

23 March 2011

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CFTC

To Chairman Gary Gensler:

The ongoing record climb of oil/fuel prices in our country is having an extremely detrimental financial effect on every person, business, and commodity in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the nation. These serious fuel costs are being passed onto American citizens in households, cities, towns, and businesses.

According to Northbridge Town Manager Theodore D. Kozak, "With the rising cost, the towns and cities in Massachusetts, as well as those in every other state in our country, are straining to maintain their basic highway, water, sewer, police, and fire departments. This also impacts the maintenance of ambulance service, busing for children, and the upkeep of schools."

Gas stations and heating oil distributors, food processors and distributors, clothing manufacturers and retailers, are all experiencing dramatic increases in energy costs. All types of transportation, air travel, passenger trains, trucking for food and commerce, not to forget household energy bills, are being affected by this crisis.

I am asking all American citizens to help by either calling, writing, emailing or faxing your United States Senators, Representatives in Congress, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Addresses below:

Senator John Kerry
218 Russell Bldg. Second Floor
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: (202) 224-2742
Fax: (202) 228-4221
<http://www.kerry.senate.gov/>

Congressman Edward Markey
2108 Rayburn House office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-2836
<http://markey.house.gov/>

Senator Scott Brown
317 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: (202) 224-4543
Fax: (202) 228-2646
<http://www.scottbrown.senate.gov/>

Chairman Gary Gensler
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
(CFTC)
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street NW
Washington, DC 20581
Tel: (202) 418-5050
Fax: (202) 418-5533
<http://www.cftc.gov/contact/index.htm>
<http://www.cftc.gov/about/commissioners/garygensler/index.htm>

Congressman Richard E. Neal
2208 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-5601
Fax: (202) 225-8112
<http://www.house.gov/neal/>

COMMENT

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARIAT

2011 APR - 6 PM 2:40

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It is imperative that Congress makes certain that all efforts are being made through the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to protect the American people from market manipulation during this period of record prices for groceries, energy, and everything bought at stores for daily living.

In Deuteronomy 6:18 we are enjoined to "Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight so that it may go well with you." Further in verse 25 we are assured that "...if we are careful to obey this law,...that will be our righteousness."

God bless us all in this endeavor,

George A. Warren
George A. Warren



23 Elm St. Southbridge, MA 01550 Telephone: (508) 909-4126 Fax: (508) 764-8013 www.blackstonevalleytribune.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI President & Publisher

ADAM MINOR Editor

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on debt and Social Security

To the Editor: The purpose of NASA is now clear. Obama needs NASA to explore and find additional planets from which he can borrow money to pay to his voting base...

"unsustainable," and they behave as though avoidance and denial will make all of this go away.

On a related topic, and with all due respect to loved friends and family who receive Social Security payments -- we cannot escape a national obligation of indebtedness without melting down the golden Ponzi Scheme created in the image of FDR.

I truly hope that the money I have paid into "Social Security" as a result of my Security being abruptly dismantled in this decade. I would be happy in knowing that there won't be another generation who will be systematically robbed in order to pay my generation.

JIM LADINE WHITINSVILLE

Don't let litter trash the region's natural beauty

To the Editor,

Saturday, March 12th was a lovely introduction to spring. The sun shone, sap ran from maple trees along the Blackstone River at River Bend Farm.

quiet beauty "trashed" with litter along the sides of the trail -- coffee cups, plastic tops, drinking bottles/straws, a variety of paper.

I filled both hands and vowed to return on Sunday, better equipped, to remove more. If you see trash, remove it.

Please, don't leave to others what you can do. It takes only a moment to make life better for everyone, not just at River Bend.

JANE F. KEEGAN UXBRIDGE

Action over rising fuel costs

To the Editor,

The ongoing record climb of oil/fuel prices in our country is having an extremely detrimental financial effect on every person, business, and commodity in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the nation.

Washington, DC 20515. Tel: (202) 225-2836, http://markey.house.gov/

Senator Scott Brown: 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Tel: (202) 224-4543. Fax: (202) 228-2646. http://www.scottbrown.senate.gov/

Chairman Gary Gensler: Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), 3 Lafayette Center, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20591. Tel: (202) 418-6560. Fax: (202) 418-6533. http://www.cftc.gov/contact/index.htm, http://www.cftc.gov/about/commissioners/garygensler/index.htm

Congressman Richard E. Neal: 2208 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Tel: (202) 225-5601. Fax: (202) 225-8112. http://www.house.gov/real/

It is imperative that Congress makes certain that all efforts are being made through the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to protect the American people from market manipulation during this period of record prices for groceries, energy, and everything bought at stores for daily living.

In Deuteronomy 6:18 we are enjoined to, "Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight so that it may go well with you." Further in verse 25 we are assured that "...if we are careful to obey this law ... that will be our righteousness."

God bless us all in this endeavor;

GEORGE A. WARREN

George

COMMENTARY

The worst part

Some days I absolutely love my job. The creativity, the interactions with the public, meeting new people, listening to interesting stories and putting out a newspaper worth reading (at least in my humble opinion...)

Then some days, I really hate my job. I felt like this over the weekend as I learned that a young Dudley boy, Mark DiBona, 4, had fallen off an escalator at the Auburn Mall and later died from his injuries in a tragic incident.



THE MINOR DETAILS ADAM MINOR

Stories like this are the worst part of the job.

I don't know the family of the boy, and I know more press is the last thing they want right now in this time of loss, but unfortunately, sometimes the nature of the job means addressing subjects that are hard to talk about.

Certainly, this falls under that category. It's tough to see a story like this in the pages of a newspaper -- but news, no matter how tragic -- is news.

This doesn't mean we are calloused or cynical. Yes, we do deal with a lot of dark subject matter on a daily basis. But we pride ourselves in the fact that we are exactly the opposite of calloused or cynical.

So, instead of using this space to expound on the nature of hard news and media sensitivity I'm going to simply say that from all of us here at Stonebridge Press and the Auburn News, our condolences go out to the DiBona family during this time.

We hope that through the darkness you are facing, you will find hope. If you are reading this, know that we are all thinking about you.

Adam Minor may be reached at 508-909-4130, or by e-mail at aminor@stonebridgepress.com.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us! Mail your letters to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at aminor@stonebridgepress.com.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published. So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Out of place at a carnival parade

I could hear the sharp sound of whips hitting the pavement even before I'd untangled my feet from the cobblestones that lined the streets of the Slovenian town of Ptuj.



KRISTAL KLEAR

For a moment, the parade had stopped. Two men dressed in traditional Slovenian clothing -- embroidered vests, dark pants, and peasant hats -- were flicking their wrists to show off traditional leather whips.

In a moment, after we reached the edge of the crowd, the men marched forward, and the traditional kurentovanje -- or, Carnival -- parade continued.

Musicians playing folk music on accordions passed by, as did marching bands from neighboring towns in Slovenia and nearby countries, including Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Austria and Croatia.

Some groups were dressed in elaborate costumes -- one homemade float featured more than a dozen adults and children dressed as giant squirrels. Another long float represented the Kupa River, which runs along Slovenia's border with Croatia.

While neither Ptuj nor the crowd gathered could rival the size of an American Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the gathering was quite large for Slovenia's standards. Each year it is estimated that around 70,000 people gather on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, known as Shrove Sunday, to watch parades across Slovenia, with 6,000 or so people participating in them.

The most significant portion of the parade included the most traditional elements: close to 1,000 kurenti, who look like bears with horns. While unmarried men traditionally played the role of kurenti, nowadays married men, women, and even children can don pelts of sheep skin, covering their whole bodies, only their eyes peering out through a wooden mask.

The kurenti jumped and shimmed down the streets of Ptuj as I looked on, letting their bells clang loudly in hopes of scaring away winter.

All of a sudden, right out of the crowd, a large kurent approached me. Reaching out his hand, I wasn't sure what he wanted. I wanted to sink into the ground or run away, never being one to eagerly answer the call: "Can we get a volunteer from the audience?"

Next I lined up the kurenti was a group of young men dressed in traditional peasant clothing, running out into the crowd trying to kiss girls or earn kisses themselves, adding one more set of lipstick stained kisses to their faces.

Carnival consists of 10 or more days of parades and masquerade parties all around the country. It's not uncommon for children and adults alike to prepare as many as three different costumes for the celebration, which is a less commercial and more intense version of Halloween: children often go door to door asking for a mandarin or small change, reciting a phrase at the door that kind of resembles the concept of "trick or treat" when translated.

This year, Ptuj was celebrating the 60th anniversary of its modern carnival. It was elected to the European Federation of Carnival Cities in 1991, and it will serve as a European Capital of Culture in 2012.

Turn to REARDON page A5



was sent:

July 16, 2008

The Honorable Walter Lukken ✓
Acting Chairman
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street NW
Washington, DC 20581

Dear Mr. Lukken:

It is imperative that Congress makes an effort to bring the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to protect the American people from the market manipulation at this time of record prices of oil/fuel in our nation.

We the undersigned protest the out of control high costs of oil/fuel, natural gas, electricity, clothing and food prices. **We need your help** to take action now rather than September 15, 2008. Enclosed are the signed "Citizens Petition".

Sincerely,

George A. Warren

George A. Warren
293 Linwood Ave.
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Encl.

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy ✓
Senator John Kerry ✓
Representative Richard Neal ✓
Representative Edward Markey ✓
Representative George Peterson ✓

CITIZEN'S PETITION

COPY

1 of 8
WAS sent:
JULY 16, 2008

OUT OF CONTROL OIL INCREASES, THAT EFFECT EVERYONE

We the undersigned protest against the unreasonably high costs of ever rising gas, electricity, petrol and food prices.

We need Walter Lukken (Acting Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission) to take action now, rather than September 15, 2008 to answer to the U.S. Congressional Committee.

"Why is CFTC not protecting the American people from market manipulation during a time of record prices at the pumps? Also, its effect of out of control oil / fuel Commodity is hurting every person and business in Massachusetts and in our nation."

This Citizens Petition will be forwarded to: United States Representative (Massachusetts), Richard E. Neal; U.S. Congressional, 2208 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 by July 31, 2008.

George A. Warren	Carl Burszewski
William J. Spratt	Robert Wynn
Paula DeLougher	Brian Goodwin
Willard J. Dalrymple	Ronald P. Smith
Madeline Jacques	Ellen Thomas
Emily Jennings	Brendan Hanson
Tom West	Wynne Crawford
Kim Doyle	Paula Sherry (Bak)
Ken M. Desautels	Ray Peterson
Andra G.	Wendy Wynn
Carolyn Lemmon	Denise Esquivel
Lizbeth Boyd	Juanice Bonner
Kate J. Fortrite	Cynthia Caron
Lynn Tych	Mel DiPaola
Laura Thomas	Sandra
Rosemary Boss	David Sage
Wanda G. Voss	Doug Dalrymple

Total of 8 pages of signatures [250].