

Ray W. Allen, steadfast and true to the farm, is also a bit of a wanderer. Over the years he has gone off to high school at Lyndon Institute in the Northeast Kingdom; run 25 marathons; appeared on stage in community theater, served as a trustee at the University of Vermont, his alma mater; and volunteered as an EMT—late-night calls before early-morning chores.

Monday morning he was up at 3:15 for a bank run to deposit the weekend's cash. At 4:30, he was back home in his kitchen, hand-mixing pie dough for some of the 2,500 pies Allenholm Farm makes each year. (Ray Allen mixes the dough; Pam Allen makes the filling.)

At 5 a.m., he and his grandson, Brandon Allen, met at the big gray storage shed across from the farmstand to load trucks with boxes of apples for delivery to Hannaford supermarkets.

"It's a good time," Brandon Allen said. "Quality bonding time at 5 in the morning."

STORIED HISTORY OF APPLE PRODUCTION

The Champlain Islands have a long history of quality apple production, said Terry Bradshaw, apple specialist at UVM and director of its Horticulture Research Center. The lake climate—which makes for a cooler summer and protects against frost—provides superior growing and ripening conditions, especially for McIntosh apples, he said. In addition, access to the lake in the early 20th century meant transportation for shipping fruit north to the port of Montreal and south to New York.

"It's historic," Bradshaw said of Allenholm Farm.

The history dates to the founding of Vermont. Pam Allen, Ray Allen's second wife, is a descendant of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first governor. Ray Allen descends from Moses Robinson, the state's second governor.

"Illegitimate," Allen said of his ancestry.

More recent farm history includes the end of dairying about half a century ago, and getting in on the craft beer boom. Allen sells his cherries to the Alchemist, the Stowe brewery that makes Heady Topper. The cherries are used in a beer called Petit Mutant. Perks of this job include beer delivery to the farm by Alchemist brewer John Kimmich.

'COOL GUY'

But the main crop is apples, and the primary variety is McIntosh. A crew of six seasonal farm workers from Jamaica are the apple pickers. The men live at the farm in a former dairy barn converted to housing. Winston Waugh, from St. Ann, Jamaica, has worked at Allenholm Farm for about 20 years.

"He's a cool guy," Waugh said of Ray Allen. "He's quite OK."

Picking is hard work, Waugh said, especially in cold weather. It's crucial not to bruise the fruit, he said.

The season's dry weather calls for "selective picking," Allen said, as opposed to stripping a tree of fruit. Selective picking yields 50 to 60 bushels of apples per day per picker, he said. When you strip a tree, an apple-picker brings in about 90 bushels a day.

The size of the apples is important, too. Apples that are three or more inches in diameter are worth \$40 a bushel; two-and-a-half to three inches are worth about \$30 a bushel; less than two-and-a-half inches sell for \$5.50 to \$7 a bushel, Allen said.

In the winter and into spring, before the apple trees bloom, Allen is in his orchards pruning trees. He fixes machinery and works in the farm store, which is open until Christmas Eve.

Last spring, Allen had surgery to replace both his knees. He wore them out not from farming or running, but by wearing Western-

style boots 365 days a year, he said. Allen didn't want to sit around on the couch, drink beer, and feel sorry for himself, so he challenged himself to be active. Within six days, he was driving around the farm.

"He's a character," his son said.

His roles include welcoming visitors to Allenholm Farm and leading tours. Allen expects future generations will fulfill these and other duties; but he has no plans to retire.

"I would hate to be the one to lose it," he said. "This is the 146th year. I sure don't want to be the first one to lose the farm."

CONSUMER REVIEW FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer protection matters, I introduced the bipartisan Consumer Review Freedom Act last year, along with Senators SCHATZ and MORAN, and cosponsored by Senators MCCASKILL, DAINES, BLUMENTHAL, NELSON, BOOKER, and WYDEN, to address a growing and alarming trend affecting American consumers in the United States. Some businesses are slipping so-called gag clauses into form contracts to stop consumers from providing critical feedback to the public, even when that feedback is an honest reflection of the consumer experience.

This legislation, and companion legislation agreed to in the House of Representatives would invalidate non-disparagement clauses in form contracts and make it unlawful for a person to offer or enter into a contract containing a nonnegotiable nondisparagement clause. Both bills contain a rule of construction to clarify that the legislation should not be construed to affect the right of a Web site owner to remove a review that "contains the personal information or likeness of another person or is libelous, harassing, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, or inappropriate with respect to race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or other intrinsic characteristic."

This language is simply intended to preserve the existing ability of Web site operators to enforce such terms of service. For example, it would—and is intended to—preserve the ability of a business to remove language from its Web site that includes inappropriate or harassing references to someone's religion, physical disability, or similar characteristic. As highlighted at the Commerce Committee hearing on this legislation, the intent is not to regulate speech; the intent is to ensure that consumers are protected against fees and penalties imposed pursuant to form contracts for engaging in honest reviews of goods and services.

I am pleased that the Senate has passed the latest version of this legislation and that it will be headed to the President's desk for signature. I thank my colleagues for their support of this measure.

HONORING CHARLES E. RUDLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Charles E. Rudler, a

World War II infantry soldier and prisoner of war who selflessly served his Nation with distinction.

Born in Linesville, PA, on March 26, 1925, Charles Rudler was an 18-year-old truck driver when he began his service in the U.S. Army in 1943. Serving as a rifleman during WWII, he landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought through northern France, the Ardennes, and Central Europe.

Unfortunately, Rudler was captured while fighting the Nazis and held as a POW through the end of the war at Stalag 3A, a brutal prison and work camp near Brandenburg, Germany. He survived this ordeal and separated from the service at the end of the war with an honorable discharge in 1945.

For his bravery and determination, Rudler has been awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars.

For these reasons, I wish to honor Charles Rudler for his service and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lempster, NH—a town in Sullivan County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

The territory was originally discovered in 1735. In 1753 it was regranted and named Dupplin after a leader of Nova Scotia at the time. Lempster, named for Sir Thomas Fermor of Lempster, England, received its current name after it was regranted a final time in 1767.

Lempster is located in the center of western New Hampshire and consists of three parts: East Lempster, Dodge Hollow, and Keyes Hollow. With a population of 1,154 residents, this close-knit town may be best known for its meetinghouse that is more than 200 years old. The meetinghouse is a source of great pride for Lempster and embodies its deep historical roots.

The town of Lempster is also home to a number of unique landmarks, including New Hampshire's first wind farm. Additionally, Lempster also received the first electric pole under the Rural Electrification Act on December 4, 1939. Nestled among these landmarks are beautiful recreational areas that allow the residents of Lempster and countless visitors the ability to enjoy all that the Granite State has to offer.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lempster on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

PLAISTOW FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 101ST ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Plaistow Fire Department, as this year marks the 101st anniversary of its founding.

The department was established on August 9, 1915, and was originally known as the Plaistow Volunteer Fire Company. It was formed with the objective of providing better fire protection for the community and served as an active working organization in order to protect the citizens of Plaistow. In 1915, the town noted "we have a village, the best in the State and would seem almost criminal not to protect our property and our beautiful shade trees, which, if destroyed by fire, would be a great loss to the town."

The Plaistow Fire Department is comprised of full-time and on-call staff who are dedicated and professional individuals that are committed to serving the town of Plaistow and our State. Importantly, Plaistow placed an emphasis on inviting all of its residents to contribute to safety and "most earnestly invite the co-operation of every citizen in this matter of fire protection and extend a most cordial welcome to everyone to attend its meetings and try-outs."

Today the Plaistow Fire Department remains committed to responding to every call in a safe and professional manner to protect the lives and property of its citizens. We ask so much of our firefighters and first responders, and we will be forever grateful for the selfless nature of their service.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I join with the residents of Plaistow in celebrating the 101st anniversary of the Plaistow Fire Department and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALINE SCHLEIFER ALVES DA COSTA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Aline Schleifer Alves da Costa for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Aline is a native of Brazil and a graduate of Laramie County Community College. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, studying international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Aline for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO LEANN BENTLEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Leann Bentley for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Leann is a native of Laramie, WY, and a graduate of Laramie High School. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, studying business marketing with a concentration in sustainability and global markets. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Leann for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DAULTON GRUBE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Daulton Grube for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daulton is a native of Rock Springs, WY, and a graduate of Rock Springs High School. He attended the University of Wyoming, where he studied microbiology. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Daulton for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO TANNER HANSON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Tanner Hanson for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Tanner is a native of Ferndale, WA. He graduated from Reed College, where he studied history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tanner for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to

have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MYLER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Thomas Myler for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Thomas is a native of Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. He is currently a second year at Casper College, studying communications and multimedia. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Thomas for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SAM TANNER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sam Tanner for his hard work as an intern in the Republican Policy Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sam is a native of Utah and a sophomore at Central Wyoming College. He is studying business administration. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sam for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH WALSH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Elizabeth Walsh for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Elizabeth is a native of Glenrock, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. She is currently in her second year of Casper College, where she studies international studies and world languages. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.