

Lettuce bacteria sickens two in N.H.

LETTUCE FROM A1

many farms, one or many production facilities, or something more basic in the way that romaine lettuce is grown and packaged.

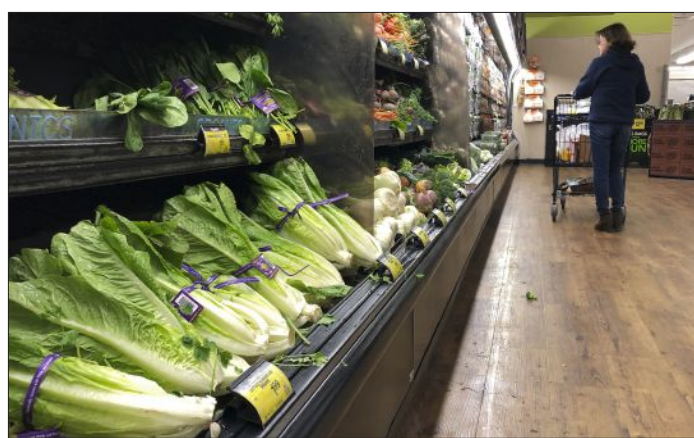
Cote said that if the situation continues for very long, the restaurant will make changes to its menu.

As of Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a dangerous strain of E. coli bacteria has sickened 32 people in 11 states – including two people in New Hampshire – and 18 people in Canada. No further details have been released about the New Hampshire victims.

The culprit is a bacteria strain known as E. coli O157:H7.

"E. coli O157 bacteria can cause serious illness if consumed."

"Until we know more information, we recommend people avoid eating romaine lettuce in any form," said the state epidemiologist, Dr. Benjamin Chan. "Contaminated foods may not look, smell, or taste different so there is no way to tell if food is contaminated."



Romaine lettuce still sits on shelves as a shopper walks through a market Tuesday in Simi Valley, Calif. AP

The CDC recommends throwing out any romaine lettuce, even if partially eaten, and avoiding romaine at restaurants.

This advice includes all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of precut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix and Caesar salad. People should also wash and sanitize drawers or shelves in refrigerators where romaine was stored.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. Seniors, the very young, and people with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illnesses.

Anyone in New Hampshire diagnosed as having an illness related to E. coli O157:H7 is also urged to contact DHHS Division of Public Health Services at 271-4496.

For further information, visit the CDC website at cdc.gov.

Photographer, refugee haven't met, but they are forever connected

CONNECTED FROM A1

So here they are, connected strangers. Elonga is the first recipient of Field's \$3,500 scholarship.

So Deborah, meet Becky. Sort of.

"They told me she was from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a Concord High graduate and she was going to UNH," Field said over a cup of coffee downtown. "They told me she was in a refugee camp, but there were not a lot of details about that. I have not met her. I have not photographed her."

I met Elonga a day later, at her dorm room on the University of New Hampshire campus in Durham.

"I don't know her," she told me when asked about Field. "There was one who told me you should apply here, you will get a scholarship. That's how I knew, but I did not receive any information to know too much about the scholarship."

The scholarship comes by way of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, which was born 56 years ago and now manages nearly 2,000 philanthropic funds. The staff there chooses who gets how much money.

Elonga was selected because "she has a passion for helping her community," said Judy Barrows, the director of student aid for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. "We get references from teachers, and she is excellent with community activity."

The references noted that Elonga is a fast learner, highly motivated, ambitious and not afraid to ask questions.

In fact, she's not afraid of much at all. Or at least she doesn't show it. Thank her mother, Rebecca Bidana, for instilling a giant courageous streak into her daughter.

Bidana works at Walmart and is learning English. With her husband suffering from severe back pain after a beating by rebels, she was the one who cradled 9-month-old Deborah in her arms and led the family on a desperate journey out of the Congo, with gunfire and a sense of hopelessness in the air.

"Oh my God, Jesus, receive my heart," was the line repeated over and over, Elonga says her mother told her.

She was the one who sold women's clothing and food to help the family survive, and she's the one who insisted that her three children pursue an education, and she's the one who paid for and filled out the paperwork to lead them from a refugee camp in Uganda to the United States, back in 2014.

She's also the one who brings a giant smile to this little face.

"It was kind of tough for my mom," Elonga told me. "She played two roles, as a mom and a dad."

Asked to expand, Elonga put her thoughts into cruise control, telling me, "Oh my God, she's a very, very strong woman. Caring and forgiving. She does not treat us with favoritism. She treats us the same, at least that's how I feel. Sometimes she may be tough on us a little bit, but we know where she comes from."

Elonga showed up at Concord High as a freshman who had finished the sixth-grade, spoke no English and made sure she never cried, even when she had no idea what the heck the teachers were talking about.

"I put on a strong face," Elonga told me. "Not that I got it, but I just wouldn't cry, but when I got home I would be like, 'Oh my God, this is hard, I don't know if I can do it. I really don't understand.'"

She mentioned teachers, remembering the subjects they taught more than the spelling of their names. She remembered the physics teacher who stayed after school with her, repeated things over and over, drew her pictures.

With mom proving the backbone of confidence, Elonga has a sister at Harvard and another at Concord High. And it's led to a

"Oh my God, she's a very, very strong woman. Caring and forgiving."

DEBORAH ELONGA, about her mother, Rebecca Bidana

young lady sitting on her bed in her dorm room in Durham, with backpacks and desks and computers and wall tapestries and a mini refrigerator and a roommate, a friend from Concord High, who's still in bed at 11 a.m.

Elonga's native language is Swahili, and her English is solid, easily understandable. Sometimes she pauses, searching for words, but her vision and sense of appreciation came through loud and clear.

"Health management and policy," she said when asked about a possible career.

All of which made Field beam over coffee. She made sure I understood the story was about Elonga, but you can't tell the story of Elonga without at least saying something about Field.

By her own admission, Field likes to talk and write, and she's good at both. She grew up in Connecticut with lambs, pigs, chickens and dogs, and her parents opened their home to Russian and Lebanese immigrants in the 1950s, a novel idea at the time and the building block for who Field is today.

Wildlife ecology was her thing, which is why she studied those wolves and their pups back when she was pursuing her doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. She also studied the courtship between mallards at the University of Minnesota.

"I was following the people that I admired in the field," Field said. "I saw the work they were doing, communications work and social interaction. I've always been interested in that."

That's why she's no longer working for the federal government or taking photos for the Red Cross. She heard about those awful things spray-painted on homes of refugees years ago and said she had to act. Single with no kids, Field changed jobs at an age when most people were taking their grandkids to the movies.

"I was very angry about that," Field said, referring to the graffiti episode. "It just seemed that these people had come from difficult situations, and sometimes violent situations because they were refugees, and here was somebody having the nerve to write hateful stuff on the sides of their house."

Her life came into focus, as did the subjects of her photos. She said she was walking down Pleasant Street when her new direction in life hit her like a camera lens to the head.

"I knew that's what I wanted to do," Field said.

The woman who keeps her house cold and worries about her carbon footprint, who marveled over faraway cultures, would dedicate her life to taking pictures of immigrants and refugees – people who had to start over and had the courage to try.

Her book, *Different Roots, Common Dreams*, documents the many faces and emotions and clothing styles of these people.

People like Elonga. A portion of the proceeds from Field's book helped Elonga reach her goal. She's 18 and will be home this week for Thanksgiving break. Seems like a good holiday to celebrate at this time.

"I'm so excited, I'm so excited," Elonga said.

Field and Elonga live in the same town now. They've given each other pleasure, without ever having spoken.

"I am getting enriched and learning about their lives," Field said.

Asked about Elonga and her family, Field had a simple and quick answer.

"I would like to meet them," she said.

Ex-intern sues EMT over sex abuse

EMT FROM A1

old Lemoine, who dreamed of becoming a firefighter/paramedic and wanted on-the-job experience.

Lemoine, now 25, has filed suit against Calligandes, Tri-Town and Nutfield Emergency Educators, a limited liability company started by Calligandes in 2008. She alleges Tri-Town and Nutfield failed to have policies and procedures in place to protect young women like herself, and she accuses Tri-Town of "a pattern of coverup" that kept Calligandes in a position of authority despite repeated complaints.

"When I was 16 and 17, I was sexually assaulted and molested, but at that time I was embarrassed and unable to get my voice and strength to confront the situation," Lemoine said in a statement to the *Monitor*. "Now, with the passage of time and over \$20,000 in medical and counseling expenses, I am angry and ready for justice."

Lemoine has filed civil claims of sexual assault, negligent supervision, intentional infliction of emotional distress and fraudulent concealment. Her mother, Glenda Lemoine, is also part of the lawsuit, seeking to recover the thousands of dollars she spent on support services for her daughter after the May 2010 assault.

Londonderry police arrested and charged Calligandes in 2013 with sexual assault against Lemoine. He ultimately pleaded no contest to a charge of simple assault for touching the girl's chest with his hand at a Londonderry EMT training facility he had rented under Nutfield Emergency Educators. He received a six-month suspended sen-

tence and two years probation.

At the time, the state's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services sought to suspend Calligandes's EMS license for several years in connection with the misdemeanor conviction. However, the state backed off from a multi-year suspension after Epsom fire Chief R. Steward Yeaton went to bat for Calligandes, calling him a "great team player" and other coworkers submitted letters of support. His license was retroactively suspended in November 2015 for nine days.

A message left with Calligandes at the Epsom Fire Department was not returned Wednesday. Tri-Town Director Christopher Gamache could also not be reached for comment.

Lemoine maintains in her lawsuit that Calligandes's criminal conviction for simple assault "dramatically understated" his actions. She said she put her trust in Calligandes and that he used that trust to take advantage of her.

"As a result of the disgusting and traumatizing conduct by someone she had looked up to as an EMT teacher, Ann has had extensive counseling to help her process and deal with the assault of May 2010 and the other assaults on her," wrote Lemoine's attorney, Charles Douglas, in the suit filed Nov. 13.

Former Pembroke firefighter Debra Black had learned about Calligandes's "relationship" with an intern in Londonderry that had led to his termination and had expressed concern to Tri-Town leadership in 2010 about how Calligandes was acting with Lemoine, including that "He 'had his hands

on her' too much ..." according to the lawsuit. Black said she was "abruptly fired" by Calligandes, who was her manager. She has since settled a wrongful termination case for a confidential amount.

Black was interviewed by Pembroke police in March 2013 when additional information had come to light as part of a criminal investigation against Calligandes who was arrested weeks later.

The Pembroke Police Department had previously interviewed Calligandes in April 1998 after learning of allegations that he had been "too 'close' to a minor female" in the Pembroke village of Suncook in the early 1990s. He said at the time that the girl and "he hugged and 'she tried to kiss me,'" according to Lemoine's lawsuit.

"The police closed the matter as inconclusive despite their concerns but never learned that there were sexual assaults on Jane Doe," Douglas wrote.

Calligandes joined the Epsom Fire Department full-time in early 2014 as a firefighter and paramedic. However, Calligandes has been barred from firefighting because he failed to pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test, which state rules require he take before – not after – getting hired.

(Alyssa Dandrea can be reached at 369-3319 at adandrea@concordmonitor.com.)

SINGLES
Friday Dance 8 pm
Daniels Hall, Nottingham
603 942-8525
SinglesDanceParties.com

Join Sugar River Bank's Holiday Club!

A festive way to help you save throughout the year! For the holidays, for vacations, for anything you want. We're your Hometown Bank. How can we help you?

ASK US ABOUT OPENING A HOLIDAY CLUB ACCOUNT TODAY!

- ☀ Funds are automatically transferred every Friday from your Sugar River Bank Checking Account to your Holiday Club Account.
- ☀ After you've made 52 consecutive payments, Sugar River Bank will give you ONE BONUS PAYMENT (equivalent to your weekly payment) in lieu of interest!
- ☀ Your Holiday Club savings are then distributed to you the first week of November, 2019. It's easy. It's convenient. And it's right here at your Hometown Bank.



Newport | Concord | Grantham
New London | Sunapee | Warner
800.562.3145
sugarriverbank.com
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Like us on Facebook!

REGAL AUCTION SERVICES

*****BUILDING MATERIALS AUCTION*****
"OUR LAST ONE AT THIS LOCATION!"
SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st @ 11 AM
PREVIEW: THURSDAY & FRIDAY - NOON TO 6 PM - SATURDAY 9AM TO 11AM

OVER 300 PHOTOS

VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE @ www.regalauctionservices.com

AUCTIONEERS • LIQUIDATORS • APPRAISERS
Auction Gallery Paul D. Morrissette, Jr. Auctioneer NH License #2885
349 Central Street Bethany Q. Morrissette Operations Manager
Franklin, NH 03235 Matthew J. Adams Auction Manager
603-934-5410 • 1-800-22REGAL • Fax 603-934-5424 www.regalauctionservices.com