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**Next Issue: SHMD
 Marathon Dance!**

Elise Stefanik The Chronicle interview

Q: Why are you opposed to health care for everybody?

A: I want to make health care affordable and accessible for everyone. I think the cost of health care continues to rise.

I think we need to work on lowering costs for health care and I've been very supportive of fixes of the Affordable Care Act.

I authored the biggest fix, the repeal of auto enrollment, which benefits individuals. Let's say you have a spouse and you're on their health care. The Affordable Care Act would have required you, without any knowledge of you being aware of, automatically enrolling in whatever your employer's health care was, which would have triggered a tax penalty on you because you are double enrolled. We repealed that.

We repealed the medical device tax to help lower costs. We passed associated health care plans to allow small businesses to pool together, work through their local chambers to increase

their purchasing power when it comes to purchasing health care insurance.

I am for affordable, high-quality health care. It should be more accessible. It's just philosophically, I don't think it should be a government-run program.

**Verbatim transcript:
 2-term Congresswoman
 interviewed by Chronicle
 editor Mark Frost 2/12/18**

Q: Medicare works. What's wrong with making Medicare the mechanism by which health insurance is provided to everybody?

A: Sure, so we deal with Medicare cases frequently in our office. It is an important program for our seniors, but there are significant examples of waste,



Photo provided

fraud and abuse. We need to fix aspects of that program. I am also concerned about how much of a tax increase that would be. Vermont has entered into a Medicare-for-all single-payer system and it has huge fiscal challenges for the state. That's one of the reasons why I think a Republican governor was elected in the State of Vermont.

So I don't support a \$1-trillion-plus tax hike on the American people to have a government-run

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Bob the Bullfrog and Nathan West
 at the West family's Crossroads store in Chestertown.
 Chronicle photo/
 Gordon Woodworth

Bob the bullfrog: Sign of spring?

By Gordon Woodworth
 Chronicle News Editor

Bob the Bullfrog has re-emerged from underneath the Crossroads Country Store in Chestertown.

"He hibernates under the sump pump," said Nathan West, whose family owns the store.

"When it warms up, he pops out. It's a sure sign of spring," Nathan estimates Bob — named by Nathan's nephew — is 10 years old.

"Some kids caught some frogs and brought them in to sell them to us," Nathan said. "Every one of

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Toni Sommo's moment
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Jeff Mead at the Cool Arena deposits \$2-million check ▶ 3

Must teachers' role include thwarting killers, too? ▶ 7

JUST Water adds tangerine

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

Glens Falls-based JUST Water is adding three new infused flavors — tangerine, lemon and apple-cinnamon — and a smaller 330-milliliter container size.

JUST's celebrity co-owner **Jaden Smith**



And lemon & apple-cinnamon in big push led by Jaden Smith

— son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith — **leads the roll-out** this week.

He was to appear on *The Today Show* Wednesday, followed by a full-court media day, JUST Chief Operating Officer Jim Siplon told *The Chronicle*. The new

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