

Sign up Log in

FEATURED: Vermont's Irene Heroes Giving Season DealChicken

Find what you are looking for ...



Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50% (3.01% APR)
If you owe under \$729k you probably qualify for Gov't Refi...



Banks Forced to Forgive Credit Card Debt
Find Out If You Qualify for Debt Settlement!



ADVERTISEMENT

What if the sales tax were 2% in Vermont?

12:32 PM, Feb. 28, 2011 | Comments

A A



Purchase Image

Natacha Liuzzi, owner of Brown Dog Books and Gifts in Hinesburg, talks with Janice Bauch of Hinesburg as she shops on Saturday. / EMILY McMANAMY, Free Press

Written by **Terri Hallenbeck, Free Press Staff Writer**

FILED UNDER

News
Politics And Government

MONTPELIER — At Brown Dog Books & Gifts in Hinesburg, owner Natacha Liuzzi said this has happened to her — a would-be customer calls and says he doesn't want the book he ordered anymore because he found it cheaper online.

Liuzzi fumes at the unfair advantage Internet retailers have because they don't charge sales tax.



My \$12,759 Grant C
Read How I got a Free \$12,759.0
Check from the Government. - I

Most Popular Most Commented Mo

- 1 Lawyer for teen texting while case withdraws
- 2 DMV official says employee c state thousands with alleged scheme
- 3 Councilor seeks override of b of Burlington's downtown sm ban
- 4 Hardwick embezzler Joyce Bellavance said to be in deni
- 5 Burlington airport collected \$ loose change in 2010

Most Viewed

Whether it's competing with online retailers or with those next door in sales-tax-free New Hampshire, Vermont retailers have long grumbled about sales-tax inequities. This year, as state lawmakers look at an array of changes to Vermont's tax laws, they are tossing around ideas that could upend what Vermonters are used to seeing in a sales tax.

Tax talk

• COMMISSION'S REPORT: To read the Blue Ribbon Tax Commissioner's January report to the Legislature with recommendations about changes to the state's taxes, visit the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office at: <http://www.vermonttaxreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/WEB-REPORT-2.pdf>.

• INTERNET SALES TAX LEGISLATION: To read the bill (H. 143) passed last week by the House Ways & Means Committee requiring sales tax payment on certain Internet sales in Vermont, visit <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/bills/Intro/H-143.pdf>.

• VERMONT TAX FACTS: For facts and figures about Vermont's tax revenues, visit the Joint Fiscal Office's 2011 Fiscal Facts at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/publications/2011%20Fiscal>

Last week, the House Ways & Means Committee voted out a bill that seeks to bring in at least some of the estimated \$30 million to \$40 million a year in sales tax not collected in online sales. It's an effort to level some of the uneven tax territory retailers such as Luizzi face, but one that uber-online retailer Amazon calls unconstitutional.

Next, the committee is about to shake things up by exploring this possibility: What if the state lowered its sales tax from 6 percent to 2 percent?

The idea behind it is that 2 percent might just be such a negligible amount that consumers would scarcely give a second thought. No longer would store owners have to worry about shoppers hopping over the Connecticut River to New Hampshire to avoid the sales tax. No longer would online retailers have such an edge.

To bring the tax down that low, and still bring in at least as much money, however, the sales tax would have to be expanded to cover more transactions. Those could include lawyers' fees, trash collection and even now-exempt food.

House Speaker Shap Smith, D-Morristown, said he asked the Ways & Means Committee to study how wide a net would have to be cast to allow the state to bring the tax down to something like 2 percent.

"People ought to see what that would look like," Smith said.

Ways & Means Committee Chairwoman Janet Ancel, D-Calais, said she has asked the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office to provide the committee with details about what would have to be taxed to bring the rate down to 2 percent.

Raw video: Fire does heavy damage to Jericho home

[See Today's Mortgage Rates](#)

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.5% (3.01%AP)
Seen on Good Morning America!
www.MortgageRates.LowerMyBill AdChoic

PHOTO GALLERIES



The Week in Pictures for Jan. 2



Colchester Technical Rescue tests during Irene

[View Comments](#) | [Share your thoughts »](#)

TOP VIDEO PICKS

selected by Taboola

Raw video: Fire does heavy damage to Jeric...
Jan 14, 2012

Vieira's lawyer withdraws from texting case
Jan 13, 2012

Raw video 3: Fire destroys DuBois Constr...
Jan 7, 2012

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

New Hampshire woman charged with murder in Vermont nursing home (burlingtonfreepress.com -)

St. Albans student got the deer; teacher gets a suspension (burlingtonfreepress.com -)

Boys basketball power rankings – Week 4 (Burlington Free Press Blogs)

Two Burlington elementary schools locked down Tuesday (burlingtonfreepress.com -)

Buschmann out for season with ACL tear (updated) (Burlington Free Press Blogs)

SPONSORED LINKS

Cycling Star Landis Sentenced for Alleged Trojan Attack (CSO)

Fight Arthritis: 10 Foods That Help and Hurt (Lifescript.com)

How to Check a Plate Number on a Car (eHow)

Unthinkable Poised to Happen on Wall Street. See Disturbing Charts. (Moneynews)

Consider 5 Concealed Costs When Shopping for a New Car (Allstate Blog)

[?]

Time to shape up your finances?
mint.com
Always free! Start now

A

ADS BY PULSE 360

President Reduces Amount Home Owe

Vermont Homeowners are using this ridiculous trick to pay off their homes in half the time. Consumerinquire.com

Montpelier: Mom Makes Botox Doc Enraged

Vermont: 50 year old woman finds \$4 secret ERASES wrinkles beautiful-lifestyles.com

51-Year-Old Now Looks 27 Again!

Mom Reveals Clever \$5 Wrinkle Therapy T Botox Doctors Furious Read More consumerlifestyletrends.com/

ARCHIVES

View the last seven days

- Yesterday, Jan. 14
- Friday, Jan. 13
- Thursday, Jan. 12

THINGS TO DO

SEE ALL EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Auditions: Lyddie
City Hall Arts Center Montpelier, VT

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK

Get headlines from the Burlington Free Press via Facebook and Twitter.

MOST POPULAR

- Jail guard charged with sexual misconduct
- Home Birth Conundrum
- Tip leads police to wanted man
- Figure skater Ross Miner of Williston ready for nationals

Wednesday, Jan. 11
Tuesday, Jan. 10
Monday, Jan. 09
Sunday, Jan. 08

See our paid archives for news older than a week.

Sunday Night Mass featuring Don Stone; Bonjour Hi; Rob Ticho; First Order; Jakels & Ordan

Club Metronome Burlington, VT

Mi Yard Reggae Night with DJ Big Dog and Demus

Nectar's Burlington, VT

- 5. Woman gets 37 months for insurance fra
- 6. Lawyer for teen texting while driving cas withdraws
- 7. H.S boys hockey: MMU snares first win

ADVERTISEMENT

Site Map | I

NEWS	SPORTS	BUSINESS	ARTS	OBITUARIES	FOLLOW US
Latest Headlines	High School Sports	Innovate	ARTS btv	Recent Obituaries	Twitter
Local News	College Sports	Movers & Shapers	Music	Submit an Obituary	Facebook
Politics	UVM Sports	Sunday Jobs	Movies		Mobile
Schools	UVM Hockey	Biz Beat Blog	Theater		RSS
Crime & Courts	2011 Fearless Free Press	OPINION	Creative Communities		E-mail Alk
Vermont	Football Forecast	Voice of the Free Press	Brent Hallenbeck: Brent's		Text Alert
New England / New York	Varsity Insider Blog	My Turn	Notebook Blog		
Nation / World	On Campus Blog	Letters to the Editor	Entertainment		
Data Universe	All-State Teams	Comment & Debate	Events Calendar		
LIVING	Vermont Speed	Editorial Cartoons	Burlington Discover Jazz		
Academia	GREEN	Public Records Act	Festival		
Cars	Green Mountain	Exemptions	FOOD		
Celebrations	I Believe Essays	Staff Blogs	Savorvore		
Community	Localvore	Columnists	Recipes		
Crosswords	Joel Banner Baird: Baird's	Write to Us	Localvore columns		
Horoscopes	Eye View Blog		Sally Pollak: Farm Fed Blog		
Home & Away	Candy Page: Tree At My				
Hometown	Window Blog				
Outdoors	Green Mountain Awards				

News | Jobs | Cars for Sale | Homes for Sale | Apartments for Rent | Real Estate | Shopping

GANNETT

Copyright © 2012 www.burlingtonfreepress.com. All rights reserved.
Users of this site agree to the Terms of Service, Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights, and Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT