

'AMERICAN BUFFALO' OPENS

Heather Glenn Wixson studied with David Mamet and will direct his play at the Star Theatre

DIRECT HIT

His playing days finished, Portsmouth's Montville flourishing in a new career

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Most of Sununu's vetoes upheld

Republicans block 23 of 24 attempts to reverse governor's action

By Holly Ramer

The Associated Press

CONCORD — Republican Gov. Chris Sununu got the last word Wednesday on gun control, voting rights and energy as lawmakers began trying to override his vetoes on more than 50 bills.

Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature, but they need Republican support to reach the two-thirds majority required to override a veto. That proved difficult during Wednesday's

House session, when lawmakers voted to override just one of two dozen bills they took up.

That bill, which would allow medical marijuana patients to grow their own supply, heads to the Senate on Thursday, which will take up the 28 vetoed bills that originated in that chamber. But House Democrats fell short on bills that would have required background checks for commercial firearms sales, imposed a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm, and prohibited firearms on school property.

In arguing in favor of overriding the vetoes, Rep. Katherine Rogers, D-Concord, read half a

dozen recent headlines involving gun violence in the state.

"No one law will solve the issue of gun violence in our state or nation, but many of us just want to move toward slowing down the violence," she said. "If we're not taking steps toward slowing down the violence, then aren't we just being complicit?"

In his veto message, however, Sununu touted the state's ranking as one of the nation's safest, and said existing gun laws fit New Hampshire's "culture of responsible gun ownership and individual freedom."

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New Hampshire House lawmakers attend a session to take up bills vetoed by Republican Gov. Chris Sununu, on Wednesday, at the Statehouse in Concord. [AP PHOTO/HOLLY RAMER]

TUNE IN FOR THE CRAFT BEER STORM

Potorti's podcast educates brew drinkers across the planet

By Elizabeth Dinan

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PORTSMOUTH — A craft beer brewer, Michael Potorti listened to podcasts about the industry and found himself hearing hosts "talk about their dog" instead of beer, which was not why he tuned in.

"I thought I can do it better," said the Portsmouth resident and founder/brewer of Beara Brewing Co. "I'm a subject-matter expert who started from scratch."

Potorti is now 161 episodes into "Craft Beer Storm," a podcast on iTunes, Stitcher, YouTube and iHeart Radio and said he's getting thousands of downloads a month. It's rated a top 20 podcast in the food category on iTunes and Potorti describes it as, "dedicated to educating beer drinkers across the planet about craft beer and that there is an alternative to watered-down, mass-produced beer."

He posts a new episode every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and said he'll interview anyone who touches craft beer. That includes global brewers, label makers, date stampers and distributors, he said.

On Mondays, Potorti interviews "movers and shakers" in the craft beer world. He's interviewed Andreas Wagner of ProBrau about the German beer scene, Ashish Tomar from Adie Broswon Brewery in India, Tributary Brewing's Tod Mott and his wife Galen and dozens of other local and global craft brew players.

Wednesdays are for talking about beer styles, which Potorti said numbers 102 with subcategories and discussion about what glasses are best for serving them in. On Fridays he discusses craft beer news that has included Canadian tariffs on American aluminum cans and, he said, "Who's suing who."

See BEER, A8



Craft beer brewer Michael Potorti's "Craft Beer Storm" podcast is "dedicated to educating beer drinkers across the planet about craft beer and that there is an alternative to watered-down, mass-produced beer."

[COURTESY PHOTO]

Rug store closed with its owner reportedly in jail

Customers leave notes at Daniel St. business asking for return of their property

By Elizabeth Dinan

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PORTSMOUTH — Signs of trouble first appeared at ABC Fine Rugs in May when customers taped letters, pleading for the return of their rugs, on the door of the 50 Daniel St. business.

The rug company owner, Mohamad Renayat, has since been evicted, is in prison and owes the landlord \$73,763 in unpaid rent, said Portsmouth attorney Larry Gormley. A civil case against Renayat, in Rockingham County Superior Court, will likely be dropped

because of the unlikelihood that the landlord will ever be paid, Gormley said.

In early May, two notes were taped to the front door of ABC Fine Rugs, one reading, "Please do the right thing. Return our carpets."

A second note was taped beside it and demanded, "Prove that you are not a thief sneaking out in the night." Like the other, that note was signed by the customer's initials and said inherited 100-year-old "marvels of weaving" were left for cleaning and repair, with a \$319 payment, but the carpets weren't returned and the owner's calls and emails went unanswered.

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US: Attack on Saudi oil site was 'act of war'

By Jon Gambrell, Aya Batrawy and Fay Abuelgasim
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday called the attack on Saudi Arabia's oil installations an "act of war" against the kingdom by Iran, as the Saudis displayed missile and drone wreckage and cited other evidence they said shows the raid was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

Iran, which has denied involvement in the attack, warned the U.S. it will retaliate immediately if it is targeted.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, said he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack. He was noncommittal on whether he would order U.S.

military retaliation.

At a news conference, Saudi military spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki said the attack Saturday that did heavy damage to the heart of the Saudi oil industry was "launched from the north and was unquestionably sponsored by Iran." Yemen is south of Saudi Arabia, while Iran and Iraq lie to the north.

Al-Malki stopped short of accusing Iran of actually firing the weapons itself or launching them from Iranian territory.

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in response to the Saudi-led war in Yemen that has killed tens of thousands of people.

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