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LAKE PLEASANT

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 14

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 17, 2013

Arnie's Thrift Store Packs It In



Arnie Houle at the Thrift Store.

By SHIRA HILLEL

TURNERS FALLS – After 27 years of business, Arnie's Thrift Store, prominently located at the intersection of Avenue A and 3rd St, is closing its doors. The final date is set for Feb. 28. Owner Arnie Houle is liquidating as much of his inventory as he can, and is offering \$5 bag sales until the end of February.

Houle, 64, has lived in Montague all his life. He had been getting ready to retire the business next year, but recently decided to close up sooner. "The economy," see **ARNIE'S** page 6



Presiding Judge Justice Susan Carney

By DAVID DETMOLD

NEW YORK – Lawyers for Entergy Vermont Yankee and the State of Vermont went head to head in a federal courtroom in New York City on Monday to determine the fate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.

Vermont is seeking to reverse a lower federal court ruling that tossed out the state's Act 160, the law passed by a nearly unanimous Vermont legislature in 2005 that gave the legislature the right to decide on an extension of the Vernon nuclear reactor's original 40-year operating license. Entergy,

the Louisiana-based corporation that owns and operates Vermont Yankee (VY), is hoping to preserve that ruling, which has allowed VY to continue generating 620 megawatts of electric power to the New England grid, and profits for Entergy.

The appeal of the case, *Entergy vs. Shumlin et al.*, was heard by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in an ornate 17th floor courtroom in the Thurgood Marshall Federal Court Building, within spitting distance of the entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge. Justice Susan Carney presided, and from the get go, she and her associate justices

Vermont to Feds: We Have the Right to Close VY

peppered David Frederick, the Washington DC-based private litigator hired by Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell (at a reported cost of over \$200,000) to present the state's appeal, and Kathleen Sullivan, the high-powered attorney going to bat for Entergy, with a barrage of questions showing their in-depth knowledge of the complex case, and their skepticism of the all-or-nothing positions staked out by both sides.

But Sorrell, holding forth in front of the courthouse in an impromptu sidewalk press conference after the 40-minute hearing, said he was pleased with the proceedings: "There were more questions today that I was pleased to hear than made me cringe.... We had a really good outing today."

Frederick repeatedly cited the U.S. Supreme Court's 1983 ruling in *Pacific Gas and Electric Company vs. the State [of California] Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (PG&E)*, which held that a state's economic interest in prohibiting the operation of commercial nuclear power plants within

its borders is not preempted by the 1954 federal Atomic Energy Act.

"The justices did not say when they would rule on the appeal; it could take weeks; it could take months. Many legal commentators consider it likely the case will continue on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court."

It was on the premise that the federal government preempts state authority when it comes to the safety of nuclear power that Entergy challenged the State of Vermont's 2010 decision to close VY. Relying on Act 160, the Vermont State Senate voted 26 – 4 in February of that year to deny a 20-year extension of VY's original 40-year operating license. The vote was taken in the weeks immediately following the discovery of an extensive

see **VY** page 4

FILM REVIEW

Lincoln, History and Us

By JEFF SINGLETON

How many of you have seen *Lincoln*, the new film by Steven Spielberg? If you are interested in American history, you should not miss it. If you think you are not interested in history, you should probably not miss it either. It is a very compelling narrative and contains some ideas we as Americans definitely need to think about.

This is not a biopic about the life of Abraham Lincoln; the title is a bit misleading. It focuses on the campaign to get the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery through Congress in early 1865. The Civil War was coming to an end, and Lincoln and his allies feared the Emancipation Proclamation

(1863), freeing slaves in the rebelling states, would be declared an unconstitutional expansion of federal power once the war was over.

The amendment passed the Senate the previous spring, but failed to receive two-thirds of the votes in the House of Representatives. After significant Republican victories in the 1864 election, Lincoln and his Republican allies decided to try again, focusing this time on turning the votes of "lame duck" Democrats defeated in the election.

The situation is complicated by the need to hold the various factions of Lincoln's Republican Party together. The radicals, led by Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, did not think the amendment went

far enough to ensure the civil rights of former slaves. The moderates, led by Republican Party founder Francis Blair, opposed slavery but also opposed political and social equality for black Americans. They demanded stronger efforts to make peace with the South as a condition for support. Lincoln supported a peace initiative but feared that, if it succeeded, the rationale for the amendment as a necessary step to end the war would be undermined.

The plot may sound dry for those not interested in the political nitty-gritty, but this is high drama, with plenty of melodrama and even humor. Mrs Lincoln is constantly on the verge of a nervous breakdown because her young son

see **LINCOLN** page 12



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SLATE.COM

Mary Todd Lincoln, the First Lady left; and Sally Field, right.



PHOTO FLICKR/CREATIVE COMMONS/MICAH TAYLOR

The Flu in View

"Acute cough," sometimes called "acute bronchitis," lasts an average of nearly 18 days.

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE – If there is one thing politicians in DC have managed to agree upon, it is to urge us all to get a flu shot. In the midst of what health care experts say may be the worst flu season in nine years, discussion of the flu, whether in coffee shops, school cafeterias or online, is running high. Who's had shots, who's gotten sick and how effective the vaccine really is (or isn't). School-kids are saying the vaccine is lethal (really).

Comb the web and you'll find plenty of tragic and alarming mainstream stories, and just as many discussions about the conspiracy of vaccination programs or comments like the following: "My co-workers all got the shot, and they're all sick. I didn't and I'm not sick. They just don't get it. It's the vaccine that made them sick." But the fact is you cannot get flu from a vaccine that only contains pieces of the virus.

While it is true that vaccinated individuals may end up with the flu either because there is a two-week window before the vaccine is fully effective, or because the vaccines are not 100 percent effective, or because they may not have mounted a strong response – the flu vaccine is the least likely cause of illness. And, aside from self-imposed isolation, vaccination is the only truly effective method of prevention.

Each year in the US the flu virus is associated with anywhere from 3,000 to upwards of 50,000 deaths, depending on the type of virus. Recently, the CDC revised the estimated deaths associated with the 2009 H1N1 flu from 18,500 to hundreds of thousands, possibly half a million, deaths worldwide. The so-called Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 is believed to have taken 50 million lives worldwide.

While the elderly are typically most vulnerable, the flu

takes too many of our youngest, particularly infants who are more likely to be hospitalized. So far this year there are 20 flu-associated pediatric deaths, and 15 of those are infants, one of them at my sister-in-law's hospital in Allentown, PA. And it is only early January.

Another blarney argument (blog argument) against vaccination is efficacy. As in: "I read the vaccine is only 60% effective, so why risk getting one?"

Writes Dr. Bernadette Albanese, public health physician in Boulder, Colorado, "That is 60% compared to ZERO [efficacy] if you do not get vaccinated. Put another way, you can potentially prevent flu in well over half of a vaccinated population as compared to an unvaccinated population. When you have population size of 100,000 or 1,000,000 that adds up to a lot of people who will remain well instead

see **FLU** page 5

PET OF THE WEEK Take Me Home



Callie

If you stop to admire my lovely green eyes, gazing into them while you wonder how a charming cat like myself managed to find herself homeless on the streets of Greenfield, I'm likely to respond with a bored yawn that says, "What are you waiting for? Take me home!"

I have a tendency to be blunt: no beating around the cat tree with me. Here's what you need to know about me: I'm friendly, playful and talkative when I have something important to say. Other cats? Sure, as long as they obey my every whim. Dogs? See above. Yes, I like to be the boss, but I also have a softer side, one that welcomes cuddling and a warm lap after a long day on the prowl. If you're still reading this, you can guess what I'm going to say – "What are you waiting for? Take me home!"

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

Erving Public Library PJ Story Time

On Sunday, Jan. 20, the Erving Public Library will hold "Snowy Stories" from 6 to 7 p.m. This free PJ story hour will be hosted by Jon Ploof, and is intended for children up to 8 years old.

Enjoy stories and songs, have a light snack, make a craft project, take home a free book, and spend time

with family and friends. No registration necessary. Just show up!

This program is supported by the Community Network for Children, CFCE grant and the Erving Public Library. For more information contact Gillian Budine, CNC Coordinator, at (978) 544-5157 or at budine@erving.com.

Tax Help Tips for Seniors

By JESSICA ALBRECHT

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin County Home Care Corporation wants people to be aware that the circuit breaker and property tax abatement may help seniors at tax time. Don't forget to ask your tax preparer about these options.

The "Circuit Breaker" is a refundable state tax credit against property taxes for seniors.

According to the Massachusetts tax codes, "Seniors are eligible for a tax credit to the extent that their property taxes – or 25 percent of rent – exceed 10 percent of their income. Income limits and a cap on the maximum assessed value of the filer's

primary residence apply. The maximum credit is also adjusted annually for inflation. The maximum base credit was \$385 for tax year (TY) 2001, \$790 for TY02, \$810 for TY03, \$820 for TY04, \$840 for TY05, \$870 for TY06, \$900 for TY07, \$930 for TY08, \$960 for TY09, and \$970 for TY10.

"Income limits and the maximum credit are adjusted for inflation over a 1999 base year; however, chapter 136 of the Acts of 2005 increased the assessed home valuation to \$600,000 and set its base year to 2004."

Many towns also offer a property tax abatement for seniors. Ask your town clerk if this is an option for you, and pass any information onto your tax preparer.

Free Healthy Eating Workshop for Seniors

A free workshop, "Healthy Eating for Successful Living," will take place Mondays, Jan. 28 through Mar. 11 from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the Shelburne Falls Senior Center, 7 Main St., Shelburne, MA 01370.

Enjoy fresh food, fun and better health. Learn more about nutrition and how small, "doable" lifestyle

changes can lead to a healthier life.

For more information or to register, contact Lesley Kayan at: lkayan@fchcc.org, or (413) 773-5555 (x 2297).

This workshop is open to all and brought to you by Franklin County Home Care Corp., Tufts Health Plan Foundation, and the United Way of Franklin County.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I keep hearing about how bad coffee is for you. I also hear about how good coffee is for you. What gives?

A. The average American drinks over 400 cups of coffee a year, so how this popular beverage affects our health is an important issue.

Let's start with the *bad* part.

According to Dr. Rob van Dam, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health: for the general population, the evidence

suggests that coffee drinking doesn't have any serious detrimental health effects.

Van Dam says that drinking up to six cups of coffee a day is not associated with an increased risk of death from any cause. He warns that some people, such as pregnant women and those who find it difficult to control their blood pressure or blood sugar, may want to avoid coffee or switch to decaf.

"If you're drinking so much coffee that you get tremors, have sleeping problems, or feel stressed and uncomfortable, then obviously you're drinking too much coffee," Van Dam said. "But in terms of effects on mortality or other health factors, we don't see any negative effects of consuming up to six cups of coffee a day."

The cup he's talking about is an

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – January 21st to 25th

GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, 1/21

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch & Bingo
1 p.m. No Knitting Circle

Tuesday, 1/22

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Tying Up Loose Ends

Wednesday, 1/23

10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 1/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 1/25

10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is 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. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Flu Clinic – Call the Senior Center at (413) 423-3649 to find out when the next flu clinic will be held. This clinic is free to Erving residents, sponsored by the Erving Board of Health and available on a walk-in basis. The shot is recommended for those over 55, those who work with children or the elderly, and those with chronic illness. Pneumonia shots will also be available for those over 60 who have never been vaccinated.

Telephone Reassurance – Phone



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

These alarming signs were spotted in the middle of the Montague State Forest, off Ripley Road.

Wendell Free Library

Morgan Mead: New Paintings

The Wendell Free Library presents "Morgan Mead: New Paintings," seven large acrylic works that bring in the New Year with a resounding visual display, a celebration of imagination wedded to color and pattern, a show that is filled with fun and intrigue all at once.

The show is up now and will continue until the end of February.

Library Hours are

Tuesday 3 to 6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 to 8; Saturday 9:30 to 3:30; and in winter, Sunday 11:30 to 3:30.



BALDWIN PHOTO

"Poor Ethan Fell Through the Cracks and Was Consumed"

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

The Pros and Cons of Drinking Coffee

eight-ounce with 100 mg of caffeine, not one of those grandes you get at Starbucks, which can keep you awake until Jimmy Fallon goes off the air.

Okay, what about the *good* part.

Some research has suggested that drinking coffee may protect against cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, several cancers, liver cirrhosis, depression and Alzheimer's disease.

Again, a nice summary from Dr. van Dam: Coffee may have potential health benefits, but more research needs to be done.

When studying the effects of coffee, the focus is not just on the caffeine in the brew. Coffee contains over 1,000 compounds that can impact your health.

There is another health issue

that doesn't receive much publicity. How you brew your coffee has an effect upon LDL cholesterol, also known as the *bad* cholesterol.

Coffee contains substances that raise LDL levels in your body. Brewing coffee with a paper filter removes these substances. Other methods of coffee preparation, such as the French press, espresso or simple boiling, put the substances in your cup. Single-serving coffee pods, such as those used in a Keurig coffee maker, contain filters.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Logan Kordana
Bryce Waldron

Grade 7

Hannah Bogusz

Grade 8

Kaili Lynch

RECYCLE BOTTLES & CANS! Week of January 21st in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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Local Briefs

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Get ready for another **postal increase** effective Sunday, Jan. 27. The price for mailing a first class letter will be 46 cents. For those Montague Reporter subscribers who receive the newspaper in the mail the postal rate is now 66 cents. This appears to be a yearly event that affects the bottom line of many publications.

If you are age **60 or over** and worried about your home heating bill, you may be able to find help through Franklin County Home Care's Benefits Counseling Program. FCHC counselors will help income eligible seniors file an application for fuel assistance, and find other ways to help save money. Contact Gretchen Smith at (413) 773-5555 or email info@fchcc.org for more information.

Vic Scutari Memorial Event

WENDELL – Vic Scutari, 80, of Farley Road, died Saturday, Jan. 12, at home.

A celebration of Vic's life will be held at the Wendell Town Hall on Sunday, Jan. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made, in lieu of flowers, to any of the following:

The Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376;

Friends of Wendell, 6 Lockes Village Road;

Friends of the Wendell Free Library, P.O. Box 133;

Wendell Good Neighbors, P.O. Box 222, Wendell, MA 01379.

Brick House Showing the Presidential Inauguration and a Documentary

The Brick House will show the Presidential Inauguration on Monday Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m. and a documentary on the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Come celebrate this exciting event with us!

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street, Turners Falls. For more information, contact Maria Geueke at (413) 863-9559.

mation. Read more about the program at www.fchcc.org.

The weekly **"Music and Movement"** series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson has moved to the Carnegie Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during January and February. Young children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to these free programs.

Young children ages 3-6 and their parents or caretakers are invited to join refuge staff for Discovery Hour on Friday, Jan. 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. This is an opportunity to discover different things about local wildlife and the places they live. Be ready to be crafty, have fun, and bring your imagination as children explore the natural world around them. This month's topic is **bears**.

The GFDC also has a new and exciting website. Visit www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.

"Music to your ears" featuring the delightful brother/sister combination of Ken and Corki with their instrumental and vocal talents will be held at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. until noon. Their songs range from pop to the whimsical with a blend of ballads and folk favorites and are appropriate for all ages. Pop in for a few minutes or pull up a chair and enjoy the entire show. Light refreshments will be provided. No registration is required.

The **NELCWIT Bowlathon** this year will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the French King Entertainment Center located on Route 2 in Erving. NELCWIT is the "New England Learning Center for Women in Transition". NELCWIT serves Franklin County and the North Quabbin region of western Mass. They offer safety planning,

advocacy, and support to anyone who has survived domestic or sexual abuse, and prevention education for our community, especially area youth.

This year the goal is to raise \$12,000. Every dollar goes to support vital services, including the crisis hotline, prevention education programs, and counseling and advocacy services for individuals and families who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. More information for bowlers and sponsors can be accessed online at www.nelcwit.org.

The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association invites you to read **Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*** and come to a three-part talk and discussion series. The first discussion will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Forbes Library in Northampton. The second discussion will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Greenfield Public Library, and the third discussion will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Jones Library in Amherst. Space is limited; please pre-register for the program by emailing wmmgasilentspring@gmail.com.

The **Greenfield Gateway Sculpture Project** announces its first competition for sculptures designed to welcome visitors and residents to Greenfield. Over the next four years, four permanent sculptures will be sited in key areas around town. The competition is open to all Pioneer Valley artists. Applications, including 2- or 3-dimensional models of the proposed sculpture, are due no later than Monday, Feb. 4. For applications, contact project chairperson Susan Wargaffik at (413) 773-0228 or suworg@comcast.net. Send local briefs to reporter-local@montaguema.net.

Workshop: Building Language with Picture Books and Play

The Community Network for Children is holding a Building Language Workshop at the Swift River School in Wendell on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. Free childcare and dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. with registration.

Research shows that early language is the key to later academic

success. Strong reading and writing skills come from strong language skills. Come learn and practice simple strategies that help children gain solid language skills while playing and having fun.

For more information, contact Gillian Budine, CNC Coordinator, at (978) 544-5157 or budine@erv-ing.com.

New Reiki Collective at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center

Nine women have come together, under the training and guidance of Reiki Master Teacher Jennifer Storey, to offer the art of Reiki to the community. The clinic model operates on the "Pay it Forward" concept: each woman receives training for free at the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center in exchange for volunteering her time in the clinic, thereby allowing their services to be offered on a donation basis. All donations will be used to support and expand the program. The Reiki Collective will offer individual Reiki sessions twice monthly on the first Tuesday and third Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 78 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The collective is open to all and is accepting reservations for Monday, Jan. 21 and Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Each chair session will last 15 minutes and will be offered by a member of the Reiki Collective who has completed Reiki level 1 training. Sessions on the Reiki table, which will be provided by two or more practitioners simultaneously, are also available. For these special sessions, there is a suggested minimum donation of \$36.

Reiki is a very specific form of energy healing in which hands are placed just off the body, or lightly touching the body, whichever is most comfortable for the recipient. The intention is to create deep relaxation to help speed healing, reduce pain,

and decrease other symptoms one may be experiencing.

Recent studies (published in National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), Research in Gerontological Nursing, Journal of Holistic Nursing, and others) demonstrate the effect of Reiki on work-related stress, blood pressure and heart rate, anxiety, depression, pain, and physiology. Reiki has been proven effective in promoting relaxation, improving physical symptoms; elevating mood and feelings of well-being, increasing a sense of curiosity and a desire to learn more, and heightened sensory and cognitive responses.

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Christine, the Programs Coordinator at TFWRC, at (413) 863-4804 (x 1003) or christine@mcsmcommunity.org, or Jennifer at (917) 544-7292 or tfwrcreikicollective@gmail.com. TFWRC is a program of Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

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About Face Computing

The Montague Reporter is Back!

Happy New Year from all of us at the paper. 2012 ended with then-editor Peter Kobel's resignation for unexpected personal reasons. While we were saddened by Peter's departure, he was able, in the short time he was with us, to draw upon his experience and impart many useful suggestions and tools that we are implementing. We thank him and wish him all the best in the new year.

A huge thanks also to the MR's founder and sole editor for 10 years, David Detmold, whose constant attention and hard work to matters Montague, and eventually to the towns of Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett, have brought the paper this far. David will continue to cover the Leverett selectboard for the time being, and will contribute occasional articles to the paper as the spirit moves him. David's continued support and advice have been essential in this time of transition.

A third thanks goes to the Board of the Montague Reporter for all their hard work, and in particular to Wes Blixt for facilitating the purchase of new software to upgrade our layout process.

A new team has been formed including Shira Hillel as Editor, Patricia Pruitt as Assistant Editor, and Mike Jackson as Business Manager. Claudia Wells continues as Layout and Art Director, Don Clegg as Distribution Manager, and Lenny Zarcone as our ad agent in the field.

Writers new and old provide the paper with its lifeblood. Many more hands are involved behind the scenes in editorial and technical assistance, and in delivering to homes and news stands every week. We are grateful to rest on this foundation of community support and involvement.

All of us at the paper appreciate and thank you, our subscribers and advertisers, for your patience during this hiatus in the publication of the *Montague Reporter*, which allowed certain long-delayed housekeeping projects to be completed. Many of you let us know your paper was missed, which lends us encouragement and energy as our second decade stretches ahead. We will continue to bring to our readers the news and views of the communities we serve.

LETTER TO



THE EDITOR

Thank You

On Tuesday, Jan. 1, Montague Parks & Recreation held their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center. Approximately 166 runners from all over the region (and beyond) participated in this major fundraising event that supports our 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 would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Turn It Up Music, Greenfield Savings Bank, Renaissance Builders, Judd Wire, and Red Fire Farm for their generous financial support.

We would also like to thank Montague Grange No. 141, Foster's Supermarket, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for much-needed supplies, materials

and other critical services.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, the Montague Highway Department, Montague Police, and the countless number of volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year's Day helping.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the Sawmill Run. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Sincerely,
Jon Dobosz, CPRP
Director
Parks & Recreation
Town of Montague

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 1/16/13

Wounded: 17,674 Deaths: 2,175



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VY from page 1

underground leak of radioactive tritium into the groundwater at the Connecticut River-side reactor, from underground pipes Entergy officials had previously sworn on oath to Vermont regulators did not even exist.

Entergy won the first round of that lawsuit in federal district court in Windham County, VT in February, 2012, when Judge J. Garvin Murtha ruled that Act 160, although it eschewed any mention of radiological health and safety in its text, was in fact predicated on the State of Vermont's fear that Vermont Yankee's continued operation would place the health and safety of its residents in jeopardy from radiation, either from routine daily releases, accidental spills like the tritium leak, or from a worst-case radiological accident *à la* Chernobyl or Fukushima.

"There is ample evidence the reason the legislature moved the decision-making power was so that it could pocket veto the approval without any reasons that were reviewable..."

— Kathleen Sullivan, Attorney for Entergy

Murtha's extensive review of the legislative record cited numerous instances where individual legislators referred to concerns about public health and safety in committee hearings, as VY legislation was being prepared.

Up first, Frederick began Monday's oral arguments by arguing there is no real difference in a state's right to relicense a nuclear power plant within its borders and a state's right to allow a nuclear power plant to operate within its borders in the first place, a right the federal government has never disputed.

Frederick continued by stating, "Act 160 is a process statute. All it does is to allow the state legislature to have a role in deciding," whether to allow relicensing. The law does not address radiological health and safety, said Frederick, and, referring to the *PG&E* case, he added, "The Supreme Court held that we're going to look at the face of the statute. We're not going to inquire into the motives of state legislators," in passing it.

"Yes, but," said Justice Carney

interrupting, "Mightn't we have some concerns about how that process would be utilized in this case, given the extensive history," of the Vermont legislature's efforts to weigh in on the continued operation of VY?

Frederick responded by saying that Entergy's lawyer, Sullivan, and Judge Murtha had engaged in a "cherry picking" operation to strike down Act 160 on grounds of federal preemption. He said under Sullivan's guidance, Judge Murtha had combed through the record of legislative committee hearings on VY, often focusing on hearings that did not produce legislation, in order to find instances where "five out of 156 legislators" referred to health and safety and VY in their deliberations.

Showing how carefully the appeals panel had done their research, Judge Christopher Droney said the U.S. Supreme Court in the *PG&E* case did, in fact, look at the Congressional legislative record, and the record of a California legislative committee that helped prepare the bill, to determine its finding in that case.

Frederick responded, the Supreme Court, after looking at the face of the statute, said, "We'll make a very brief look at certain legislative sources to determine whether they confirm the economic justification given." In contrast, Frederick said, the Vermont district court judge admitted that on the face of it, the statute in question made no reference to safety as a justification, and despite that, he went on a fishing expedition, "looking over the heads and shoulders of legislators," to see if the court could find counterfactual evidence that lawmakers were in fact masking their true intentions in enacting legislation.

Judge Murtha, Frederick said, "was trying to cherry pick statements, when the judge himself said that statute is clear on its face." Frederick said the Vermont legislature had spelled out the state's overriding economic, environmental, and energy diversity concerns in passing Act 160, as stated in the act's preamble.

Judge Paul Gardephe then commented, "But don't we have to look at the legislative history? Otherwise legislatures could insulate themselves from review simply by making sure there are no references to safety in a statute."

Frederick responded, despite the clear wording that the state of

Vermont had other interests, economic interests, at play, in passing Act 160, what Judge Murtha's ruling and Entergy's argument on appeal essentially find is that the State of Vermont "is preempted, under the Atomic Energy Act, even from being a player in the decision of whether to renew a license. And that clearly can't be right, because the Supreme Court in *PG&E* said if the state legislature wants to be a part of the process, of course, that's permitted."

Frederick insisted, "There are non-safety reasons the state wants to be involved in this," and made the analogy of a lease renewal negotiation where "the tenant has overstayed their welcome."

Judge Carney countered Frederick's assertion that Act 160 was in the final analysis merely a "process statute," saying what the law did was to insure there would be "no further operation" of VY, "without affirmative legislative action." And, she pointed out, "We have this legislative history showing at least a purpose in some legislator's minds related to radiological safety."

Frederick insisted, "There are non-safety reasons the state wants to be involved in this," and made the analogy of a lease renewal negotiation where "the tenant has overstayed their welcome." Frederick said if the federal government recognizes a state's right to regulate a utility within its border through an agency like the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), then there is no valid argument why the state legislature cannot itself weigh in on the continued operation of a utility like Entergy VY within its borders.

Nine states, including Massachusetts have joined with Vermont in appealing Murtha's decision the 2nd District.

Speaking to the state's economic interest in closing the reactor, Carney asked if Entergy were to go bankrupt, would the State of Vermont have sole responsibility for the financial burden of dealing with the growing repository of spent fuel being stored on site at the

see VY page 6

VY from pg 4

nuclear reactor – which now totals over 700 metric tons, or 3400 highly radioactive fuel assemblies – in the event the federal government continues to come up short in its 60-year effort to site a permanent nationwide repository for spent fuel from commercial reactors.

Frederick said yes, and that in addition, the state may well find itself on the hook financially if the decommissioning fund for VY, to which Entergy has been notably unwilling to contribute any funds since 2002, when it purchased the reactor, should be unequal to the cost of the reactor's eventual shut-down and decommissioning.

“Litigator David Frederick said the Vermont legislature had spelled out the state’s overriding economic, environmental, and energy diversity concerns in passing Act 160, as stated in the act’s preamble.”

Sullivan began her presentation for Entergy by stating, “The district court has found that Act 160 is preempted by the Federal [Atomic] Energy Act.”

She said Act 160’s “preamble does not hide the intent. You can’t look at only the non-preempted” reasons the Vermont legislature cited for passing the legislation, “and ignore the intent revealed by legislators’ comments.”

Sullivan referred the justices to some footnotes in Murtha’s ruling that quoted various state legislators specifically referring to health and safety concerns about VY in committee hearings.

To which Carney replied,

“Does the mere mention of public health and safety torpedo the entire legislation, and why should it?”

Sullivan tried to walk the appeals court back to prior legislative initiatives of the Vermont legislature that she said would show a history of the state’s intent, but Carney said those examples were not determinative to the intent of Act 160.

Then Sullivan countered, “Act 160 is not just a process act. It’s a statute that enables the legislature to shut down VY, by declining to approve an ongoing license for operation, even though the Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted that license in 2011.”

“But does the State of Vermont have any obligation to approve continued operation?” demanded Carney.

“It may not disapprove it for a safety purpose,” Sullivan replied.

“What if there are mixed motives?” asked Justice Droney. “What if there are economic and environmental” concerns involved, along with health and safety concerns when the legislature passed the law?

Sullivan replied, “We think Judge Murtha was correct in his meticulous, 101-page opinion,” striking down Act 160 on grounds of federal preemption. Sullivan said the court could find Vermont’s true motive – protecting the health and safety of its residents from radiation from VY – by three methods – the text of the statute, the legislative history of the deliberations leading to its passage, and the implausibility of Vermont’s purported reasons for passing the law. Sullivan said if the court finds that “safety is a purpose,” in any respect in passing Act 160, “we win.”

Carney suggested, “The State may have a legitimate natural rationale for its concern about having to pay for maintenance and



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuclear Reactor Vermont Yankee, May 2010.

the care of spent fuel, if Entergy should decide to leave the state. And that stockpile continues to grow.”

Judge Carney asked, “Does the mere mention of public health and safety torpedo the entire legislation, and why should it?”

“It may not disapprove it for a safety purpose,” Attorney Kathleen Sullivan replied. “What if there are mixed motives?” asked Justice Droney. “What if there are economic and environmental” concerns involved, along with health and safety concerns when the legislature passed the law?

Sullivan replied, “Entergy bears its own costs,” for dealing with the spent fuel on the site. “It’s not imposed on Vermont ratepayers.” And the NRC will make sure of that.

Carney asked again what would prevent Entergy from closing down and walking away from the site, if it was no longer in the corporation’s interest to continue operating.

Sullivan said nuclear power reactors like Entergy were heavily regulated by the NRC, so that could never happen. “Entergy has sufficient funds to deal with the

spent fuel,” she repeated.

Carney parried, “Act 160 doesn’t say, ‘We’re shutting down the nuclear generator.’ It creates a role for the legislature, doesn’t it?”

Sullivan replied, “There is ample evidence, and the district court discussed it, that the reason the legislature moved the decision making power from the PSB to the legislature was so that it could pocket veto the approval without any reasons that were reviewable...”

She again referred to past actions of the legislature regarding VY, and said Judge Murtha’s decision did not rely on “cherry picking,” but on “a cherry orchard” of examples proving the legislature’s true intent.

In rebuttal, Frederick attempted to undermine Sullivan’s claim that Entergy would continue to pay for long term storage of nuclear waste at the Vernon site, and for the eventual decommissioning of the reactor, by recalling Entergy’s proposal to establish an uncapitalized “shell corporation,” dubbed Exelon, to own its Northeastern nukes, including VY. That proposal was derailed by regulators in New York and New England, but not before it caused legislators in Vermont to become so distrustful of Entergy’s actions as to pass Act 160 – for economic reasons, Frederick insisted.

Frederick concluded his rebuttal by once again citing the US Supreme Court’s 1983 unanimous decision upholding the right of the state of California in the PG&E case to halt the construction of nuclear power reactors in the state until the issue of long term storage

of nuclear waste had been adequately resolved.

In that unanimous decision, Justice Byron White wrote, “What motivates one legislator to vote for a statute is not necessarily what motivates scores of others to enact it. It would be particularly pointless for us to engage in such inquiry here, when it is clear the states have been allowed to retain authority over the need for electrical generating facilities easily sufficient for a state so inclined to halt the construction of new nuclear power plants by refusing on economic grounds to issue certificates of public convenience in individual proceedings.”

And so, Vermont’s Frederick summed up, the appeals court should find in favor of the State of Vermont’s appeal of Judge Murtha’s decision, because, he said, inquiring into the motives of individual lawmakers in passing Act 160 is just what Judge Murtha did.

The justices did not say when they would rule on the appeal: it could take weeks; it could take months.

Many legal commentators consider it likely the case will continue on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.



ARNIE’S from page 1

close up sooner. “The economy,” Houle said, minding the store on an unseasonably warm January Saturday, “is dead. You can’t pay bills on dreams.” He added that his second job at Yankee Candle is keeping him afloat.

The space will join several other empty storefronts, including adjoining units, on Avenue A.

Arnie’s Thrift Store has sold “everything from soup to nuts. It’s a discount variety store where you can buy everything,” said Houle. He gets most of his goods from storage auctions, and keeps a large

storage space for his secondhand wares. Houle also sets up at flea markets in Hadley and Gardner occasionally and on weekends, and will continue selling at those and dabbling at auctions after the store’s closing.

“It’s not easy,” he said. The store has “been my life for the last 27 years.”

Arnie’s is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. As he tells his customers: just make sure the Open flag is hanging out front, just in case business is so slow, he decides to call it a day.



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UMass Amherst Climate Modelers See Warmer, Wetter Northeast Winters by 2070

WINTER CONTRACTING, SNOW SEASON EXPECTED TO BE SHORTER

AMHERST – A new high-resolution climate study by University of Massachusetts Amherst climate scientists, the first to apply regional climate models to examine likely near-term changes in temperature and precipitation across the Northeast United States, suggests temperatures are going to be significantly warmer in all seasons in the next 30 years, especially in winter. Also, they project that winters will be wetter, with more rain likely than snow.

Writing in the December issue of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Michael Rawlins and Raymond Bradley of the Climate System Research Center at UMass Amherst, with Henry Diaz of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Diagnostics Center, Boulder, Colo., provide the highest resolution climate projections to date for the Northeast from Pennsylvania to Maine for the period 2041 to 2070. The study used data from multiple climate model simulations run at greatly improved resolution.

Rawlins said, "One of the most important aspects of our study is that we can now examine in more detail what's likely to occur across the region with a grid size of approximately 31 by 31 miles. Previous studies used much more coarse-scale general circulation model data. This represents a significant step forward."

Bradley added, "Regional climate models have been around for a while, but they have not been applied specifically to the Northeast region. At this point what we can provide are 'broad brush' estimates of how things will change over the next 30 to 50 years. People should not over-interpret these results. Further research is needed to scale these down to individual locations. But for natural resource conservation managers, water resource managers and others responsible for planning ahead, we expect our region-specific results will be helpful."

Overall, the researchers say the region is projected to warm by some 2 to 3 degrees Celsius by mid-century, with local changes approaching 3.5 degrees C in winter. Precipitation will go up as well, particularly in winter, but again not uniformly across the Northeast. The UMass Amherst climate scientists say confidence in the precipitation change projections for spring, summer and autumn is lower, given

smaller changes relative to natural weather variability.

"The only clear signal of change for precipitation is noted in winter, which appears to be heading toward wetter conditions, consistent with current trends," Rawlins says. Winter precipitation is projected to rise significantly above natural weather variability, around 12 to 15 percent greater from southwest Pennsylvania to northern Maine, with the exception of coastal areas, where projected increases are lower.

"But we shouldn't expect more total seasonal snowfall," he adds. "Combined with the model-projected temperature trends, much of the increase will occur as rain. We're losing the snow season. It is contracting, with more rain in early and late winter."

For this study, Rawlins and Bradley used available outputs from an ensemble of regional climate models (RCM) from the North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program to look at potential changes in seasonal air temperature and precipitation between the present (1971 to 2000), and a future period (2041 to 2070) across the Northeast. They performed a rigorous evaluation of each model's ability to represent current climate by comparing its outputs to actual weather station data.

The projections assume that greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise, increasing atmospheric CO₂ from about 400 parts per million (ppm) today to between 500 and 600 ppm in 2070. Bradley and Rawlins acknowledge that this outlook represents the "most aggressive, most troubling higher emissions trajectory scenario" for CO₂ levels, but they point out that so far there is little evidence that society will act to appreciably change the current rate of increase.

Each of the five RCMs were forced with data from two general circulation models (GCM), yielding nine GCM-RCM simulations. This provided a rich suite of data for climate change analysis, the scientists say. GCM forcings are applied at the boundaries of the North American region, with RCMs then taking over, resulting in much higher-resolution depictions of precipitation and air temperature than would have been possible using the GCMs alone.

Results show statistically significant increases in air temperature



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Tuesday was a lovely day, with mild temperatures helping to melt the snow along the river at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Pools of water along the banks invited sea birds and mallard ducks to lap up some fresh water and poke around in the muddy grasses for something worth eating. A nice break before snow covers the ground again.

region-wide for every grid in each season, but the changes are not uniform. For example, the models collectively project air temperature changes in winter of more than 3 degrees C (5.5 degrees F) across northern Maine, all of New Hampshire, Vermont and the

Adirondacks, representing about 50 percent of the Northeast region. In some local areas, the increase could be near 4 degrees C (7.2 degrees F).

By contrast, winter air temperature increases in southwest Pennsylvania are projected to be lower, only about 2.4 degrees C. In

summer, the pattern is reversed and the southwest quadrant of the northeast is projected to be warmer and the changes higher.

This story was contributed by the UMass Office of News and Media Relations.

from **WENDELL** page 5

executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation.

Assessors asked, as in prior years, that Wendell have one tax rate for both businesses and homes. The selectboard approved that request unanimously. Assessor Chris Wings said Wendell's residential factor is one, the excess levy capacity, which is the additional amount Wendell may raise in taxes without crossing the proposition 2½ maximum, is \$373,963.36. The expected tax rate will be \$17.71 per \$1,000 valuation, down from \$18.94 last year. Since there has been no residential reevaluation, tax bills in May should be lower than last May for homes with no new additions. The November property tax bill was an estimate.

Wendell's professional assessor, Helen Williams, needs to take a month

off, and wants to have the town hire a temporary replacement. The Warwick assessor's office uses the same program, and Williams will

ask the Warwick assessor if she is willing to take on Wendell while Williams is out.

Herb Hohengasser, the FRCOG-provided plumbing inspector Wendell

uses, will be taking three months off for surgery and recovery. He suggested the town hire Bruce Whittier as a temporary replacement. Whittier has taken the required coursework. Few inspections of new construction are expected in the coming three months, and board members agreed that Whittier could fill the temporary position, despite the fact that Whittier's firm does most of the town's plumbing.

The selectboard table held maps provided by the FRCOG showing the town's floodplains, relating to the national flood insurance program. The town may join that program, and then homeowners within floodplains would be required to buy insurance at a reduced, but still expensive, rate. If the town is not in the program, flood insurance will be more expensive, and mortgage

lenders may require it. The maps show a narrow floodplain along the Millers River, and a narrow band around Whetstone Brook. Selectboard members saw only one home in the floodplain, that of Charles and Shay Cooper. Pooser said he balks at the idea of requiring another expensive insurance bill, and the other board members seemed to agree. Heard said she would talk with Shay Cooper to get her feelings on the issue.

On Nov. 13 a representative from Senator John Kerry's office met Wendell citizens in the town offices. Pooser was among those present and asked that Sen. Kerry look into the helicopters that fly over Wendell in the fall, below the FAA-mandated 500-foot ceiling, in search for... something. They have frightened children playing outside. In response to Sen. Kerry's inquiry, the Texas Army person in charge of fly-overs called the selectboard office to say it is not an Army helicopter. Other agencies have yet to respond.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING**A Hectic Two Weeks at the Community Center**

By KATIE NOLAN

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan told the board at its Jan. 7 meeting that "it was a hectic last two weeks" at the senior and community center. She said that the center was closed one day for lack of heat and potentially closed on several other days, because the twin geothermal heating system pumps were not properly balanced. She added that, with public works director Paul Prest on vacation, highway foreman Glen McCrory was "learning under fire" to deal with the heating system's problems. Sullivan praised the repair work conducted by Climate Heating and Cooling of Pittsfield.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, Sullivan reported that the heating system had been heating the building efficiently, and had worked well during the open house at the senior and community center on Jan. 12, which was attended by approximately 80 people. The board requested that Prest, now back from vacation, contact the system's installer regarding repair of the system.

At its Jan. 14 meeting, the selectboard raised the license fee for un-neutered male dogs from \$3 to \$6 in order to comply with the state's Act Further Regulating Animal Control, signed by governor Deval Patrick in August. The Act requires a higher fee for an "intact" dog than for a spayed or neutered dog, without regard to gender.

At the Dec. 17 special town meeting, an article giving the selectboard the authority to set dog license fees was voted down after residents argued that the pro-

posed fees were too high. At that time, town clerk Richard Newton recommended that the selectboard set fees at \$10 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$15 for an unspayed or un-neutered dog.

However, at the Jan. 7 selectboard meeting, after reviewing the dog licensing bylaws passed by town meeting in 2007 with Newton and town counselor Donna MacNicol, the board decided that the selectboard was the "licensing board" as defined in the bylaw, and was able to set dog license fees. The 2007 bylaw allows the licensing board to change the dog license fee schedule after Jan. 1, 2012.

Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin said that residents at the special town meeting had said, "loud and clear," that they did not approve of increased license fees. Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo called the proposed increases "an increased tax," and said any increases should be "reasonable."

Newton told the selectboard that he didn't care what the fee amounts were, as long as they were in compliance with state law. Goodwin, Klepadlo and Sullivan agreed that the only fee that should be increased was the one for un-neutered males, and that it should be increased to \$6 to make it equal to the fee for unspayed females.

Actual setting of the fee was scheduled for the Jan. 14 meeting. Debra and Jacob Smith of High Street, who had spoken against the higher fees at the Dec. 17 special town meeting, attended the Jan. 14 selectboard meeting and agreed that the increase from \$3 to \$6 was "very fair."

Klepadlo noted that, with low cost license fees, "We expect everyone is going to have their dogs licensed" and recommended that the town be more diligent about locating residents who do not license their dogs.

According to town administrator Tom

Sharp, the State Department of Revenue (DOR) certified the town's free cash amount as of July 1, 2012 at \$1,339,043. According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, free cash includes actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental budget line-items for the year just ending, plus unexpended free cash from the previous year. The DOR certified the town's water enterprise fund at \$106,932 and the sewer enterprise fund at \$893,286.

Town administrator Tom Sharp told the board that contractor J.R. Vinagro Corp. is "very much on time" with demolition work at the former Usher Mill site and that the project "clearly will be done by the end of February." He said that Prest checks on the progress daily and that the town's environmental and engineering consultant Tighe & Bond is also overseeing Vinagro's work. The board signed paperwork requesting reimbursement for a portion of the demolition costs from the U.S. EPA brownfields program administered by Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The selectboard will have its second annual goal-setting meeting Jan. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the French King Restaurant. Klepadlo and Goodwin noted that this would be a brainstorming meeting, not a decision-making meeting. Although it is an open meeting that the public is allowed to attend, no questions or input from the public will be accepted.

In other business, the selectboard set the mileage rate for town employee travel at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service, which is currently \$0.565 per mile.

George Wheeler was appointed as van driver for a Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) van that operates out of the Erving senior and community center, contingent on drug testing, background checks and completion of FRTA training.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**Dry Hill Road? Still a Walk in the Woods**

By PATRICIA PRUITT

"It's still a walk in the woods. Nothing's changed." That was DPW head Tom Bergeron's short reply on Monday night to what has happened since the road through Mr. Senn's pasture on Dry Hill Road was deemed a historical town road back in 2007, which was intended to provide access to Dry Hill Cemetery, a burial place of historical significance.

Since that 2007 victory, however, the town has not had the budget to put in a road, so Senn has continued to use his land as unobstructed cow pasture.

Bergeron acknowledged John Reynolds' continued concern about access through the Senn property to the cemetery. Reynolds suggested the town erect stone walls to demarcate the roadway from Senn's pasture. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio agreed to draft a letter to Senn reminding him of the town's right to access, and took the town planner, Walter Ramsey's, suggestion to apply for a state recreation and open spaces grant to assist

with developing the road across Senn's pasture.

Abbondanzio also reported receiving a complaint concerning the lack of respect for fellow union members and other employees displayed by the United Electrical union (UE) steward during a recent bargaining session.

Abbondanzio felt the complaint was warranted, and read a policy letter he had written reminding the UE that respectful discourse in all negotiations was the rule. The selectboard approved the letter, instructing additional copies be sent the town's other two unions, the Town of Montague Employees Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Ramsey brought the good news of the state's approval of the Turnpike Road Energy park. He sought chairman Boutwell's signature on the application, as well as authorization for a memorandum of agreement with MassDevelopment for \$50,000 worth of predevelopment work over eight weeks, which would delineate wetlands, and \$8,000 of

Montague money (already set aside) for closing the burn dump.

Police Chief Chip Dodge sought incentive pay for Detective Leon Laster, who completed his Associates degree in Criminal Justice Studies at Greenfield Community College in June 2012. The incentive amounts to a 10 percent increase, effective from July 2012. Dodge spoke highly of Laster's efforts even while recovering from injuries. The selectboard was unanimous in approval.

Assessor Barbara Miller went before the selectboard seeking approval of her employee Jessica St. Armand's promotion from Assessor Clerk to the Assessor Technician position, due to a vacancy created by Douglas McIntosh's recent retirement. The selectboard approved her promotion unanimously, as well as posting for the vacant Assessor Clerk position, and hiring Doug McIntosh on a temporary, as-needed basis while the assessor trains personnel and carries out the revaluation process.

In short, it was an evening made of ayes!

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD MEETING**Regional School Assessment May Rise by \$100,000**

By DAVID DETMOLD

According to finance committee chair Don Gibavic, the preliminary outlook for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School budget includes a 1.8 percent increase over the current fiscal year. That increase, if not matched by an increase in state aid, could result in approximately a \$100,000 (7.8 percent) increase in the

town of Leverett's assessment for the regional school, a hike that may be difficult for the town to handle in an era of negligible new growth.

"If state aid doesn't go up, it all falls on the towns," said Gibavic, who added the increase in the region's budget is being driven by out of district special education placements, along with contractual raises and utility costs.

The good news, Gibavic said, is that the Leverett Elementary School budget is projected to come in lower than the present year, due to the fact that a large 6th grade cohort, which has necessitated two classes and two 6th grade teachers, will be graduating this year, allowing the school to consolidate to one 6th grade class next fall, and reduce one full-time teacher

see LEVERETT page 10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**Car Accidents and Stolen Debit Cards****Saturday, 12/15**

4:15 p.m. Two-car accident on Montague Road. No injuries.

Wednesday, 12/19

1:21 p.m. Mt. Laurel Drive resident reported her debit card stolen.

Wednesday, 12/26

7:33 p.m. One car accident on Montague Road. Two injured parties transported to Franklin

Medical Center by Orange ambulance.

Friday, 12/28

9:13 p.m. Removed unwanted party from Old Stage Road residence.

Tuesday, 1/1

4:03 p.m. Domestic dispute at Plain Road residence. Arrested male party, charged same with domestic assault and battery. Transported to

Franklin County House of Corrections on \$5,000 bail.

Tuesday, 1/8

1:26 p.m. Morse Village Road resident reported his debit card was used fraudulently to make online purchase. Card canceled.

2:29 p.m. Building alarm at Ruggles Pond State Forest building. All secure on arrival.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Search Committee Assembled

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

A report from Music director Michael Bradley opened the Jan. 8 school committee meeting on a high note.

Participation in the Turners Falls high school music program has increased substantially, according to Bradley, who described the programs being offered in the school district and his ambitious plans for the future. The district now has music programs for students at all levels and enrollment in choral groups and band at middle and high school levels have significantly increased.

Bradley explained to the committee that the music programs focus on music literacy and sight-reading. He said the band and choral groups are learning about musicality, theory, terminology, and history. Students are "not only learning about music but how to be a group of musicians who are well trained and disciplined about their craft."

The Fine Arts department has also developed a theater arts program, giving students an opportunity to explore theatrical performance. Bradley announced this year's musical will be "Annie," with lead parts already cast, and performances set for March 8 through 10.

Melinda Swanson, the music teacher at the Gill and Montague Elementary Schools, described a lively music program for students: the beginning chorus meets for 30 minutes once a week, and each band member gets 30 minutes individual instruction every week. The full band meets every other week. Gill has an all-school sing every Friday. Students are encouraged to rent their own instruments, but the district owns some that are available for those unable to rent. The Dec. 13 winter concert included students from all levels and was a great success.

Interim superintendent Mark Prince presented a very preliminary estimate for the district FY14 budget. Using an "all funds" approach,

which is a new format developed by Management Solutions: it laid out all funds coming into the district but lacked sufficient information to be more than speculative. As Prince said repeatedly, out of ten funding sources listed, eight are unknown.

It was agreed that until the Governor's budget is presented, it will be very difficult to develop a budget based on reasonable funding estimates. Management Solutions will be presenting a more thorough budget development document to the school committee at their next meeting on Jan. 22, and will make a presentation of their "all funds" approach at that time.

A dispute then emerged over whether the school committee training held in early January had developed into a deliberation, which, if true, would violate the open meeting laws. The committee's next meeting will provide an opportunity to present in public the information and discussion that took place in that training, which should help resolve the issue of any inadvertent violation of the transparency law.

The subject of school security was included in Prince's report to the committee. He assured members that security matters are being reviewed and changes being made where necessary, but gave no specific details. Turners Falls High School principal, Patricia Gardner, had informed Prince, in a widely-distributed email, of her concerns regarding security at the entrance to the high school. As part of the remedies requested, she suggested an increase in office staff might be helpful, a recommendation Prince quickly rebuffed. An executive session of the school committee will be held on Jan. 15, to discuss issues involved with keeping the children in the district safe while in school.

The final selection of members for the superintendent search committee was voted on and accepted. A letter to the communities seeking individuals to serve on the selection committee brought volunteers among

parents, teachers, and members of the community offering to participate. In categories where more than one candidate volunteered, the choice was made using a computer lottery system that randomly selected names.

The members of the search committee are Randy Crochier of the Gill selectboard, Christopher Boutwell of the Montague selectboard, Jeff Singleton, parent of a high school student, Karl Dziura, a high school teacher, Carol Gloski, a middle school teacher, Nancy Daniel-Green, an elementary school teacher, Linda Ellis, a special education educator, Don Valley and Allen Tupper Brown, members of the community at large, Stanley Dobosz, Jr., a retired school administrator, and Marilyn Reynolds, a retired citizen. The first meeting of the superintendent search committee will be held on Jan. 17 in the TV studio at Turners Falls High School at 6 p.m.

The next regular Gill-Montague Regional School District school committee will be held on Jan. 22 at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Board Tackles King Phillip's War to Roof Color

By JEFF SINGLETON

A proposed "Montague Battlefield Mapping Grant" received "enthusiastic" support at the Gill Selectboard Monday night. The grant, designed to fund archaeological and other research on the famous "Turners Falls Massacre" of 1676, was unanimously endorsed by the board.

The Gill Historical Commission, which the previous night had met by teleconference with Doug Harris of the Narragansett Tribe, was on hand to support action by the board. The massacre at a Native American fishing encampment on the "Great Falls" was a key turning point in King Phillip's War. The town of Montague has led the effort at "reconciliation" with tribes in the region and signed an agreement with representatives of the Narragansetts.

Harris has been a key figure in promoting action by local communities in the state to preserve what he believes are traditional Native American ceremonial sites. This has occasionally led to conflict over develop-

ment projects, in particular with the Turners Falls Airport Commission over a proposed runway expansion. Thus the battlefield grant, which is being spearheaded by the town of Montague, encountered some opposition, in part on the grounds that the 1676 massacre actually occurred in Gill on the opposite side of the Connecticut River from Montague. Furthermore, the true "battle," which led to the death of Captain Turner after he led the raid on the settlement, was probably in what is now Greenfield.

The enthusiastic letter of support from Gill for a Montague grant would seem to resolve these problems. Further, there will be a multi-town advisory board linked to the project that includes, in addition to Montague and Gill, Greenfield and South Deerfield. The project is seen as part of an effort to make the battlefield a tourist attraction.

In other key developments, the selectboard was updated on a problem with the new heating system recently installed in the town safety complex. "Everything

is going great," reported Administrative Assistant Ray Purington, except that the heating unit in the Fire Department training room is too noisy for trainings. The contractor is working to address the issue.

The selectboard unanimously approved the color "charcoal gray" for the new Gill Town Hall roof. The color was endorsed by the Historical Commission as consistent with the hall and surrounding buildings. A contract of \$52,780 was awarded to RCI Roofing.

There was a brief discussion of Gill participation in the First Light license renewal process. This process, which should take several years, will involve towns and a variety of concerned agencies in the area. First Light owns a number of power generating facilities in the area, including the pumped-storage hydroelectric station on Northfield Mountain, the traditional hydro Cabot Station in Millers Falls and the Turners Falls Canal itself. A new license could be approved for as long as 50 years, so the upcoming

see GILL page 10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault, Larceny, Hit & Runs. One Loose Pony.

Thursday, 12/20

1:45 a.m. Disturbance L Street; peace restored.

2:52 a.m. Burglar alarm at Second Street Baking Company on Fourth Street; investigated.

12:38 p.m. Assault on Central Street; summons issued.

2:51 p.m. Report of larceny reported at Salvation Army Thrift Store on Avenue A. Investigated.

3:46 p.m. Threatening harassment reported on resident of Fourth Street. Advised of options.

5:11 p.m. Medical emergency of resident on Montague City Road. Services rendered.

8:35 p.m. Officer wanted at Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.

5:58 p.m. Arrest warrant service initiated at Avenue C residence. Unable to locate.

9:30 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Oakman Street. Investigated.

Friday, 12/21

4:15 a.m. Well Being check on person on Hannabrooke Lane.

4:46 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Shady Glen on Avenue A. Services rendered.

8:27 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering at Apollo Pools on Unity

Street. Investigated.

9:15 a.m. Medical emergency at Powertown Apartments. Referred to other agency.

10:26 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

Saturday, 12/22

3:42 p.m. Burglary breaking and entering at Central Street, Turners Falls. Report taken.

8:17 p.m. Motor vehicle violation at Third Street and Avenue A. Citation issued.

9:44 p.m. Medical emergency at Pinewood Circle. Removed to hospital.

Sunday, 12/23

11:26 a.m. Accident hit and run, Food City plaza. Report taken.

3:52 p.m. Fight at Bridge Street. Services rendered.

Monday, 12/24

12:33 a.m. Fire alarm at Southworth Paper Mill. Services rendered.

6:58 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Franklin Street, Millers Falls. Services rendered.

10:23 p.m. Disturbance, loud noise, Second Street. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 12/25

6:47 p.m. Vandalism, Avenue C. Advised of options.

9:27 p.m. Medical emergency, Avenue C. Removed to hospital.

Wednesday, 12/26

5:20 a.m. Safety hazard, south of cross over, Sunderland Road and Fosters Road. Services rendered.

4:04 p.m. Illegal dumping, Masonic Avenue. Services rendered.

Thursday, 12/27

1:44 a.m. Domestic disturbance at East Main Street, Turners Falls. Arrested

assault and battery.

Friday, 12/28

7:18 p.m. Threatening harassment, Aubuchon Hardware, Avenue A. Advised of options.

10:52 p.m. Neighbor disturbance, Powertown Apartments, Fourth Street. Arrested

on a default

warrant.

Monday, 12/31

4:37 p.m. Larceny report, Jay K's Liquors, Avenue A. Advised of options.

9:11 p.m. Initiated warrant arrest of

Tuesday, 1/1/13

1:45 a.m. General disturbance,

Fourth Street. Peace restored.

9:11 a.m. Vandalism, Randall Road. Referred to an officer.

11:10 a.m. Domestic disturbance. Arrested

assault and battery.

2:39 p.m. Safety hazard: loose pony in area of Turners Falls Road. No police service necessary.

7:50 p.m. Larceny reported, St. Stanislaus Society, 6 K Street. Advised of options.

8:10 p.m. General disturbance reported, Jakes Tavern on Avenue A. Summons issued.

protective custody, unlawful possession of ammunition, firearm without FID card, possession of firearm, improper storage.

Friday, 1/4

11:53 a.m. Officer wanted, Wendell Road and Mormon Hollow Road. Arrested

OUI Liquor, 3rd offence, marked lanes violation.

Saturday, 1/5

3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle violation, Montague City Road. Summons issued.

7:15 p.m. Accident, hit and run, Seventh Street. Services rendered.

10:33 p.m. Fight, Central Street. Services rendered.

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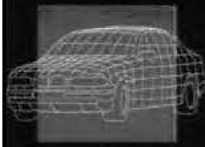
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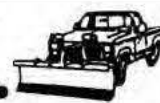
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Montague Native to Head County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program

GREENFIELD — This month Danielle Letourneau-Therrien joins Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Franklin County as its incoming Executive Director.

Letourneau-Therrien, who has worked for the past 12 years in Turners Falls at the Northeast Foundation for Children, and took a leadership role in fundraising for the Beacon Field playground in Greenfield, expressed excitement for her new role at the organization, which pairs 6- to 16-year olds with

adult mentors: "I am so happy to take everything I have learned in my professional life so far to continue to serve children every day."

A native of Montague and a graduate, Letourneau-Therrien has also served on the BBBS board of directors, the board of the Greenfield Business Association, and recently the Greenfield Town Council. In her term on the council she chaired the Community Relations and Education Committee.

"Not only is Dani highly quali-

fied," said Laurel Guy, board president, "she is outgoing, energetic and passionate about BBBS, and has a strong connection to our community."

"I look forward to talking to folks in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region about how we can bring mentoring programs to the forefront," she said.

BBBS of Franklin County serves 150 children a year.

For more information about the organization visit www.bbbs-fc.org.

LEVERETT from pg 8

salary.

Given that, Gibavic said, "At this point, preliminarily, if state aid stays the same we'll be pretty close to covering everything," without the need for an override.

On Jan. 8, the selectboard and the finance committee met jointly to take care of routine transfers of funds from the reserve account to pay unanticipated bills, and to begin the process of budget review for town departments and the schools for fiscal year 2014, which begins July 1. The finance committee will meet jointly with selectboard to examine individual department budgets in the upcoming weeks, in preparation for annual town meeting in April.

Also on Jan. 8, the selectboard held a meeting with the newly appointed fire department study committee, made up of deputy chief Stewart Olson, Peter Reich, Dean Alfange, Barbara Tiner, Steve Fliner, and Judy Weinthal.

The board charged the committee with looking at the needs of the department, in view of the anticipated retirement in the coming years, of most if not all the senior officers, including the chief, John Moruzzi.

The committee will also be asked to look at public relations and recruitment of new call firefighters, and to examine the pros and cons of possible collaboration or consolidation with the fire departments of nearby towns like Sunderland, or perhaps Shutesbury.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said there is a bit of confusion as to when the anticipated retirements will actually take place, but he said there is a possibility the senior officers might be persuaded to stay on in a training capacity for a period of time thereafter, to assist with new recruits. "We certainly have a lot of experience there with the senior officers," he said.

D'Errico also urged town residents to take a look at the fire department's well produced recruitment

video, available through a link on the town website, or from the Leverett fire department's home page. He said many residents may not realize that more and more of the work the department handles lies in responding to residents' medical calls. "It's not all fighting fires, by any means," d'Errico said.

Residents interested in getting involved with the department are encouraged to call Chief Moruzzi at (413) 548-9225.

On Monday, Jan. 7, the selectboard met jointly with the school committee to continue discussions about moving the custodial line item for janitors at the elementary school to the town side of the budget, since the selectboard hopes to reorganize all town custodial work under the supervision of a soon to be hired building maintenance supervisor.

"We're assuring them, as far as the custodial staff assignments and what needs to be done, we're not going to micromanage," said d'Errico. But he said three buildings housing the highway department, police and school, share utilities like water and septic systems, and the operation of the public water supply requires special training and licensing.

Meanwhile, the library's geo-thermal heating and cooling system also needs a special skill set to troubleshoot and maintain. "These skills are more than just janitorial," said d'Errico. "We need someone who can handle that."

In other news, d'Errico said the broadband committee has prepared bid packages this week for prospective contractors interested in the build-out and first year maintenance of the town's planned \$3.6 million fiberoptic internet access network. D'Errico said the build-out will wait, approximately eight months, for Verizon and Western Mass Electric Company to complete "make ready" work on their utility poles in town, before the winning bidder can begin the work of stringing "last-mile"

fiberoptic cable to residents' doors. The project is intended to be financed through a hike in property taxes, which the selectboard believes will be more than offset by a drop in monthly provider fees for telephone, cable, and internet access. The selectboard is also seeking other funding and financing possibilities to help defray the cost of the ambitious project. D'Errico said there has been no change in the project's ballpark completion date of 2014.

Finally, the board has instructed the town treasurer to pay outstanding bills associated with the town's shared cost of health benefits for Union 28 retirees, "once the last *i* has been dotted and the last *t* crossed," said d'Errico.

Newly enacted special legislation will allow each town in the the Union 28 superintendency union to pay retiree and employee health benefits at a level equal to the level of benefits they afford for their own town employees, in departure from past practice which let the lead town in the union to set the benefit levels for the other four towns.

In recent years, the lead town has been Erving, which affords a more generous package of benefits for its employees than the other member towns, leading to the ram-



Adult Drawing and Painting Classes at the WENDELL LIBRARY

"Mostly Drawing and Painting" Adult Art Classes will be offered at the Wendell Library starting Sunday, Jan. 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The series will run every Sunday through the end of April. There is a \$3 to \$5 suggested donation per session.

Each session will be facilitated by different local artists and art teachers sharing various techniques and concepts. This is a hands-on class open to adults of all levels of artistic experience. Teenagers who can handle adult level classes are also welcome to attend. The first three sessions will be led by Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin, who will teach Touch Drawing.

Space is limited. To register for the first three drawing sessions, call (978) 544-3559.

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the medium and the ease and spontaneity of the technique is immediately rewarding for both experienced artists and those who have never attempted art in their lives.

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Sally Stiffin is an artist, puppeteer, and also the Swift River Elementary School Art teacher providing a world class art education to Wendell and New Salem youth. She is a longtime resident of Wendell.

Interested artists and art teachers may apply for a teaching spot in the series. Contact Rosie Heidkamp, Wendell Librarian, at (978) 544-3559 or at rheidkam@cwmar.org.

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process is a "once-in-a-generation event" according to Purington. Now is the time to raise issues ranging from riverbank stabilization to the protection of species in the river habitat. There will be a joint meeting of the Gill selectboard and Conservation Commission in the near future to discuss town concerns. First Light is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, popularly known as the FERC.

In other action, the board discussed an email encouraging the town to consider purchasing a hybrid (electric/gas) police cruiser the next time a new cruiser purchase is made. Members were notified that an agreement with the Hampshire Council of Governments to participate in joint electricity purchasing was

ready to be signed. The board was informed of an annual assessment of \$700 from the regional dog kennel in Montague.

On the other side of the ledger, it was announced that Gill would receive \$1,692.73 from the Quintus Allen trust fund. This money is generally appropriated by town meeting to the Gill Elementary School. Quintus Allen, who died in 1884, was one of the original trustees of the Greenfield Savings Bank. His trust fund gives money to several local towns for educational purposes.

The board was apprised of upcoming meetings of the Route 2 Task Force and the Mohawk Trail Historic Preservation Project, both on Jan. 16. The next meeting of the selectboard will be on Jan. 30, at 4:30 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Car Versus Deer

Sunday, 1/6

10:15 a.m. Resident on Center Road reported property damage overnight; Under investigation.

11:25 a.m. Resident from North Cross Road will be criminally complained to court for leaving the scene of a property-damage accident.

3:00 p.m. Child in need of services report filed, on French King Highway.

5:10 p.m. Harassment complaint order issued, for resident on Walnut Street.

7:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a domestic situa-

tion, involving a gun.

Monday, 1/7

7:50 a.m. Medical assist at Meadow Street, resident transported.

3:15 p.m. Reported illegal dumping located on Riverview Drive. Investigated same.

Tuesday, 1/8

5:10 a.m. Welfare check on North Cross Road resident following an accident.

9:20 a.m. Contacted Dean of Students at Franklin Tech regarding a sex offender living in Gill.

1:40 p.m. Suspicious motor

vehicle in area of the old Bridge abutment. Checked out OK.

5:40 p.m. Medical Assist on Walnut Street. Resident transported.

6:15 p.m. Suspicious activity in Factory Hollow construction site. Under investigation.

7:43 p.m. Car-versus-deer accident on West Gill Road.

Wednesday, 1/9

7:15 p.m. Burglar alarm at Blake Hall, Northfield Mount Hermon Campus.

7:35 p.m. White van operating erratically on Route 2 westbound. Operator checked out OK.

10:30 a.m. Court process issued to party from

Northfield. 5:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest.

Thursday, 1/10
3:30 p.m. Elder at Risk paperwork filed for subject on Bickford Road.

Friday, 1/11
6:14 p.m. Fire Alarm at Northfield Mount Hermon Campus.

9:15 p.m. Noise complaint on Walnut Street.

Sunday, 1/13
11:30 p.m. Restraining Order issued to subject on Main Road.

8:20 p.m. Responded to business on Main Road, for suicidal person.

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EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic session*, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: *Free after school program*. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultz* from *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through JANUARY 29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Paintings by Christine Winship*.

FEBRUARY 2 through MARCH 31

Nina's Nook, Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Sensual>Sexual>Smut*.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Katie Sachs*, folk, jazz, indie rock, and *Dave Dersham*, americana, folk rock. 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Annie and the Bee Keepers*, folk/americana, with *Here Come the Foxes*, ambient/folk. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, country and rock, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Bingo at GSB!* Melanie Johnson, caller. Call for reservations: 863-4316. Light refreshments. 10 to 11:30 a.m., free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Live from the Metropolitan Opera* in HD – Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*. 12:55 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Belle Amie*, pop rock. Benefit for Heath Elementary School 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom. 3 p.m.

Montague Grange: Film, *If I Had Wings To Fly* (Kazoo Films). First regional screening of this award-winning, independent 2012 documentary that looks at old-time music, dance and storytelling in rural Western North Carolina, and the joys and sorrows of being young and directionless anywhere. Square dance to follow. 7 p.m., \$

to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, dance party, with *DJ Funkadelic Fern*. 9:30 p.m., \$

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Midwinter dance party* with *Planet Zydeco*, zydeco, and the *Roland LaPierre Band*, roots rock. 6 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Inaugural Dress-Up Cocktail Party and Ball*. 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY PLANET ZYDECO

Planet Zydeco's *accordion-driven Cajun dance boogie* sets off a mid-winter dance party at the Arts Block Café in Greenfield this Sunday. Two sets each from PZ and the roots-rocking Roland LaPierre Band. Showtime 6 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dead of Winter Film Series, Edward Scissorhands* (1990, dir. Tim Burton). 7 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, up close & personal, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Greenfield Community College: *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration*. Crafts, games, service projects, readings, and screenings, gospel music, pizza. Family-appropriate. Registration 9:30 to 10 a.m. in lobby, activities until 1 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Leverett Town Hall: *Geological History of Leverett*. Sheila Seamon and Mike Williams will present; later in the spring

(date tbd) the talk will continue with a viewing of various outcrops. 7 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Sidestreet Band*, rock/blues, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carolyn Walker*, singer-songwriter. 9 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour*, for children ages 3 to 6 and their parents. This month's topic is bears. 10 to 11:30 a.m., free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristen Graves*, folk, indie, pop. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Casey Williams* art opening, 8 p.m., followed by *Danceteria* with *DJ JustJoan*. Free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Hobson's Razor*, rock, reggae & funk, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Music to Your Ears* with *Ken and Corki*, pop, ballads, folk. 10 a.m. to noon, free.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*. Please bring soft-soled non-street shoes to protect the wooden dance floor. 7 to 10 p.m. \$.

Athol Town Hall: Film screening, *Wild Things of the North Quabbin*. Hank Cramer's film, shot over 5 years, features over 25 species in their natural habitat. Includes presentation by Mount Grace and a chance to meet animals rehabilitating with *Medicine Mammals*. 7 to 8:30 p.m., free.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Old Town Hall, Wendell: *Paul Richmond*, *Karen Montanaro*, *Jack Golden*, and *Jackie Reifer*, spoken word, dance, theater, comedy and music. Open mic at 7:30, show at 8 p.m. Refreshments available.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jim Gilmour*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by *Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *And The Traveller*, indie. 9:30 p.m., free.

CALL for ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *"Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smut"* show in February 2013. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net, with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A,

Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by Jan 20, 2013.

CALL for PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Four Seasons on the Leverett Trails. March and April exhibit at the Leverett Library. Sponsored by the Leverett Trails Committee. See www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/trails/photo-exhibit/ for more information. Deadline February 15.



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Sunday, 1/20 8 to 10 p.m.
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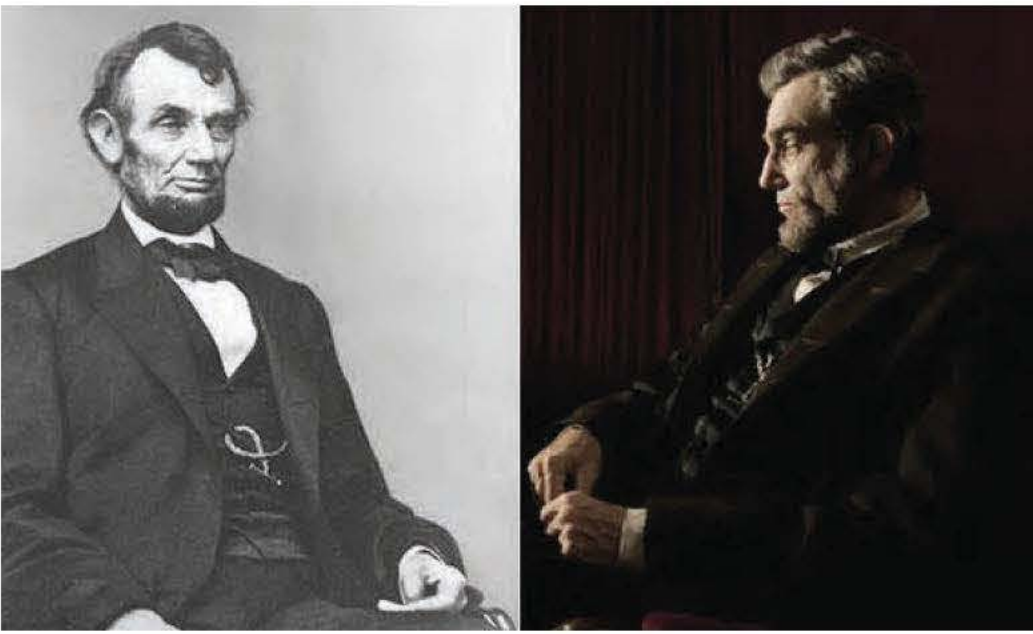
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Abraham Lincoln, 1864, left; Daniel Day-Lewis, right.

LINCOLN from page 1

insists on volunteering for the mass slaughter that is the end of the Civil War. Lincoln seems incapable of engaging in any sort of discussion without first telling a folksy joke about the Illinois frontier. This drives Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who blows his stack at a cabinet meeting, to distraction. Lincoln meets in an attic with several classic mid-19th-century scoundrels, who look as if they had emerged from a Charles Dickens novel, to plot payoffs to wavering Congressmen.

The attention to detail, from the views of the political factions in Congress, to the look and feel of a Washington DC parade, to Confederate leader Alexander Stephens' bad hair (we have the picture) is impressive.

Films like this always create a great deal of controversy within the historical profession on the subject of accuracy. The screenplay,

written by Tony Kushner, certainly takes some liberties with reality in order to create a compelling narrative. For example, the opening scene shows two white soldiers attempting to impress Lincoln with a rendition of the Gettysburg Address. They can't remember the ending, at which point an African-American soldier appears to finish the speech. While the scene is very symbolic and moving, it is rather unlikely. The Address, which only over time achieved its iconic status as one of the great statements of American political ideals, would probably not have been well known to northern troops during the war itself.

Thus there is plenty of Hollywood in *Lincoln*, but most historians find this level of creative distortion tolerable. A more substantive – and probably widely shared – criticism comes from Eric Foner of Columbia University, a highly influential historian of the era. Foner complained in a letter to *The*

New York Times that “*Lincoln* exaggerates the role of white political leaders and virtually ignores the actions of black slaves themselves in ending slavery.”

“Emancipation – like all far-reaching political change – resulted from events at all levels of society, including the efforts of social movements to change public sentiment and of slaves themselves to acquire freedom ... Even as the House debated, Sherman's army was marching into South Carolina, and slaves were sacking plantation homes and seizing land. Slavery died on the ground, not just in the White House and the House of Representatives. That would be a dramatic story for Hollywood.” (*New York Times*, Nov. 26, 2012)

In my view, Foner has a point – the film could have done more to portray the social context without undermining the narrative. But let's not carry this complaint too far. This is a movie about the politics of the passage of

the Thirteenth Amendment, not about the social history of the end of slavery. It cannot be expected to deal with every issue. Throwing in various forms of social history to be politically correct, which I think is what the actual result would have been, would not do justice to the political or social history either. And Foner seems almost to be attacking the virtues of mainstream politics, thus encouraging cynicism about political action (see below).

Ironically, Foner has published one of the most important books ever written about the political origins of the Civil War, *Free Labor, Free Soil, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War* (1970, 1995). For true history buffs

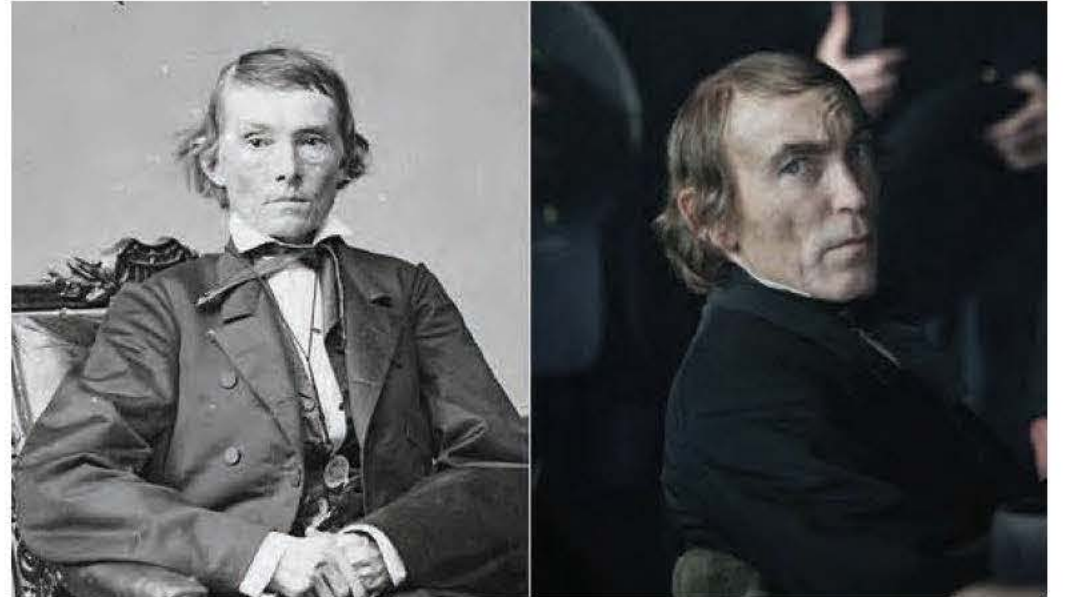
tion to slavery in causing the civil war. I am sure you have heard someone say that the Civil War was really about “economics,” not slavery. In my mind, Foner shows this is a false dichotomy – that economic interest and opposition to slavery, even moral opposition, were not mutually inconsistent. He also shows that the Republicans were a broad coalition that opposed slavery for different, somewhat contradictory, reasons.

My main point is this – Foner's pioneering study contains almost no discussion of blacks under slavery, free blacks in the north, or even northern white farmers and workers to whom “free labor” ideas appealed. Perhaps this is a weakness, as Foner's more recent intro-

interest. As does *Lincoln*.

History teachers often try to justify their subject by telling students that we learn about the past in order to understand the present. I tend to disagree with this, in part because historians are so drawn to what is unique and even irrelevant about the past. We enter an unfamiliar culture with different social norms, political structures, and language uses. We try to understand the culture “on its own terms,” not ours. It is almost a form of escapism, which is why we enjoy hanging out in musty archives and libraries. The attention to the uniqueness of the past is one of the things that makes *Lincoln* a strong movie.

Inevitably, interpretations of history are influenced by the present, and *Lincoln* is no



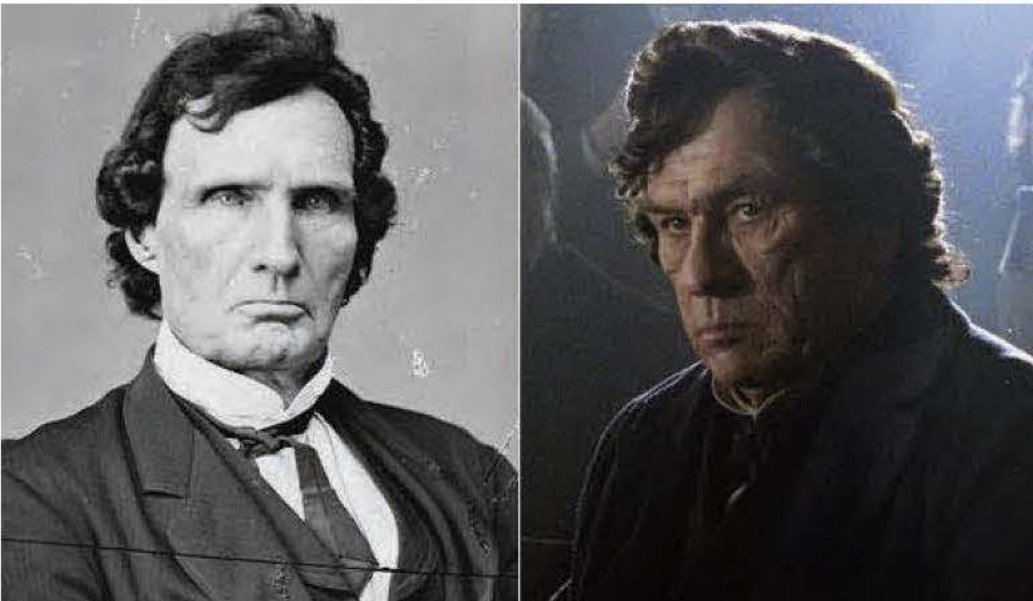
Alexander Hamilton Stephens, Confederate Vice President, left; Jackie Earle Haley, right.

this is a must-read. It is on my top ten list of most influential books on American History and, quite frankly, one of the reasons I decided to become a historian.

Foner's study is a detailed, tough, but brilliant academic analysis of the ideas of political anti-slaveryites like Lincoln. Most importantly, it clearly resolves in my mind the important debate over the relationship between “economics” and moral opposi-

tion suggests. But that is not the book he chose to write, and that's OK. Furthermore, *Free Labor* always appealed to me as a political activist. It is a book about the relationship between economics and moral ideas, as well as the political complexities and contradictions that produce social change. It blows away, in my mind, the cynical view that high (and even low) ideals in the political culture are just masks for economic

exception. This movie is the story of the high ideals and strong leadership needed to make big changes (what could be bigger than the end of slavery?). But it is also about the need to sometimes put those ideals aside to build coalitions to get things done. It is about compromise and even corruption. *Lincoln* is in fact a militant defense of politics – the good, the bad, and often the very ugly.



Thaddeus Stevens, US Representative from Pennsylvania, left; Tommy Lee Jones, right.



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