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MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THE COURTYARD MARRIOTT
MIDDLETOWN NS NEWPORT RI
09/09/2014
THE NEWPORT (R.I.) DAILY NEWS

Monks

Continued from A1

state of enlightenment. Buddhism is more of a way of life than a religion.”

“I thought it was fascinating, although I don’t understand a word of Tibetan,” said Karen Mensal of Wakefield. “I thought the chanting was memorable. It really promotes meditation and takes you out of yourself to a better space.”

“It was very enlightening,” Steve Lepre of Newport said. “It was a beautiful taste of their culture. I wish them well in their quest.”

Three of the monks are “geshe,” similar to a doctor of divinity in this country, but requiring 17 years of study of specific Tibetan texts. They were Geshe Donyo, the chanting master; Geshe Choephel, the spiritual master; and Geshe Thinley. The monk Nyima is a master of Mandala, the creation of sand art, which he demonstrated during the week. Lundgrik is fluent in English and is the main translator and spokesman for the group.

The monks started their travels in the U.S. in California in March and will continue the journey until March 2015. They have been to Oregon, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, among other states, said Jeffrey Beach, their national driver.

Besides sharing their Tibetan culture, philosophy and arts, the monks are trying to raise at least \$300,000 to build dormitories and a prayer hall at their monastery in southern India, said Janet Larson of Jamestown, owner of West Ferry Yoga and local coordinator for the monks’ events. Every dollar raised on the tour goes toward funding the project, she said. The requested donation to the events was \$20.

“Right now, the monks are spread throughout the Tibetan settlement of Mundgod,” Larson said. “The ultimate goal is \$1 million, which will be used to build additional dorms, a library and a medical clinic for the monks.”

The one-year “Compassion



Jacqueline Marque | Staff photos
Geshe L. Chophel, a monk from the Gaden Shartse Dkhang Monastery, hugs Lisa Utman Randall, executive director of the Jamestown Art Center, after presenting her with a gift on Sunday.



Monks from the Gaden Shartse Dkhang Monastery, from left, Jangchup Gurme, Geshe L. Dhonyo, Geshe L. Chophel and Geshe J. Thinley, chant Sunday during a program at the Jamestown Art Center.

Tour” is sponsored by The Foundation of the Sacred Stream, a school for consciousness studies in Berkeley, Calif. The Sacred Stream became affiliated with the monks through its relationship with Geshe Thupten Jinpa, the

primary English interpreter for the Dalai Lama, the high lama (priest) of Tibetan Buddhism.

One of the most striking features of Tibetan monks is their compassionate nature, Larson said.

“At the heart of every

prayer said for the benefit of one, is the wish for the benefit and freedom from suffering for all beings,” she said. “It has been an honor to host the monks.”

Flynn@NewportRI.com

Birds

Continued from A1

Other birds, including backyard regulars like the American robin and the blue jay, will fly in even more places, the report says. And some of the biggest potential winners aren’t exactly birds that people like — species such as the turkey vulture, the American crow and the mourning dove, which will expand their ranges tremendously.

“If you want to know what the climate change future sounds like, it sounds a lot like a mourning dove,” Langham said. Some people find annoying the singing of the mourning dove, which will more than double its range.

Langham used bird survey data in summer and winter from 2000 to 2009 and correlated it to climate conditions to come up with simulations of how bird ranges will change. He then tested the simulations against past data from 1980 to 1999, and they worked. Then he used United Nations carbon pollution scenarios from 2007 to project bird ranges in 2020, 2040 and 2080.



Associated Press
Species such as the turkey vulture, above, the American crow and the mourning dove could expand their ranges tremendously, according to a National Audubon Society report.

The report is not yet peer-reviewed, which is crucial in science. It has been sent to a scientific journal but has not yet been accepted. However, Langham said it

is based on a report Audubon did last year that was commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm dismissed the study as too general, poorly executed and not that new. But other scientists, such as Stanford University biologist Terry Root, said the Audubon report makes sense and looks trustworthy. A third biologist, A. Townsend Peterson of the University of Kansas, faulted some of the methods used but praised the overall comprehensiveness of the study.

“It’s very scary,” Root said. “People need to stand up and take note.”

On Tuesday, several federal agencies, Cornell University and a number of private organizations will release a separate U.S. “state of the birds” report, and the outlook will be bleak.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology director John Fitzpatrick wrote in a preview last month in The New York Times that 230 species “are currently in danger of extinction or at risk of becoming so” and that two dozen common birds, such as night-hawks, are showing “early warning signals of distress.”

New dispute erupts over region’s natural gas plan

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A new fight has emerged over efforts to shift New England from oil and coal to lower cost natural gas.

Plans by New England’s governors and energy officials to expand natural gas in the six states have drawn fights in the past year among energy companies, environmentalists and local and state officials. Now, a lawyer who represents a pipeline company, manufacturers and two organized labor groups is accusing environmental advocates of abandoning their early support for cleaner energy and trying to block pipeline projects.

Anthony Buxton, a Portland, Maine, lawyer who represents the Industrial Energy Consumer Group and two labor union organizations, has taken his complaint about the Conservation Law Foundation to Maine utility regulators.

“CLF’s energy hypocrisy in promoting the construction of more than 20 natural gas plants and then preventing them from getting the gas they need is very dangerous,” he said.

The Boston environmental group, which has questioned the transparency of New England’s governors and state energy officials seeking to expand natural gas use, says Buxton is misrepresenting its position.

Greg Cunningham, senior attorney at CLF, said

‘All we’re looking to do is get some clean natural gas. It will bring more work for our guys, too.’

JOHN NAPOLITANO

business manager at Local 716 and president of the Building and Construction Trades Council

environmentalists urged an expansion of natural gas in the late 1990s and early 2000s as a clean alternative to more common oil- and coal-fired plants.

“We completely stand by that advocacy today,” he said.

The argument now, he said, is not whether power plants will be fired by natural gas but whether ratepayers should subsidize the construction of gas pipelines, Cunningham said. Investors are stepping forward, which should be encouraged, Cunningham said.

CLF has challenged how energy policy is coordinated by New England’s six governors, saying the state leaders are conducting private negotiations with the energy industry. Environmentalists submitted public records requests demanding more transparency.

The governors late last year announced a plan to expand natural gas use. They asked the region’s grid operator, ISO-New England, for technical help to seek proposals to build

transmission equipment and public works to deliver electricity to as many as 3.6 million homes. They also asked ISO to figure out how to finance the project.

A proposal that would impose federal tariffs on electric ratepayers to finance energy infrastructure projects is on hold. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick is seeking a delay while his administration analyzes different energy scenarios, including a plan that does not call for building extensive natural gas pipelines.

Buxton says a June 2001 statement published by CLF backing natural-gas-fired power plants demonstrates the environmental group’s support for natural gas. He is asking the Maine Public Utilities Commission to include the statement in its consideration of a new policy promoting expansion of natural gas pipelines. It was previously excluded.

The United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 716 and Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council have joined Buxton’s filing before Maine regulators.

“All we’re looking to do is get some clean natural gas,” said John Napolitano, business manager at Local 716 and president of the Building and Construction Trades Council. “It will bring more work for our guys, too.”

WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Today, partly sunny. High near 73. Tonight, cloudy with a chance of showers after 10 p.m. Low around 62.

EXTENDED

Wednesday, cloudy with a chance of rain before 9 a.m. High near 72. Wednesday night, cloudy with a chance of showers after midnight. Low around 64.

Thursday, cloudy with a chance of showers. High near 75. Thursday night, cloudy with a chance of showers, with thunderstorms possible after 9 p.m. Low around 65.

Friday, partly sunny with a chance of showers. High near 73. Friday night, cloudy with a chance of showers. Low around 60.

Saturday, cloudy with a chance of showers. High near 69. Saturday night, cloudy with a chance of showers. Low around 57.

MARINE

Today, northeast wind 10-15 knots. Waves around 2 feet. Tonight, northeast wind around 10 knots. Waves around 2 feet.

TIDES, ETC.

High tides: 8:23 a.m., 8:50 p.m. Low tides: 1:47 a.m., 2:12 p.m.

Today’s sunrise 6:20, sunset 7:05.

Monday’s temperatures: high 74, low 59.

Pay

Continued from A1

still too many people desperate for work than is typical for a healthy economy. That makes it easier for employers to fill jobs without raising pay.

There are 227,000 fewer people with jobs than in November 2007, just before the recession began. Yet the working-age population is up 15.3 million since then. That’s kept the number of unemployed elevated: 9.6 million Americans, up from 7.6 million when the recession began.

But it’s not just unemployment that’s holding down wages. The many part-timers who would prefer full-time work are also competing with those who are out of work. There are 7.2 million involuntary part-timers, up from just 4.6 million in late 2007.

Half the economists surveyed by The Associated Press last month cited the high number of people without full-time jobs as the main reason wage growth has been weak.

The Chicago Fed estimates that if all measures of unemployment, including involuntary part-timers, had returned to pre-recession levels, paychecks after inflation would now be rising up to 1 percentage point faster.

Given these trends, people who do have jobs have less leverage to demand higher pay. Sixteen percent of working Americans say their pay hasn’t budged in the past year, up from 11 percent before the recession, according to research by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

In a healthier economy, more people would seek higher pay elsewhere and quit their jobs once they found it. But the number who quit their jobs tumbled during the recession and has only partly recovered.

In addition, fewer startup companies are being created, holding back hiring. In the final quarter of 2013, new companies created just 1.3 million jobs, down from an average of 1.75 million in the 1990s, according to government data.

‘I do think we’re setting the stage for an eventual turn higher in wages.’

MICHELLE MEYER

economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Fewer startups and fewer quits have reduced what’s called job-market “churn.” Economists liken churn to musical chairs: When people quit or new jobs are created by startups, more positions open for the unemployed or for workers seeking higher pay.

But churn has declined by up to one-third since the early 1990s, according to research by economists Steven Davis and John Haltiwanger.

Typically, wages also rise in line with increased productivity. Productivity measures output per hour of work, and higher productivity enables companies to pay more without sparking inflation. Yet productivity has been unusually sluggish the past three years.

Some economists are surprised that the recession didn’t weaken Americans’ pay even more than it did. So deep was the recession that many analysts assumed companies would reduce not only jobs but also wages.

The lack of pay cuts during the recession may help explain meager raises now. Having paid more than they typically would during the downturn, companies may now try to make up for lost ground by holding off on raises longer than usual.

All these trends make it particularly hard for economists to predict when, or even whether, wages will finally accelerate.

With unemployment declining and other gauges, such as the number of quits and involuntary part-timers, also improving, some economists think pay gains will accelerate by mid-2015.

“I do think we’re setting the stage for an eventual turn higher in wages,” said Michelle Meyer, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

CORRECTION

◆ The Rev. Eugene McKenna was shown in a picture from a Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling meeting on the front page of Monday’s Daily News. Because of a photographer’s error, his last name was incorrect in the caption that accompanied the picture.

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PUBLIC MEETING
NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETING

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Courtyard Marriott, Middletown
9 Commerce Drive, Middletown, RI
Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

You can meet fellow citizens and representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and you can help plan studies and restorations of cleanup sites.

For additional information and our schedule, go to the RAB Internet Web Site at www.rabnewportri.org. Additional information is available at the Navy’s Internet Web Site at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil>.

If you have any questions, please call 401.841.7671



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