VALLEY NEWS

Gone Fishing

A little over a month ago, I bought a fish tank.

Walking down the aisle of the local pet store, I found the perfect tank that was the right size and fit my meager intern budget.

I've never owned a pet fish, didn't buy one during that shopping adventure, and don't plan on getting one any time soon. I'm not really a fish person.

Instead, I bought the tank for my prized Canon camera with a future story in mind — the Upper Valley listserv had said that there was going to be an underwater Easter egg hunt at an indoor pool in Brownsville, the perfect opportunity for a feature photo.

The fish tank would allow me to take underwater photos at the event without spending thousands of dollars on a waterproof housing for the camera.
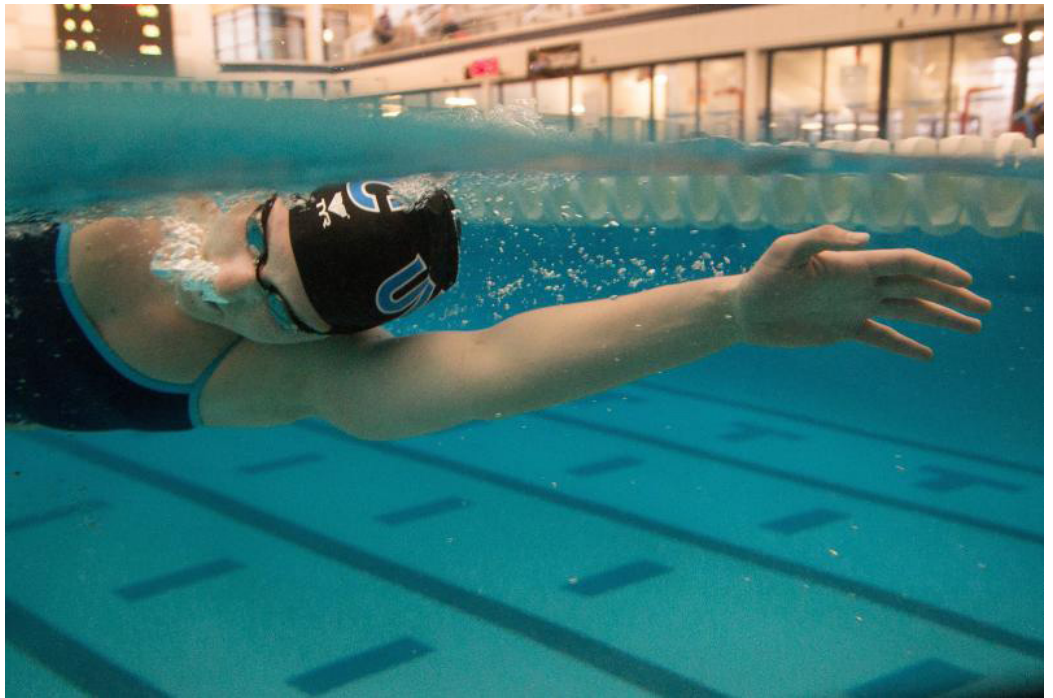
Then on the Saturday before Easter, the day of the event, an assignment covering a firefighter training exercise in Lebanon, all morning meant I missed the underwater egg hunt.

The fish tank sat in the trunk of my car, unused with the price sticker still clinging to its side, while I took photos of a burning building.

Then several weeks later, an excuse arose to dust off the fish tank; I was assigned to take photos of Hannah Cox at her swim practice at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction, Vt.

Leaving my house that morning, I packed a swimsuit, shorts and towel and stowed them in the fish tank, determined to be properly prepared.

After arriving at the aquatic center, I took photos of Cox as she did weight training before hitting the pool. Be-

cause she already had her bathing suit on, we headed straight to the pool after the workout. She was only going to be in the pool for 45 minutes, and I didn't have time to change out of my jeans. So much for being prepared!

I ended up lying flat on my stomach on the wet pool deck to submerge my camera, which was cocooned in the fish tank under a towel. As

Cox, along with the rest of her team, swam lap after lap, my clothes got soaked, but the camera remained dry, nestled in the trusty fish tank.

I was able to take underwater photos without paying for an underwater camera. All it took was a $15 fish tank and a little determination and creativity.