



**BUCKLAND, SHELBURNE  
CHURCH POTLUCKS  
A TASTY COMBO**  
FOOD, PAGE C1



**LOCAL, PAGE B1**  
**ORANGE SETS ASIDE  
PARKING SPACE  
FOR WOUNDED VETS**

**WEATHER**



**49 | 45**  
**CLOUDY/RAINY**  
Shylan Luippold  
Hillcrest Elementary  
PAGE A5

# THE RECORDER

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\$1

## Greenfield schools face shortfall

**Special Ed., transportation costs  
drive \$850,000 budget gap**

By **TOM RELIHAN**  
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Unpredictable costs of sending special education students out of district has the School Department facing a mid-year \$850,000 budget crunch, according to administrators.

Business Manager Howard Barber

said Tuesday that the district is working to bridge the gap by cutting the budget and preparing a supplemental money request to the Town Council.

As of Tuesday, Barber said, the district has been able to make up about half of the shortfall by making adjustments within the budget. It was not immediately clear where in

the budget cuts are planned.

Barber said the gap has been caused by students with higher special education needs than the district can accommodate in house. Their needs became known after this school year's budget was set.

The department is responsible for paying the cost of educating all of the students who live in town, Barber said, and depending on the level of the student's individual needs, the cost for educating them out of district at specialized facilities can be high.

"Between last year and today,

**The administration was asked to craft a brief report on the impact of out-of-district student costs on the department, which could be sent to the state.**

there was a transition of additional students that had to be placed out-of-district, or in-district students that have one-to-one (aides), for whatever the circumstances, transition into a

different situation where they can't be managed inside the school," Barber said.

For instance, he explained, an out-of-district student with lower needs could cost \$40,000, while a higher-needs student could cost more than \$200,000. The average cost to educate a student in Greenfield is about \$14,000.

On top of that, the department is also required to pay for any costs associated with transporting the stu-

SEE GREENFIELD A6

## Stillwater Bridge reopens



RECORDER STAFF/MATT BURKHARTT

A worker from the Deerfield Highway Department removes barricades on the north side of the Stillwater Bridge reopening it to traffic Tuesday.

**Span still on state's  
list for 2020  
preservation project**

By **ANDY CASTILLO**  
Recorder Staff

DEERFIELD — Emergency repairs have been completed, and Stillwater Bridge was reopened to traffic Tuesday.

"All of the work has been completed and it is open to all traffic," said Deerfield Police Patrolman Adam Sokoloski,

noting that "truck traffic must obey the same weight limits as before it was closed. That has not changed."

The town closed Stillwater Bridge after it failed a state inspection in October, because of scour damage beneath one of the bridge's piers. A few weeks ago, a Department of Transportation dive team poured concrete underwater, and now that reinforcement has cured.

Since its closure, school buses have had to reroute, farmers who own land on both sides of the Deerfield River, which the bridge spans, have had to detour through Greenfield, and emergency workers have had to work with neighboring towns for mutual aid.

Sokoloski said in the past month, "we are excited to report that only one time did Greenfield Police have to respond to an Upper Road address during the closure."

Initially, local officials expected repairs would take months to complete. However, the state stepped in and helped to bring about expedited repair work, shoring up the bridge until a more permanent solution can be found.

According a MassDOT project file, which is still in the design phase, the state has scheduled a "bridge preservation" project for 2020, with an estimated cost of more than \$6 million.

## Trump taps 'Obamacare' foe for health post

**Rep. Tom Price of Georgia is a  
champion of privatized Medicare**

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and  
**RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reaching deep into conservative territory, President-elect Donald Trump chose Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health care system on Tuesday, picking a fierce "Obamacare" critic who also has championed efforts to privatize Medicare. Trump selected another veteran Republican, Elaine Chao, to lead the Department of Transportation.

Both have long ties to Washington.

Price, picked to lead the Department of Health and Human Services after more than a decade in Congress, helped craft House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to privatize Medicare — a position Trump opposed in the campaign. Chao, who was the first Asian-American woman to serve in a president's Cabinet, is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The selections came as Trump spent Tuesday with advisers in his Manhattan skyscraper, racing through meetings with prospective administration hires as high-profile vacancies loom — none bigger than Secretary of State. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, on the shortlist for the nation's chief diplomat, was to have a private dinner with the incoming president.

At the same time, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein delivered \$3.5 million to the state of Wisconsin to guarantee a recount in one of the states that fueled Trump's unexpected victory. Stein, who is also pursuing recounts in Pennsylvania and Michigan, has raised concerns that the results may have been hacked.

Trump has assailed the Green Party effort as a scam and separately has made unsupported claims of voter fraud in other states.

Meanwhile, Price's selection raised questions about the incoming president's commitment to Medicare, among other popular entitlement programs he repeatedly vowed to preserve before the election. The Georgia congressman led GOP efforts on Capitol Hill to transform Medicare into a voucher-like system, a change that if enacted, would likely dramatically reduce government spending on the health care program that serves an estimated 57 million people.

Trump did not address Price's position on Medicare in a statement released by his transition team. The team did not respond to subsequent questions about it.

"Chairman Price, a renowned physician, has earned a reputation for being a tireless problem solver and the go-to expert on health care policy, making him the ideal choice to serve in this capacity," Trump said. "He is exceptionally qualified to shepherd our



AP FILE PHOTO

**Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., chairman of the House Budget Committee appears before the Rules Committee in January.**

SEE TRUMP A2

## Study to look at health impact of taking part in a CSA

**Just Roots, health  
clinic project  
to involve 100**

By **SHELBY ASHLINE**  
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Hoping to gain support from health insurance companies for community supported agriculture, a local

farm-share program and health clinic are teaming up on a federally funded study.

The Community Health Center of Franklin County and Just Roots community supported agriculture non-profit are launching a grant-funded study to evaluate the health impacts of CSA participation.

Executive director of

SEE STUDY A6



RECORDER FILE PHOTO/TOM RELIHAN

**Tricia Ruggles of Greenfield and her daughter Ariana pick out vegetables during Just Roots' farmshare pickup.**

## Pipeline protest arrests strain N.D.'s court system

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**  
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — The hundreds of arrests during the months of protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota have created an unprecedented burden for the state's court system, which faces huge cost overruns and

doesn't have enough judges, lawyers and clerks to handle the workload.

Police have made nearly 575 arrests since August during clashes at the protesters' main camp along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota and at protests in and around the state capital, Bismarck, about 50 miles to the

north. That's far more arrests than these areas typically deal with and it could lead to delays in bringing cases to trial, experts say.

"We don't have sufficient judges to get all of those cases heard in a timely fashion," said Sally Holewa, North Dakota's state court administrator.

The state judicial system

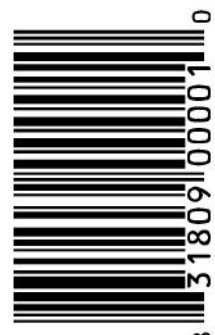
will ask the Legislature next year for an additional \$1.5 million to cover protest-related costs. That amounts to about 1½ percent of its current two-year budget.

"This is a first," Holewa said. "The judicial branch has never had to ask for a defi-

SEE PIPELINE A6

### INSIDE

Classifieds	C5, C6
Comics	C4
Food	C1
Local	B1, B2
Nation/World	A3, C3
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Puzzles	C5
Sports	D1-D4
Talk of the Towns	B4



6



# Study

FROM A1

Just Roots, Jessica Van Steensburg, believes participants will see their health improve, offering compelling data for health insurers to support customers joining a CSA, similarly to how wellness benefits are offered for purchasing a gym membership.

The two organizations decided to work together about a year ago, Van Steensburg said, after Just Roots' Community Outreach Coordinator Andy Grant met the clinic's Development Director Cameron Carey.

"We thought we should meet and talk and figure out what both of our organizations are doing and what we could be doing together," Van Steensburg said.

The clinic, a nonprofit agency with three medical and dental facilities across the county, aims to provide excellent medical care to all Franklin County residents regardless of their insurance status or income, offering sliding fee scales for individuals without insurance.

"The health center was an attractive partner for (Just Roots), because we feel very strongly that

good health isn't just about going to the doctor and getting your flu shot, it's about healthy eating too," said Ed Sayer, the clinic's CEO.

Van Steensburg said that Just Roots, a Greenfield-based nonprofit that seeks to increase access to healthy local food across Franklin County, found a United States Department of Agriculture grant through its Farmers Market and Local Food Production Program.

They want to "get the hunches that we have about how powerful food is to people's health to the health insurers," Van Steensburg said.

In late September, the two organizations heard back that they'd received a three-year grant for nearly \$250,000 — the first grant the clinic has ever received.

The study itself will run from 2017 to 2018. The clinic staff will be trained to identify possible participants, who will be drawn from the population currently served by the center, Van Steensburg said. Fifty individuals will agree to first-time CSA participation and 50 to participate in a control group not offered CSA participation.

The study has two hypotheses, according to Just Roots: that partic-

ipation in a subsidized CSA leads to improved dietary quality and health status, and that subsidized CSA participation represents a reasonable return on investment as a way to help improve health for vulnerable patients.

"We're imagining that the people who have access to the organic produce will have improved glucose levels and lower amounts of bad cholesterol," Sayer noted.

Dr. Seth Berkowitz, a primary care doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University researcher, is working with the two organizations to develop a draft of the study. CSA participation will begin in June 2017, after which Just Roots will gather quantitative data regarding consumption patterns of CSA participants and qualitative data regarding their experience, such as how they prepared the food and how they feel.

Three times over the course of the year, the clinic's staff will weigh CSA participants, collect blood samples and gather other basic health indicators, according to the release. Van Steensburg said 2019 will be used for data analysis, which will be done by Berkowitz.

Van Steensburg said the two or-



Three times over the course of the year, the clinic's staff will weigh CSA participants, collect blood samples and gather other basic health indicators.

FILE IMAGE

ganizations have already received support letters from Health New England and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

"They're aware of the study and have expressed interest in the outcome," she said.

Van Steensburg and Sayer hope the study might result in financial support of CSAs from health insurers, which in turn could lead to increased CSA participation and

bring better health to Franklin County.

"Mainly high income people have farm shares, which limits participation. What we've been finding in our work, because we've been serving the low income population ... is people often can't afford (CSAs)" she said. Wellness benefits for joining a CSA "would mean a whole slew of new people could buy into farm shares."

# Pipeline

FROM A1

ciency appropriation in its history," which dates back more than a century.

The protest-related cases also are putting a pinch on the organization that provides public defenders in North Dakota. The Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents might seek an additional \$670,000 from the Legislature, which amounts to about 3 1/2 percent of its current two-year budget, according to its executive director, H. Jean Delaney.

"It is highly unusual," Delaney said. "We did make a (similar) request once before, during the oil boom, in the 2013-15 biennium. It's kind of interesting — it was kind of a similar situation, where court cases really grew."

The commission has accepted more than 225 protest-related cases. They are being handled by 65 defense attorneys, and the commission is seeking seven more.

South Central District Court, where the cases are being handled, didn't immediately have data on the total number of cases or any backlogs. However, Holewa said the sheer volume of cases raises concerns about the defendants' right to a speedy trial and due process.

"Any time justice is unduly delayed, it causes issues," she said. "You have issues with people's memories, and (in this case) you also have people from out of state — not just those charged, but also police officers from out of state. All of that makes it essential that we try to get these cases heard timely."

The \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry



NANCY TREVINO VIA AP

In this photo provided by Nancy Trevino, protesters against the Dakota Access oil pipeline gather at and around a hill, referred to as Turtle Island, where demonstrators claim burial sites are located on Nov. 24 in Cannon Ball, N.D. The hill is across a body of water from where hundreds, and sometimes thousands of people have camped out for months to protest the construction of the four-state pipeline.

North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois is nearly complete, aside from a stretch beneath a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline will be safe, but the Standing Rock Sioux tribe says the project threatens the drinking water on its nearby reservation as well

as some American Indian cultural sites. People from around the country have taken up the tribe's cause, with thousands of them congregating at the protest camp.

Fewer than 8 percent of the protesters who have been arrested are from North Dakota, according to data from the Morton County Sheriff's

Office. Nearly one-fourth are from the West Coast.

Most of the cases are being handled in state court. The federal court system apparently is feeling an impact, however. In court documents requesting a delay in an unconnected case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme told the judge that protests were "consuming significant time and attention."

U.S. Attorney Chris Myers declined to elaborate or say how many cases the federal court system is handling. However, one high-profile case involving a Denver woman accused of firing shots at officers during a protest clash recently was transferred from state court to federal court.

Meanwhile, several pipeline protesters are suing Morton County, the city of Mandan and North Dakota law enforcement officials in federal court in Bismarck, saying their civil rights were violated during a clash with authorities earlier this month. Authorities have said their use of tear gas, rubber bullets and water spray was necessary to maintain order. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.



AP PHOTO

Organizers of protests against construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline speak Saturday at a news conference near Cannon Ball, N.D. Government orders for protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline to leave federal land could have little immediate effect on the encampment where scores of people have been gathered for months to oppose the \$3.8 billion project.

# Greenfield

FROM A1

dent to and from the out-of-district school or facility, he said.

Sometimes, out-of-district students who return to the department's schools can help reduce the expense, Barber said.

Barber said the department plans to ask Town Council to approve supplemental funding to help make up the difference, and to create a special stabilization fund to help cushion the impact of unanticipated out-of-district costs in future years.

Mayor William Martin also asked the School Committee earlier this month to direct the administration to craft a brief report on the impact of out-of-district student costs on the department, which could be sent to the state government and Legislature with a request to "radically change the funding formulas that are currently in use."

Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth Pratt, who is acting superintendent while Superintendent Jordana Harper is on maternity leave, said Tuesday that three new teachers whose jobs were eliminated within their 90-day probationary period at three of the department's schools were personnel decisions not directly related to the budgetary concerns, but couldn't say whether their positions would be refilled.

"That'll be looked at as we move forward," she said. She noted the administration is working to shift resources around to accommodate financial challenges. "We're making sure we're being fiscally responsible," she said.

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"We're making sure we're being fiscally responsible," she said.

You can reach Tom Relihan at: 413-772-0261, ext. 264 or [trelihan@recorder.com](mailto:trelihan@recorder.com)

## Town Council will be asked to approve supplemental funding.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Alfred R. Hubbard

GREENFIELD — Alfred R. Hubbard, 76, of Wells Street died Wednesday (11-23-16) at the Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Kostanski Funeral Home, 220 Federal St., with the Rev. Candy Ashenden officiating. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Calling hours will be held Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Donations may be made to United Church of Conway, 44 Whately Road, Conway, MA 01341 or the charity of the donor's choice.

Sympathy message available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com).

### Karin E. Koldys

TURNERS FALLS — Karin E. Koldys, 69, of High Street died Monday (11-28-16) at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield.

Arrangements under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home are incomplete at this time.

Sympathy messages available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)

### Alan K. Lego

ORANGE — Alan K. Lego, 79, of North Main Street, died Monday (11-28-16) at home.

Calling hours will be held on Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main St., Orange

A prayer service will be said at 7 p.m. following calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Orange Firemen's Association, 18 Water St., Orange, MA 01364 or to the Shutesbury Fire Department, 42 Leverett Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072.

Witty's Funeral Home is directing the arrangements.

You may offer your sympathy online at [www.wittyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wittyfuneralhome.com)

### Dorothy H. Milkey

WORCESTER — Dorothy H. (Saharceski) Milkey, 88, of Oriole Drive died Tuesday (11-29-16) at Worcester Health Center.

Arrangements under the direction of

Kostanski Funeral Home in Turners Falls were incomplete at press time.

Sympathy message available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)

### Sheperd services

GREENFIELD — A memorial service for Robert C. Sheperd Sr., 72, who died Nov. 13, 2016, will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at The Living Waters Church, 450 Davis St., Greenfield.

To leave a condolence, please visit [bostoncremation.org](http://bostoncremation.org).

### Vera T. Smith

MILLERS FALLS — Vera T. (Turomsha) Smith, 96, of Pratt Street died Monday (11-28-16) at Buckley Health-Care Facility in Greenfield.

Funeral services will be private. Burial will take place in Highland Cemetery in the spring.

Donations may be made to The ARC, 294 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home.

Sympathy messages available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)

# MINI ADS

## the Y Rules To Stop Aging

- Do aerobic exercise 3-4 days/wk.
- Strength train 2-3 days/wk.
- Connect with positive people
- Volunteer

LIVE WELL. Join the Y 3376461 773-3646 Ext. 0

## Northfield TRI Church Fairs

All on Main Street  
**December 3 • 9-2**  
 First Parish Unitarian  
 Bid on Red Sox tickets  
 St. Patrick's  
 Bid on Themed Baskets  
 Trinitarian Congregational  
 Bid on an Apple Watch  
 Lunch at each church

## NEED AN AD IN A HURRY?

Mini ads are what you need. If you place your ad by 3:00 pm, it will appear in the following day's edition. Reach over 30,000 readers tomorrow. Call 772-0261

## TOYS for TOTS Fundraiser

**MOOSE LODGE**  
 20 School St. Greenfield  
 Sat. Dec. 3rd, 2016 • 9am-3pm  
 Please join us for our 5th Annual Holiday Event  
 Our goal is to fill Dillon's Blue Pickup with Toys!  
 Please bring a New, Unwrapped Toy to help us reach our goal.  
 Vendors and Crafters • Raffle Table  
 50/50 Raffle • Photos with Santa