Policy debate tangles members

By DAVID DELIGIORE  STAFF WRITER

MONTPELIER—Fresh off a vote that reflected overwhelming support for their efforts, members of the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority hurried forward to the tree of a threatened lawsuit Thursday night. Chair Donna Rate was forced to break a 2-2 tie—voting in favor of the firm that recently completed a “needs assessment” with respect to the region’s emergency communications systems to prepare specifications for equipment that would be needed to implement the theoretical upgrade.

Rate’s tie-breaking vote came moments after resident Stephen Whitaker threatened lawsuit and capped a stirring discussion that saw one member—Kim Cheney—revert positions in the span of a few short minutes.

Whitaker was unpersuaded. He repeatedly characterized a proposal to retain Telavone LLC to complete work the firm indicated would cost just under $19,000 in “night

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Helping hands

Plainfield resident make borscht to raise funds

By ERIC BLAISDELL  STAFF WRITER

A second-generation Ukrainian American is making borsch, with about 27 gallons ordered thus far, to raise funds to help those impacted by the Russian invasion.

Surrounded by Ukrainian art, books and a photo of their Ukrainian grandmother, Natalia Holubec, of Plainfield, holds a bowl of borscht Friday at the Fox Market in East Montpelier. Holubec has been making and selling the best soup to benefit Ukrainians. Holubec has raised $1,900 so far.

As COVID cases, questions still remain

By PATRICK MCARDLE  STAFF WRITER

There are two questions Dr. Rick Hildebrandt has been getting often as Vermont moves to ease restrictions designed to slow the spread of COVID-19: Are we going to be OK and what do I do?

Hildebrandt, chief medical information officer and director of hospital medicine at Rutland Regional Medical Center, said he understands people have concerns about what appears to be an imploding transition from some of the worst of the pandemic to a more manageable situation.

“It’s easy to know, when you have zero cases of COVID in your community, what to do. You just live your life, right? And frankly, we all know what to do when you’ve got wards of cases. We know exactly what we should be doing if there’s hundreds or thousands of cases. You’ve got to wear a mask, you’ve got to avoid crowded

WALKOUT

U-32 junior Jazminne Gneer addressed a gathering of students Friday outside the school in East Montpelier during a walkout in protest of the recent legislator attacks on queer youth in other states. The students held thousands of peers nationwide in what could be the largest LGBTQ+ youth-led walkout in history.

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