

# Vt. Official: Officers Were Justified in Fatal Shooting

**Publication info:** Valley News ; White River Junction, Vt. [White River Junction, Vt]02 June 2018: 1.

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## FULL TEXT

Vt. Official: Officers Were Justified in Fatal Shooting

Montpelier —Two police officers were justified in fatally shooting a distraught man who was holding a pistol to his head by the side of a busy interstate with cars going by, Vermont's top law enforcement officer said Friday. Attorney General T.J. Donovan released the results of his office's investigation into the Feb. 11 death of 42-year-old Benjamin Gregware, of Sheldon. He was shot multiple times by a state police trooper and a Richmond officer after he refused orders to drop his weapon, a high-powered machine pistol that was later found to be loaded with the safety off.

"It was a dynamic situation," Donovan said during a Friday news conference in Burlington. "This was done on Interstate 89 in Richmond with people coming home from skiing. And we are lucky there was not more of a tragedy that day."

Post-Prohibition Era Law Closes N.H. Brewery

Hampton, n.h. —A New Hampshire restaurateur says he was forced to close his brewery because of a post-Prohibition era federal law.

Community Oven Owner Shane Pine closed Four Pines Brewing Company Monday. The law prevents him from operating both except under certain exemptions.

Pine said he was allowed to open Four Pines in July 2016 as part of the Community Oven by acquiring a brewpub license for both the restaurant and brewery. After attempting to open another restaurant, the state told Pine it would violate federal law to open another restaurant and keep the brewery. He kept the restaurant and closed the brewery.

A Liquor Commission spokesman says the law was created to prevent distributors from being pushed out of the market by beer manufacturers selling their own beer directly.

Vermont House Again Approves State Budget

Montpelier —Lawmakers in the Vermont House have once again approved a state budget, but it doesn't appear the logjam with Republican Gov. Phil Scott has been cleared.

The House Friday gave preliminary approval to the budget by a vote of 86-44.

In a statement, Democratic House Speaker Mitzi Johnson says the bill raises no property taxes and reduces income taxes by \$30 million.

But Scott spokeswoman Rebecca Kelley says House Democrats rejected amendments, including one that appears to remove the one remaining point of dispute. She says the Democratic-led House is poised to submit yet another budget that increases non-residential property tax rates by \$23 million.

Scott vetoed the original budget.

Lawmakers have proposed several compromises, but Scott has refused to consider them, saying they would raise property taxes.

— Wire reports

## DETAILS

Subject:	State budgets; Tax rates; Breweries; Property taxes; Restaurants
Location:	New Hampshire Vermont
Publication title:	Valley News; White River Junction, Vt.
First page:	1
Publication year:	2018
Publication date:	Jun 2, 2018
Publisher:	Valley News
Place of publication:	White River Junction, Vt.
Country of publication:	United States, White River Junction, Vt.
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--United States
ISSN:	10726179
Source type:	Newspapers
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	2054092934
Document URL:	<a href="https://search.proquest.com/docview/2054092934?accountid=14026">https://search.proquest.com/docview/2054092934?accountid=14026</a>
Copyright:	Copyright Valley News Jun 2, 2018
Last updated:	2018-06-13
Database:	Global Newsstream

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