. Let's do our best to look out for each other, check in with one another, and be gentle as we all figure out how to navigate this new normal.

Amy Lawton McKeever is a teacher/librarian over at the Monroe Consolidated School. More of her writing can be found in the New York Times Motherlode blog and on her home computer under "future book." She lives in Easton with her family.

have been postponed and will be re-scheduled. New dates available soon. Tickets will be honored for new dates or can be used for credit toward other shows.

BARTON

• The book discussion of "A Summons to Memphis" at Barton Public Library 3/23 has been canceled.

BETHLEHEM

• 42 Maple Contemporary Arts Center closed to the general public until further notice.

• The Rocks Estate has canceled all maple

programs.

BRADFORD

• The presentation of Vermont Women and the Civil War at Bradford Academy on 3/29 has been postponed.

BURKE

• Rasputitsa Spring Classic on 4/18 (ppd. to 7/25)

CABOT

• The book discussion of "The Seven Deadly Sins Sampler" at Cabot Public Library on

Changes

Continued from Page 12

March 19 and April 16 will be postponed.

COLEBROOK

• Colebrook Recreation Drama Club presents Junne B. Jones on 4/4-5 (ppd. TBD)

COLUMBIA

• J.P. Cormier at Great North Woods Center for the Arts on 3/27, Columbia, N.H. (canceled)

EAST CHARLESTON

• The in-person Apple Tree Pruning workshop at NorthWoods Stewardship Center on 3/29 is canceled.

— Will be filmed and offered online. For more info visit northwoodscenter.org or www.facebook.com/northwoodscenter/

FRANCONIA

• The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests' Annual Maple Dinner at Chef Joe's Bistro on 3/27 has been canceled.

GLOVER

• Bread & Puppet Theater's Diagonal Life Tour
— On hiatus; future dates in question including 3/22 in Cincinnati and 3/24 in St. Louis.

HAVERHILL/WOODSVILLE

• Sweet Jamm Dance at Alumni Hall on 4/18 (ppd. TBD)
• Woodsville Antique Show on 3/28 (ppd. TBD)

LANCASTER

• A concert by Ed Mulhall and Susan Ackerman on March 28 at Ice Pond Village in Lancaster, N.H. has been canceled.

LITTLETON

• The Upstage Players presents Urinetown, Littleton, N.H. (ppd. to the fall)

• Sarah Brooks & Big Funk at the Loading Dock on 3/21 (canceled)

• Rosa Bordello w/ Comet Pond at the Loading Dock on 4/3 (canceled)

LYNDONVILLE

• Caledonian-Record's Rising Star Search (ppd. TBD)
• The Northern Vermont University-Lyndon Veterans Book Group on 3/24 has been canceled.

NEWPORT

• Dandelion Run Half Marathon on 5/16 (canceled)
— Registrations can be refunded or moved to Freedom Run (7/4), Fly To Pie Race (10/3) and 2021 Dandelion Run (5/22/2021)

• MAC Center for the Art (tentative re-opening 4/8)
— Tie Dye Workshop with Nancy Nash (3/28), Reception for Conservation Exhibit (4/3) and Poetryfest (4/4) postponed. Painting with Mary Brenner (3/19, 26 & 4/2) canceled.

• The presentation of "Writing Naked" at Goodrich Memorial Library on 4/1 has been postponed.

ST. JOHNSBURY

• Catamount Arts closed to the general public until further notice.

— All March and April events canceled
• Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium closed to the public. Plan to re-open 4/4.

— Will launch live stream broadcast with educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio and Dr. Michael Rousse, Chief Medical Officer of Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, at 1 p.m. 3/18.

• North Country Chorus performs Considering Matthew Shepard on 5/2 and 5/3 (ppd. TBD)

• Modern Times Puppet Theatre's Saturday Storefront Trilogy on 3/21 (canceled)

• Twilight Players Murder Mystery scheduled for 3/21 at Catamount Arts Cabaret Space has been canceled.

• Osher Lifelong Learning Institute lectures have been canceled for the season.

• St. Johnsbury Band, rehearsals postponed until 4/6
• The Vermont Humanities presentation of "We Are All Fast Food Workers Now" at St. Johnsbury Athenaeum that was set

for 4/1 has been postponed.

• St. Johnsbury Athenaeum will be closed until further notice.
— Pick-up services available M-Sat. Call (802) 747-8291 for more info. WiFi will be available in vicinity of entrance/parking lot.

• St. Johnsbury History & Heritage on Summer Street will be closed to the public until further notice.

WATERFORD

• Davies Library book club, Waterford Woolies, rug-hooking and library trustees meeting have been canceled for March.

BUSINESSES

The Following businesses have closed (temporarily or for the season) or altered services due to coronavirus concerns.

• Burke Mountain Ski Resort (closed winter operations as of 3/14)

• Craftsbury Outdoor Center (closed winter operations as of 3/15)

— Fitness classes on hiatus until at least 4/1

• Evergreen Sportscenter, Lisbon

— The following activities are postponed indefinitely: All swim lessons, all gymnastics classes, all tennis lessons, aqua aerobics, preschool open gym and swim, CrossFit classes, birthday parties and school groups.

— The upstairs fitness center will remain open via 24 hour access; the front desk, pool tennis and CrossFit areas will be open limited hours 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• Happy Star Chinese Restaurant, Lancaster (closed until 4/8)

• Jay Peak Ski Resort (closed winter operations as of 3/14)

• Kaze Martial Arts, Lancaster (closed 3/16-21)

— Will revisit the situation weekly to determine re-opening date.

• Kingdom Gymnastics, St. Johnsbury (closed 3/16-4/6)

• Lago Trattoria, Newport (closed until 4/6)

• The Little Grill, Littleton & Woodsville (reopening TBD)

• Littleton Diner, Littleton (closed until 4/8)

• Loon Mountain Resort (suspended winter operations as of 3/15)

• Pica Pica Filipino Restaurant, St. Johnsbury (reopening TBD)

• Ride Indoor Fitness, Littleton (closed 3/16-21)

— Will revisit the situation weekly to determine re-opening date.

• Serenity Spa, Lyndonville, permanent closing date was moved up to 3/15.

• St. Johnsbury House of Pizza (closed until 4/1)

• The Warehouse, Newport (closed until 4/6)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

• Barton Fall Prevention Tai Chi is suspended
• Barton Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is suspended
• Barton Chamber Matter of Balance is canceled
• Lyndon Darling Inn Matter of Balance is canceled
• Peacham Fall Prevention Tai Chi is suspended
• UCC St. Johnsbury Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is suspended

• Mountain View Dental Mountain View Dental is closed to routine care through Friday, April 3. The office will be open for dental emergencies only between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

• North Country Hospital (Newport) and NVRH (St. Johnsbury) have canceled public meetings.

• The Effective Communications for Caregivers Class scheduled for March 24 at North Country Hospital has been canceled.

• The monthly Alzheimer's support group for March is canceled and the April meeting will take place at the St. Johnsbury NEKCOA office on 481 Summer St. in St. Johnsbury.

• The March Kinship support group is also canceled.

MUNICIPALITIES

• All public meetings and events at the Coventry Community Center are canceled through at least March 30. Town officials

will assess the situation at that time to determine next steps. Town officers and employees will still be on site and available to assist people by telephone and email. clerk@coventryvt.org; 802-754-2288.

• Derby Municipal Offices will be closed to the public until April 6. Staff will be available by phone or email. To reach Town of Derby Office Staff, for the Clerk's Office call 802-766-4906 or email: derbytownclerk@derbyvt.org or derbytc3@derbyvt.org.

• The Newark Town Clerks Office will be closed for public traffic until further notice. Staff will be available by phone or email Tues, Wed. & Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer phone calls and emails. Public record research will be allowed by appointment only. Call 802-467-3336 with any questions or concerns.

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Dalton

Continued from Page 9

Although it passed handily, the article, which had the support of selectmen, did draw some questions and some debate at last week's town meeting.

"If we approve this, does that remove the po-

lice department line from the budget?" asked Kenyon Tuthill, who supports the local police department and voted against the article.

"No, the police department line will stay there and we'll use the \$15,000 in the line currently for additional support of the state police," said Dalton Board of Selectmen Chairman Jo Beth Dudley.

Tuthill asked if there are other duties the Dal-

ton Police Department has performed above and beyond patrol work, such as investigating sex and drug crimes and completing pistol permits, that would now be eliminated.

State police can enforce the sex offender registry and check on offender addresses, and if residents seek a pistol permit, the selectmen can send it to NHSP and they will do a background check, said Selectmen Carol Sheltry.

"It's always been my hope we could reconstitute a police department," said Tuthill.

"That would be awesome," said Sheltry. "I totally agree with you on that. The problem is the cost and to find officers ..."

Resident Frank Tillotson, in support of a local police department, said the crime rate at the top of the hill is increasing and the town needs more coverage.

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11-20	26.19	20.95	22.42	17.93	17.91	14.32	7.83	6.27
21-30	37.45	29.96	32.25	25.80	25.95	20.76	11.40	9.12
31-40	45.25	36.20	39.06	31.25	31.52	25.21	13.88	11.10
41-50	49.58	39.66	42.84	34.27	34.61	27.69	15.25	12.20
51-60	50.44	40.35	43.59	34.88	35.23	28.18	15.53	12.42

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