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When it comes to spelling bees, Peterborough boy is the big cheese.

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**BRACKET TIME**

FIRST ROUND  
Let the picking begin, page 9  
**FINAL FOUR**

# Police work to fight burglaries

By CASEY FARRAR  
Sentinel Staff

## Rindge chief offers tips

RINDGE — Police in Rindge are asking residents to take steps to avoid becoming another burglary statistic. They're inviting people to a meeting Tuesday to learn about how they can protect themselves. Over the past two years, the town, with a

population of about 6,500 near the Massachusetts border, has logged 42 residential burglaries. Police have made 13 arrests and have a handful pending, according to Police Chief Michael J. Sielicki. "Everyone thinks it's a quiet town and they

should be able to leave their doors unlocked and do things just like they always have," Sielicki said. "But with the economy and a rise in drug abuse we're seeing more and more problems."

That's why police have scheduled the meeting Tuesday night at the Rindge Community Center.

See RINDGE WANTS on Page 4

# States ready to get started

Shumlin welcomes health law waiver

By CHRISTINE VESTAL  
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is encouraging states to develop their own health care plans if they want to, but his announcement of that policy didn't mean much to most governors; right now, they haven't shown signs that they've got alternative plans.

For two governors, however, the president's announcement carried real significance. Those two are Democrats Peter Shumlin of Vermont and John Kitzhaber of Oregon.

Shumlin is promoting a single-payer system that would cover every Vermonter free of charge; Kitzhaber is drawing up a radical change in the way health services are delivered. Both would gain from greater flexibility.

All Obama really did with his Feb. 28 announcement was support a change in the timing of a waiver that already exists in the federal health care law. As written, the law would prevent states from implementing their own plans until 2017. But under congressional legislation that the president now endorses, states could apply for an exemption from key provisions of the federal law that would otherwise take effect in 2014.

The one real catch is this: States would have to prove

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**SLICE OF LIFE**

STEVE GILBERT

# LOSING A DREAM



STEVE HOOPER / Sentinel Staff

Monadnock Fine Art Gallery on Main Street in Keene is shown. Owner Sarah Handford is second from right. Her sister, Susan Landers-Gilbert, office administrator and webmaster for the gallery, is third from left.

## Local art gallery a casualty of the tough economy

Sarah "Sally" Handford sits behind the plain wooden desk in the far corner of her art gallery in downtown Keene, an effervescent smile painted on her face.

Often the smile evolves into a full-throated laugh; rarely does it wane. But you know she's hurting inside.

Handford, 68, is joined by her twin sister Susan Landers-Gilbert — older by two minutes, Susan laughingly points out — who is webmaster and office administrator. Quiet mood music and soft,

dim lighting enconces you in paintings, their colors emanating from the walls.

It has the ambience of a cozy living room.

The only interruption is an occasional visit by employees from Miller Bros.-Newton next door. The banter is friendly — who bakes the best cookies may be the topic du jour — and the in-

side door connecting the Monadnock Fine Art Gallery to the men's fine clothing store is always open. Customers segue through both stores, the flow so natural you'd think they were one.

The gallery wasn't so quiet on Friday, March 4. On that evening, a room full of local artists and friends mingled and admired each other's works. It was full of life, light and laughter.

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## Cooling the nuclear reactor

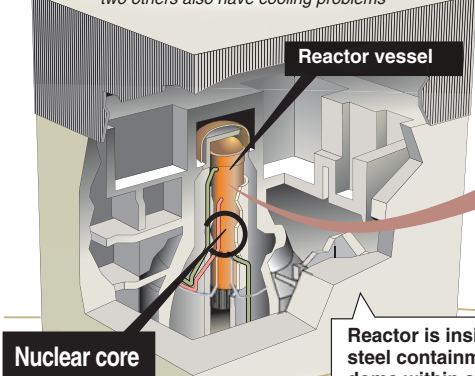
With backup cooling pumps inoperative, Japanese officials have been using seawater to cool fuel rods after an earthquake, tsunami and explosion rocked a seaside nuclear power plant near epicenter of Friday's quake. There have been two more explosions at the plant since then.

### How the plant works

40-year-old Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor applies heat from nuclear reactions in fuel rods directly to water, creating steam, which drives an electricity-generating turbine.

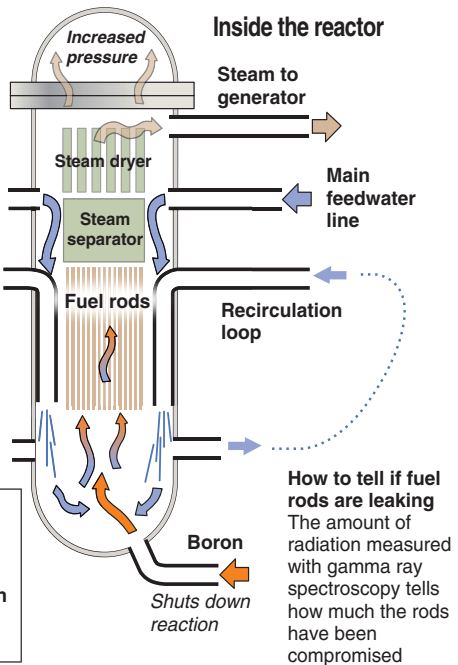
### Reactor building

There are six buildings at Fukushima; two others also have cooling problems.



### Nuclear core

What the quake did  
Cut off power to pumps providing cooling water to fuel rods  
Nuclear core could overheat, increasing risk of meltdown, release of radiation



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Source: Reuters, Wall Street Journal  
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treibler

# Quake's effects still felt

## Former Keene man describes life in Tokyo

By DAVE EISENSTADTER  
Sentinel Staff

When the magnitude 8.9 earthquake hit Japan last week, former Keene resident Jeff Allan felt the ground shake beneath him.

Allan, a former business analyst for C&S Wholesale Grocers, has spent the past year as a technology journalist in a neighborhood of West Tokyo called Chofu.

"Prior to this, the strongest earthquake I experienced was a 7.0; this one blew that away," Allan said in a phone interview with The Sentinel this morning. "It was hard to stand up or walk around and it was pretty scary from that point of view. I'm a former U.S. Marine, and I don't get startled easily."

Since the initial quake, aftershocks

### THE LATEST

- ▶ Approximately 2,000 bodies were found in Miyagi Prefecture on Japan's east coast.
  - ▶ Rolling blackouts are affecting up to 45 million people.
- More on pages 2 and 8

## Earthquake shifted Earth on its axis

LOS ANGELES — Friday's magnitude 8.9 earthquake in Japan shifted Earth on its axis and shortened the length of a day by a hair. In the future, scientists said, it will provide an unusually precise view of how Earth is deformed during massive earthquakes at sites where one plate is sliding

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**DAILY DIGEST**

**SENTINEL WEATHER**

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