GREENFIELD — Unprecedented costs of sending special education students out of district is the School Department facing a mid-year $833,000 budget crunch, according to administrators.

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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. Those needs became known after this school year’s budget was set. The gap includes paying for the cost of educating all of the students who were 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.

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

According to an MSDOT project file, which is still in the design phase, the state has scheduled a “bridge prese rvation” project for 2020, with an estimated cost of more than $4 million.

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**PipeLine**

**Alfred R. Hubbard**

**GREENFIELD** — Alfred R. Hubbard, 76, of Wells Street died Wednesday (11-29-16) at Worcester Health Home, 158 South Main St., Orange, due to heart disease. Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield.

**Karin E. Kolody**

**TURNERS FALLS —** Karin E. Kolody, 81, of High Street died Thursday (11-23-16) at Charter Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield. Arrangements under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home are incomplete at this time.

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Alton J. Kego**

**Turners Falls —** Alton J. Kego, 79, of North Main Street, died Monday (11-28-16) at Community Hospital, 100 High St., Belchertown. Calling hours will be held Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home of his daughter, Nancy Cabrera, 24 High St., Belchertown. A graveside service will be at 7 p.m. in the town of Leverett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Community Hospital, 100 High St., Belchertown, or the Salvation Army, 15 Federal St., Chicopee, MA 01021, in Alton J. Kego’s memory.

**Dorothy H. Milkey**

**Turners Falls —** Dorothy H. Milkey, 96, of Olive Drive died Tuesday (11-29-16) at Worcester Health Home, 158 South Main St., Orange. Arrangements under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home are incomplete at this time.


**Greenfield**

**Trenton**— Local Food Production Program. Andy Grant met the clinic’s development coordinator, Kate Van Steensburg, who will be drawn from the list of individuals who will agree to first-time CSA participation. They want to get the hunches we’re imagining that the people who get, according to Just Roots: that particular practice represents a reasonable indicator of wellness, given the number of health insurers, Van Steensburg said 2019 will be the third year of the study, the clinic’s staff will weigh CSA participation, collect blood samples and gather other health indicators, according to the release. Van Steensburg says the project will be used for data analysis, which will be submitted to the town’s public health department, which could be a blueprint for how wellness benefits are offered to Medicare beneficiaries in the future, said Tuesday (11-29-16) at Worcester Health Home, 158 South Main St., Orange, where she soon will be attending a public hearing on the proposal.

**France C. Smith, 96, of Pratt Street died December 3.** Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield.

**Sympathy messages available at www.pestillerfamily.com.**