

VPIRG & Bottle Bill Expansion

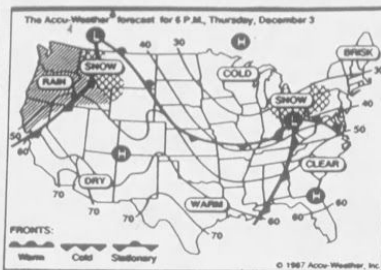
1987

December 3, 1987 - Bennington Banner

Page 6—Bennington Banner, Thursday, December 3, 1987

LOCAL/STATE

WEATHER



VERMONT BRIEFS

SVSU board hears reports

The Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union board will meet tonight at 7:00 at the Beech Street office to hear an update on the effective schools program, a report on funding for special education, and to discuss a resignation and appointment.

Pownal selectmen meet tonight

POWNAL — The Board of Selectmen will meet at 7 tonight at the town office to handle routine business and any concerns brought by townspeople.

Newman leads book discussion

A Bennington resident will lead a book discussion of Margaret Atwood's latest novel, "The Handmaid's Tale," tonight at 7:00 P.M. in North Adams, Mass.

The discussion, in the Sullivan Lounge at North Adams State College, will be led by Dr. Lea Newman, a professor in the English/Communications Department at North Adams State.

The lecture/discussion is the first in a series of programs sponsored by the Women's Studies Committee that will focus on feminist dystopias and utopias.

Free Job Service workshop

The Vermont Job Service will sponsor a workshop Dec. 7 through the 10th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The COMPASS workshop focuses on vocational assessment. Participants will discover what occupations they are likely to do well in. Choices will be narrowed down to allow participants to think about education costs, needed skills, and job opportunities in the area.

This is a free workshop. For more information and to reserve a slot, call Peg Murphy, 442-6376.

League's legislative preview

The League of Women Voters will hold its annual legislative preview at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 29, in Vermont District Court.

Each legislator will have five minutes to outline individual concerns followed by a question and answer period.

AIDS information session

SHAFTSBURY — A local doctor and a state Department of Public Health official will speak on the subject of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) at a public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Learning Center of Shaftsbury Elementary School.

The meeting is sponsored by the Shaftsbury PTA and is free and open to the public. Dr. James Carroll and Public Health official Chris Evelt will offer a lecture and question and answer period. For more information, call Michelle Venuti at 447-1408.

School bazaar on Saturday

The Bennington Elementary PTA will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday in the school gym from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be independent craft vendors, baked goods, a Chinese auction, used toys and games, raffles and even a visit by Santa Claus himself. The bazaar will benefit the Bennington Elementary Playground Fund.

Santa's secretaries will write

POWNAL — It's the time of year when children of all ages write letters to Santa Claus listing their dearest wishes for Christmas presents.

Several hundred of those letters will be answered by Santa's helpers Sharon and Tammy Greene of Barbers Pond Road. The mother and daughter team is on the job again for the third year, serving as Santa's secretaries and answering all letters addressed to Santa Claus, Pownal Post Office, Pownal, Vt., 05261.



Ken Demingware sorts cans at M&M Beverage in Montpelier, a bottle and can redemption center. Demingware is among the supporters of a

bill that would double the fees redemption centers receive for handling returnables.

Consumers to bear burden

Bill would aid redemption centers

By DAVID GRAM
Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Consumers will have to pay more for a six-pack if the Legislature approves a plan to double the fee Vermont's bottle redemption centers receive for handling returnables.

The proposal to increase the handling fee from 2 cents to 4 cents per container pits redemption center owners, who say they are losing money with the lower fee, against beer and soft drink representatives, who say they want to keep consumers' costs down.

The proposed increase is one of several changes being discussed in how Vermont handles its recyclable containers. Other proposals under discussion would expand the bottle bill to cover wine coolers, small juice and other containers.

A penny loss
"We're operating at a penny loss every time we sort a bottle," said Gilles Moreau, general manager and part owner of M&M Beverage and Redemption Centers in Montpelier, Barre and Randolph.

Moreau, a spokesman for a network of 26 redemption centers around the state, said his stores could operate without the traffic

generated by people returning bottles, and added if that part of the business continues to lose him money, he may get out of it.

Moreau acknowledged that he is "a successful businessman" with a growing enterprise, but said "it's just good business sense to get rid of the part of the business that's losing you money."

Lobbyists for the soft drink and beer industries expressed bitter opposition Wednesday to raising the handling fees.

A horrendous idea
Alice Ennis of the Vermont Wholesale Beverage Association called the proposal "horrendous." She and other opponents said approximately \$5 million a year would be added to the money paid by soft drink and beer wholesalers to the redemption centers, a cost that would be passed on to consumers.

Moreau did not dispute the \$5 million figure, but said it would help to reimburse the losses he and other redemption center owners have taken by handling bottles in recent years.

Ennis said the increase would hurt consumers and would put Connecticut River valley stores at a disadvantage against those in New Hampshire, where there

is no sales tax or bottle law.

"I was over there last month for a little comparison shopping, and half the license plates I saw in West Lebanon were from Vermont," Ennis said. "My friends in New Hampshire have a joke that when Vermont adds a new tax New Hampshire builds a new mall, but it's not funny."

Ennis said additional state demands in the recycling field should not be made without strong state support for the private sector. "This is just placing more of a burden on the retailer and consumer. Utopia would be everything being recycled." But she said it would work only if "the state got into it wholeheartedly and did a good job."

Ennis had similar objections to a proposal to expand the current law calling for a 5-cent bottle deposit — which applies to beer and soft-drink containers — to include wine cooler, and possibly juice, wine, liquor and other bottles.

A spokeswoman for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, a long-time backer of bottle bill legislation, said the group strongly supports expanding the bill.

"We think that particularly for wine coolers, it's an idea whose time is long overdue," said Joan

Mulhern, VPIRG's associate director. She said wine coolers have grown from nearly nonexistent when the bottle bill passed 15 years ago to a booming market today. "It's an increasingly large loophole."

Dawn Wilson, a lawyer and lobbyist for the Vermont Soft Drink Association, urged that the state begin to look at streamlining its bottle return system.

Wilson said traditionally, bottles and cans have been sorted by individual brand names and sent back from redemption centers to wholesalers for recycling, a process he termed inefficient and labor-intensive.

Bar codes

He said new machinery is becoming available that would first identify the product by reading the bar code on the side of the bottle or can and then crush it for easier shipping and handling.

Wilson said this would enable the state to expand its recycling programs vastly. "You're using white glass whether its in a Heilmann's mayonnaise jar or a Miller beer bottle."

He said the state should look toward "recycling things by material and not by what was in the (bottle or can) and not the distributor that distributed the stuff."

Attempt to Alter Bottle Bill Draws Opposing Viewpoints

By DAVID GRAM
MONTPELIER (AP) — Consumers will have to pay more for a six-pack if the Legislature approves a plan to double the fee Vermont's bottle redemption centers receive for handling returnables.

The proposal to increase the handling fee from 2 cents to 4 cents per container pits redemption center owners, who say they are losing money with the lower fee, against beer and soft drink representatives, who say they want to keep consumers costs down.

The proposed increase is one of several changes being discussed in how Vermont handles its recyclable containers. Other proposals under discussion would expand the bottle bill to cover wine coolers, small juice and other containers.

"We're operating at a penny loss every time we sort a bottle," said Gilles Moreau, general manager and part owner of M&M Beverage and Redemption Centers in Montpelier, Barre and Randolph.

Moreau, a spokesman for a network of 26 redemption centers around the state, said his stores could operate without the traffic generated by people returning bottles, and added if that part of the business continues to lose him money, he

may get out of it. Moreau acknowledged that he is "a successful businessman" with a growing enterprise, but said "it's just good business sense to get rid of the part of the business that's losing you money."

Lobbyists for the soft drink and beer industries expressed bitter opposition Wednesday to raising the handling fees.

Alice Ennis of the Vermont Wholesale Beverage Association called the proposal "horrendous." She and other opponents said approximately \$5 million a year would be added to the money paid by soft drink and beer wholesalers to the redemption centers, a cost that would be passed on to consumers.

Moreau did not dispute the \$5 million figure, but said it would help to reimburse the losses he and other redemption center owners have taken by handling bottles in recent years.

Ennis said the increase would hurt consumers and would put Connecticut River valley stores at a disadvantage against those in New Hampshire, where there is no sales tax or bottle law.

"I was over there last month for a little comparison shopping, and half the license plates I saw in West Lebanon were from Vermont," Ennis said. "My friends in New Hampshire have a joke

that when Vermont adds a new tax New Hampshire builds a new mall, but it's not funny."

Ennis said additional state demands in the recycling field should not be made without strong state support for the private sector. "This is just placing more of a burden on the retailer and consumer. Utopia would be everything being recycled." But she said it would work only if "the state got into it wholeheartedly and did a good job."

Ennis had similar objections to a proposal to expand the current law calling for a 5-cent bottle deposit — which applies to beer and soft-drink containers — to include wine cooler, and possibly juice, wine, liquor and other bottles.

A spokeswoman for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, a longtime backer of bottle bill legislation, said the group strongly supports expanding the bill.

"We think that particularly for wine coolers, it's an idea whose time is long overdue," said Joan Mulhern, VPIRG's associate director. She said wine coolers have grown from nearly nonexistent when the bottle bill passed 15 years ago to a booming market today. "It's an increasingly large loophole."

Bottles

■ Continued from PAGE 1

Lobbyists for the soft drink and beer industries expressed bitter opposition Wednesday to raising the handling fees.

Alice Ennis of the Vermont Wholesale Beverage Association called the proposal "horrendous." She and other opponents said approximately \$5 million a year would be added to the money paid by soft drink and beer wholesalers to the redemption centers, a cost that would be passed on to consumers.

Moreau did not dispute the \$5 million figure, but said it would help to reimburse the losses he and other redemption center owners have taken by handling bottles in recent years.

Ennis said the increase would hurt consumers and would put Connecticut River valley stores at a disadvantage against those in New Hampshire, where there is no sales tax or bottle law.

"I was over there last month for a little comparison shopping, and half the license plates I saw in West Lebanon were from Vermont," Ennis said. "My friends in New Hampshire have a joke that when Vermont adds a new tax New Hampshire builds a new mall, but it's not funny."

Ennis said additional state demands in the recycling field should not be made without strong state support for the private sector. "This is just placing more of a burden on the retailer and consumer. Utopia

would be everything being recycled." But she said it would work only if "the state got into it wholeheartedly and did a good job."

Ennis had similar objections to a proposal to expand the current law calling for a 5 cent bottle deposit — which applies to beer and soft-drink containers — to include wine cooler, and possibly juice, wine, liquor and other bottles.

A spokeswoman for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, a longtime backer of bottle bill legislation, said the group strongly supports expanding the bill.

"We think that particularly for wine coolers, it's an idea whose time is long overdue," said Joan Mulhern, VPIRG's associate director. She said wine coolers have grown from

nearly nonexistent when the bottle bill passed 15 years ago to a booming market today. "It's an increasingly large loophole."

David Wilson, a lawyer and lobbyist for the Vermont Soft Drink Association, urged that the state begin to look at streamlining its bottle return system.

Yankee's neighbor emergency equ

By CHRISTOPHER ROWLAND
Windham County towns near the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon would have a better chance of gaining cash from a special emergency equipment fund un-

1997

January 22, 1997 - Bennington Banner

Lobbyists fight expansion of bottle law

BOTTLES from page 1

Vermont Natural Resources Council, who was one of the lobbyists Tuesday in the crowded Senate Natural Resources Committee room.

Opponents argue that expanding the bottle bill would create a monumental headache for the store owners, beverage distributors and soft drink manufacturers. And they say it would drive up the costs of beverages for Vermont consumers and would drive many across the state line into New Hampshire, the only state in New England without a redemption law.

They also question just what would be covered under such an expansion. It might include fruit

juices such as that sold by Snapple but not orange juice intended for the breakfast table.

"Today we have a bright line: carbonated and malt beverages," said Jim Harrison, executive director of the Vermont Grocers Association. "It (the sample) is not simple like beer and soda."

Under current law, all beer and soda containers carry a nickel deposit and liquor bottles have a 15-cent deposit.

But lawmakers did not anticipate when they made Vermont just the second state in the nation with a bottle redemption law a quarter century ago the growth in what's referred to now as "new age beverages."

Those fruit juices, flavored iced teas, sports drinks and bot-

tled waters have gobbled up a large part of the soda market, but there is much less incentive for consumers to recycle them because there is no deposit on their containers.

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group told the Senate committee that as much as 97 percent of beer bottles and cans are returned and between 80 percent and 90 percent of soda containers are.

"There is no recycling program in Vermont that comes anywhere close to that," said Jenny Carter, a VPIRG lobbyist. "The bottle bill is Vermont's single most successful recycling program. We're looking to build on that by expanding it to what's known as new-age drinks."

January 22, 1997 - Brattleboro Reformer

Wednesday, January 22, 1997

VERMONT

Brattleboro Reformer 3

Environmentalists push for expansion of bottle redemption law

By ROSS SNEYD
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Gilles Moreau sat in a Senate hearing room on Tuesday with a selection of soft drinks arrayed before him.

He picked up two bottles of Arizona brand iced tea that, to the casual observer, appeared to be identical. They're not and that's why, he said, Vermont needs to expand its once landmark bottle redemption law.

One of the Arizona bottles contained a flavored iced tea and the other a carbonated version of roughly the same drink. That means one — the version with carbonation — carried a nickel deposit and the other one either could be recycled or tossed in the dump when it was emptied.

"It does not make any sense for these two bottles," Moreau said, picking them up and peering at them, "for one to be recycled and the other thrown out."

Under Vermont's existing bottle redemption law, however, that's just what happens with the Arizona iced teas and a host of other soft drinks in containers identical

to soda bottles in every respect except for their contents.

So environmental groups and others dedicated to promoting recycling are working hard to expand the redemption law to a wide variety of beverage containers. And that's already generating a fierce lobbying campaign because both opponents and supporters believe that the new makeup of the Legislature could make such a bill more likely than in any of the past 10 years in which one has been introduced.

"I think the composition of both houses is more conducive this year to passage of environmental legislation," said Steve Holmes, deputy director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, who was one of the lobbyists Tuesday in the crowded Senate Natural Resources Committee room.

Opponents argue that expanding the bottle bill would create a monumental headache for the store owners, beverage distributors and soft drink manufacturers. And they say it would drive up the costs of beverages for Vermont consumers and would drive many

Jeffords wants to make law national

MONTPELIER (AP) — While Vermont lawmakers debate expanding the state's bottle redemption law, U.S. Sen. James Jeffords is trying to take the original concept national.

The Vermont Republican plans to introduce a bill on Thursday that would require all beer, water and soft drink containers sold across the country to carry a 10-cent deposit.

Jeffords' bill would exempt states that are recycling 70 percent or more of the beverage containers sold in their states.

Jeffords was a member of state government when Vermont became the second state in the country to enact a bottle redemption law nearly 25 years ago. Vermont still is one of only 10 states with such a law.

Jeffords has sponsored such legislation in Congress several times in the past and it has not gone anywhere. His spokesman declined on Tuesday to speculate on the bill's chances this year.

across the state line into New Hampshire, the only state in New England without a redemption law.

They also question just what would be covered under such an expansion. It might include fruit juices such as that sold by Snapple but not orange juice intended for the breakfast table.

"Today we have a bright line: carbonated and malt beverages," said Jim Harrison, executive di-

rector of the Vermont Grocers Association. "It (the sample) is not simple like beer and soda."

Under current law, all beer and soda containers carry a nickel deposit and liquor bottles have a 15-cent deposit.

But lawmakers did not anticipate when they made Vermont just the second state in the nation with a bottle redemption law a quarter century ago the growth in what's referred to now as "new

age beverages."

Those fruit juices, flavored iced teas, sports drinks and bottled waters have gobbled up a large part of the soda market, but there is much less incentive for consumers to recycle them because there is no deposit on their containers.

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group told the Senate committee that as much as 97 percent of beer bottles and cans are returned and between 80 percent and 90 percent of soda containers are.

"There is no recycling program in Vermont that comes anywhere close to that," said Jenny Carter, a VPIRG lobbyist. "The bottle bill is Vermont's single most successful recycling program. We're looking to build on that by expanding it to what's known as new-age drinks."

But people like David Anderson, owner of Specialty Beverage Corp. in Brattleboro, and John Mitiguy, owner of Dowlings Inc. in Milton, think the proposal presents too many problems for it ever to work.

"I believe very strongly that expansion of this bill is bad medicine," said Mitiguy, whose company distributes beverages and a variety of other grocery products.

Anderson, whose company distributes only beverages, said he believed he would be put out of business. He predicted that people would buy beverages in New Hampshire and then return the empties to Vermont for redemption of the deposit, something known as over-redemption.

"We would not survive if we have an over-redemption," he said. A Snapple distributor in Maine, the only state that requires deposits on anything other than beer and soda, has had 31 percent more containers returned for refund than he sold in the beginning.

It's unclear who will win this argument, but the lobbyists are working hard. But so is Sen. Elizabeth Ready, D-Addison, chairwoman of the Natural Resources Committee. "I think that Vermonters clearly said over and over again that they want the bottle bill expanded and there's reasonable ways to do it," she said.

PAGE 2B

Mail: Burlington Free Press
P.O. Box 10, Burlington, Vt. 05402
Fax: 660-1802

The Burlington Free Press

Wednesday, January 22, 1997

Community

Have a question? Ask the Help desk.
Call 865-0940 or (800) 427-3124 between
10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Fax: 660-1802; E-mail: bfreepress@aol.com

BOTTLE BILL: Sides spar on proposal to broaden law

Continued from Page 1B
the crowded Senate Natural Resources Committee room.

Opponents argue that expanding the bottle bill would create a monumental headache for the store owners, beverage distributors and soft drink manufacturers. They say it would drive up the costs of beverages for Vermont consumers and would drive many across the state line into New Hampshire, the only state in New England without a redemption law.

They also question what would be covered under such an expansion. It might include fruit juices such as those sold by Snapple but not orange juice intended for the breakfast table.

"Today we have a bright line: carbonated and malt beverages," said Jim Harrison, executive director of the Vermont Grocers Association. "It (the sample) is not simple like beer and soda."

Under current law, all beer and soda containers carry a nickel deposit and liquor bottles have a 15-cent deposit.

But lawmakers did not anticipate when they made Vermont the second state in the nation with a bottle redemption law a quarter century ago the growth in what's referred to as "new age beverages."

Those fruit juices, flavored iced teas, sports drinks and bottled waters have gobbled up a large part of the soda market, but there is much less incentive for consumers to recycle them because there is no deposit on their containers.

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group told the Senate committee as much as 97 percent of beer bottles and cans are returned and between 80 percent and 90 percent of soda containers are.

"There is no recycling program in Vermont that comes anywhere close to that," said Jenny Carter, a VPIRG lobbyist. "The bottle bill is Vermont's single most successful recycling program. We're looking to build on that by expanding it to what's known as new-age drinks."

National push

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — While Vermont lawmakers debate expanding the state's bottle redemption law, U.S. Sen. James Jeffords is trying to take the original concept national.

The Vermont Republican plans to introduce a bill Thursday that would require all beer, water and soft drink containers sold across the country to carry a 10-cent deposit.

Jeffords' bill would exempt states that are recycling 70 percent or more of the beverage containers sold in their states.

Jeffords was a member of state government when Vermont became the second state in the country to enact a bottle redemption law nearly 25 years ago. Vermont still is one of only 10 states with such a law.

Jeffords has sponsored such legislation in Congress several times in the past and it has not gone anywhere. His spokesman declined on Tuesday to speculate on the bill's chances this year.

But people like David Anderson, owner of Specialty Beverage Corp. in Brattleboro, and John Mitiguy, owner of Dowlings Inc. in Milton, think the proposal presents too many problems.

"I believe strongly that expansion of this bill is bad medicine," said Mitiguy, whose company distributes beverages and a variety of other grocery products.

Anderson, whose company distributes only beverages, said he believed he would be put out of business. He predicted people would buy beverages in New Hampshire and then return the empties to Vermont for redemption of the deposit, something known as over-redemption.

2004

April 25, 2004 - Times Argus

D2

The Sunday Rutland Herald

State/Region

The Sunday Times Argus

Sunday, April 25, 2004

Bottle

(Continued from Page D1)

deposit will motivate people to pick up after themselves.

"I am one of those who really question whether raising the amount you get back ... is really going to help. I think there's a certain amount of people in our society who don't give a darn about our environment and what it looks like. They're going to toss the bottles and cans, or whatever, regardless what they get back on it. It may help by extending it to wine and water. I think that's because an increasing number of people are drinking (bottled) water."

Legislation proposing to include more beverage types and increase the deposit has been introduced in other years, but has never gotten anywhere.

Rep. David Allaire, R-Rutland, said the bill is pretty much dead for this year, but he co-sponsored the bill last year to encourage cleaning up roadsides.

Those who pick up roadside litter, however, say creative legislation would help curb the problem. Five cents is just not enough incentive, said Steve Ray, Green Up Day coordinator for Morristown.

Ray said his wife got an early jump on clean-up this year, and half the material she has collected is returnable bottles. He said that follows the trends he's seen.

"Probably in terms of the numbers of items, they're probably the number one item you find on the roadside. In terms of the volume, I couldn't really say," Ray said he supports increasing the bottle deposit to as much as 25 cents to match inflation.

He's just about right. The Consumer Price Index shows that 5 cents in 1972, the year the bottle bill was introduced, has the same buying power that 22 cents has in 2004.

But Vermonters actually pay more than 5 cents to keep the bottle deposit system working.

When consumers buy beer or soda in Vermont, they pay 5 cents per bottle on top of the price of the product. But included in the price of the product is a sort of an invisible handling fee - 3 cents per bottle that the distributor gives back redemption centers for handling the returns. That, in part, makes beer and soda more expensive in Vermont than in New Hampshire, which is why Beverage King owner Joe Sessock is leery about increasing the bottle deposit.

"It's good the way it is," said Sessock, who runs one of the largest redemption cen-

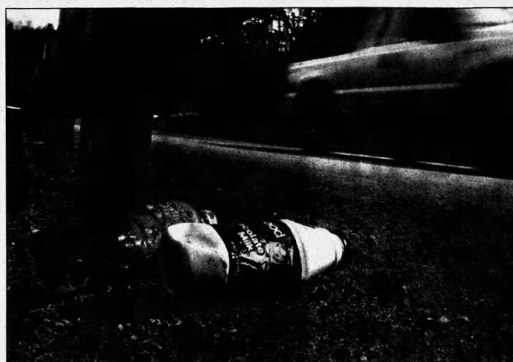


Photo by Sandy Macoy

A couple of bottles lie along Route 2 in Montpelier.

ters in the Castleton area. "It's a good law and what's being done right now covers 90 percent or more of the actual bottles or cans that are manufactured. Adding all juices, water, milk and whatever else, it could be beneficial but ... from working in a bottle room and trying to sort everything out ... it would even be hard for us (as a large operation). If we had to do it, we could figure out a way to do it."

He said the benefits of asking the Vermont consumer to pay more up front might push even more people who live close to New Hampshire to do more of their shopping there, which is why Sessock said he feels more study on the subject is needed.

Jessica Noyes, who has coordinated the Green Up Day effort in Marshfield for the past six years, said the Legislature is looking in the wrong direction with the bigger deposits.

"My big point is we need a deposit on tires," Noyes said. "Tires are a huge culprit with no deposit. And it costs money to return them. People dump them in large quantities, and it takes up a lot of effort for the volunteers. ... Soda bottles are not that much of a problem. They tend to get picked up."

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group, however, says it will keep pushing for higher deposits on beverage containers.

House legislation introduced last year proposed that money collected on deposits that are never redeemed go to the state for substance abuse education and treatment programs instead of going back to distributors.

"It's certainly something we support," said VPIRG Executive Director Paul Burns. "It makes sense to update the bottle bill after 30 years. By raising the deposit it's only making an attempt to keep up with inflation. Certainly that will be a stronger incentive to return ... bottles."

VPIRG helped push the bottle bill into existence in the early 1970s. Burns said VPIRG supports including water bottles too, because of their increasing popularity.

There are financial reasons to support the legislation, he said. Massachusetts began collecting the unclaimed deposits, drawing \$25 to \$30 million annually. Though Vermont is much smaller, the financial incentives are still there, he said.

Burns discounted the idea that people would buy fewer single-serving beverages if the deposit were increased. "They still drink beer in Michigan and they still drink water in Michigan," where deposits are 10 cents.

Contact Sky Barsch at sky.barsch@timesargus.com or 479-0191, ext. 1153.

Sanders proposes honoring Lyon with postage stamp

The Associated Press

BURLINGTON — Rep. Bernie Sanders wants a new postage stamp created to honor a Vermont congressman best known for going to jail.

Matthew Lyon did not serve time for corruption or drunken driving. Lyon, a Revolutionary War hero who fought with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, was imprisoned for speaking his mind.

Lyon was Vermont's fourth congressman. He spent four months in jail and was fined \$1,000 for the "crime" of writing a letter to the editor of a Vermont newspaper criticizing President John Adams. He was convicted under the Sedition Act, a bitterly debated law that attempted to limit Americans' constitutional right of free speech.

Vermonters were incensed by the treatment of their congressman, who became a national martyr. Angry voters re-elected Lyon to a second term from his prison cell in 1798.

After his release from prison, thousands of Americans lined Lyon's carriage route back to Congress to cheer for him.

Lyon campaigned for Thomas Jefferson, who defeated Adams to become the nation's third president. The Sedition Act was not renewed, and Jefferson pardoned all those still in prison under the law.

"Matthew Lyon was one of the great heroes of the early days of America," said Sanders, the Vermont independent. "He played a key role in our history at a moment when there was a real struggle about which direction the country would go. Would it be a democratic government where people could speak their minds or an authoritarian govern-

ment where dissent was punishable? He helped save free speech for us all."

Lyon's story has been lost to most Americans - even Vermonters, Sanders said. He hopes a stamp will help revive the tale.

Sanders, with the endorsement of 18 other House members, has asked the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend to the postmaster general that a commemorative postage stamp be issued in Lyon's honor.

The citizens commission, created in 1957, meets quarterly in Washington, D.C., to review about 50,000 stamp proposals submitted each year. In 2002, only 121 commemorative stamps were issued.

Sanders' aides said they do not know when the panel will take up the request.

"It's not an easy process, but I think Matthew Lyon deserves this," Sanders said. "He represents what the American spirit is all about."

"Matthew Lyon was one of the great heroes of the early days of America."

Congressman
Bernie Sanders

Burlington Free Press



SECTION

VERMONT

INSIDE

Community 2B
Puzzles 5B
Comics 6B

BurlingtonFreePress.com

... Friday, February 11, 2011 · Metro Editor (800) 427-3124 · Page 1B

What's news



Courtesy of Capt. William Elvorta, Department of Motor Vehicles



A truck's trailer experienced a mechanical failure, causing it to topple over and triggering several accidents Wednesday on Interstate 89 near Montpelier. See photo gallery at burlingtonfreepress.com

Tractor-trailer failure leads to I-89 snarl

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Vermont State Police say the structural failure of a tractor-trailer triggered a chain-reaction crash that closed part of Interstate 89 in Vermont for five hours.

The failure prompted the truck to spill its load of scrap metal and overturn in the southbound lanes of the highway in Montpelier at about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday. A Toyota Corolla that was also southbound hit the debris. There were no injuries.

The mess forced the closure of the southbound lanes at the Montpelier entrance ramp, and police detoured traffic into the capital.

The truck, from Jewell Transport Inc., of White River Junction, was impounded and will be inspected by state Department of Motor Vehicles inspectors. Trooper Benjamin Barton says a decision about whether citations will be issued will be made after the vehicle examination.

■ Dorm proctor sentenced in child porn case: A former Vermont dorm proctor caught with child pornography is going to prison.

Thirty-eight-year-old V. Chem Pierce of East Charleston was convicted of possession of child pornography and sentenced Monday to serve two years in prison. U.S. District Judge Christina Reiss also ordered him to serve five years of supervised release and pay a \$100 special assessment.

Pierce was working as a dorm proctor at Lyndon Institute in Lyndonville when a student there saw images on the school's computer system that appeared to be child pornography. Vermont State Police were notified, and a forensic examination of Pierce's computer and data storage devices found 61 videos depicting child pornography.

■ Douglas chosen as college commencement speaker: Former Gov. Jim Douglas will be the commencement at the College of St. Joseph. The Rutland school announced the speaker.

lane. Her car caught fire after the crash, but it was extinguished by passers-by.

The driver of the other car, 34-year-old Patricia Grant of Groton, was wearing a seatbelt. Grant was treated at the Berlin hospital for minor injuries and then released.

The investigation is continuing.

■ December bus crash on I-91 caused by medical issue: Vermont State Police say a tour bus accident on Interstate 91 that injured 17 people was likely caused by the driver's medical condition.

In an investigative report, police say 49-year-old Andrew Castillo, of Shickshinny, Pa., suffered a cardiac emergency Dec. 3, 2010, while driving a group of Massachusetts college students to a ski resort in Quebec.

The bus veered off Interstate 91 in Putney and went down an embankment, coming to rest on its side. Twenty-eight people on the bus were unhurt. Castillo and two others were hospitalized in critical condition.

Police say a wire be-

Pardon Pete the Moose's pals?

Commissioner says captive animals must die to safeguard against disease

By Terri Hallenbeck
Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Whatever happens with the saga of Pete the Moose, the moose's life will be spared, that much state officials have made clear. But what about the other animals living in captivity with Pete?

Gov. Peter Shumlin said Thursday at his weekly news conference that he would pardon them, too, be-

fore clarifying that he would defer details to wildlife scientists.

"Pete the governor hasn't issued any pardons yet, but I'm going to issue one for Pete the Moose," Shumlin said. "The best way to solve this problem is, let's make sure it doesn't happen again and let's let the existing

See PETE, 4B



Free Press file

Pete the Moose waits to be fed in June 2010 at Big Rock Ridge in Irasburg.

More snow sweet for syrup season



TOBY TALBOT, The Associated Press

John Silloway fixes maple sap lines in Randolph on Feb. 4.

Temperature moderation good for maples; drifts tough on producers

The Associated Press

RANDOLPH — The mountains of snow that have buried the Northeast this winter will have a sweet — and just slightly bitter — taste for the region's maple syrup producers.

Sweet because an abundance of snow actually helps with the production of the sap that is boiled down to produce syrup. But bitter because, well, too much snow

is just as much a chore for maple syrup producers to deal with as it is for the rest of us.

And most of us don't make our livings clambering over snow drifts in the woods tapping trees and repairing plastic tubing to gather sap from far-flung maple trees.

Still, on the whole "snow is considered a good thing," says Steve Childs, New York

state maple specialist with Cornell University.

It moderates the temperature in the woods, keeping it cool if the air warms up, which is good for maple. The snow layers also insulate the ground, keeping it from freezing too deep so trees can draw up moisture during sap flow, which can start in February, or earlier if there's a thaw.

"So we like to see some

See MAPLE, 4B



Bottle law expansion encouraged

■ Plan would make manufacturers responsible for waste

By Nancy Remsen
Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Armed with a poll that says 93 percent of Vermonters think the state's nearly 40-year-old bottle deposit law is a good idea, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group launched a campaign Thursday to extend the deposit to water, tea and non-carbonated beverages.

"The bottle bill is right up there with motherhood and apple pie in terms of its popularity with Vermonters," VPIRG's environmental health advocate Charity Carbine said. "People not only like it, but they want to see it updated to include more items."

There are bills in the House and Senate to carry out the expansion VPIRG advocates with its "Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill Campaign."

Rep. Margaret Cheney, D-Norwich, introduced a bill Thursday that proposes a consolidated approach to recycling that would require producers

See BOTTLE, 4B

Anti-smoking campaign turns to humor

■ Actors dressed as ... paign targeting older teens ... rettes, including pictures of

Continued -

BOTTLE: Advocates urge expansion

Continued from Page 1B

of packaging and printed material to take responsibility for the waste associated with their products. Packaging would include beverage containers.

Despite Vermonters' embrace of the bottle law, Cheney said, "I don't think it is a sacred cow. We want to think bigger. Let's look at a system that would capture it all."

Cheney wants to see Vermont's recycle rate double to 60 percent. It's been stuck at 32 percent for years.

While the recycling rate for containers with deposits is 85 percent, these bottles and cans account for less than 3 percent of the total waste stream, said Warren Coleman, lobbyist for the

Beverage Association of Vermont. The beverage association prefers the approach in Cheney's bill to an expansion of the bottle law.

"Expanding the bottle bill is nibbling around the edges," Coleman said.

"This isn't an either/or choice," Carbine said. Lawmakers could choose to do both. She argued that maintaining a separate beverage container system would insure a less contaminated product for recycling.

Some nonprofit organizations want to see a deposit continue on beverage containers because bottle drives help them raise money, Mary Taylor, executive director of the Central Vermont Humane Society, said during the VPIRG news conference.

VPIRG also proposes the state claim the unclaimed nickel deposits and invest the money in waste management and recycling. Carbine said about \$2 million in unclaimed deposits are returned to distributors and bottlers.

Coleman said the money helps defray the cost of recycling the returned containers.

The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to take testimony on the bills, Cheney said.

"I think it is a good conversation to have," said Jim Harrison, president of the Vermont Grocers' Association.

Contact Nancy Remsen at 578-5685 or nremsen@burlingtonfreepress.com

Black Cyan Magenta Yellow



EVEN



ODD



Southern Vermont

Windham ■ Windsor ■ Bennington

Rutland Daily Herald | Saturday, February 12, 2011

B3

Lawmakers propose measures to change state's bottle bill

By THATCHER MOATS

VERMONT PRESS BUREAU

MONTPELIER — Vermont's "bottle bill" has found itself on the chopping block again this year as some lawmakers have proposed legislation to create a new recycling program that could mean eliminating the popular, first-in-the-nation recycling bill.

But other lawmakers are pushing for legislation that would expand the existing bottle bill, which was created in 1972 and allows consumers to redeem some drink containers for a nickel, giving them an incentive to recycle.

Two approaches to expanding recycling in the state are included in separate legislation.

Rep. Margaret Cheney is a sponsor of H.218, which would create a new solid waste program in which manufacturers pay for the

STATE

collection, transportation and recycling of the containers, packaging and printed materials they produce.

The idea behind the system, which is known as "extended producer responsibility," is that putting the burden for recycling on waste producers would give them an incentive to produce less — and more recyclable — waste.

Cheney sponsored similar legislation last year that explicitly called for the repeal of the bottle redemption system that Vermont has had in place since 1972.

This year's bill doesn't call for the repeal of the bottle bill outright, but Cheney said the bottle bill's elimination is on the table.

"I don't think it's a sacred cow," said Cheney, a Democrat from Norwich who sits

on the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Cheney's bill is also critical of the two separate recycling systems that result from the bottle bill: one for bottles that include deposits and another for everything else. H.218 says having two systems is inefficient, and points out that the amount of waste recycled in Vermont has plateaued for many years.

For the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, however, the bottle bill is untouchable.

The bottle bill has been a success over the past 39 years, achieving an 85-percent recycling rate for the containers it includes, said VPIRG's Charity Carbine, which is due largely to the 5-cent incentive to recycle.

"No curb-side recycling program can approach that number," said Carbine, re-



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTO

Charity Carbine, left, environmental health advocate for Vermont Public Interest Research Group, speaks at a news conference at the Statehouse on Thursday launching the Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill Campaign.

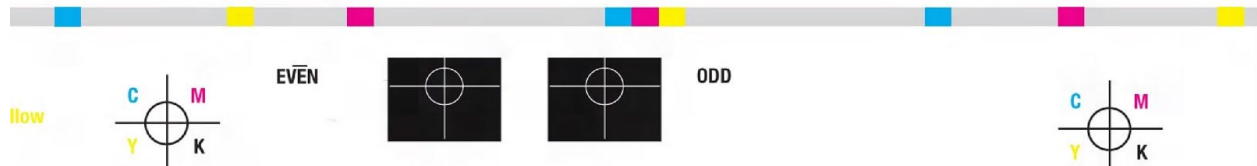
ferring to the 85-percent figure.

In addition, Carbine said, a "single-stream" plan such as the one called for in H. 218 would reduce the quality of the glass and metal being recycled under the bottle bill because it would mix them with other recycled

materials. Lower quality would reduce the amount of times the material can be recycled, Carbine said, so getting rid of the bottle bill would mean more materials in landfills.

At a Statehouse press

See Bottle, Page B4



Continued -

Bottle

Continued from Page B3

conference Thursday, VPIRG threw its support not behind H. 218, but the companion bills in the House and the Senate that would expand the existing bottle bill to include all beverage containers except milk, soy milk and rice milk.

The bill now covers beer and soda containers but not things like tea and water bottles. Increasing the number of eligible containers would increase the amount of bottles that are

recycled, advocates said.

To bolster its case for the bottle bills, VPIRG highlighted the results of a new poll. Of the 400 registered Vermont voters polled, more than 90 percent supported the bottle bill and 86 percent think it should be expanded, according to the poll.

“As it turns out, the bottle bill is right up there with motherhood and apple pie in terms of its popularity with Vermonters,” Carbine said.

The bottle bill has always been unpopular with the beverage industry, however, which bemoans the costs it adds for the industry and consumers.

Amy Shollenberger, who lobbies on behalf of the Vermont Beverage Association, said the existing bottle bill costs the members she represents — including Coca-Cola and Pepsi — money because it imposes handling fees on each container.

“It’s expensive for them, and we’re not trying to hide that,” she said.

The Vermont Beverage Association supports H.218, said Shollenberger, because it gives its members more responsibility and therefore more control over the costs.

thatcher.moats
@timesargus.com

Spartans topped by Holy Cross / A9

SUNDAY RUTLAND HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1794



WEATHER HIGH 36 LOW 20

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2014

RUTLANDHERALD.COM

\$1.75

FROM TV TO STAGE



The children's show "Sid The Science Kid" was presented Saturday at the Paramount Theatre, with the goal of teaching children of all ages about their senses. The PBS series ended a five-year run last March. The characters from left are May, Gabriela, Sid and Gerald.

Debate sought on bottle law, more

By KEVIN O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Want more beverages covered by a bottle-deposit law? How about a state-owned "public bank" to hold government money? Or a ban against a Northeast Kingdom oil pipeline?

Three grass-roots advocacy groups are circulating petitions asking Vermonters to consider these questions at March town meetings.

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group is spearheading a nonbinding "Bigger Better Bottle Bill Town Meeting Resolution" to expand the state's current deposit law for alcoholic and carbonated beverages to include containers for water, juice and sports drinks.

VPIRG has heard from recycling experts, redemption center operators and

nonprofit organizations that raise money through can and bottle drives.

"It's an issue that has the support of many Vermonters, but all of these voices are not well represented at the State House," VPIRG advocate Lauren Hierl says. "To make a clear statement that this is what people want would be a powerful message to send our elected officials."

An expanded law would recycle about 100 million more bottles and cans each year, VPIRG estimates, and reduce energy use and greenhouse-gas emissions by the equivalent of removing 1,200 vehicles from the road.

VPIRG also wants to amend current law that gives unclaimed deposits to bottlers and distributors



Marc McLeod places cans in the crusher at the Terrill Street Redemption Center in Rutland. A resolution for town meeting seeks Vermonters' support for expanding the bottle deposit law to cover more beverages.

See Bottle, Page A3

OPIATE ADDICTION

Shumlin disdains national attention

By NEAL P. GOSWAMI
VERMONT PRESS BUREAU

MONTPELIER — Gov. Peter Shumlin's State of the State address last week has drawn attention from national media outlets because of its singular focus on treating opiate abuse rather than locking up addicts.

The governor says, however, that he has no interest in leading a national conversation on the issue and hopes to remain focused on addressing the growing number of addicts in Vermont.

Shumlin offered sobering statistics to make his point.

The state has seen a 770 percent increase in the demand for treatment of opiate addiction since 2000.

That includes a 250 percent increase in the demand for treatment of heroin. The greatest increase — 40 percent — has occurred in the past two years, Shumlin said.

The 34-minute speech called for a shift in thinking. Vermont, Shumlin said, must begin to treat addiction more like a chronic illness and focus on prevention and treatment. The traditional law-and-order tactics that Vermont and other states have utilized for years have failed, he said.

The message has drawn widespread support across the state from lawmakers, law enforcement personnel and even prosecutors, many of whom appeared alongside Shumlin at a press conference following the Wednesday address.

The unconventional message also caught the eye of the national media.

"My singular goal is to have a Vermont conversation about opiate addiction and the need for us all to pitch in together to do much better than we're doing. I have no interest in a national conversation."

Gov. Peter Shumlin

See Opiates, Page A4