



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 14

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 5, 2012

Community Action Heats Up with Higgins at the Helm



Clare Higgins

BY LEE WICKS

GREENFIELD - Until the power goes out and the furnace stops working, most of us do not think about what it means to be cold at home, how debilitating it is to dress in layers and still need to huddle under blankets to stay warm. Clare Higgins, the executive director of Community Action, thinks about this all the time, and she worries, because this year the federal government has made drastic cuts in LIHEAP, the fuel assistance program, administered through her agency. That will translate into a \$50 million shortfall for fuel assistance in Massachusetts from last year, and reduced staffing, and that will mean there's less of

everything in a year when the cost of fuel is high and rising.

Higgins said, "I worry about the elderly, about babies, about children trying to do their homework in cold rooms, and people having to choose between heat, food or necessary medications."

Throughout our region more than 9,000 families of low income receive fuel assistance because they cannot afford to heat their homes. Last year that meant a maximum benefit of \$1,050 for a household that heats with oil. This year, federal cuts have reduced that maximum benefit to \$675.

Higgins said that's barely enough to fill most tanks once.

The maximum natural gas benefit is \$285, down from \$750 last year. People who use gas or electric heat cannot be automatically shut off if they can't pay their bills, but people using oil or propane can. And so they ration fuel, keeping thermostats low. Often too low for health and productivity.

In response to this urgent need, Community Action is activating the Heat Up Program, a fundraising drive that "relies on the kindness of people."

Higgins said so far the response has been generous. "I am grateful to people in the com- see **HIGGINS** page 13

Up on Brushy Mountain Massachusetts Conserves 5.4 Square Acres for \$8.8 Million LARGEST SUCH DEAL SINCE THE 1920s



DETMOLD PHOTO

Brushy Mountain was home to the first colonial settlers of Leverett. Now a 5.4 square mile area comprising most of the mountain will be protected from future development in the largest land conservation deal in Massachusetts since the 1920s. Above, the cellar hole of the Jonathan Glazier homestead up on Brushy Mountain.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - With the stroke of a pen, more than a fifth of the total land area in the town of Leverett was permanently conserved from development, announced Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Secretary Richard Sullivan on Friday, December 23rd. In the largest land conservation deal in Massachusetts since the 1920s, the Department of Fish and Game purchased a conservation restriction on 5.4 square miles of land owned by the W. D. Cowls company of North Amherst, covering most of Brushy Mountain, and adjoining parcels in Shutesbury for the price of \$8.8 million.

The money for the conservation purchase comes from a mix of federal, foundation and state funds; the sale was assisted by the Amherst based Kestrel Trust and Shelburne based Franklin Land Trust.

The conservation restriction allows for Cowls to continue using the land as a sustainable working forest, in accordance with a state forest stewardship plan the details of which are still being determined. The public will still be able to use the land for passive recreation, including hiking, hunting, and fishing, from one hour before dawn to one hour after dusk. Snowmobiling on trails will be permitted in season on designated trails. Other than

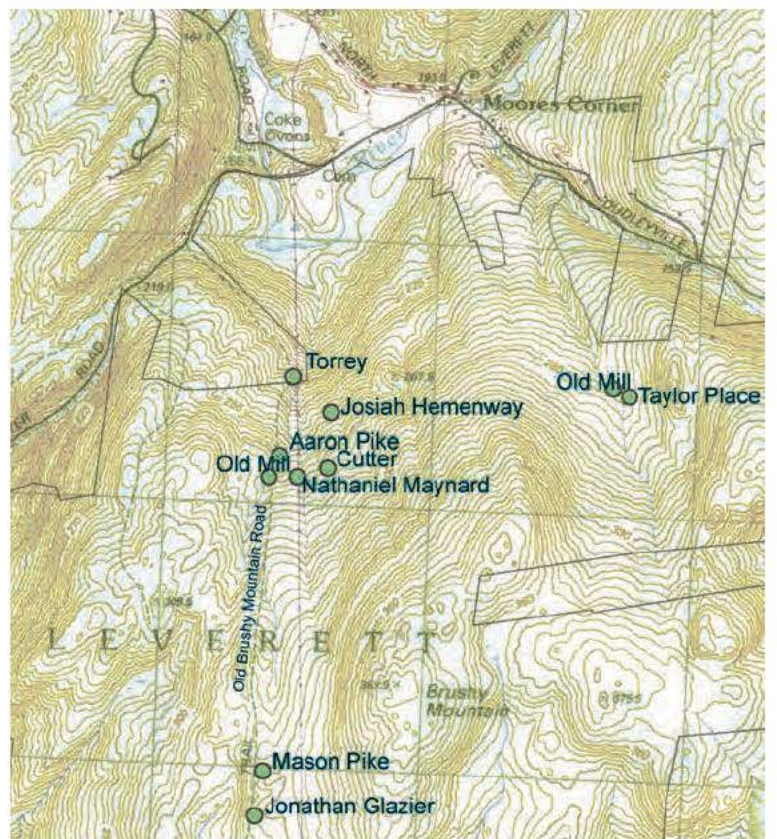
motorized wheelchairs and logging machinery, no other motorized vehicles will be allowed to use the land - a change from past practice for four wheeling enthusiasts.

The Cowls company has reserved about 55 acres of land on Brushy Mountain from the conservation restriction, in a par-

The northwest section of Brushy Mountain contains the remains of a number of 18th Century homesteads.

cel near the north end of Rattlesnake Gutter. Twenty acres of that have been separated and sold to a cousin of the Jones family that has owned and operated Cowls for nine generations, Gabe Wegel, who told the Leverett selectboard last year he would like to build a modest house and barn on that parcel. There has been no word as yet on the Cowls company's plans for the other 35

see **BRUSHY** page 3



A Third Place on the Ave



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jann Rosemerita will direct the Third Place at 56 Avenue A

BY EDITE CUNHA

TURNERS FALLS - There's a great new place on the Avenue: the Third Place. The new green and yellow sign has been readied and will soon hang above the door. And the Third Place - an afterschool program for youth considered at risk of dropping out - will be officially introduced to the community by its founders and supporters at an open house to be held on Wednesday, January 11th, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Housed in a spacious storefront in the historic Crocker Building at 56 Avenue A, the Third Place is a bright place: comfortable with couches, well-equipped with technology and resources, and brimming with possibilities for young participants, as well as for the community at large.

The Third Place, which has received a nine month start up academic support grant from the see **THIRD** page 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Huge Personality



Ivan

I'm a one-year-old male short hair cat named Ivan. Someone must think I look like a Russian Blue, hence my name. I would like my kingdom to include humans, but not felines, as I can be quite rough with other kitties. I adore interactive play with people, though. My favorite toys are ping pong balls and birds on strings. I've also loved milk jug rings, but don't give them to me - I love them so much I eat them.

My personality is so huge I could include on my resume "sleuth" and "stand-up comic" (with commendations from my previous home). Now that your interest is piqued, please come meet me and maybe you'll take me home. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org to find out more about me.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Read Aloud for Adults, Tales & Tunes for Children

Friends of the New Salem Public Library announce the 2012 season of *Reading Aloud for Grown-ups* presented once a month on a Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free with donations gratefully accepted.

Refreshments are available for purchase. Proceeds go to the Friends of the New Salem Public Library.

- Wednesday, January 11th (snow date January 18th) - Mary-Ann Palmieri and Doug Turner
- Wednesday, February 8th (snow

date February 15th) - Janet and Bo Henderson

• Wednesday, March 7th (snow date March 14th) - Joey Lavalle and Dee Waterman

• Wednesday April 11th - Travis Miller and Richard Trousdell

The Community Network for Children presents a series of *Tales & Tunes* on Thursdays, January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the New Salem Public Library, 22 South Main St. New Salem

CARNEGIE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS



Lydia Fox of Turners Falls read to her younger brother at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Thursday, December 29th

NMH SCHOOL AND MOUNT GRACE LAND TRUST PROTECT SCENIC TRAIL

NORTHFIELD - Across from the Northfield Town Forest, New England's National Scenic Trail heads east to climb Mount Grace. Northfield Mount Hermon School has now protected this section of the trail, selling 117-acres of land, including three quarters miles of trail, to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust as part of the Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy Project.

Mount Grace plans to transfer the property to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. It will be added to the Northfield State Forest. "This land gives access to the Northfield State Forest and the

Great Swamp from the west," said Mount Grace conservation director David Graham Wolf. "We have a truly awe inspiring wetland system and wilderness back there. The property is part of a nearly 8,000-acre roadless area, making it a very significant biodiversity hot spot for our region... a big win for land conservation in Massachusetts."

The Gill Tavern will host its monthly trivia night on January 5th as a benefit, with proceeds from the \$5 player entry fee donated to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The winning team will receive a \$40 gift certificate to the Gill Tavern. Join the fun for free popcorn and dis-

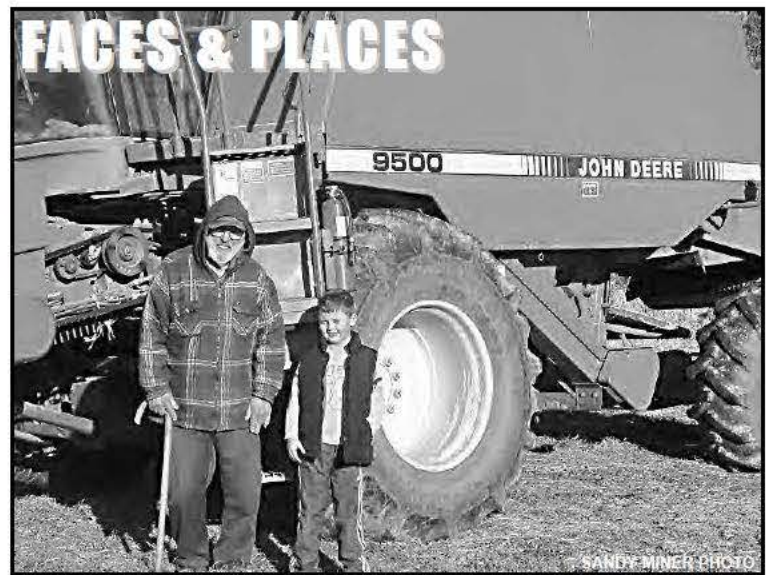
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - January 9th through 13th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

- Monday, January 9th**
 9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
 1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
- Tuesday, January 10th**
 10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
 1:00 p.m. Personal Safety Program with Lieutenant Sue Corey
- Wednesday, January 11th**
 9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appoint-

- ment
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, January 12th**
 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, January 13th**
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
 1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308, for meal information and reservations. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.



Mieczu Mieczkowski, age 78, third generation farmer, stands with his great nephew, Christopher Miner, age seven, fifth generation farmer's helper, at his Ferry Road farm in Montague.

SAWMILL RIVER 10K RUN RESULTS
Montague Parks & Recreation Department

2011 ended on a high note, as Montague Parks & Recreation hosted their Annual Sawmill River 10K run in Montague Center on Saturday, December 31. 129 runners from throughout the area and as far away as Indianapolis and Washington D.C. braved the cold and wet to participate in this New Year's tradition.

Andrew Best was the overall winner with a time of 34:53. Kelsey Allen was the female winner with a final time of 42:09. Results per Division are as follows: Youth Division (Ages

18 & Under) - Female; Hope Werenski (49:26), Male; Charlie Hale (36:47), Open Division (Ages 19-39) - Female; Allen (42:09), Men; Best (34:53), Master Division (Ages 40-49) - Women; Julie Kumble (49:41), Men; Ken Clark (39:28), Senior Division (Ages 50-59) - Women; Sidney Letendre (43:26), Men; William Julien (41:58), Senior + Division (60 & Up) - Women; Carol Ball (68:39), Men; David Martula (45:12). Proceeds from the event benefit MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS!
 Week of January 10th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
 2nd Floor
 Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850
 ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
 PHONE 413-863-8666
 reporter@montaguema.net
 Postmaster: Send address changes to
 The Montague Reporter
 58 4th Street
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:
 \$20 for 1/2 Year

Red Fire Farm
Organic Vegetables, Flowers, Eggs, Fruit!

Our Farmstand stocks fresh produce, plus honey, specialty cheeses, pickles, jams, and more from excellent local producers!

Old Depot Gardens 413-467-7645
 504 Turners Falls Rd, Montague
 1/4 mile from the Bookmill
www.redfirefarm.com

counted pints and pizza on tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Gill Tavern, 326 Main Road, Gill.

MONTAGUE
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town of Montague will be picking up Christmas Trees until Friday January 13, 2012. Trees can be left curbside. In the event of snow, it is recommended that you move the tree away from the curb for plowing purposes. Trees can also be brought to the transfer station on Wednesdays or Saturdays during normal hours.

Feel Like a Brand New Person!
 With a Haircut at **Ed's Barber Shop**

74 Avenue A • 863-2085
 Crew Products • Gift Certificates
 "56 Years on the Ave"

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

(413) 773-3622



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Leverett Peace Commission presents Chris Hellman, senior research analyst at the National Priorities Project with a talk entitled, "What Pentagon Spending Means to Your Community: What is Behind the Numbers?" on Friday January 13th, starting at 7:00 p.m. The program will be held at Leverett town hall, 9 Montague Road, followed by a community discussion.

The next **Montague Business Association** member meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Burrito Rojo, 50 3rd Street, in Turners Falls. All Montague Businesses and residents are welcome to attend.

Join Steve Damon, founder and lead educator of "A Natural Music School" at an international folk dance for the whole family at Greenfield Savings Bank's community room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 7th, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The dance will be lots of fun for children of all ages. Home schooled children will be given a certificate of participation for music education activities.

Reserving a spot is encouraged, call 863-4316.

The next **Genealogy Gathering** will take place at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Wednesday, January 11th starting at 6:00 p.m. There is a lot of controversy (yes, genealogy controversy!) surrounding the government's intention to limit access to the Social Security death index which is valuable to genealogy research. Stop by and find out more.

New England Learning Center for Women in Transition's **Annual Bowlathon 2012** will be held Saturday, January 28th at the French King Bowling Center, Route 2, in Erving. For more information call 413-772-0871.

Gill's Winter Farmers Market is scheduled for Saturday, January 14th, at the Gill Elementary School, 48 Boyle Road, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The market is sponsored by the Gill agricultural commission. Come purchase local greens, squashes, potatoes, storage crops, cheeses, eggs, honey, pork and more! For more info, call: 413-863-2850.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

BRUSHY from page 1

acres, or why they were kept out of the conserved area.

On the 3,486 acres covered by the conservation restriction - now to be known as the Paul C. Jones Working Forest - the Cows company has given up the right to put up any permanent structures, including windmills and cell phone towers, protecting the vast interior of Brushy Mountain from development in perpetuity.

"I've lived with the sense that Brushy Mountain is always going to be here," said Eva Gibavic, a member of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust who hikes the land regularly with her dogs, Mobius and Mercedes. "At the same time, I've had the fear that it could be developed. It's pretty wonderful that it's now protected."

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau has called Brushy Mountain "the heart of Leverett." Historical tracts refer to Brushy as home to the original colonial settlers in what became the town of Leverett. Old cellar holes still dot the landscape along what was once a travelled road over the Mountain from the Gutter to Rat Hollow Road. The stone foundations of two old mill sites and an ancient well can still be found along the way.

Lee Glazier, recalling his family's original homesteads on the mountain at a talk sponsored by the Leverett historical society in 2008, said, "Glaziers were one of the first settlers on Brushy Mountain, over here. Jonathan Glazier, who came from Oakham, down by Worcester, built the house in 1790. Jonathan had ten children, and one of his children, Ebenezer, had eight, all on that Brushy Mountain."

In his 1993 UMass dissertation, *Back Up on Brushy, Folk Regional Identity in the Sawmill Valley*, Michael Hoberman cited local historian Clifford Blinn on the origins of the first colonial settlement in Leverett.

"Years and years and years ago," Blinn told Hoberman, "that's where they first settled when they came into this area, was Brushy Mountain. And then years and years later they moved down into the valleys from there. That's where they built their houses and had their farms."

Hoberman, an English professor at Fitchburg State, interviewed a number of Leverett residents for his dissertation, which formed the basis for his book, *Yankee Moderns*, and many of his interviewees plainly regarded Brushy Mountain as central to the town's history and cultural identity.

Bill Fleming, who married into the Watson family when he moved to Leverett in the 1940s, recalled his mother-in-law Verdie Watson telling how her family homestead came to be located on

Brushy Mountain. "She said when the original Watsons bought their land here in 1795, he put his cane here and he said, 'This is we're going to build the house. This is where the front door will be.' And that's where the house was built. And the reason, she said, why did you build it up on the hill, it's so hard to get to and everything... in those days, that Indians were still around and they would come up the river and hunt and whatnot. And although they weren't hostile, they still had to keep an eye out for them. So they were up on the hill and they could watch the Sawmill River, this is the way I heard it anyway."

Loyce Dunbar, whose Glazier and Hemenway ancestors both came from Brushy Mountain, told Hoberman, "My great-grandfather, Ebenezer Nigh Glazier, lived on Brushy Mountain, and his brother Benjamin came from Oakham, you know, he moved with a pair of oxen. And my aunt [Ruby Hemenway] wrote down a lot of things, and one of the things was, of course, there weren't as many trees on Brushy Mountain then as there is now. Probably was brush. But they said on a clear day they could look, you know, and see the steeple down in Leverett. Of course the trees weren't growing then. And they, if anyone [in town] was sick, they'd [Brushy Mountain people] go out and listen at morning and night. And the bell would toll for the number of years they were. And they would ring the bell to tell in how many days the funeral was."

On a calm, unusually warm New Year's Day, not many were enjoying the right to hike the trails on Brushy Mountain. The giant skidders working the logging road by the power line at the north end of the conserved acreage sat quietly in the mud, felled trees stacked in long rows nearby.

Ice formed a thin skin on the wetland swamps near the Gutter, in the shade of stately hemlocks. A steady drip of water dropped from the tips of their branches as the thick fog, still snagged in the treetops, gradually burned away.

Higher up, the sun came through, and the landscape opened up. Outcroppings of granite mingled with stands of oak and birch. A southing breeze moved through the branches, rattling the last dead leaves and

softly knocking together branches with a sound like the tocking of a far off grandfather clock. Brushy

is home to moose, black bear, white tailed deer, bobcat and many other species. Gibavic said she has run into coyotes on the mountain, and seen something with a long tail very like a mountain lion (but don't tell that to the folks from Fish and Game).

Gibavic knows the trails that crisscross the mountain, and she can lead the way to the old mill-sites, the old cellar holes, many still marked with handpainted signs detailing which families once lived on these homesteads.


Forest Briggs put up those signs during the 1974 bicentennial of the town. The long labor that went into moving the field stone to build these foundations still impresses a casual visitor.

Other stone formations of less obvious purpose dot the landscape on Brushy, and Gibavic can find these as well.

"I wander through these woods and I find these things," she said. "I have all my life. I have them mapped in my brain."

Some of the piled stone structures are like standing columns, five feet wide and perhaps six feet tall. Other stone structures are U-shaped, with openings to certain points in the celestial compass, Gibavic said.

"When we think of Brushy Mountain, and when the land was first settled by white folks, I don't think we have the understanding that the Native occupation of this land went back thousands and thousands of years. It's quite possible that these stone groupings were built by them."

Leverett's history and heritage on Brushy Mountain has now been preserved for future generations to discover. Moose and deer and bear will be able to walk unimpeded for miles, with more conservation land abutting Brushy to the west and east. The natural wonders of the mountain landscape will remain unspoiled by development, while the working forest will continue to provide a sustainable harvest for generations to come. 

Rabid Fox Bites Turners Man

A rabid fox attacked and bit a man walking on Walnut Street on December 15th, 2011. The man, David Svoboda of Turners Falls, has undergone a series of rabies shots. "He completed the post exposure series," said McNeely, director of the Montague Board of Health. "I don't think the post exposure series has ever failed."

Massachusetts health officials are also dealing this week with the first confirmed case of human rabies in the state in 75 years. A 60-year old Barnstable man was bitten by a rabid bat, and subsequently hospitalized in Boston where he remains in critical condition, in an induced coma.

Rabies is generally rapidly fatal once the virus takes effect.

A rabid animal can spread the virus to humans and other animals only through a bite, scratch, or the introduction of the infected animal's saliva into a person's eyes, nose, mouth, or a fresh open wound. Rabies is transmitted only through the rabid animal's saliva and not through its blood.

The Montague board of health reminds the public to protect themselves and their pets from rabies by these simple steps:

Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies and their shots are current. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies. Pets

bridge rabies in the animal and human population.

Avoid wild animals, especially bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons. Do not feed or pet strays. Avoid any animal - wild, farm or pet - that you do not know. Report any animal that behaves oddly to your local animal control official.

Teach children to avoid wildlife, strays and all other animals they do not know.

Do not handle dead, sick, or injured wild animals; call the police or animal control officer. If you must handle the animal, use heavy gloves, sticks or other tools to avoid direct contact.

Feed pets indoors and keep them in at night. If they are out during the day, keep them on a leash or fenced in so they cannot wander. Although rare, it is possible for vaccinated pets to get rabies. Pets allowed to roam freely are more at risk of rabies.

Fasten trash can lids tightly. Garbage attracts animals (like skunks, raccoons and strays) looking for an easy meal.

Anyone who has had contact with an aggressive fox lately (foxes range up to seven miles, so it is not just Walnut Street residents who should be concerned) should contact their physician and their board of health. For more info, call the Montague health board at 863-3200 x 205.

Free Checking!
Free Cash! Free Gift!

What's not to love?

 **GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK**
282 Avenue A, Turners Falls ■ 413-863-4316
www.greenfieldsavings.com
Member FDIC ■ Member DIF

IN GOOD COMPANY
SKILLED, INTENTIONAL COMPANIONSHIP
FOR ELDERS AND OTHERS



SITA LANG 413-834-7569
HOSPICE TRAINED, CPR CERTIFIED

413-774-4700


Community Yoga
& WELLNESS CENTER

beginners welcome


www.Community-Yoga.com

change your body
change your mind
change your life

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302


CHEVROLET

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Brian Sadlowski
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design
Claudia Wells - Art Director
Katren Hoyden
Janel Nockleby

Photography
Claudia Wells
Joe Parzych

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
Shira Hillel
Gloria Kegeles

Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Technical Administrator
Michael Muller

"The Voice of the Villages"

Circulation
Janel Nockleby

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Indefinite Detention in a Post-Constitution America

What has just occurred quietly over the holiday weekend, as Barack Obama, vacationing in Hawaii, signed a \$662 billion National Defense Appropriation Act (NDAA) into law, represents not only a great waste of human resources for the purpose of preparing for and continuing to fight foreign wars, but also codifies into law the president's authority to indefinitely detain American citizens without trial for as long as our so-called War on Terror continues.

The law further constrains this president, and any president, from transferring the 171 prisoners held without charge or trial from Guantanamo Bay to the United States or any other country, despite the fact that a majority of those prisoners, held now for a decade, have been cleared for transfer by the administration's Guantanamo Review Task Force.

The day after his inauguration, Obama issued Executive Order #2, establishing that interagency review team, with representation from nine of 15 cabinet positions. The Task Force reviewed voluminous records pertaining to each prisoner and cleared 89 of the remaining Guantanamo detainees for transfer.

But last year, and now again with the NDAA, those transfers have been effectively blocked by Congress, and Obama's pledge to close Guantanamo has receded into a future bound only by the life spans of the inmates held there without charge or recourse to trial.

Obama has transferred just 64 detainees from Guantanamo since he took office. Bush transferred 510. Eighty-nine are cleared for transfer, but now remain locked in a grim, perpetual limbo. And Obama has announced that 46 more of the remaining detainees will be held in indefinite detention, without trial. Why? The government couldn't win against them in court, because the evidence against these men is inadmissible, because the evidence against them is the product of torture.

Buz Eisenberg, an Ashfield lawyer, represented Farhi Saeed

bin Mohammed, the last man to be transferred out of Guantanamo – one year ago – before Congress effectively slammed the door on the president's power to transfer even the 89 detainees cleared for release from Guantanamo.

"In *Farhi Saeed bin Mohammed v Obama*, we won an important habeas case in which the judge ruled that evidence procured by torture is inadmissible in US courts," said Eisenberg. "In this case, a man's penis has been razor bladed, he had cuts all over his body, horrific torture. The judge ruled that evidence produced by torture was inadmissible and that Farhi was illegally detained and should be released. The primary evidence the government offered to support its claim that he was involved with terror came from a man who, after being brought by the CIA and the British MI5 to Morocco for torture, implicated 40 men. He later recanted and told authorities he had said whatever was necessary to get them to stop the torture, and he apologized to our client, whom he did not even know."

But Eisenberg maintains, "Evidence resulting from enhanced interrogation was deemed reliable under Bush, and Obama's Justice Department sadly continues to maintain that same position."

All the Guantanamo litigations turn on the Authorization of Military Force granted initially to President Bush, one week after the attacks of September 11th, 2001, continued Eisenberg in a phone interview on January 2nd. "That Congressional grant of authority gave the president the power to use military force against anyone he determines to have engaged in or supported terror: The language of this ostensible funding bill, the NDAA, says that the president may exercise that discretion against anyone, anywhere he contends has engaged in or supported 'hostilities' against the US or one of its allies, or who has committed 'a belligerent act'. It invites the president to use military force against such people, organizations, or nations, whether or not

those people are captured in the US or captured abroad."

Under this authorization, the army could be used to capture or kill individuals the administration regards as hostile or belligerents here in America, for example, even if those suspects are American citizens – without ever charging them with anything. No charges, no trial, no Miranda warnings... no due process under this amendment to a 'funding bill.'

Eisenberg has represented six other Guantanamo detainees, pro bono, as part of a nationwide network of lawyers organized originally by the Center for Constitutional Rights. "I represented them in habeas petitions, which means we challenge the lawfulness of their detention," said Eisenberg. "But I haven't been able to defend any of them because none of them have ever been charged with anything. That's why indefinite detention is so horrific, because if you don't charge somebody they never have a chance to be defended."

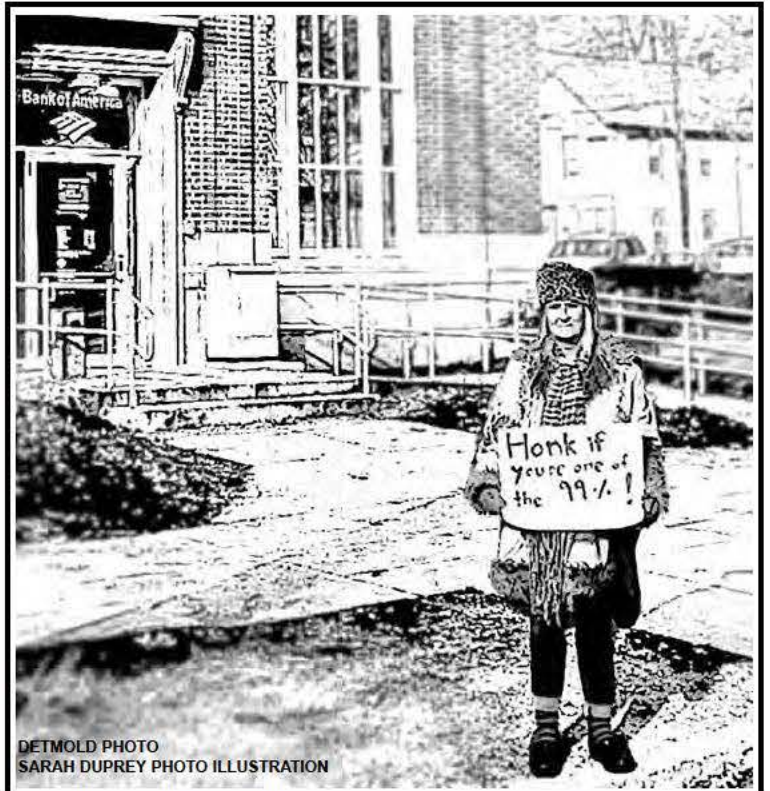
Indefinite detention and enhanced interrogation are just logical extensions of the virtually unbridled executive power granted by Congress in the Authorization of Military Force (AUMF), hurriedly passed on September 18th, 2001.

Eisenberg explained, "The government takes the position that Congress granted the president the legal right to kill in the AUMF. If you can kill them, you can torture them. If you can torture them, you can hold them indefinitely. That's what the Justice Department argued under Bush, and they take the same position under Obama. That's how attenuated their view of Constitutional democracy is. And whether a Constitutional scholar like Obama gets in there or not, it's all about power, just like the president before him. And power is boundless in time of war."

Eisenberg called the NDAA "a body blow to the separation of powers and the constitutional notion of fairness. It's a Congressional power grab, and an enhancement of the president's power at the expense of the fundamental right to due process."

"The great irony," added Eisenberg, paraphrasing his colleague Wells Dixon, "is that this act has passed in a year of the Arab Spring in North Africa, Syria and Yemen. People around the world are taking to the streets to cast off authoritarian regimes, the markers for which are indefinite detention and the lack of due process. It's so hypocritical that the U.S. has now become a worldwide symbol of those very markers, taking violent action

see AMERICA page 5



DETMOLD PHOTO
SARAH DUPREY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Among the indelible images of 2011 were scenes of protest against income inequality and financial skulduggery on Wall Street. Here in Turners, Maure Briggs Carrington keeps the Occupy Movement alive each day in front of the Bank of America from noon to one p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is Gill Picking a Battle with Larry Krejmas?

I have been a resident of Gill for more than ten years, and we live less than a half mile from Mr. Krejmas' property [MR X#13 – *Larry Krejmas Presents his Side of the Story*]. He and my husband have been friends for years. I drive by Mr. Krejmas' property every day going to work, and I have to say it has never occurred to me to think of that property as a junkyard. I don't even notice it as I go by. I have been there several times and never been offended by the "look" of the property.

It doesn't seem that the town of Gill had any issue with Mr. Krejmas until Mr. Chickering moved in next door. Mr. Chickering bought his home knowing that Mr. Krejmas' property was there. It was no surprise. It seemed to me that Mr. Krejmas went out of his way to try to satisfy Mr. Chickering,

putting up the fence, cleaning up and putting things under cover, etc. From what I have heard, Mr. Chickering has been complaining about Mr. Krejmas since day one. Back door complaining and back door politics. Can't stand either one.

Mr. Chickering claims he hasn't been able to sell his property due to its proximity to Mr. Krejmas' property. I would venture to guess it has more to do with the high asking price than anything else.

I can't recall any other neighbor having any issue with Mr. Krejmas. The town, it seems, picks its battles. It just makes me wonder why they are picking at this man so hard - a nice man who has done a lot for his community and his church!

- Cindy Hunter
Gill

Sawmill River 10K Run Thanks

On Saturday, December 31st, Montague Parks & Recreation held their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. 129 runners from all over the region (and beyond) participated in this major fundraising event that supports MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program. The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Renaissance Builders, Turn It Up Music, About Face Computer Solutions, Greenfield Savings Bank, Judd Wire, and Red Fire Farm for their generous financial support. We would also thank Montague Grange No.

141, Foster's Supermarket, Stop & Shop Supermarket, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, Clarkdale Farms, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for much needed supplies, materials and other critical services.

Considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, and the countless number of volunteers who spent a good portion of their day helping us out.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated on New Year's Eve Day. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you again for the next Sawmill Run.

-Jon Dobosz
Director
Parks & Recreation
Town of Montague

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for half year subscription

\$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 1/4/12

Wounded: 14342

Deaths: 1865

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

reporter@montaguema.net

Word around Town

on New Year's Eve



Walter Burnham; Montague Center

2011 was a good year personally, but not a good year globally in terms of climate change, and not a good year nationally in regards to disturbing political trends. There's a huge capacity for denial, and people have a short memory for the root causes of things. Personally, it was wonderful to work on the streetside renovation for Leverett Arts and Crafts, a great community resource. In 2012, I look forward to continuing piano studies and making my house more energy efficient.

Sally Prasz; Montague Center

In 2012, I want to work more towards helping people in need, specifically in Japan. I'd like to raise money to send to people there who are still suffering from the tsunami. I also hope politicians will be more true to what we really need as a nation.



Jo and Sam; Turners Falls

We're hoping for good health for both of us, and more money in 2012.



David May; Turners Falls

2012? More of the same. I think most people are having a tough time. It can't go on forever. Since the early 90s, the real estate market just didn't make sense. With wages stalled, I'm surprised it took this long to come to a head. It just feels like a long, slow motion train wreck. Grace under pressure is the new mantra.



Elen Spring; Turners Falls

I hope to get a new knee this year. I hope to be healthier. The year is starting off with a fundraiser for the Unity Park Skate Park, so when we meet our local match (\$140,000) the town can apply for a grant for the rest. I'm hopeful for 2012 personally, professionally, and community-wise.



Paul Mariani; Montague Center

Personally, 2011 was a fine year. If you think about it and try to live in the moment, then there are blessings in every day. Professionally, it was exciting to work with James Franco on a 90-minute feature film about the life of Hart Crane. Looking ahead to 2012, I would like to engage in more physical activity and do as much good in the world as I can.

that it now precludes sending those men back as part of a negotiated settlement to the war in Afghanistan. So more U.S. soldiers could die as a result of this amendment – to a Defense Department funding bill.”

Eisenberg says such legislative constraints, in his view, are clearly unconstitutional. “This breaches the separation of powers. Only the president has the right to conduct foreign policy. Congress just funds it, and approves treaties.” And he takes issue with Congress attaching stipulations purporting to govern how the commander-in-chief conducts counterterrorism activity to an annual defense appropriation, “as if funding the military can be conditioned to a political

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

High Speed Access Plan

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Leverett is working with a consultant – G4S Technology – to design the town's last mile high speed fiber access network to hook up residents' homes and businesses to the internet and a full range of cable services. The selectboard intends to bring a package, including a business plan for operating the active Ethernet system and a financing package for implementing the plan to annual town meeting this spring, selectboard member Peter d'Errico said this week. The cost could run into the millions of dollars; it will be G4S's role to determine the least cost financing mechanism for residents to pay for the installation of high speed fiber.

The selectboard met with G4S project manager Andy McAadoo and construction manager Gary Duvall and the town's broadband committee – Rob Brooks, Dan Williams, Richard Nathhorst, and Crocker Communications consultant Matt Crocker to kick off the project on Tuesday, January 2nd.

D'Errico said, “We went over in detail our intentions to do an all inclusive fiber network to the home of every resident and in the design process to also look at the possibility of hooking up other contiguous neighborhoods in adjacent towns, such as Chestnut Hill in Montague and Lake Wyola in Shutesbury, where the town's network could be easily

extended.

D'Errico said the town was responding positively to requests from these nearby neighborhoods, and a separate financing arrangement would have to be worked out for these neighborhoods, outside the boundaries of Leverett.

“As one of the components of the consulting contract with G4S, they will provide us with information about the possibility of loans and grants that would help us with the build out,” he added.

Leverett tapped G4S out of four consultants who responded to a request for proposals, after the Massachusetts Broadband Institute awarded the town a \$40,000 planning and implementation grant for the last mile network. As it happens, G4S is also the company designing and building the middle mile fiber network for MBI to anchor community institutions – like town halls, libraries, schools, and other municipal centers – in 123 under-served communities in central and western Massachusetts.

D'Errico said G4S, which has installed large networks around the country, and also very small fiber networks to towns the size of Washington, Mass (population 538). He said the final component of the contract would have G4S provide Leverett with “advice and options on business plans – the operational side of the whole thing, to show how the network could be easily

debate about the best way to wage a ‘war on terror’.”

He noted, “One section of the NDAA requires Guantanamo detainees, if they are ever to be brought to trial, to be tried in military rather than civilian courts, effectively circumventing the justice system that has served our country well for more than two centuries. Prosecution by the Department of Justice in our federal courts is replaced by military commissions, which would have exclusive custody and control over terror suspects both within the US and abroad.”

“I think we should all be truly concerned,” Eisenberg concluded. “We are in the post-Constitution era of U.S. history.

“We are raised to believe our

political system is a representative democracy. We have to elect people to make our laws and enforce our laws. But the *Citizens United* case [recognizing corporations as people, with the free speech right to make unlimited and anonymous campaign donations] changed the manner by which our representatives are chosen. And the freedom they now have to misrepresent the people should cause each of us great concern.

“We should be asking ourselves whether power will ever be returned to the people in a way that will restore the constitutional framework that defines freedom – the framework that has suffered such terrible wounds over the last ten years.”



PLACE YOUR BIZ CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

HK | **Power Town Apartments**
 152 Avenue A
 PO Box 48
 Turners Falls, MA
 413-863-9433

professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
 rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
 Property Manager

NEW NEPAL SHIPMENT
 unique and thoughtful gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India starting at \$5! Wow!

HIMALAYAN VIEWS
 HOLIDAY HOURS W-SA 10-6, SU 12-5 | after 12/25 TH-SA 10-6
 665.5550 | tibetan plaza | 265 ris 5/10 | so. df

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE
 Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Doug's Auto Body
 Doug Smith - Owner

PRECISION REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph: (413) 863-2785
 Fax: (413) 863-0120

39 Center Road
 Gill, MA 01354

Montague BOOKMILL
 Open Daily 10 - 6

413-367-9206
 www.montaguebookmill.com

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
 TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
 www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Next Steps for RiverCulture**

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY
Turners Falls RiverCulture director Lisa Davol requested selectboard approval for a Downtown Initiatives Grant application at Tuesday's selectboard meeting. Davol explained the Department of Housing and Community Development has added a creative economy category to the grant this year, so Davol and town planner Walter Ramsey are working to meet this Friday's grant application deadline.

The selectboard approved the request.

If received, the award would grant Montague a consultant for evaluating how cultural programming in Turners Falls could have a greater impact and benefit for the town. "Requests for assistance may address any element in establishing and strengthening a downtown's or town center's use of the creative economy, including but not limited to: inventorying of creative economy partners, identifying an organizational model for these partners, activity identification for maximum economic impact, analysis of sites for live/work space for artists and assistance with the application for a cultural district designation," explains the grant application.

"We are at a different stage now," in cultural development, Davol explained. "We have collected a lot of data, and we have so many events now." Davol hopes a consultant could help sort out what the best next steps for RiverCulture and the town might be.

It's time to start saving up for a smart phone, Ma. Davol reported on the start of a new project for downtown Turners Falls that will bring a modern twist to learning about an old town. Hampshire College stu-

dent RJ Sakai will be working with community members to implement a tour of downtown using Quick Response (QR) codes smart phone users can scan with their phones as they pass downtown landmarks. Users will instantly have access to information and presentations about that location including photography, music, video, stories, and upcoming events.

"It will be instant and mysterious, and it will be a way to get younger people involved in appreciating our history," explained Davol.

The same content will also be available via the Turners Falls RiverCulture website.

Sakai's project, which is also his thesis for Hampshire College, "strives to educate people about the area's history, contemporary culture, and current attractions in a way that encourages them to explore and interact with Turners Falls. The hope is that this project will evolve into something the town can lay claim to and call their own," Sakai explained in his proposal.

In other news, the hiring process for the police department continues. Interviews are scheduled next Wednesday for a new patrol person, to fill a vacancy left by Megan Cloutier last year. Also, the appropriate form 13 is being submitted by the town for another full time patrol person, although the position will be temporary until it becomes clear who the permanent police chief will be. That determination cannot be made until late 2012, pending results of the police chief civil service examinations in May and subsequent interviews.

Acting police chief Chris Williams requested that the new patrolman's job be hired as a permanent position, however, since he

was confident the permanent police chief position would be filled by a candidate internal to the Montague police department.

In December, the selectboard chose to only consider internal candidates for temporary police chief for budgetary reasons. On Tuesday, the selectboard agreed to hire for the new patrolman on a temporary basis, just in case a Montague candidate did not pass the police chief civil service exam. Otherwise, there would be too many personnel in the police department in the event the town was forced to hire from a pool of external candidates to fill the post of permanent chief.

Selectboard member Pat Allen suggested that Williams "study hard" for the upcoming exam.

Four responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding implementing solar power generation at the town's former landfill site off of Turnpike Road have been rejected by the committee appointed to study options for the site.

At issue is not whether solar generation at the site, which is close to an existing powerline, is possible, but whether the town would benefit sufficiently financially, explained Ramsey.

"The proposed power and purchase agreements would set electricity rates for the town higher than what they are now, locked into a 25-year deal," Ramsey said. "The risks just don't provide enough rewards," he added.

However, the committee, which includes members of the energy committee, the town administrator, and representatives of several town departments, is "still looking at ways to make solar power viable at the site," Ramsey said. "We see MONTAGUE pg 12

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Citizens and Town Officials Discuss October Storm Response**

BY KATIE NOLAN - About 20 people attended the Erving selectboard's October nor'easter and power outage information-gathering session on December 19th.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said the purpose of the meeting was to capture as much information as possible, not to answer concerns or decide on new policies immediately.

However, the selectboard and assembled department heads provided some initial responses to the townspeople's concerns arising from the storm.

One woman complained that a private business was allowed to use a town generator, while many citizens went without or bought their own generators.

Goodwin said the board has asked the police and fire departments to develop a generator use policy for the town's generators.

Another woman said it wasn't clear to citizens who was in charge and who should be contacted for information or for offers of help.

Rebecca Meuse, a Franklin County Home Care employee who works out of the senior center and who volunteered at the warming shelter at Erving Elementary School (ESE) in the storm's aftermath, agreed it would be helpful to know who is the boss during a townwide emergency and who is who in the chain of command.

Meuse recommended warming shelter volunteers be kept informed about the town's emergency response plan, so the warming shelter can provide a better point of contact for information.

Emergency management department (EMD) director Luke Hartnett said the town maintained a uni-

fied command during the power outage, with police, fire, and elected officials working together to provide a coordinated response. However, he said a "community self-help sheet" was being prepared that would list pre-emergency preparations citizens could make and who to contact during an emergency.

Selectboard member James Hackett noted the town has a long and narrow shape and could be split into two sections during an emergency, and Goodwin recommended having emergency fuel supplies for town vehicles at both east and west ends of town.

Another citizen asked about the possibility of delivering enough water for flushing toilets to townspeople who are without water.

Several citizens were concerned about the town doing too much to help, "enabling instead of helping." Hackett agreed townspeople needed to be ready to take care of themselves.

The selectboard said they would work on a decision matrix for winding down town support after an emergency.

Goodwin suggested people could contact fire chief Almon "Bud" Meatey during his office hours to get specific information on how to prepare for emergencies.

Several people commented that the reverse 911 system was helpful for people who had telephone service during the outage. There were suggestions that the town, police, library, and Erving Elementary websites should be updated with information during an emergency, for people who had access to the internet, but were without phone

service.

Goodwin closed the information session with thanks for "the people who worked hard and put in lots of extra hours" during the emergency. He said the list of concerns and issues for the emergency response will be posted on the town's website, and the selectboard will consider any further comments from citizens.

In other news, the selectboard decided that Ralph Semb, doing business as Weatherhead's, does not need to obtain a special permit for building a convenience and package store in the town's groundwater protection district.

Planning board chair William Morris said the town's groundwater protection bylaw was open to interpretation and Semb's proposed convenience store fell into "a gray area."

Town administrator Tom Sharp informed the board that town counsel Donna MacNicol considered the proposed development would be a change of use for the property and that Semb should seek a special permit for building in a groundwater protection district.

Hackett noted the bylaw refers to any development that "will render impervious more than 15% of the land area," and said that the proposed development would remove some of the asphalt at the property, reducing rather than increasing the amount of impervious surface.

Superintendent Joan Wickman asked the selectboard to sign a letter authorizing Union #28 to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to help pay for roof and window repairs at Erving Elementary School.

With letters from both see ERVING pg 13

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Locally owned since 1941



Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market

70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

About-Face
Computer Solutions

151 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-5447

Full Service Repairs, Network Setup & Repair, Sales!

www.about-facecomputers.com



COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

AJ'S
CYCLE

Gift Certificates

MOTO GUZZI
BMW

(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

274 Rt. 2. Gill

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner



The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

COUTURE BROS.

Celebrating 101st Anniversary

Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer

www.couturebros.com
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Middle Mile Cable to Include Fire Station

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On the longest night of the year, with rain falling outside, and clouds hiding any starlight, the Wendell selectboard met inside their snug town office at a table laden with holiday cookies.

Although the night ahead was long, the agenda was short, and with holidays approaching the meeting proceeded swiftly towards its close.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich read some good news from the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative, (MBI). After they got some communication from planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger, and a letter from selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser, MBI relented from their original position, and agreed to connect the highway garage and fire station, which also is the town's emergency operations center, to the fiber optic 'middle mile' trunk line that will give the center of town a high speed internet connection.

Originally MBI intended to limit the key community anchor connection to the four town buildings around the common.

Board members formalized with a unanimous yes vote a request from Riebschlaeger to allow telephone or internet access to town meetings for people who cannot attend meetings in person, due to illness, military service, or distance.

The meeting opened with Seal LaMadeleine requesting and reserving the town hall Tuesday mornings in January from 11:00 a.m. to noon for adult creative movement classes. Selectboard chair Christine Heard read a note from town custodian Larry Ramsdell, who checks and cleans the town hall after each use. Cleaning is almost always sufficient, but some corners are left untouched, and articles are occasionally put away in the wrong place. Ramsdell suggested a check list Aldrich could attach to the rental agreement.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley met with the board in a further attempt to clarify and formalize what happens to fees collected by the town clerk. The fee schedule will be available at an

upcoming special town meeting.

The energy committee asked for that special town meeting to be held after January 9th and before the end of February, so an article to consider extending the period of Wendell's food coordinator for a second year could be considered in a timely fashion.

Another item on the agenda will be an article proposing to lease land to a private company for a photovoltaic array. Selectboard member Dan Keller said a company is seriously negotiating with Dave Arsenault for leasing 50 or more acres of his land for photovoltaics. The town owns a landlocked parcel contiguous with Arsenault's land, which could be tied into the same project. Both properties are forested and both are close to a temporary substation built by National Grid, which has infrastructure that should facilitate connection of a photovoltaic installation to the electric grid.

Free cash is certified at \$270,957. Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said his committee has some enthusiasm for using some free cash to

reduce the tax rate, rather than putting the entire sum into stabilization.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas commented that in recent years the town has used its stabilization fund to reduce the tax rate, so using free cash to lower the tax rate comes to almost the same thing as putting it into stabilization.

Idoine brought up other matters that should be considered before the town accepts the photovoltaic project: whether the land will be fenced, how such a large installation will impact wildlife movement, and whether the land has any special historical or ecological significance.

Keller said the town will need to put out a request for proposals (RFP), and advertise before it can lease the town owned property.

Moldy documents that were removed from the town vault and cleaned are back in town, stored in boxes in the selectboard office and the clerk's office until work on the vault is complete.

The vault walls have been

see WENDELL pg 11

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

No Luck - Yet - on Regional Public Health Grant

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The \$325,000, three year, Public Health District Incentive Grant, that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has been working for the past year to secure from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to establish one of the first regional public health districts in the state of Massachusetts failed to get funded.

"Words can't describe my disappointment and surprise." Gill selectboard and board of health member Randy Crochier said that was his reaction when he heard from Phoebe Walker, FRCOG's director of community services that the grant had been turned down.

When she first presented the plan to the Gill selectboard in September, Walker had been very positive about the chances for Franklin County getting the grant - which would have provided licensed health agents to participating towns for a fee, offering everything from perc tests to food service inspections and public health nursing in cooperation with local volunteer boards of

health.

But only seven towns had signed on to the program in time for the grant deadline - Buckland, Gill, Charlemont, Deerfield, Shelburne, Hawley, and Monroe - and according to Crochier their combined population was not nearly equal to the number of people who would gain services from regions whose applications were eventually approved. The money to regionalize and professionalize the delivery of public health is one of the many spinoffs coming to the states from the Obama administration's contested health care law.

Walker told the selectboard in September, the delivery of public health in Franklin County, relying on a patchwork of town volunteer boards, trained professionals in the largest towns, and cooperative resources provided from the COG, is "fairly inefficient, with a lot of inequities, and liabilities for the towns."

The fallback plan now appears to be for the participating towns, with Walker's help, to apply again for funding for about

see GILL pg 11



Greenfield 50 YEARS 1962-2012

Blacksmithing Instructor John Passiglia, left, teaches GCC President Bob Pura, right, in the art of bending iron.

Try something new this Spring!

- Personal Enrichment
• Distance Education
• Workforce Development
• Health Care
• Stillpoint Advanced Massage Education
• Workshop Information: www.gcc.mass.shopcreditfree
• Credit Course Information: www.gcc.mass.edu/credit

Greenfield Community College • www.gcc.mass.edu

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Advertisement for Country Oil, featuring a propane delivery truck and contact information for heating, cooling, and plumbing services.

Advertisement for Leaf Busters, offering gutter cleaning, power washing, and lawn maintenance services.

Advertisement for McCarthy Funeral Home, established since 1895, with contact information for John C. Davis.

Advertisement for Riverside Radiator, providing general auto repair and radiator services for cars, trucks, and heavy equipment.

Advertisement for Renaissance Excavating, Inc., offering complete site work, septic and drainage systems, and sand/gravel/loam services.

Advertisement for Fretted Instrument Workshop, specializing in buying, selling, repairing, and restoring fine instruments.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

New Year Garden 2012

good luck and happiness.

Many of us in the United States share a good luck kiss at midnight. This custom dates from the masked ball; the mask stood for the evil spirits of the past year from whom the kiss brings purification.

Whatever your beliefs, the coming new year offers a fresh start in many ways. It encourages learning something new, starting a new tradition, beginning afresh.

As the brightly colored seed catalogues arrive, browse happily, and mark or dog ear each page of interest. Then review your choices, assess the seeds left from last season, and reduce your order just a bit. While many hard shelled seeds store well for several seasons, the more fragile ones should be tested for continuing viability before you place an order.

Don't forget to make a list of the varieties you loved best for their taste, their production, their hardiness before you put pen to the order blanks.

Another simple way to assess seed viability is to place some seed between layers of damp paper towel. Keep moist and watch for sprouting. Any viable seed worth its salt will show some signs of life in two weeks. If none can be seen, order fresh seed for the coming garden.

You can order seeds any time now. Just make sure to store them away from damp and too much heat.

If you enjoy starting your own plants, order spring cold crop seed in time to start in mid to late January. For the crops dependent on frost free days and warm nights, plan to have your seed in hand for planting in mid to late February.

In any case, enjoy those gor-

geous color catalogues brimming with bright, mouth-watering fruits, vegetables and flowers as we enter this month of typically frigid temperatures and short days.

We are often exhorted to use the new year as an opportunity to give up bad habits or behaviors. This smacks to me of too much guilt and unrealistic pressure. We would rather resolve in a positive way to make choices that will not harm, small steps to improve our lives and the lives of others.

Let us choose for instance to want less, to give more, to waste little and when we have too much, to give away.

We gardeners could plant an extra row of a crop or two and share with neighbors who are gardenless. If there is more produce than you can consume, bring the extra to a food bank or survival center. Order some seed to grow a special plant for someone to enjoy.

Use the next stormy day to go through closets and drawers. If you haven't used an item or worn a piece of clothing in two years, consider donating it to an organization that will provide it to someone to use or wear tomorrow.

In this first year of my new life of retirement I will choose to try to use all the time of my life for some purpose or joy, to learn something new, and to do something that feels good and benefits the Earth.

Above all, I will choose to live my life with meaning as if every day might be the last. Then I can leave regret behind along with those rusty resolutions that never lasted much beyond the first few days anyway.

Happy gardening and a very happy New Year!

NOTES FROM MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mahar Names Football Field after Jim Woodward

BY KATIE NOLAN

ORANGE - Wendell resident and Mahar director of athletics Jim Woodward will be the namesake for the new football field at the regional high school, after a unanimous vote by the Mahar school committee on Tuesday.

Woodward, who is known as a highly successful coach, is in his 30th year at Mahar.

"It is pretty humbling," said Woodward, "and certainly an honor. To be here at Mahar and to be involved in the sports program has been pretty special."

Superintendent Michael Baldassarre told the committee the municipal health care reform legislation signed by Governor Patrick in July allows municipalities and school districts to adopt co-pays and deductibles, along with other cost-sharing health care plan design features, unilaterally. The percentages of premiums paid by the municipality or district and by the employees would still be decided by contract negotiations.

Baldassarre commented that health insurance is the second largest expense for the district, after salaries.

Based on preliminary discussions with Mahar's health insurance consultant, Baldassarre said the district could see approximately \$100,000 in savings per year by redesigning employee health insurance plans.

According to Baldassarre, if Mahar does not accept and implement the changes before February 1st, the district will be required to send the state Executive Office of Administration and Finance (AF) an estimate of how much it would have saved if it had adopted the change. AF will publish the names of all school districts that do not adopt the changes and the savings forfeited on its website.

Baldassarre told the committee he would meet with the finance and facilities subcommittee in the next few weeks to provide them more details about specific employee health insurance plans, and then the full committee would be asked to vote at a late January meeting.

Baldassarre reported that consolidating the management of information technology, food

see MAHAR page 16

Check the table below for the length of time many seeds (properly stored both dry and cool) will continue to be viable.
adapted from growingtaste.com/storage

One Year	Leek	Four Years	Pumpkin
Onion	Okra	Beets	Radish
Parsley	Three Years	Brussels Sprout	Squash
Parsnip	Beans	Cabbage	Tomato
Spinach	Broccoli	Cauliflower	Watermelon
Sweet Corn	Celery	Chard	Five Years
Two Years	Carrot	Eggplant	Cress
Pepper		Kale	Cucumber
			Endive

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Willow Tree
Sculpture

The sculptures are rendered so as to suggest elegance, simplicity, peace and serenity.

BAKER Office Supply 310 Main Street, Greenfield 413-774-2345

Huge Selection of Passenger, Light Truck/SUV, Truck, Farm, Off Road, Industrial, Trailer, Lawn & Garden, ATV

Pete's TIRE BARNS, Inc.

Tires for Work. Tires for Play.

www.petestire.com
Northampton • 186 North King St. 413-586-8815
Brattleboro • 220 Old Ferry Rd. 802-254-3628
Orange • 275 E. Main St. 978-544-8811

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria
@ the Green Emporium
Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

fabulous dining, great music, neon art, full liquor bar, and the best pizza!

www.greenemporium.com Colrain Center 413-624-5122

CopyCat Print Shop
Loves You More

Check our other ad in this newspaper

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

scan this to find us

(413) 774-3500
greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

Diemand Farm

- Farm Fresh Eggs
- Whole Roasting Chicken
- Pot Pies
- HomeMade Soups
- Desserts

Products Vary Weekly

Farm Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

HOPE & OLIVE

SERVING HOME GROWN FARM-INSPIRED Food & Drink

44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD, MA 01301
PHONE 413 774 3150

Geri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com

Don't settle for less
Choose a **CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)**

Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation. The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done. Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS 66 French King Hwy., Gill (413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006

A Shutesbury Sampler

Spring



BY DAVID DETMOLD

It was impossible to find a parking space anywhere on the elementary school grounds when the people of Shutesbury came together to celebrate the grand finale of their town's 250th anniversary on Wednesday, December 21st, as their children performed an all school play – *the Shutesbury Sampler*.

The townspeople left savoring the feeling of belonging to a community, a feeling often invoked but rarely enjoyed as wholeheartedly as on this occasion. The crowd of young parents, thrilled with their children's chance to shine in the spotlight, gave up seats in the standing room only auditorium so grandparents and members of the town's 250th anniversary committee could share the joy of reconnecting to each other and to the history and heritage of their town.

The original musical production, written over the summer by Emily Samuels, of

Autumn



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Gill, and Jane Urban, of Shutesbury, featured entire grades dressed as nighttime stars, spring peepers or ice storm dancers, singing and hopping in unison, in between contrasting tableaux from different time periods of town society. As well, the play featured poised school children speaking the parts of well-known town historical figures, like Ephraim Pratt (Eric Thompson-Martin) who attributed his remarkable longevity to a life a labor, abstemious habits in food and drink, and the remarkable rejuvenating qualities of the Mount Mineral springs.

Pratt, born in Sudbury in 1686, died in Shutesbury in May of 1804 at the age of 117, after reputedly becoming grandsire to 1500 descendants, more than the entire population of Shutesbury at that time. As the audience learned from Thompson-Martin's declamation, Pratt "swung a mowing scythe one hundred and one consecutive years, and mounted a horse without assistance at the age of 110." How many can make a similar claim today?

In his introduction to the play, Shutesbury principal Bob Mahler said he had been struck by the similarity of concerns facing the town in 1937, when another anniversary was held, to the themes of growth, affordability and community renewal being aired in

town today. "History repeats itself," said Mahler.

The crowd got a big laugh when one student, representing a citizen at Shutesbury's 1811 town meeting, recited the warrant to establish the town's first public library, "housed in a single bookcase." At that time, a majority felt the size of the collection and the structure housing it was adequate. That same issue is being refought at the ballot box as 2012 dawns; indeed the same day the school play was held, police reported a rash of stolen lawn signs along Shutesbury roads in support of a new library building.

Mahler used to work with Samuels on the great all school plays at Gill Elementary, where he first began working with director Court Dorsey, of Wendell, who makes a specialty of coaching great performances from young people on a school stage. Mahler hired Dorsey again to direct *a Shutesbury Sampler*, saying, "I knew that putting 150 kids on stage is not an easy thing to do. I trusted his vision and his ability to pull it off."

Rehearsals for the speaking parts began in September, and the entire school began rehearsing in earnest in the weeks leading up to the performance. Mahler said when the school children took guided tours of town historical sites last fall, the tour guides were impressed by how much local history the children had already learned in preparation for the play.

"If all we do is MCAS preparation," noted Mahler, "we are narrowing the curriculum to such an extent we are doing a disservice to the children. Certainly at the elementary level, you never know what's going to spark a child's interest. By giving a child an opportunity like this, they may perform on stage for the rest of their lives."

Listening carefully to local lore as recounted by their chil-

dren, the audience learned their community was originally called Roadtown, since it had been founded in 1735 as a land grant, six miles wide and ten miles long, to a group of 95 proprietors who put up the funds to build a cart-road from Lancaster to Sunderland to improve trade between the western and eastern parts of the state. This high point on the cart-road was settled by a few of those proprietors, some moving to the upland from Deerfield and some from Lancaster. For the first few years, town meetings for the new settlement were held in Lancaster, not in Roadtown.

According to the book *Celebrate Shutesbury*, written by Gail Thomas, which served as source material for the play, in the run-up to the revolution in 1775, Shutesbury formed a Committee of Correspondence to communicate with the provincial congress. The tiny hilltown of hardscrabble farms was still able to raise 30 pounds for each resident willing to take up arms with the Continental Army and fight for freedom. Shutesbury chased its Congregational Minister, Abraham Hill, out of town for his Tory sympathies after 35 years of service in 1778, after first putting him in the pound and pelting him with herring.

Daniel Shays was a resident of Shutesbury. Though the revolution, in the wilds of New England at any rate, was

Summer



as much a protest against the landed gentry and financial interests in the lowlands as it was against the King of England, it was Shays' subsequent rebellion in 1786 that influenced the framers of the Constitution to form a strong central government, in large part to defend property rights from too ardent proponents of liberty.

It is a short step from the Springfield Armory of 1787 to the No One Leaves / Occupy Bank of America anti-foreclosure civil disobedience action of November 2011.

The student Gio Rivera declaiming a poem written in 1937 by Shutesbury storekeeper and former selectboard member Minor Haskell touched on some of these recurring themes:

"People played well their part on the stage of life;

And now we today are in the midst of the strife.

see SHUTESBURY pg 16

Winter



The Four Seasons and their totem animals played the role of Greek... er, make that, Shutesbury Chorus, in a Shutesbury Sampler. Spring: Emma Wilburn; Spring peeper: Evelyn Hardy; Summer: Teya Nolan; Wild Cat: Chase Woodard-McNiff; Fall: Luke Sedor-Protti; Moose: Leo Kaban; Winter: Dylan Walter; Owl: Maxx Hagen

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

CELEBRATING WOMEN
125 years
AVON

VIRGINIA WHITTEN
 Independent Sales Representative
 Executive Unit Leader

TO BUY OR SELL
CALL 1-800-258-1815
 EMAIL - AVONNH@AOL.COM

mww **ROCKET FUSION**
 Montague WebWorks . com

Now powered by RocketFusion

413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com

make the web work for your business

COLDWELL BANKER
 UPTON-MASSAMONT REALTORS

Donald J Mailloux
 GRI
 Recognized Top Producer

(413) 665-3771 x104 Office
 (413) 665-3772 Fax
 (413) 834-1524 Cell
 (413) 423-3810 Home
 don@cbumr.com E-mail

4 Elm Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373
 www.cbupton-massamont.com

Turners Falls Pizza House

119 Avenue A
 863-8000
 We Deliver!

Grinders • Dinners • Beer & Wine
 Open 7 days • 41 years on the Ave

It's Pizza Time!

Your LOCAL Solar Energy Experts

GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE

413-772-3122
 Advice, Design & Installation

www.SolarStoreofGreenfield.com
 Solar Store of Greenfield • 2 Fiske Avenue • Greenfield, Mass

LOOT
 found + made

Hours: Wed 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-7, Sun 11-4
 4th Fridays of the month until 9

413-863-9500 • loottheshop.com
 62 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

TALKING PICTURES



Victimized with a Vengeance

1 eagle = the pits 4 eagles = the heights



BY SHIRA HILLEL

GREENFIELD - The American version of the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is finally in the theaters. This world-wide sensation began with Stieg Larsson's trilogy of thriller books. The Swede's runaway bestsellers were then made into extremely popular Swedish movies.

Those who have partaken of these guilty pleasures already know the story of the sleuthing odd couple, Mikael Blomkvist and Lisbeth Salander. Both have their own need for revenge, and both must resort to criminal means in order to fight crime.

While all the versions tell the same basic story, right from the start, one can tell that the American English language remake will differ from the book and the previous Swedish film. The slick opening credits contrast with the far grittier feel of the Swedish movie. They're like a CGI music video set to a re-make of Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song." The opening sequence overture ramps up the viewer's

excitement and expectation. To counteract the polished style, this fun to watch American movie employed a subtle cinematic effect: throughout, the film's edges are rough.

David Fincher, director of the American movie, recently made a splash with *The Social Network*, which told the story of the rise of Facebook and its billionaire founder Mark Zuckerberg. Both movies include repeated close ups of their brilliant main characters deep in concentration, their faces lit by the monitor as they type furiously at their computer keyboards.

The color palettes of both films were studies in shades of grey, giving them the feel of a black and white movie. The aesthetic chill in the air and landscape were emphasized, as in the Swedish version. The two film versions differ however in the way they convey a sense of place. The Swedish movie was filmed entirely in Sweden. The feel of Stockholm and the Swedish countryside towns provides a

strong setting that acts almost like another lead character. Fincher's movie was shot in Stockholm, Zurich, Los Angeles and Germany. The action in his version feels as if it could be taking place in any generic European wintery setting.

The plot of *Dragon Tattoo* has also been slimmed down. The long, twisting storyline about the chase for a serial killer of women is told in a more concise, economical fashion. The filmmakers may have assumed most of the audience would already be familiar with the plot (over 15 million copies of the novel have been sold in America alone), and opted to paint in broader strokes.

The Swedish movie, at 2½ hours long, remained more loyal to the book's convoluted plot. It ended up flattening the characters of the leads, Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist. That was unfortunate, since Salander's character, fairly flat to begin with, is still the most compelling aspect of the book.

All three versions include some shallow conventional tropes, such as the killer admitting to everything at the end (giving it the feel of a Scooby Doo episode), and the discovery that the bad guys are not only serial killers and rapists, but Nazi racists to boot.

The characters are better developed in the new version. Rooney Mara's cool gaze in the role of Salander is chilling and her face is spellbinding. While the actresses in both versions have the requisite high cheekbones, Mara's performance differs from that of the Swedish Noomi Rapace. Where Mara remains calm and collected overall, Rapace's feral, screaming Lisbeth seemed more like a loose cannon.

Lisbeth's rape and horrifying

violent revenge is arguably the climactic point of the book. In the Swedish movie, those scenes were the most difficult to watch. However, in the American remake, it seems Fincher saw no need to belabor the violence. Those scenes, while still undeniably violent, move more quickly and felt sanitized. The focus has shifted to Lisbeth's character, and not so much on the story's sexual violence.

The inner workings of Salander's remarkable and troubled mind are successfully and economically conveyed cinematically. Instead of clunkily stating she has photographic memory and can memorize a written page in one glance, the film shows Blomkvist handing her back a stack of papers and asking her to read them. She returns them and with a mere hand gesture of pointing to her head, lets us know she already memorized them, though she only held the pages briefly.

Daniel Craig in the role of Blomkvist downplayed his character, unlike the far more macho roles he is known for (James Bond comes to mind). While Salander is a young girl, with some vulnerability peeking through, she is the stronger of the two. As in the book, she shines in Fincher's remake as the real star.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is problematic from a feminist stand-point. The men who tell this story want it both ways. The male author and movie directors stand behind a façade of feminism by giving their story a strong female lead, and supposedly comment on bad men who like to sadistically vic-

timize women. Yet, their actual treatment of the extreme sexual violence against women is titillating. As if they are saying, 'Look how bad this is. You can't look away right?'

Lisbeth Salander is like a superhero with her stereotypically Aspergers-like traits: the genius-robotic-hacker who lacks social skills. Her ostensible edginess is portrayed through dark make-up, multiple tattoos and body piercings, extreme hair, black leather clothes, ripped t-shirts, waif-like figure, and her preference for motorcycles and both female and male lovers. While these devices might point to her character's pain and attempt at a tough exterior, in sum they feel like superficial signifiers of non-conformity. Salander remains sexualized and exploited.

On the one hand, Salander is a strong, unconventional character who has resonated with women around the world. She's also a cliché crafted to conform to male fantasies.

If Larsson were here to defend his work (his worldwide bestsellers were released posthumously), I'm sure he could argue he is merely bringing sexual violence out into the open and making the public confront it. I feel like he (and both directors) want to condemn misogyny and get off on the sadism at the same time. This viewer was left wondering, uncomfortably, how pro-woman this kind of voyeurism can be.

Good Dirt Pottery Studio

38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

[Pam Veith REAL ESTATE]

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

Office: (413) 498-0207 x2
Cell: (413) 834-4444
Home: (413) 863-9166
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218
bedson1@comcast.net

75 Main Street; Suite 105.
Northfield, MA 01360

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.rebuild.net
863-8316

Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
Accountant
413-768-9095

For all your accounting needs
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks
Now accepting new accounting clients

2ND STREET BAKING Co.

Pies! Party Platters & Sweet Breads for the holidays

Tue - Sat 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Check out our Great Lunch Menu
Now Open Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cakes, Pastries, Coffee, Soup and Bread

69 2nd Street
Turners Falls
863-4455

Closed Mondays

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

Gift Certificates Available
863-2022

Marie Castine
Richard DiGeorge (Thursdays)

74 PROSPECT ST.
TURNERS FALLS

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 866-262-5361
413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212

PETER WATERS
HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

NEEDFUL THINGS
SELLING QUALITY USED FURNITURE AND COLLECTIBLES

~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430
199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5 & 10), Greenfield

from **THIRD** page 1

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, hopes to meet the needs of local young people between the ages of 14 and 22 who want guidance in finding their direction in life and community.

To funders these youth are labeled "at-risk." They are young people perceived as being in danger of dropping out of school, of stumbling on their path to adulthood.

But to founder and program director Jann Rosemerita they are young people who simply need help and support in defining their goals and developing a personalized plan for achieving them. And when these young people succeed, not only do they benefit personally, their communities benefit as well. That is the philosophy this unique program is based on. That, and sociologist Ray Oldenburg's belief that a "third place" beyond home and work (or in this case, school) is essential to the development of healthy individuals and community.

Jann Rosemerita, who conceived the idea for the new center and co-wrote the grant proposals to fund it with Matt Rigney of the Collaborative for Education Services, knows these young people well from years of work in special education. She knows that

success depends on a combination of each youth's commitment to their individualized plan, as well as emotional, academic and community support. That's why she designed the new afterschool center to include all of these components.

The Third Place is not a "drop-in" program, she stresses. Participants must have daily contact with the program, either through attendance at the Third Place itself, or participation in a community internship which they help to design.

Rosemerita said she has already reached out to the directors of the social service agencies that are clustered around the Third Street intersection of Avenue A, within a block of her new storefront. She hopes to establish a collaborative relationship with the Brick House, the Thrive Project, and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. "My hope is that this will fill a niche for a particular population of young people who will realize there is a whole network of support for them around town."

The program literature says it best: "The Third Place recognizes that these young men and women have distinctive life experiences and learning needs and therefore works with the participants to design a program specific to his or her needs. We provide a safe and supportive environment in

which individuals can, at their own pace, begin to recognize and realize their unique potentials... all participants must complete an application process, sign a contract committing to participate fully in the program and set personal goals which will be used to develop a personal empowerment plan."

Rosemerita has been working with local agencies, schools, and businesses to promote the program, and will continue reaching out to create mentoring and internship opportunities for Third Place participants. In addition, she has been developing a pool of volunteers who will provide workshops, talks and programming ideas. Anyone interested in sharing their ideas is appreciated and welcomed.

The Third Place will serve up to 25 participants between the ages of 14 and 22 from Turners Falls and surrounding towns. There is no charge for participation. Those interested may apply through their school's guidance departments or by contacting Third Place program director, Jann Rosemerita, at (413) 336-5210, or by e-mail at thethirdplaceinturnersfalls@gmail.com. Or drop by during the Open House on January 11th between 2 and 6 p.m. at 56 Avenue A under the bright green and yellow shingle marking the Third Place.

from **GILL** page 7

\$100,000 for a first year of funding for the regional public health program through the Executive Office of Administration and Finance's Community Innovation Challenge Program, a recent initiative which the Patrick administration has seeded with a \$4 million pot of money, with a deadline to apply in two weeks.

"I think we need to try to get this grant," said selectboard member Ann Banash. "Gill needs this health program, and the agent."

The town has scheduled a special town meeting for January 17th, to consider appropriating about \$10,000 to fill the gap in funding a \$55,000 boiler replacement and heating upgrade at the Gill safety complex. Other items on that warrant will include a zoning change for a new solar overlay district in town and a transfer of \$800 from the county dog fund to the library account.

Siemens Building Technologies is working to get a new burner as soon as possible to replace the new Power Flame unit recently installed at the elementary school. The burner has been providing less than consistent performance, and with the onset of cold weather that could prove to be a problem.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board the town would likely spend \$3.30 a gallon for heating fuel for the coming year. The price for the last heating season was \$3.19 per gallon.

On the plus side, Purington is estimated the town will only need a delivery of 4500 to 4800 gallons of heating fuel this year, down about 20% from last year, due to a mild start to the season, a good amount of fuel left over from 2011, and hoped for efficiencies at the safety complex if the new boilers are installed soon.



from **WENDELL** page 7

painted, and frames are in place for insulation panels to slide in, then sheetrock, and painting of the ceiling and floor.

When that is done, Keller and Slavav will install a portable dehumidifier and monitor how that works so they can determine a permanent way to control the vault's moisture level.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith does not want to open the boxes of documents until the vault is ready and they can be stored appropriately. Before that happens, Smith can check with the Secretary of State to find which documents must be saved, and what can be eliminated from the volume of papers.

Idoine suggested the valuable documents could be transferred to a digital format so peo-

ple can examine them without disturbing the originals.

In a review of the recent Swift River School Green Repairs, Heard said the new boilers have been installed at the school and are working, but not working well. She did not elaborate.

The school has not had regular drinking water since October 3rd, and has been using Poland Springs water in its place.

The finance committee went along with using money that remains in the Green Repair account to remediate hazardous materials at the school (during the summer) and to provide handicap accessibility.

And when the meeting ended I came home with a plate of cookies.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Larceny, Assist Other Police, Illegal Driving, Break In Investigated

Tuesday, 12/20

8:00 a.m. Larceny reported at a French King Highway address. 10:02 a.m. Suspicious vehicle on High Street. Checked same. Was investigator.

Wednesday, 12/21

8:40 a.m. Report of suspicious person on French King Bridge. Area checked. Subject gone. 11:00 p.m. Audible alarm at Laurel Lake. Check same. No alarms sounding.

Saturday, 12/24

1:30 a.m. Suspicious vehicle on River Street. Moved same along. 6:00 a.m. Larceny reported at a Forest Street address.

Monday, 12/26

10:00 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle roll over on Main Street. 11:45 a.m. Possible breaking and entering into International Paper Mill, on Paper Mill Road. Under investigation.

7:00 p.m. Report of fire in area of Cross Street. Found to be outdoor fire. Fire put out by fire department.

Tuesday, 12/27

1:55 p.m. Report of possible breaking and entering on River Street. Checked same. Found to be worker at residence.

3:10 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for domestic disturbance at Millers Falls Road. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery.

10:25 p.m. Report of large limb blocking Route 2 in Farley. Located same and removed.

11:30 p.m. Report of alarm going off at Dusty Road. Checked same. All appeared secure.

Wednesday, 12/28

5:30 a.m. Report of subject standing in middle of French

King Bridge. Checked area. Unable to locate subject.

10 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with foot pursuit of subject. Assisted in searching area.

3:20 p.m. Report of two dogs running in and out of traffic at Greenfield Auto on Route 2. Animal gone upon arrival.

5:20 p.m. Report of lines down on Old State Road. Stood by until WMECO arrived.

Thursday, 12/29

3:00 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license on Route 2.

9:35 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance on Route 2.

Friday, 12/30

1:00 a.m. Mutual aid to Orange police for suspicious person in dark clothing at Orange Airport.

Saturday, 12/31

3:00 a.m. Suspicious vehicles in French King Bowling Alley parking lot. Moved same along.

2:50 p.m. Report of annoying phone calls. Report taken.

Sunday, 1/1

8:50 a.m. Report of raccoon at Pratt Street Residence. Environmental police called to scene.

Monday, 1/2

4:25 a.m. Report of suspicious activity at Warner Street. Was found to be paper boy.

11:30 a.m. Alarm at Elementary School. Was found to be employee.

2:50 p.m. Report of loose dog on Gunn Street. Located same and returned to owner.



Unwelcome Guests on Mountain Road in Gill



A pair of male goats has been visiting this backyard birdfeeder at 269 Mountain Road in Gill. The homeowners would like for the owner of the billy goats to come retrieve them. Call Lynnette or Paul at 863-2370.

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

THE HARP
IRISH PUB

Irish Seisun Music
Thursday 4 - 7
Friday 9 - 1

GREAT SEAFOOD & GOOD TIMES

163 Sunderland Rd. • Amherst
(413) 548-6900

HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE
Licensed and Insured

Christopher J. Morin, owner
7 Kimberly Lane
Turners Falls

EXCELLENCE IN TREE CARE
413-522-6119

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Two More Nabbed in Series of Break-Ins

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – “We tried to give the criminal world a punch back,” said Montague detective Bill Doyle, looking back on a series of arrests that has blunted the rash of breaking and entering that plagued downtown Turners in the fall of 2011.

Among the stores hit in November were the Rite-Aid pharmacy, About Face Computers, Subway, Lisa’s Handcrafted Soap, and Beijing Station, along with the Millers Pub. A number of private homes were also broken into, often in broad daylight, in a search for cash or easily resold goods like electronics: TVs and computers.

On November 6th, Montague police arrested Thomas [redacted] 41, of [redacted] 11th Street in the Patch, and secured a confession for the armed robbery of Rite Aid. [redacted] who told a drug store clerk he was carrying a gun, although no weapon was later found, got away with an unspecified amount of cash before officers tracked him down and apprehended him on G Street within the hour.

A week later, Christopher [redacted] 25, of [redacted] G Street, also in the Patch, was picked up at the CVS drug store in Greenfield after Montague detective Lee Laster spotted him there. [redacted] had multiple breaking and entry charges against him for home breaks,” said Doyle in a phone interview on Wednesday.

The case pending against [redacted] now involves a daytime break at the home of an elderly man who lives in the Patch, said Doyle. Police allege [redacted] broke into that home during the day after the homeowner went to church. “He kicked his door in and stole the flat screen TV his children had bought him when

his wife died. That was a case you might recall from January of 2011,” said Doyle. “He had run from police barefoot through the woods in the Patch.”

Doyle said [redacted] is a suspect in many other home breaks, in Montague, Deerfield and Greenfield. “Another one prior to that put him on probation, breaking and entering in the daytime, a felony, on June 24th, 2010, at 212 Montague City Road; car keys and cash were stolen.”

[redacted] is in jail now for violating his probation from 2010, and there is a disposition coming down soon on the subsequent break on the Patch.

On November 25th, Dennis [redacted] 35, of [redacted] 3rd Street, was arrested for breaking and entering in the nighttime at Beijing Station. [redacted] out on bail for a previous break at the Millers Pub, where he allegedly stole \$1500 on November 7th, cut his wrist with his own pocket knife on Thanksgiving night as he sliced through the power cord to the cash register before heisting it out the back door of the Chinese restaurant. Montague police borrowed the Erving K-9 officer, a bloodhound named Badge, to track the trail of blood back to [redacted]’s apartment, where they extracted a confession from [redacted] and found numerous items connected to other recent robberies in town.

Then, on December 5th, Doyle picked up Jeremy [redacted] 28, of [redacted] 5th Street, for the armed robbery at the Avenue A Subway on Friday, October 28th, at 8:07 p.m., when \$157 in cash was taken at knife-point from a shaken employee. [redacted] was caught on video during that robbery, and was identified by the employee and other witnesses from a photo lineup, Doyle said.

Doyle had also picked [redacted] up for breaking and entering La Bodega on 4th Street in the summer of 2010, and said [redacted] had a rap sheet of shoplifting at other area stores.

Doyle commented, “We have a small percentage of people who fulfill their drug habit, and they continue to victimize people, and those are the people we wind up spending a lot of time and resources on.”

He added, “I’ll tell you what’s a great frustration. The police are not out to stick it to you. Lowering the number of people getting victimized is really what we’re after. Defense attorneys plead, ‘My client’s a great guy, but he’s addicted; we need to get him some help and



Jeremy [redacted]

get him into detox.’ It does seem someone will just get out and go back to doing what they’re doing. If they just put him away for the crime there are times we will feel that would be more effective, giving them the time they need to clean up.”

In any event, with these four gentlemen in custody at present, “Things seem to be quieter downtown. We don’t have those blatant breaking and enterings like we had,” said Doyle, who added, “We haven’t put an end to criminal activity, but we hope we put a dent in it.”

LEVERETT from pg 5 work will be run and maintained.”

D’Errico said the town is looking at high speed fiber as in indispensable aspect of municipal infrastructure in modern times, comparable to roads or other utilities. He said the installation of the network would allow residents not only to check their email quickly, but would allow them to run home businesses competitively in the modern marketplace, while giving residents access to streaming video content, medical monitoring, and smart grid technology to allow real time monitoring of energy use in resident’s homes, to reduce costs to the end user.

The deadline for the middle mile network to be complete throughout the target area is summer of 2013, but D’Errico said it would be smart for the town of Leverett to be ready to plug in the last mile network at the same time the middle mile fiber is complete.

The selectboard will be weighing various financing options with the consultant’s input, including, d’Errico said, having a provider like Crocker Communications pay a fee to the town for use of the local network, having the town bill the end user a separate fee for using the local network, or paying for the network as a general operation of town government.

“All of us share the sense we are a good team and we look forward to having a report available for the spring town meeting, with a specific plan and a dollar amount in place,” he said.

MONTAGUE from pg 6 will continue to shop around until [we find a proposal that] is advantageous to the town.”

The Cecil Group, which has been tasked with creating a master plan for the entire Turnpike Road Energy Park project, will hold a public meeting on January 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex community meeting room, in order to seek input from the community and show preliminary designs for the project.

A contract to put the finishing touches on for the Water Pollution Control Facility’s multi-million dollar combined sewer overflow project has been extended by one more month until the end of January 2012, at the request of WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley. No additional money needs to be spent, just some more time. Trombley says it’s the last of a project that has been in planning and implementation stages for nearly ten years.

Lake Pleasant residents can continue to enjoy Norma’s Park, as the Rocky River Realty Company (representing Northeast Utilities) and the town of Montague have renewed a lease agreement there for another three years.

Selectboard committee chairperson Mark Fairbrother has been reappointed to the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hit and Run, Domestic Disturbance, Break In, Assault and Disorderly Conduct

Monday, 12/19 7:19 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant. 12:56 p.m. Threatening, harassment on K Street. 6:19 p.m. Hit and run accident (dog) at Millers Falls Road and Chester Street.	Saturday, 12/24 8:58 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Advised of options. Sunday, 12/25 9:43 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Peace restored. Monday, 12/26 1:09 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Eighth Avenue. Investigated. 12:55 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Adams Street. Advised of options. 2:12 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Advised of options. Tuesday, 12/27 1:46 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, subsequent offense of	Saturday, 12/24 9:52 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Randall Wood Drive. Report taken. 5:54 p.m. Restraining order violation on Third Street. Advised of options. 7:56 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fifth Street. Advised of options. 9:29 p.m. Hit and run accident with property damage. Summons issued. 11:13 p.m. Fight on Chestnut Street. Summons issued for assault and battery. Thursday, 12/29 10:52 a.m. Illegal dumping at St. Anne’s cemetery. Services rendered. Friday, 12/30 3:10 p.m. Dog bite on K Street. Referred to an officer. 9:27 p.m. Summons issued for	disorderly conduct, and assault and battery on a police officer. 6:07 a.m. Summons issued on Ave A for disturbing the peace. 9:52 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Randall Wood Drive. Report taken. 5:54 p.m. Restraining order violation on Third Street. Advised of options. 7:56 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fifth Street. Advised of options. 9:29 p.m. Hit and run accident with property damage. Summons issued. 11:13 p.m. Fight on Chestnut Street. Summons issued for assault and battery. Thursday, 12/29 10:52 a.m. Illegal dumping at St. Anne’s cemetery. Services rendered. Friday, 12/30 3:10 p.m. Dog bite on K Street. Referred to an officer. 9:27 p.m. Summons issued for	unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Eleventh Street and Avenue A. Saturday, 12/31 10:56 p.m. Illegal dumping at Avenue A and Third Street. Referred to other agency. Sunday, 1/1 1:13 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for wanton destruction of property over \$250 and failure to take care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing. 4:50 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for subsequent offense of driving with a revoked license. 7:47 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for night time breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony, vandalism, damage, or defacement of property, and disorderly conduct.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Christopher [redacted]

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US

PZ

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

Visit Our Tip of the Week at www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

Private Room Available

THE CHURCH STREET HOME

24 Church Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

A retirement home for independent senior women of Franklin County since 1942.

Family-style meals, beautiful surroundings, and the security of a hostess on duty at all times.

Visitors always welcome!

(413) 773-7252

THE COUNTRY JEWELER

Buying Silver & Gold

Top Dollar Paid On The Spot

DIAMONDS • COINS • JEWELRY, BROKEN CHAINS, CHARMS, SINGLE EARRINGS, UNWANTED JEWELRY, SILVERWARE, ETC. IN ANY CONDITION

We'll Sort It For You!

Mon.-Thurs. & Sat 9:30-5:30, Fri. 9:30-7:30

Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield | 772-0859

Site Work

- Bulldozer and Backhoe Work
- Driveways
- Land Clearing
- Septic Systems

Residential and Commercial

L & D Builders

413-648-0110

REAL PICKLES

Naturally Fermented & Raw

Available by the jar at Upinngil!

www.realpickles.com
(413)774-2600 Greenfield, MA

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1895

We engrave memories that last forever

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Melen

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

The perfect remembrance



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. How can you tell when you should go to a doctor for memory lapses?

This is a serious question that demands a joke for openers...

Because they are forgetful, an elderly husband and wife go to the doctor. The doctor tells them their problem isn't serious and they should just write down reminders.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Memory Lapses

One evening, the husband is watching TV and his wife is in the kitchen.

"Honey, can you get me a dish of ice cream? And don't forget to write it down."

"I don't have to write it down."

"Yeah, but I want some whipped cream."

"I'll remember."

"And some nuts and a cherry on top. Write it down."

"For God's sake, you want a sundae. I can remember a sundae."

A half-hour passes and the wife brings out a tray with scrambled eggs, link sausages, coffee and juice."

"I knew it!" the husband cries.

"You forgot the toast."

So, when should you go to your doctor to discuss your memory lapses? That's a personal judgment call.

I've found that I can't remember the names of movie stars and ballplayers the way I used to. I attribute this to what I call the "overloaded filing cabinet." As we get older, we accumulate so many memories that it's impossible to find the one we want.

I'm not sufficiently worried about my memory difficulties to mention them to my doctor. But if you are worried, get tested.

The unfunny truth is that Alzheimer's begins with difficulty remembering the familiar — people, things, events. Or, you start having trouble doing simple arithmetic in your head. These

annoyances are common to seniors with healthy brains, so most of us don't get too worked up over them.

But, as Alzheimer's progresses, it can make people forget how to brush their teeth or change channels on a TV. And it gets worse until patients require complete care.

If you're having some memory lapses that worry you, go to the doctor with a positive attitude. The fact is that many different medical conditions may cause Alzheimer's-like symptoms. Some of these medical conditions may be treatable. You could be suffering from the effects of a high fever, dehydration, poor nutrition, reactions to medicines, thyroid problems or a minor head injury.

And then there are those pesky emotions. Feeling sad, lonely,

worried, or bored can affect people facing retirement or coping with the death of a loved one. Adapting to change can make you forgetful.

There are benefits to an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Knowing early helps patients and their families plan for the future. It gives them time to discuss care while the patient can still participate in decisions. Early diagnosis also offers the best chance to treat the symptoms of the disease.

Scientists are working to develop new drugs to treat Alzheimer's. Although research is helping us learn more about the disease, we still do not know what causes Alzheimer's, and there is no cure.

[In my next column, I'll report more about memory and aging.] If you have questions, write to fred@healthygeez.com.

HIGGINS from page 1

munity who are making donations to help their neighbors in need," she said, just moments before a woman came in with a check in hand, saying she wished she had more to give.

Caring about people who need help is not new to Higgins, the former mayor of Northampton, who has a long history of community service. Prior to her twelve years as mayor, Higgins worked with pre-schoolers and teenage parents. She's been a union organizer and a long term advocate for early childhood education. But her current post is more complex and far reaching.

"As mayor of Northampton I was focused on the 34 square miles that comprise Northampton. Now I'm looking at a 1,400 square mile service area. With a \$29 million dollar annual budget, Community Action touches the lives of about 30,000 people a year," she said.

Working in collaboration with other organizations, Community Action is an umbrella agency dedicated to lifting people from

poverty by providing family support in the form of job training, nutritional counseling, educational programs, childcare, fuel assistance, help in accessing health care, financial counseling, conflict resolution, and more. Its roots go back to the 60s and the War on Poverty, and its mission to identify needs and equip people with the tools and services they need remains the same.

As stated on the agency's website, "The mission of Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin Regions is dedicated to promoting economic justice and improving the quality of life for people with lower incomes."

Higgins, who left office early to take the job at Community Action's Greenfield office in September of 2011 said, "When you unpack a complex problem, you find that it's many layered. People come in through different doors. A family may begin by needing fuel assistance and then learn about Head Start, job training or the literacy program. There's no wrong door. We meet

people where they are and go from there."

This message is hopeful for those who might easily give up hope, and for those who seek a more just and equitable society. While talking with Higgins, it is easy to imagine someone earning a high school diploma, and perhaps enrolling in college, knowing her child is thriving at Head Start, or that, with the right financial counseling, a single mother might find a way to buy a house.

A visit to the Community Action website www.communityaction.us reveals heartwarming success stories and detailed information about all the available programs.

A complicated matrix of federal funding, state and local grants and private donations underpin the agency's work, and Higgins is well aware of the challenges this diverse funding pipeline presents. She said, "These are rough times. Long-term unemployment, cuts in federal funding, and rising fuel prices create the perfect storm for poor people. But the baseline is see **HIGGINS** page 14

ERVING from page 6

the selectboard and school committee, U-28 will be allowed to make a "statement of interest" to compete for the MSBA grant money.

Wickman said the back corner of the roof at EES had deteriorated and many windows have broken seals. Preliminary cost estimates for the repairs were approximately \$273,000 for the roof repair and \$13,620 for the windows.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin asked Wickman to check to see if the roof is still under warranty from the manufacturer, and Wickman said that was being done.

The selectboard voted to buy a \$1,799 copier for the new senior center, from the building project funds, and also to provide a copier service contract for \$225.

Hackett told the board that police chief Chris Blair had sent a letter to New England Central Railroad about excessive idling of trains in Erving.

"There's not a lot we can do," said Hackett, because the rail-

roads are interstate carriers, and are not governed by local ordinances.

Hackett said the town will contact Congressman John Olver to see if there is any way he can help deal with the annoyance and pollution caused by excessively idling trains in town.

Hartnett asked the selectboard to consider moving the emergency management director's office out of the police station and using part of the former senior center for an office and secondary emergency operations center (EOC). Hartnett said he would like to use the basement of the town hall as the primary EOC during an emergency.

Goodwin remarked that determining the use of the former senior center was not a "quick short-term decision."

Hackett noted that building has no generator to use during power outages and selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said he had concerns about potential expenses related to moving the EMD offices.



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

Simply Computing

Onsite Software Support on PCs and Macs from Windows to Office to QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
863-5030

mww
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller 28 Center Street
owner montague, ma 01351
413.320.5336 info@montagwebworks.com

Carol's Beauty Nook

29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers

Gift Certificates Available 413-863-2888

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

WHERE ECONOMY IS KING

AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai

413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture

Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA

Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

Jack Nelson

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Ave A Turners Falls
413.863.4373
www.ahrist.com

FALL INTO SOME SAVINGS!

Ferry Meadow Farm - part XX!

San Jose, CA & Boston 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - The machine needs a retina-scan before I can log on.

I place my body between the camera and the computer while it is scanning and plug in a drive I have already in my hand.

The installation works, and it happens fast.

Jason's people have done their work well.

I try to look bored and annoyed, in case anyone is watching. Then I slip out the drive and log off fast.

Now I just need to walk down the hall, through the door, and out to the car that is waiting. I take a deep breath and start walking. At the door I turn to smile at the

security guard.

She looks a little surprised that I am leaving already. "Looks like it's all working OK," I say, smiling. I pretend to wipe sweat from my brow. "Phew!"

She smiles like she does not really care what I am talking about.

Then right next to me someone says my name. I jump, startled, but compose myself quickly. There's no one there. The security guard raises an eyebrow.

I laugh nervously, "I just remembered something I needed to do," I say.

"Looked like you saw a ghost," she says.

At the same time the voice

repeats my name, louder this time. It's someone talking to the body in Boston, of course.

I sink into a chair against the wall and pretend to rummage through my purse.

"Sorry," I say, hoping that I am saying it at the meeting and not to the security guard.

With a sickening effort I focus on the conference room.

"Just wanted your opinion on all this," Josh, my coworker, is saying.

"Oh, well—" I begin.

"We have discussed this at some length," Alissa begins. "Theresa is in agreement with me that it's a lot of work for very little return."

She continues in a lecturing way, not letting anyone speak, especially me, though Josh is clearly trying to interject.

I shift focus again to San Jose.

I only need to get out the door.

I am still in the chair, but just sitting, no longer rummaging. The security guard is looking at me. I wonder how long I have been sitting and doing nothing. I pretend that I have been staring off into space, trying to remember something, and try to have a "Got it!" look on my face.

"I know I had it at the gym," I mutter to myself. I smile apologetically at the security guard. "My brain is still asleep," I say.

She nods at me, wrinkling her eyebrows a bit.

I guess I messed up the part about not attracting too much attention.

Before anything else can go wrong I leap up and go to the door, which slides open automatically. In the dawn light I hurry to the nondescript blue car that is waiting for me.

The driver, her name is Kayley, smiles at me. I sink into the seat, and she drives away. As soon as we round the corner, I recline the seat and close my eyes. I think I fall asleep immediately and barely wake up when Kayley and Jason help me from the car — now inside Kayley's garage — to a bed in her house.

Back in the conference room I talk a lot to make up for my silence during the first half of the meeting. No one in Boston seems suspicious.

I work in the Boston office all day and drive back home at 5:00. I get in bed at 7:00, close my eyes, and instantly I am at Kayley's house. It's 3:00 in the afternoon. I sit up. There's a mirror on the wall. I fix my hair. I have been sleeping in my clothes, which are pretty rumpled.

- Continued Next Issue

Chinese New Year in Turners

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Taking stock of 2011, a year filled with environmental disaster, political failure and economic woe, what better way could anyone think of to usher in the New Year than to laugh out loud for an hour at some skinny guy from China with an inferiority complex and the deranged grin of a chemistry professor?

Joe Wong, six time winner of the stand-up Comedy Contest at the Lizard Lounge in Cambridge, and lately a national celebrity from his appearances on the Letterman and Ellen DeGeneres shows, provided the perfect foil for the restless anomie that seems to be consuming Western Civilization as the calendar turns to an uncertain New Year. And he was kind enough to provide it to a nearly full house at the Shea Theater on December 31st.

Wong, still fondly remembered in Montague for previous New Years Eve performances at the Shea, such as the one in 2007 where he confounded the audience with the illegal immigrant puzzler, "What is Roe v. Wade?" (answer - "two ways of coming to the United States"), continued to work the outsider's angle, and refrained from playing up the cultural superiority of the world's last remaining superpower.

"I was at the Greek Festival," began the self-effacing Wong. "By mistake. I didn't see the letter R."

He later admitted, "I grew up

in China. The only toy I ever got was a Rubik's cube. I never touched it. It was already solved. I knew I'd only make it worse."

Before too long, thoughts of the recession, the cost of heating oil, and the New Hampshire primary vanished as the audience convulsed in helpless laughter.

"I gained 35 pounds last year. I go to the gym. I've tried a lot of different ways of flattening my belly, but so far nothing beats lying on my back."

"I smoked cigarettes for eight years. They tax cigarettes to fund cancer research. I thought, 'Aha! I'm curing myself. If I quit now, I'm gonna die.'"

It was pitiful to watch staid members of the community reduced to shaking jellyfish, giggling and squirming in their seats and wiping tears from their eyes.

"My friend said to me, 'Let's go to Canada and see some bears.' I'm not sure. I'm kind of scared of bears. 'Hey Joe, You gotta remember, the bears are more scared of you than you are of them.'" Wong giggled too, and admitted, "I'm pretty sure the bears are wrong."

Regional differences stand out to the recent immigrant, as Wong noted the difference between New England state highway signs: "Driving to Massachusetts you see the sign, 'Welcome to Massachusetts,' - It's like unconditional love. Driving to New Hampshire you see the sign, 'Live Free or Die.' - They don't



LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Joe Wong

even take prisoners."

Jokes are difficult to translate to the printed page. Especially jokes that rely on a Chinese phrase, like "I got my license and I signed up to be an organ donor. I designated my brain because it makes me happy to think some guy wakes up from a coma and says, (Chinese phrase)."

But you can see Wong, like other immigrants, has equal difficulty making sense of Americanisms.

"It's interesting the way Americans communicate with each other. I was talking to this guy who was rolling his eyes, and I was like, 'What's up? Is there an air raid?'"

Or: "'Hey Joe,' my neighbor said, 'Never say Never.' You just said it twice, man."

Or: "I was in a car rental place and the guy says, 'Hey, what can I do you for?' I'm like, 'Hey dude, not so fast, we hardly know each other.'"

But Wong demonstrated yet again that it is often the outsider

who has the last laugh. "I went to this biker bar and this tough looking dude came up to me and said, 'Hey you, what are you looking at? I'm going to take you down to Chinatown.' I told him, 'You don't want to do that. Once you take me down there you won't be able to find me.'"

Wong quickly transitioned from Beantown to Powertown, asking the audience, "Do you have a Chinatown in Turners Falls? Oh, right, next door."

Ad libbing now, "You seen me working over there before the show? We all look alike."

But before he closed his set, Wong turned to the printed page, a read his take-off on NPR's "This I Believe" series. Wong's credo contained some gems.

"This I believe: I believe the best thing the Chinese ever invented was paper. Because before that we only had rock and scissors.

"And I believe God is a woman, because she never forgets anything I've ever done."

And finally, "I believe when Jesus comes back he'll be driving a car with a bumper sticker that says, 'What Would I Do?' And he better have his papers ready because his name is Jesus."

We laughed until it hurt, and by the time Wong left the stage we were just about ready for 2012.

HIGGINS from page 13 we need to deliver the fundamentals so people can lift themselves from poverty."

The Community Action vision statement reads, "Our vision is to be part of a powerful grassroots movement which will alter social policy and eliminate the need for our agency." In this recession, a time when there will be no need for Community Action is hard to imagine. For now, it is good to know that it will thrive under the sure leadership of Clare Higgins.

Those who want to donate may make checks payable to Community Action and mail them to Heat Up! 393 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301, or donate online at www.communityaction.us



**TOWN OF ERVING
Special Town Meeting**
Monday, January 9th, 2012
7:00PM

Erving Town Hall
12 E. Main Street

A continuation of the 12-12-11 Special Town Meeting will be held to consider the adoption of an Adult Entertainment By-Law.

Town of Erving inhabitants qualified to vote in town affairs are welcome.

Visit www.erving-ma.org or call 413-422-2800 X100

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

BestLocalBank.com
Reach All Locations 772-0293
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

**Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL**

Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes

28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

863-2471

- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- We Master Key & Re-Key
- Safe Combinations Changed

Nina's Nook

Closed for month of January
Reopening with special exhibit on February 1st!

10% off your purchase when you donate a story to the 'Omnium Gatherums' story collection project.

125a Avenue A,
Turners Falls
413.834.8800

art . craft . design www.ninasnook.com

TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
We Know Entertainment

- * Free Consultation
- * State of the Art Sound
- * Best Music for all Ages and Occasions
- * Rental Karaoke System

Steven Therien
413-522-6035
www.tntproj.net

The Wagon Wheel Restaurant

Now Serving
Burgers & Beer
in front of the fire

**BREAKFAST,
LUNCH & DINNER**
7 days a week

Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

T.L.C. TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
"All Aspects of Landscape Design and Maintenance"

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

EVERY TUESDAY
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 37 3rd St, 7 - 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip and Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW until JANUARY 29th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artwork by *Leonore Alaniz*.

NOW until January 31st
Ursa Major Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Paintings by Michael Katz*.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae fantastic, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Planemo, Well Suited, All Systems Go*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th
Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, Craig Edwards will call, and Virginia reels to live old-time music by *Ainley's Melody Makers*. 7 - 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jennie McAvoy*, Celtic singer songwriter, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, 9 - 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *All the Cool Kids Art Show Opening Party*, 7 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Chickenwire*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th
Leverett Congregational Church: *Songs for a Winter's Day*: the winter concert of the *Leverett Community Chorus*. 4 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Free Films for the Frozen, *Big Night*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio, Warped Americana, 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Killian Karlsson Trio with Eli Wilson and Reese Williams*, jazz, 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Annual Big Lebowski Screening and Drinking Night*, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11th
The Third Place, Turners Falls: *Open House at The Third Place*, a new afternoon program for at-risk youth, at 56 Avenue A, 2 - 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larry Klein & Friends*, jazz, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jay Snyder & Tilt*, Funky, Rock, Reggae, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th and SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole Pictures presents Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, a stunning documentary. Backed by a haunting musical score, we follow an expedition into the nearly inaccessible Chauvet Cave in France, home to some of the most ancient visual art created by humans. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th - APRIL 1st
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls:



Trailer Park plays the Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Imitating Art, a student photographic exhibition featuring attempts to photographically reproduce an original work of art. Open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Coffeehouse featuring Ray Mason*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Glenn Roth*, fingerstyle guitarist, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Patty Carpenter*, 8 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: The Leverett Peace Commission presents *Chris Hellman*, Senior Research Analyst at the National Priorities Project on *What Pentagon Spending Means to Your Community: What is Behind the Numbers?* The talk will be followed by a community discussion led by Chris & the Leverett Peace Commission on: *Building a Community Peace Budget in Leverett*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus, Eclectic Harmonic Rock*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *48 Solutions, John Murphy, Michael Graffius*, rock, acoustic, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th
Leverett Elementary School: *Malia Children's Home Fundraising*

Concert. An evening of African song and dance to help two LES alumni raise funds for the Malia Children's Home, 5 - 9 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic originals, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *M.R. Pouloupoulos*, acoustic singer songwriter, 8 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: Full Moon Coffeehouse presents *Trailer Park*, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals Matinee with Marlene Lavelle & Friends*, indie, folk, 6 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Cheile*, an Irish session, 8 - 10 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Free Films for the Frozen, *Hud*, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wood Comes from Trees and other fascinating revelations*. How much wood do we use? How do our local forests fit into the picture? Join Forester *Peter Grima* from DCR to learn about the consequences of our wood consumption, & take away some bits of knowledge that may enable you to make better wood purchases, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Marc Pinansky*, country, folk, melodramatic pop, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, high energy guitar based blues, 9 - 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, indie rock, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band*, classic blues rock 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th and 27th
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st & 28th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Country Players presents Play On! Matinee* also on Sunday, January 29th.

AUDITIONS!
Montague Grange: *Mutton and Mead auditions!* Saturday, January 21st through Monday January 23rd. Mutton & Mead is a Robin Hood-themed theatrical event & festival

held in Montague at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club on June 23rd & 24th. Mutton and Mead is in search of actors, singers, musicians and dancers both novice and professional to help us bring the streets of the village alive! Visit www.MuttonAndMead.com for details.

The Brick House COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
24 3rd Street Turners Falls
VOLUNTEER and INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- * Teen Center Coverage: Tues.-Sat. 2:30-6:00
- * Workshop Facilitators & Organizers for the Summer Workshop Series

Contact Erin 413-863-9576
emyers@brickhousecommunity.org

Deja Brew Cafe & Pub
Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Thursday, 1/5 8 - 10 p.m.
The Relics

Friday, 1/6 9 - 11 p.m.
The Equalites

Saturday, 12/26 9 - 12 p.m.
Dedicated to Delilah

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

The Rendezvous
toddy time

THURS 1/5 7:30PM FREE
FALLTOWN STRING BAND

FRI 1/6 9:30 FREE
PLANEMO / WELL SUITED
ALL SYSTEMS GO
(rock/alt)

SAT 1/7 7pm-close FREE
ALL THE COOL KIDS
Art Show Opening Party

SUN 1/8 9pm-1am
TNT KARAOKE

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
THEYOUNET 413-863-2866

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
Awesome Beer
Amazing Food

Amazing, Awesome Employees!

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

DVD~ MINI DVD~DVC~VHS/VHS
C/SVHS~BETA~REGULAR/HIGH &
DIGITAL 8 MM~HOME MOVIES/SLIDES~
CD'S/REEL TO REEL/8 TRACK/WIRE
AND OTHER FORMATS.

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

WILLIAM & KATHY WHITE (413-773-7747)
LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
21 MOHAWK TRAIL BOX 259
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
LAPINE@VERIZON.NET

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

Local Farmer-Owned

Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture

Products for your animals,
home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

Pipione's SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

Northfield Coffee and Books
Locally Roasted Organic Coffee and Espresso
Gourmet Chocolate, Caramels and Fudge
Kids Area, Gifts & Cards
Books to Browse or Buy
105 Main St, Northfield
413-624-7119 • www.coffeeandbooks.net

50% OFF Any USED BOOK with this AD

The Shedsmith
Sheds, Chicken Coops and More

Home Repairs and Maintenance

Todd Muller
413-775-3575
theshedsmith@hotmail.com
www.theshedsmith.com

Bryan G. Hobbs Remodeling Contractor

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation

Call Now for Free Energy Audit
413-775-9006

Bryan G. Hobbs
346 Conway St.
Greenfield

from SHUTESBURY pg 9

Are we building as wisely and well as they;

Will our work stand the test of the coming day?

Are we laying foundations deep and strong,

For future generations to build upon?

In the battle for things that are honest and right,

Are we in the front or the rear of the fight?"

Then again, Gray Dooley as the student playing Minor's cousin Clayton replied to this ardent soliloquy, "That's enough jaw flappin, I say everybody head over to my tavern, the Palm Gardens, to kick your heels up, let your hair down, and dance the night away."

And dance the night away is what the students did, to the choreographed numbers orchestrated by Shutesbury music teacher Daphne Bye with the help of Emily Samuels and Lisa Enzer, in their amazing, evocative costumes designed by Hollywood's Rory Valentine. Lively musical accompaniment was provided by the Shutesbury Sampler Band:

Brian Bender, Rob Hayes, Geoff Rogers, and Daphne Bye.

Throughout, like Shutesbury's answer to a Greek Chorus, the four seasons with their totem animals commented wryly on the action taking place on multiple stages on three sides of the auditorium.

"Summer is really the best time of year in Shutesbury," insisted Teya Nolan, playing Summer, with her not so tame pet wildcat's (Chase Woodard-McNiff's) growled concurrence.

The first grade class of pesky mosquitoes were determined to prove her wrong at one town picnic after another.

"Summer's OK," remarked Fall, Luke Sedor-Protti, crisply, with Moose Leo Kahan nodding in assent. "But Fall, that's another story. That's a lot of stories."

"Now hold on, Missy, said Dylan Walter in the role of winter, trying to restrain a headstrong Spring. "In New England we have nine months of winter and three months of darn poor sledding." That one made owl Maxx Hagen hoot.

But Spring, the dynamic



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Martin Thompson, Fiona Rogers, Caleb Gannon, and Kaya LeLacheur (with violin) act in a tableau of wintertime family activities in Shutesbury in the early 1900s.

Emma Wilburn, could not be stifled for long. "Spring! Spring!" she burst out passionately. "That's what everybody has been waiting for. Me! Spring!" Her associate spring peeper, Evelyn Hardy, leaped in rambunctious accord.

And so the raucous discourse of the seasons continues in its round, year after year, as the children of Shutesbury toboggan down from the town center to Colleyville, in hopes that Bob Dihlmann would be waiting for them at the bottom with his Model T to tow them back.

You see, it is not so easy to get to Shutesbury, whatever road you take up to the center. It's high up, the soil is thin, and along about

1940 the population had thinned out too, to just 191 people. With the damming of the Swift River, the neighboring town of Prescott had vanished altogether beneath the Quabbin, and nearly one third of Shutesbury had been bought up by the MDC to protect Boston's drinking water.

But a new group of residents have come to settle here, attracted by the rural charm, and the proximity to Amherst and UMass. The population is above 1800 now, the high water mark since Roadtown was founded on the cart road from Lancaster to Sunderland. The new residents found their roots and their common heritage in a Shutesbury Sampler, and left the richer for it,

whatever next week's vote on the new town library may bring.

Walking out of the packed schoolhouse on West Pelham Road to the overflowing parking lot, many turned their eyes upwards as they waited for traffic to move and their chance to start for home. The sky was clear that night. The stars were very close and bright. There was a feeling hovering in the air, almost within reach, a feeling rare to find in big cities or even in river bottom towns, but a feeling you could bring home with you that night, with the words of a children's chorus still ringing in your ears, a song about starlight, warmth, and togetherness on a Shutesbury Night.



Izzy Williams in the role of Mary Forsythe, an early 20th century resident of Baker Road, in a Shutesbury Sampler.

from MAHAR page 8 services, and facilities between Orange elementary schools, Petersham Center School, and Mahar had saved the Mahar district \$55,751 in FY'12.

Finance and facilities subcommittee chair Cara Deane of Orange reported the FY'13 budget process was going well and it appeared there would not be an increase over FY'12 costs. The budget will be presented to the full committee in February.

The committee voted to approve the 2012-13 school calendar proposed by Baldassarre, with a teacher start date of August 24th, and a student start date of August 27th, 2012. Asked about the early first day of school, Baldassarre said, "The

number of days students have in class before MCAS testing absolutely improves MCAS performance." He said there was also a reduction in the number of half days, to provide "more learning time." He told the committee the calendar had been presented to teachers' union leaders at Mahar, Orange, and Petersham, and had not been questioned.

At Baldassarre's recommendation, the committee voted to move \$40,000 from other line items to the school committee expenses line to pay for additional costs for regionalization consultants from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and other legal expenses.

The committee voted down a motion to have the meetings

recorded on video, a recommendation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in order to "illustrate cooperation and collaboration."

Wendell's Johanna Bartlett said, "I don't think it [videotaping meetings] does promote community involvement." New Salem representative Michael Yohan said the meeting videos would most likely be shown on AOTV, which is not available in Wendell, Petersham, or New Salem. Others said because meeting minutes are available on the Mahar website and because the committee complies with the open meeting law, community members have access to information about what happens at the meetings.

Warm Spinach Salad	Savory Roasted Apples
Duck and	Grilled Plums <small>new</small>
<small>menyoo</small>	

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL (413) 863-8666

magpie
woodfired pizzeria

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gld.
413-475-3570

Patty Smythe
Licensed Massage Therapist

Myofascial Release
Sports Massage
Thai Massage

50 Chapman Street • Suite 5
Greenfield
413-774-0517
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring
Tile
Lino
Carpet

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Member The Flooring Network.

TURN IT UP!
MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
413-367-2481

Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CopyCat Print Shop
Loves You More

Check our other ad in this newspaper

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

scan this to know more about us

(413) 774-3500
greenfield@copycatprintshop.com