



Steve Kulik on the Governor's Budget

Page 9



Jake Levin Tapped for Senate Youth Program

Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 17

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 26, 2012

Residents Step Forward to Assist with Footbridge Reconstruction

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

MONTAGUE CENTER – Okay, the dogs don't need no stinkin' bridges (who else would go swimming in January?) but us bipeds sure do. Thankfully, Montague resident Josh Goldman has stepped in to organize the planning, building, and fundraising for a new footbridge at the Montague Center Sawmill River conservation land, which is located off of North Road in the center of town.

Several years ago, a walking bridge that spanned the Sawmill River was destroyed by a storm, Goldman told the selectboard on Monday. The bridge depended on a rock footing in the middle of the river, which eroded away over time.

The bridge had connected the northern and southern portions of the property, managed and owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Now residents, led by Goldman, would like it replaced, and they are willing to raise the funds for the footbridge, but some entity has to agree to maintain it.

Goldman is shepherding along a memorandum of understanding between the town of Montague and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that both parties agree the town

of Montague will be responsible for maintaining the bridge once it is built. The selectboard approved the memorandum on Monday.

"Since the previous bridge collapsed, there have been several unauthorized and poorly executed efforts to reconstruct bridges and re-establish access to the entire property. None of these efforts was legally permitted or authorized by the landowner, but they speak to the strong desire within the community to restore passage across the river and regain access to the entire property," Goldman wrote to the selectboard.

When apprised of the efforts to build a footbridge to the conservation land, Montague newcomer Judith Lorei, a resident of North Street, was very pleased. "It will be such a benefit to the community and all of the people who enjoy the conservation area," she said.

Previous footbridge designs were not ADA compliant, explained Goldman, whereas the current plans are compliant and have been officially stamped by state civil engineer David Vreeland. And Goldman notes there will be no need to alter the streambed, since the existing "abutments are still in good shape."

Goldman explained, "Ralph see **BRIDGE** page 10

Entergy Wins in Federal Court



Heidi Willsing of Plainfield stands in front of the Vermont state capital in Montpelier on Monday

JUDGE MURTHA STRIKES DOWN VERMONT'S ACT 160

BY DAVID DETMOLD

NEWFANE, VT – In a ruling that impacts the State of Vermont's decision to shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon, on Thursday, January 19th, US District Court Judge J. Garvan Murtha invoked the federal government's sweeping power to regulate radiological safety at commercial reactors to find for Entergy Louisiana on almost all counts in a widely-watched lawsuit against the state of Vermont and Vermont officials.

Judge Murtha struck down key aspects of Act 160, the law passed unanimously by the Vermont house in 2006, and subsequently approved by a margin of 18 to 5 in the Senate, which sought to grant Vermont's legislature, alone among the 50 states, a deciding role in whether or not to relicense a nuclear reactor within its borders.

Relying on Act 160, the Vermont Senate in February of 2010 voted 26-4 to deny Entergy Vermont Yankee a certificate of public good, a legal requirement for the reactor's continued operation.

Significantly, even as Judge Murtha struck down Act 160, he left intact the Vermont Public Service Board's perquisite to issue or withhold a certificate of public good (CPG).

In 2011, in the days immedi-

ately following the explosions and core meltdowns at Fukushima, where the containment vessels of three General Electric Mark I boiling water reactors of nearly identical age and design to Vermont Yankee failed in the absence of offsite power, after an 8.9 magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami hit the Japanese coastline on March 11th, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted Entergy Vermont Yankee permission to extend the operating license of the 40-year-old Vernon reactor for another 20 years.

Also, since 2006, the NRC has permitted Vermont Yankee to run at 120% of its original design capacity.

Vermont Yankee's original operating license expires on March 21st of this year.

In issuing its permit for a license extension, the NRC acknowledged that Entergy's ability to operate Vermont Yankee past March 21st would be subject to Vermont regulatory approval.

The Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) is shortly expected to reopen hearings on whether to issue a certificate of public good for Yankee – normally a routine proceeding, but one now likely to be subject to lively dispute from Liz Miller, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, who acts as the public's watch-

dog in proceedings before the PSB. She will likely be joined before the PSB by intervenors including the Conservation Law Foundation, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, and the New England Coalition.

Although the PSB is proscribed from considering radiological safety, concerns about cost, reliability, environmental impacts, and the state's energy goals may all enter into the regulatory board's decision to issue a CPG, which can also be appealed in a court of law.

Judge Murtha's 102-page ruling striking down Act 160 was celebrated last week by Entergy and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, representing Vermont Yankee workers.

Chanel Lagarde, spokesperson for Entergy, called the decision "good news for 600 employees, the environment and New England residents and industry."

IBEW Local #300 business manager Jeffrey Wimet said, "Hundreds of hard working, skilled and dedicated employees are now able to keep their jobs to provide for their families."

But Vermont politicians took a different line.

Governor Peter Shumlin, a Putney Democrat who as former Senate president *pro-temp* led the debate in 2010 to deny a CPG to

see **ENTERGY** page 16

A Conversation with Lyn Clark

BY JEN AUDLEY

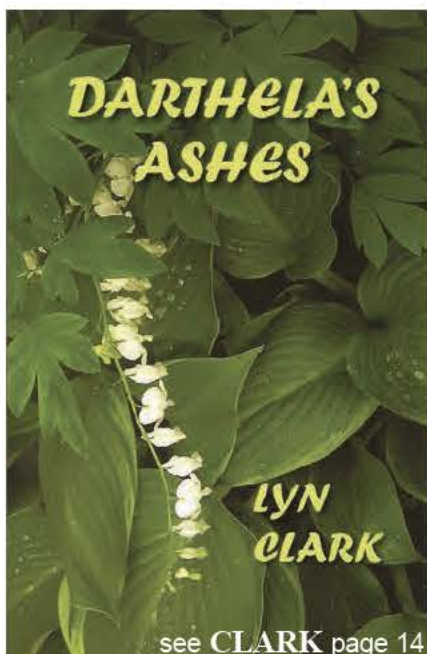
TURNERS FALLS – Local author Lyn Clark has published a delightful sequel to her first novel, *The Bolt Hole*, which I reviewed for this newspaper a few years ago. Since then, I've moved to Lyn's neighborhood and have had the pleasure of getting to know her as a friend and fellow contributor to The Montague Reporter.

To introduce Clark's new book, *Darthela's Ashes*, here are highlights from a recent conversation I had with Lyn about her inspiration for writing not one but two page-turners that pop with local details, timely themes, and intriguing characters.

You waited a long time to start writing fiction. What took you so long?

I'd always wanted to write a novel. I read a lot – four or five books a week – and I wanted to write the kind of book I like to read: a good yarn, with lots of characters and a plot that pulls

the reader along. But I worked full-time from my early 20s on, had three children, and was a single mom. When I retired, I immediately wrote *The Bolt Hole*. I'd been thinking about it for years before I was finally able to sit down and write it. It almost wrote itself! But it actually came out



see **CLARK** page 14

PET OF THE WEEK

Kind and Curious



Alistair

My name is Alistair and maybe I'm named after Alistair the traveling bear. I have lived in a couple of places in my short two years and now I seem to be on a grand adventure here at Dakin.

One thing that keeps me occupied while waiting for my soon-to-be family to walk in the door is fiercely stalking and attacking stuffed animals.

My latest prey is a big green fuzzy monster and he helps to make me feel right at home! I do live an imaginative life in my head as a warrior, but in real life I have been described as kind and curious when meeting new friends. I'd prefer a home with no young children as I am not used to them. Please come in to meet me! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org to find out more about me. Grrrowwl!

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Adult Art Class, Bob Ellis Book Signing, SciFi Movie

On four Saturdays, beginning February 4th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., free (materials provided) mixed media art classes will be offered at the library. Working from still life, art instructor Eve Goodhind will teach drawing, painting and ways to layer multiple materials and techniques to achieve depth and texture. This is a continuing education class for adults interested in advancing their drawing and painting skills. Teens with a strong interest in art are also welcome to participate. Eve says, "Come ready to be refreshed in some of the basics of art, and open and ready to explore beyond the rules of tradition."

Instructor Evelyn Goodhind is an artist and sculptor as well as a Massachusetts certified art teacher.

She has been teaching art techniques for the past 20 years.

Please call the library to register at (978) 544-3559, or at: rheidkam@cwmar.org.

A reading and book signing with Wendell's own Bob Ellis, author of the newly-published *Naked: A GI Memoir*, will take place Saturday, January 28th at

the library, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

At age 19, Bob Ellis joined the U.S. Army as a volunteer. He became one of a number of "elite soldiers" trained in the technology of nuclear weapons. His memoir takes us inside life in the U.S. military early in the Cold War and traces his struggle to come to terms with the implications of his choices. As he writes, "I was blindly trusting the Army – with no idea what I'd volunteered for... Yet, whether I was an elite troop or a dogface soldier, I understood I was at the heart of something vast and ominous."

Discussion will follow the reading, with light refreshments provided. Join Ellis for dinner at the Deja Brew Pub afterwards.

This month's screening of the Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Monster movie series at the library proudly features: "Silent Running" (1972) an ecologically-minded 'message film' with amazing visual images that stands out today as one of the great films of the science-fiction genre. The free showing will be on Saturday, January 28th, at 7:30 p.m.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Roger Tincknell Family Concert Rescheduled

The Roger Tincknell family concert scheduled for January 21st has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 28th, at 10:30 a.m., at the Carnegie Library.

Roger Tincknell has been performing for children and adults throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe for over 30 years. Roger's repertoire includes original and contemporary material, as well as traditional folk styles. Ballads, swing, country blues, bluegrass, and cowboy yodeling are interspersed with Latin American and international folksongs.

Roger accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, mandolin, Irish bazouki, Puerto Rican and Venezuelan cuatros, South American charango, Native American flute, harmonica, piano and percussion. This program is supported by Community Action's Family Center, the Carnegie Library and a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – January 30th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Appointments are now being scheduled for free AARP tax aid. Sign up now for RAD self-defense course with Lt. Sue Corey beginning 1/31. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

Monday, January 30th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, January 31st

10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
1:00 p.m. RAD Self Defense
Wednesday, February 1st

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 2nd
9:00 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, February 3rd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Monday, January 30th

9:00 a.m. T'ai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise



Cleaning Up the Meetinghouse

WENDELL - Tom Chaisson (left) and Nick Contu have been cleaning the interior of the Wendell Meetinghouse, and discarding materials damaged by mold that developed from water damage before the leaky roof was fixed. The interior cleanup is part of a cleaning and weatherizing effort paid for by a fundraising campaign centered around Wendell Old Home Day in August of last year. Before Old Home Day, an anonymous donor pledged up to \$4,000 to match donations from the general public, and the community responded generously. Fundraising and work on the Meetinghouse is ongoing. If you can help, contact Nan Riebschlaeger of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, PO Box 171, Wendell, MA 01379. The Friends meet the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the senior center.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Michael Williams Geological Talk

The Leverett Library and Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will sponsor Michael Williams, from the UMass Department of Geosciences, speaking on "The Trail of Time at the Grand Canyon: Talking and Thinking about Geologic Time in Context." Williams has been involved in a ten-year effort to establish this interpretive walking timeline. The vistas and rocks of America's great-

est geological park serve as a backdrop for communicating concepts of Earth time and Earth history. The free talk will take place February 5th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Correction

In last week's article about the Gill-Montague school committee's discussion about interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom's contract, due to a reporting error, we stated incorrectly that Gill committee member Jane Oakes made a motion at the January 10th meeting to offer Ekstrom a 3-year contract. In fact, Oakes made a motion to offer Ekstrom a superintendent's contract "based on successful negotiations with the school committee." We regret the error.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Daniel Momaney

Grade 7

Patrick Salls

Grade 8

Alexxis Young

RECYCLE PAPER!
Week of January 31st in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

Please shop locally.
Tell them you saw it in the
Montague Reporter

The Montague Reporter

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

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

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

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?
www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

on Avenue A for over 10 years

If we don't carry your favorite brand,
we'll order it for you!
Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am-11pm • Sun Noon-7pm
59 Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-9900

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY
• System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
• Thermo Pride
• Weil-McLain
• Other Major Brands
• Expert Burner Service

(413) 773-3622



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – The Leverett trails committee invites you to take part in a **photo contest** by taking your camera to the new East Leverett Trails. Then, bring your work to the Leverett Library from February 1st through the 15th.

The rules and entry form for the photo contest along with a map of the trail area are available at the Leverett library, town hall, post office, elementary school, Village Co-op, and transfer station. The Leverett trails committee is co-sponsored by the Leverett conservation commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. Questions should be emailed to photo-info@rattlesnakeguttertrust.org, or call (413) 548-9078.

Turners Falls author **Lyn Clark** will read from and sign copies of her new book, *Darthea's Ashes*, at Himalayan Views, in the Tibetan Plaza on Route 5 and 10 in Deerfield on Saturday, February 4, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Making your February vaca-

tion plans? The vacation **Peace Project** for children 6 to 12 years old is accepting reservations and filling up fast. Camp will run Tuesday through Thursday, February 21-23 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Leverett Crafts & Arts. Using music, song and storytelling, Sarah Pirtle, award-winning author and musician, will guide the children through expressive activities around cooperation, closeness to the earth, and the fun of companionship. This is an activity of the Leverett Peace Commission. Please contact Barbara Tiner (548-7919-Barbara@wetland-ed.com) to register or for more information.

Senior Class at Baystate Franklin Medical Center will present a Valentines Dinner on Tuesday, February 14th, from 5 to 7 p.m., at St. Kaziemerz, 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The guest speaker will be Rajiv Padmanabhan, MD, neurologist, Baystate Medical Practices – Greenfield Neurology. Dr. Padmanabhan will discuss stroke

signs, symptoms, treatments, and prevention.

Senior Class is a free loyalty program, dedicated to health and wellness, offered exclusively for men and women ages 55 and over. To register, or for more info on joining Senior Class, call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454.

Patrick Pezzatti of Turn It Up! in Montague Center did his best "Jimmy the Greek" impersonation by correctly picking the scores and outcomes of the past weekend's NFL Conference Championship games. Pezzatti won the WHAI radio station contest and will be the proud recipient of a six-foot sub from Subway to enjoy while watching the 2012 Super Bowl.

The **Gill Local-Vore** potluck supper will be held at the Gill Congregational Church on Friday, February 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish made with local ingredients. All are welcome; the event is free.

Learn to promote yourself in the digital word at a free workshop on creating an **electronic portfolio** on Saturday, January 28th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brick House Community Center, 24 Third Street, in Turners Falls.

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

has a veteran and a non-veteran position, each for a 3-year term.

• Town meeting members has positions for all precincts.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 21st, 2012. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, May 1st.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague superintendent of schools at 35 Crocker Avenue.

For more info call the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext 203.

Dog Licenses Available

MONTAGUE – Dog licenses are now available at the town clerk's office. All dogs six months and older must be licensed and tagged each year.

A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or

neutering unless already previously provided.

There is a late fee of \$20 for dogs licensed after May 31st.

The town clerk's office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays. For more info, call the clerk's office at 863-3200, ext 203.

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at your town clerk's office for the March 6th, presidential primary. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, March 5th. To vote absentee, you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls, or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the town

clerk's office by the close of the polls on March 6th. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Registered voters who belong to any one of the three parties, Republican, Democrat or Green Rainbow, must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the three party ballots.

For more information about absentee voting, call your town clerk. In Montague, that number is: 863-3200, ext 203.

Montague Democrats to hold State Democratic Convention Delegate Caucus

BY JAY DIPUCCHIO – Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at the first floor meeting room of Montague town hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 16th, to elect five delegates and three alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention to be held Saturday, June 2nd, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield to nominate Democratic candidates for statewide elections, such as U.S. Senator, in the fall.

The local caucus is open to all Democrats registered in Montague by the last day of 2011. Registered attendees are eligible to vote or run for one of the five openings available to represent Montague Democrats at the state agenda-setting convention.

Delegates must be divided equally among men and women. Candidates must consent to nomination in writing. Candidates may make a one-minute statement to the meeting and may distribute materials. It is all a very straightforward and transparent process any registered Democrat may participate in, or just come to watch.

There will also be a brief meeting of the Democratic town committee following the caucus; any registered Democrat may attend. The meeting place is handicapped accessible. For info about the convention or caucus procedures contact Democratic town committee chair Jay DiPucchio, 863-8656 or visit the party website at www.mass-dems.org

Nomination Papers Available

MONTAGUE – Nomination papers for the annual town election to be held on Monday, May 21st are now available at the town clerk's office.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 29th by 5 p.m. All papers must be returned to the Board of Registrars no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 2nd.

All potential candidates for townwide office must obtain 32 signatures of registered voters from the 'town at large' to be placed on the ballot. All potential

town meeting candidates must obtain ten signatures of registered voters from their 'home precinct' to be placed on the ballot.

Offices are as follows:

- Selectboard member, moderator, assessor, board of health, and parks and recreation, each for a 3-year term
- Library trustees have three positions up for election, each for a 3-year term
- Montague Housing Authority has one position, for a 2-year term.
- Soldier's Memorial Trustees

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

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

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

PETER WATERS
HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

NEEDFUL THINGS
SELLING QUALITY
USED FURNITURE
AND COLLECTIBLES

~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

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

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

SILVERADO

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

Ron Sicard
Sales Representative

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

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store

• Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions

CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5, Fri. til 8
Power Square
Greenfield (413) 773-7516

Good Dirt Pottery Studio

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

ED L Dealer in used
Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite! Open 7 Days a Week

GOOD USED USABLES

IN GOOD COMPANY
SKILLED, INTENTIONAL COMPANIONSHIP
FOR ELDERLY AND OTHERS

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

413-774-4700

change your body
change your mind
change your life

Community Yoga
& WELLNESS CENTER

beginners welcome

www.Community-Yoga.com

The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design
Claudia Wells - Art Director
Sarah Duprey - Intern
Janel Nockleby

Photography
Claudia Wells
Joe Parzych

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
Shira Hillel
Gloria Kegeles

"The Voice of the Villages"

Circulation
Janel Nockleby

Founded by
Harry Brandt, David Detmold
August, 2002

Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Technical Administrator
Michael Muller

Court to Vermont: "Drop Dead!"

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN BEXLEY, OH - A federal judge has told the people of Vermont that a solemn contract between them and reactor owner Entergy need not be honored.

In 2002, Entergy made a deal with the state of Vermont. The Louisiana-based nuke speculator "expressly and irrevocably agreed" that if it could buy and operate the decrepit Vermont Yankee reactor under certain terms and conditions, the company would agree to shut it down if the state denied it a permit to extend its license. The drop dead date: March 21st, 2012.

In the interim, VY has been found to be leaking radioactive tritium and much more into the ground and the nearby Connecticut River. Under oath, in public testimony, the company had denied that the pipes that leaked even existed.

One of Yankee's cooling towers also collapsed - just plain fell over - in 2007.

One of Yankee's siblings, Fukushima I, melted and exploded in 2011. There are nearly two dozen Mark I reactors just like it in the US.

Now, the Vermont legislature has voted, 26 to 4, to deny Entergy a permit to continue. But the company reaps huge profits on a 40-year-old reactor long since amortized at public expense, with cheap overhead and slipshod operations where safety always comes second.

Along the way Entergy also tried to stick VY into an underfunded corporate shell aimed at shielding it from all economic liabilities.

All this wound up in front of Judge Murtha. Entergy argued that the legislature committed the horrible sin of actually discussing those safety issues. As Deb Katz of the Citizens Awareness Network put it, "Entergy's lawyers cherry-picked legislators' questions about safety, and Judge Murtha supported the corporation over the will of the people."

The surreal nature of telling a state it can't vote to shut a reactor because it dared to consider the public health stems from the Atomic Energy Act of 1954,

when Congress essentially exempted the nuclear power industry from public accountability. It gave the Atomic Energy Commission sole power to both regulate and promote its "too cheap to meter" technology.

Sixty-seven years later, Judge Murtha says the Vermont legislature's encroachment on the province of safety means Entergy can violate its "irrevocable" agreement.

If the case reaches the supremely corporatist Roberts Court on appeal, it could prove to be a serious blow to states' rights and public accountability in league with *Citizens United*. That would put the nuclear power industry even further beyond control of the people it irradiates.

Vermont's Public Service Board still has the right to deny Entergy an extension on its operating license. Perhaps the commissioners will ban the word 'safety' from all proceedings. If they do order VY to close on schedule, Entergy's legal team will certainly appeal.

New Englanders standing with Vermonters and Vermont legislators will stage a shutdown rally on April 1st in Brattleboro.

Activism against the reactor continues to escalate.

No US reactor has been ordered and completed since 1973. Shutting Vermont Yankee or any other of the 104 American reactors now licensed may well open the floodgates to shutting the rest of them, as Germany is now doing.

Karl Grossman has suggested Vermont should use eminent domain to shut VY, as New York did 20 years ago to bury the \$7 billion Shoreham reactor, which never went into commercial operation. Safe energy activists, in tandem with the governor and legislature, are exploring all options to make Entergy Vermont Yankee too costly to operate.

It's a race against time before another Fukushima lays waste to the Connecticut River Valley.

Former Montague resident Harvey Wasserman writes for the Free Press (freepress.org).

It's Groundhog Day at Vermont Yankee



Information Session on Federal Student Aid for College Applicants

TURNERS FALLS - High school seniors, families and adult students who will be entering college in the 2012-13 academic year are encouraged to attend an informational session at the Turners Falls High School on Sunday, January 29th, from 2 to 5 p.m., for free help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The FAFSA is the federally required form for all students seeking financial aid, including

grants, loans and federal work-study. Financial aid experts will guide families on how to complete the FAFSA and answer questions. All seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this free event, particularly low-income and first-generation students. See www.FAFSADAY.org to register and learn more.

Bring copies of your most recent parent and student federal tax forms, W2 forms, and bank statements. If families are com-

pleting a CSS Profile form as well, they should see the College Board website (www.collegeboard.org) for additional information. A representative from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts will also be on hand to assist students in applying for a wide range of scholarships through their single online application.

For more information, contact: emilykrems@gmrds.org.

Keith Fiske Dies at 59

BY KATIE NOLAN

ORANGE - Keith Fiske, head of maintenance at Swift River Elementary School in New Salem from the school's opening in 1976 until 2008, died last week in Orange.

When Keith announced his retirement in 2008, Swift River principal Sheila Hunter wrote this tribute for him:

"Keith Fiske managed all the facilities of Swift River School since the day it opened. Keith worked on the construction of the building and crafted many of the wooden bookcases, countertops, cabinets, and cubbies. It is impossible to list the myriad ways that Keith had protected and improved the building over the three decades he has worked here.

"We will miss his competence and his hard work, and especially his ready smile and willingness to respond completely to any chal-

lenge, crisis, or emergency. There was a "no water" day that was an example of how thoroughly and efficiently Keith managed an unexpected problem. By Monday morning following the Thursday afternoon discovery, under Keith's direction, the water pump and its wires were replaced and water samples were delivered to a lab in Belchertown for testing over the weekend. We returned to school Monday assured that our water was available and safe to drink.

"Keith has touched many lives in our community. There are countless stories of how he expressed his generosity to our community both individually and

collectively."

Former Wendell Center School and Swift River School teacher Nancy Gregg said, "I remember Keith's willingness to work with teachers. If you needed a piece of furniture, he was there to help you figure out what would work, and then produce it. He very bravely helped me when I had the kids in my class carve pumpkins. Keith was an excellent model for the children. He also designed and build a counter and shelf in my home kitchen. He was a good friend to our family."

Hunter ended her retirement farewell for Keith Fiske saying, "He wants to leave quietly and without fanfare."

The Montague Reporter Nears Subscription Goal

As our goal of reaching 1,000 subscribers for our independent, community-owned newspaper draws close, we are turning to friends in three towns in our coverage area to help boost us over the finish line.

As it turns out, Gill, Wendell and Leverett are each nearing 100 subscribers within their borders. So, let's make a contest out of it.

Whichever one of those towns reaches 100 subscribers first, the *Reporter* will donate \$50 to the friends group at the Gill, Wendell or Leverett library, and a \$50 gift certificate to the *Montague Reporter* advertiser of their choice to the lucky subscriber who reaches the 100 mark.

We won't tell you which town is closest to that goal right now, but it is very close.

So, if you have friends in Gill, Wendell or Leverett who have been thinking about subscribing to the paper (or if you'd like to help by buying them a gift subscription), now is the perfect time to do so. Just use the subscription blank on this page.

Friends in all towns are encouraged to come to the *Montague Reporter* Sweetheart's raffle and bake sale table in the Food City breezeway, 250 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, between 1 and 6 p.m. for a special \$5 off on new subscriptions on Sunday, February 12th.

Sign Me Up!

☐ \$20 for half year subscription

☐ \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 1/25/12

Wounded:	Deaths:
14,342	1,887



GUEST EDITORIAL

Nuclear Power Plants Threaten Drinking Water for 4 Million Bay Staters

BY ANIKA JAMES

PLYMOUTH, MA – The drinking water for 4.8 million people in Massachusetts could be at risk of radioactive contamination from a leak or accident at nuclear power plants in the region, says a new report released this week by the Massachusetts Public Interest

Group Education Fund and the Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center.

"The danger of nuclear power is too close to home. Here in Massachusetts, the drinking water for more than half of our state is too close to an active nuclear power plant to ignore,"

said Janet Domenitz, MassPIRG's executive director.

"An accident like the one in Fukushima, Japan could spew cancer-causing radioactive waste into our drinking water. The nuclear power plants in Plymouth, MA (Pilgrim), Vernon, VT (Yankee) and Seabrook, NH (Seabrook) are all within 50 miles of drinking water sources for Massachusetts residents."

The nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan last year drew a spotlight on the many risks associated with nuclear power. After the disaster, airborne radiation left areas around the plant uninhabitable, and contaminated drinking water sources near Tokyo, 130 miles from the plant.

"Nuclear power is simply not worth the risk. In addition to the Pilgrim nuclear power plant, here in Plymouth, we are concerned about all of the region's nuclear power plants, including Vermont

Yankee, which has a deplorable safety record and is also within 50 miles of the Quabbin reservoir, the largest source of drinking water in New England," said MacKenzie Clark, field associate for Environment Massachusetts.

Radiation from a disaster like the one in Fukushima can contaminate drinking water and food supplies, as well as harm our health. But disaster or no, a common leak at a nuclear power plant can also threaten the drinking water for millions of people. As our nuclear facilities get older, leaks are more common. Seventy-five percent of U.S. nuclear plants have leaked tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that can cause cancer and genetic defects. "Tritium is dangerous. It moves quickly into our blood stream after ingestion and can cause cancer, mutations, and impacts to our DNA," said Claire Miller of Toxics Action

Center.

Last month, the danger hit home when tritium from Vermont Yankee was found in the Connecticut River. The tritium came from a leak at the Vermont Yankee plant last year that contaminated groundwater and then seeped into the Connecticut River which flows past the nuclear plant into Massachusetts.

"Relying on old, worn-out nuclear power plants to get our energy is very risky," concluded Anna Baker, a Marshfield resident and mother of two young children. "Massachusetts and the United States should learn from the tragedy at Fukushima and ensure that these outdated plants don't get relicensed in their current state. As they age and continue to operate, the risks they pose to our families' health increase every day."

Anika James is a field associate for Environment Massachusetts.

Franklin County's Week of Winter Fare Celebrates Locally Grown Food



Greenfield Winter Fare 2007

BY MARY MCCLINTOCK

GREENFIELD – We can all enjoy locally grown food in February, whether we're preparing meals for family or friends or attending a community potluck. That's the theme of Franklin County's Week of Winter Fare – a series of events starting Saturday, February 4th with free workshops and a barter fair at the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market, and continuing through Saturday, February 11th with community events.

After four years of organizing a Winter Fare Farmers Market, organizers are pleased this year to see the Greenfield Winter Farmers Market happening monthly. The Winter Fare organizing committee is now devoting its energies to organizing workshops during the February 4th Greenfield Winter Farmers Market, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church (on the common) and other events during the entire week of Winter Fare.

LOCAL FOOD BARTER FAIR

At 12:15 p.m. on February 4th, a barter fair will take place after the farmers market at the Congregational Church. How does it work? Anyone who has home-made food items to

barter will gather at with their goods and take part in informal trading. This is a great chance to meet your neighbors, practice the art of bartering, and bring home delicious food and goods without exchanging money. Too much winter squash and not enough dried peaches? Come to the barter fair in Greenfield, open to gardeners, gleaners, foragers, canners, dryers... even professional farmers!

For information about the Greenfield Winter Farmers' Market, visit www.greenfield-farmersmarket.com.

Gill Local-vore Potluck Supper

On Friday, February 10th, at 6:30 p.m., a local-vore potluck supper will be held at the Gill Congregational Church, on Main Road, in Gill Center. Bring a dish to share; using local meat, vegetables, fruit, grain, whatever... If you would like, list the ingredients and where they came from. All are welcome to this free event sponsored by the Gill agricultural commission. For more info, email agcom@gillmass.org.

For updated lists of other Winter Fare community events, visit the Winter Fare website at www.winterfare.org or call (413) 522-5932.

No Nukes Concert & Speakout

Benefit for the SAGE (Safe and Green Energy) Alliance by the Quahogs affinity group for the campaign to shut down **Vermont Yankee**

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, 2 pm—9 pm

Leverett Town Hall, Montague Rd., Leverett, MA

\$5-15 sliding scale, free food, children's activities

Schedule of events:

Opening:

2:05-2:15 Raging Grannies (2 songs)

2:15-2:25 Ann Ferguson Welcome from the Quahogs

Music:

2:25 Court Dorsey leads singalong song

2:30-3pm Red Valley Fog band performs

Speak Out:

3 pm Randy Kehler, Safe & Green Campaign

3:15 pm France Crowe, Shut It Down affinity group

Music:

3:30-3:50 Julia Burrough

3:55-4:25 Court Dorsey and Annie Hassett

4:30-5 pm The Diggers Band

Powerpoint Talk:

5:00-5:30 Hattie Nestel Overview on Nuclear Power

Circus Act:

5:35-5:50pm Ever Evolving Soul Circus

Music:

5:55-6:15 Annie Patterson

6:20-6:40 Christian Hine

Speak Out:

6:40-6:55 Open mic

Music:

7:00-7:40 Who Da Funk It Band

7:45-8:15 Snakebaby Band

8:20-9:00 Outer Styfie Band

Ad Paid for by
Members of the
Daniel Shays and
Quahogs Affinity
Groups and the
Clamshell Alliance

SAGE Alliance

For more information contact: Ann Ferguson
Email: ferguson3636@gmail.com
Phone: (H) 413-367-2310

HK

**Power Town
Apartments**

152 Avenue A
P.O. Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

HallKeen Management, Inc.

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager



**NEW NEPAL
SHIPMENT**

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

HIMALAYAN VIEWS

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

**CARSENSE
AUTOMOTIVE**

Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862

U-HAUL

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

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

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354

**Montague
BOOKMILL**
Open Daily 10 - 6



413-367-9206

www.montaguebookmill.com

**CRUISE & TRAVEL
COMPANY**



30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS



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

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Corporate Personhood Petition Presented

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
Wendell citizen Laurel Facey was not on the agenda but came to the January 18th selectboard meeting carrying a petition with pages of certified Wendell signatures, asking the board to direct the town clerk to send a letter urging state representative Steve Kulik and state senator Stan Rosenberg to sponsor legislation calling for a state convention to amend the United States Constitution to deny corporations the rights and privileges of living human beings. Such an amendment would subject corporations to legal regulation by the government, prohibit them from making any contribution to a candidate for public office or influence any ballot measure, and allow Congress and the states the power to regulate and set limits on all election contributions and expenditures, including that of a candidate's own money.

There are two processes by which the United States Constitution can be modified. One begins with the United States Congress, and must be followed by ratification by two-thirds of the states. The other begins with individual states ratifying the amendment, followed by approval in Congress. The petition aims to begin both processes.

Aldrich told Facey the selectboard can urge the town clerk to send letters, but cannot direct her.

Keller suggested bringing the resolution to annual town meeting, which could, if it chose, put the town's support behind a constitutional amendment regarding the personhood of corporations. Facey did not object to that approach.

Meanwhile, the skunk is dead. At the January 4th Wendell selectboard meeting, town coordinator

Nancy Aldrich mentioned that an Orange Oil worker stopped maintenance efforts on the town hall furnaces because he saw a skunk curled up under the oil tank.

Checking several days later, selectboard member Dan Keller noticed the skunk had not moved from under the oil tank. Closer inspection showed the skunk to be long past giving off any odor, not likely to move again: in short, long dead.

Orange Oil has since completed maintenance to the town hall furnaces.

Donna Horn began the meeting by reserving the town hall for Saturday evening, June 9th, for the annual misfit prom, Promageddon.

Past beneficiaries include the Wendell fire department and Wendell Works, but Horn said she had not yet chosen this year's beneficiary. The rental fee depends on whether the beneficiary is a Wendell group, and so the fee was not set, but use of the hall was reserved for June 9th.

John (Klondike) Koehler reserved the town hall for Sunday, June 10th after Good Neighbors for a graduation gathering.

Keller told the other board members that Seaboard Solar has offered a new proposal for establishing a multi-acre solar panel installation on town and private land.

Instead of leasing the landlocked 20-acres of town owned land, Seaboard would buy it for \$130,000. Seaboard has offered to consult town counsel at its own expense about the offer. Selectboard chair Christine Heard brought up Mass General Laws Chapter 30-B which regulates the way a municipality can buy and sell real property. The law requires a request for proposals, or

an open bidding process, and public advertising for same.

Keller said Seaboard Solar is certainly working the system of grants and incentives for renewable energy, but he seemed to think the proposal might be good for the town as well.

Citizen Jonathan von Ranson submitted a letter to the energy committee, and sent a copy to the selectboard as well, suggesting caution on jumping on the effort to create new energy sources, with questionable net return on the energy used to create those sources, and the related loss of carbon sequestration from clearing trees to make room for solar arrays.

Kenneth Elstein of the Hampshire Council of Governments met the selectboard with a progress report on the electricity aggregation proposal approved at Wendell's June 6th annual town meeting.

Under this proposal, households throughout town would buy electricity from the Hampshire Council of Governments, in an effort to lower yearly costs. The electricity supply for town buildings and streetlights has been working with HCOG for several years. During that time, not every monthly bill has been lowered, but the overall cost of electricity has dropped.

Electricity supply is still provided by National Grid. Households would be included in the HCOG program unless they actively opt out of it.

Elstein said HCOG had gotten approval from the Department of Public Utilities to become the default supplier for town residents.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser asked how bi-directional metering

see WENDELL pg 10

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Dispute over Union 28 Benefits May Force Erving to Assume Fiscal Agency

BY KATIE NOLAN – School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault told the selectboard that Erving may be forced to become the fiscal agent for Union #28, responsible for administering payment of the union's expenses, including employee and retiree benefits.

Boissonneault told the selectboard if Erving becomes the fiscal agent for U-28, then a deficit based on non-payment of costs for employee benefits which remain in dispute by Leverett would become Erving's responsibility. That deficit is now in the \$2,000 range.

Swift River School, the current fiscal agent, volunteered for the responsibility years ago, but Boissonneault said the Swift River district is "fed up" with Leverett's refusal to pay shared costs for U-28 employee benefits and may decide to quit as fiscal agent.

Under the U-28 agreement, Erving, as the "lead town" (the town with the most students enrolled in union schools), is required to take over the fiscal agent duties if another town or school district is unwilling to fulfill that role.

Providing benefits to U-28 employees and retirees has been contentious for U-28 towns because the benefits package for shared U-28 employees is mirrored after the benefit package for the "lead town," which nowadays is Erving.

Erving offers more generous benefits for its own employees than do other towns in U-28, leading Leverett to protest that their own town employees are getting 50% of their health insurance benefits paid by the town on retirement, while Leverett is being asked at the same time to contribute their share for 77% of benefits

for U-28 retirees. In order to bring attention to its protest, Leverett is withholding a percentage of its share of the benefits costs to Swift River, leaving the Swift River district with a deficit for this fiscal year.

All five towns and four school districts have petitioned the state legislature for a special act to allow the towns to pay benefits for U-28 employees in proportion to the percentage they pay their own employees.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo attended the January 17th Public Service Committee hearing at the state house in Boston on that bill, which is co-sponsored by senator Stanley Rosenberg and representative Steve Kulik.

Contacted at his office, Kulik said the committee would likely forward the bill to the state senate in the next week or so. If passed in the senate, it would go forward to the house, and if passed there, to Governor Patrick for signing. Kulik estimated the process could take weeks or months. He said that both he and Rosenberg understand the U-28 towns want the bill passed as quickly as possible and are "doing all we can to move it along."

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to contact the Leverett administrator for more information about the town's intentions.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock asked that the town be provided with citations from the regulations or agreement that would require the town to take on the fiscal agent responsibilities.

Boissonneault said he would ask U-28 superintendent Joan Wickman to supply those.

Town administrator Tom Sharp reported that a water pipe at the new sen-

ior center froze and water flowed into the large room and wetted approximately half of the rug.

Sharp said the building and systems were still under warranty and that contractor MCM, Inc. would make repairs. MCM brought in dehumidifiers and fans to dry the room. Sharp said it appeared some of the insulation was not installed correctly, allowing the pipe to freeze.

Selectboard members expressed surprise at the first electric bill for the senior center: \$1,687.24 for December 9th through January 11th. Sharp noted the town had budgeted \$9,000 per year (average of \$750 per month) for electricity for the new building, based on data provided by architect John Catlin. Sharp will contact Catlin and project manager Bruce Hunter for more information on the building's electric usage.

The finance committee met jointly with the selectboard and discussed the fiscal year 2013 budget process. Finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski asked for clarification about whether the selectboard was seeking level-funded budget requests from each department.

Selectboard member James Hackett said although the board wants to "shoot for level-funded" there are too many variables to expect level funding for every budget item. Both selectboard and finance committee members said they would be expecting in-depth information from departments to support their budget requests.

The draft capital expenditure plan for FY '13 is \$953,000, up from \$236,500 in FY '12.

see ERVING pg 12

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

Locally owned since 1941



Foster's Super Market
Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market
Beer & Wine
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

About-Face Computer Solutions



151 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-5447
Full Service Repairs, Network Setup & Repair, Sales!
www.about-facecomputers.com



COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066



48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780
Mike Fuller, Owner

GREENFIELD Veterinary Clinic



Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.
18 French King Highway
Greenfield
Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner



The Best Hiding Place in Town
48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

COUTURE BROS.
Celebrating 101st Anniversary



Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer
www.couturebros.com
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

NOTES FROM THE UNION 28 SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**Cuts Restored, U-28 Central Office Budget Approved**

BY KATIE NOLAN

ERVING – The Union #28 joint supervisory committee voted to approve a \$533,419 central office budget at their January 24th meeting, up about 1.4% or \$6,950 from last year.

The committee decided to fund line items originally cut by the budget and personnel subcommittee in December, despite a request from the Leverett selectboard for cuts to ease that town's current fiscal distress.

The committee also discussed the responsibilities of New Salem and Wendell as the union's fiscal agent and Leverett's refusal to pay for a percentage of central office employee and retiree health benefits in an ongoing dispute about the level of benefit pay.

According to U-28 superintendent Joan Wickman's superintendent's report, in December, the budget and personnel subcommittee discussed the draft fiscal year 2013 central office budget that increased costs over FY'12 by 1.4%, or \$7,400. At that December subcommittee meeting, the Leverett selectboard requested that central office employees get a 0% cost of living (COLA) increase, rather than a COLA determined by a formula voted by the U-28 Joint Supervisory Committee in 2010. The subcommittee rejected eliminating central office COLAs, but reviewed the budget and identified approximately \$8,800 in cuts to other line items.

When the joint supervisory committee met on January 24th, Wendell and Erving representatives both reported their local school committees were opposed to the proposed cuts, which include a \$1,997 reduction in the superintendent's salary, a \$2,000 cut in central office dues for educational associations, and a \$2,500 cut in professional development costs.

Leverett representative Farshid Hajir noted that "two years ago when Shutesbury asked the same thing, the budget was reduced by about \$8,000 and the sky didn't fall."

Scott Bastarache of Erving said the Erving school committee felt that "cuts would be a detri-

ment to what the office needs to accomplish."

Wendell representative Ray DiDonato said the Wendell school committee "values what we get from Union #28" and added he felt it wasn't necessary for a five-town shared budget to be cut over a local issue. Dick Baldwin, also from Wendell, said that "administration is already trimmed, and we can't make cuts without dinging performance."

Michael DeChiara of Shutesbury told the committee, "If we're working as a collaborative, we need to look at one town that's having trouble and respond."

Baldwin suggested it was the role of the Leverett school committee to argue in favor of the union budget at town meeting.

Hajir responded that Leverett citizens pay attention to line items that seem excessive and "It's my duty to keep line items in a reasonable place."

The joint supervisory committee voted to cut a \$450 line item for utility bid fees and approved

see BUDGET pg 12

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**Progress on Long Term Goals**

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Gill-Montague school committee made good progress last week in developing a long-term plan that fits well within the district's accelerated improvement plan (AIP), as the district plots a course to move out of Level IV (needs improvement) status.

Meeting in the high school conference room on Wednesday, January 18th, the members began by discussing the latest version of the long-term plan they've been developing. Christine LeBarge, district planning manager, skillfully steered them towards developing their portion of the AIP. By meeting's end, the committee had clarified their main objective and chosen four goals with specific measurable initiatives to attain them.

Members recently became aware the school committee itself had some work to do to meet the DESE's directives for the district's accelerated improvement plan. LeBarge walked the committee members through the steps they would need to take as their part in mov-

ing the district out of Level IV status.

As Gill member Jennifer Waldron presented her ideas to help the committee sort out their priorities, Montague member Marjorie Levenson objected to the amount of time the committee was spending listening to Waldron. Waldron responded, Levenson took offense and left the meeting.

Jeff Singleton then said he had presented his ideas for the long-term improvement of the district six months earlier and now would like some closure on the subject.

LeBarge asked the committee to reduce the number of goals in the plan and simplify their main objective to 10-20 words, and no more. The committee decided on four goals: to prioritize the Accelerated Improvement Plan; communication; governance; and innovation.

The committee shortened their original main strategic objective to read, "Gill-Montague needs a united, forward-moving and civil school committee that makes high-level

see SCHOOL pg 10

Gill-Montague will Consider**Ekstrom's Contract**

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

On Tuesday, the Gill-Montague school committee voted in favor of offering Nadine Ekstrom a superintendent's contract, subject to the successful outcome of negotiations with the school committee.

Before the vote, Karl Dziura, president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, rose to point out that there were ten teachers in attendance at the meeting to support Ekstrom. Over the last few weeks, teachers have come to meetings and expressed their support repeatedly for interim superintendent Ekstrom and their strong position that she stay on as superintendent.

The motion to go into negotiations with Ekstrom was brought by Jane Oakes of Gill. Prior to her making the motion, Jeff Singleton of Montague made a motion to extend Ekstrom's interim superintendent position for another year.

Attorney Russell Dupere advised the committee that the choice to continue the interim position, as opposed to offering a new contract as a permanent

see EKSTROM pg 13



Greenfield
50
YEARS
1962-2012

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

Try something new this Spring!

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

Greenfield Community College • www.gcc.mass.edu

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

Now Delivering Propane

Prepaid & Budget Programs Available CALL for Details

Air Conditioning Service & Installation

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Leaf Busters

Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

Hartnett Plumbing

Water Heaters, Drain Cleaning,
Remodeling, Repairs

"We give you a place to go"

184 Jacksonville Road
Colrain 413-624-0044

Serving all of Franklin County
Mass. License #13175

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

Fretted Instrument Workshop

413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

Massachusetts Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program — GILL'S JACOB LEVIN HEADED TO WASHINGTON, D. C. AND TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Senators John F. Kerry and Scott Brown announced the names of the two students who have been selected as delegates to the 50th Anniversary United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 3 to 10 in Washington, D.C. John Griffin, III of Walpole and Jacob Levin of Gill were chosen from across the state to be part of the group of 104 student delegates to attend the program.

Each year this extremely competitive, merit-based program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students — two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity — to Washington, D.C. for an inten-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jacob Levin

sive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill

within the student delegates a more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public

service. The Hearst Foundations provide each of the 104 student delegates with a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

Jacob Levin attends Pioneer Valley Regional School and serves as class president. Jacob is involved in mock trial, model congress, and student government. His school involvement led Jacob into politics. Three years ago, he joined the local chapter of Young Democrats, becoming involved in campaigning, lobbying, and drafting legislation. Jacob and some friends created a Massachusetts High School Democrats Caucus, for

which he is treasurer. Jacob plans to study political science and eventually earn his law degree.

Jacob Levin stated that his efforts to pass legislation to lower the voting age for local elections to 17 "has had to take a backseat during his college application process. He has seen some successes with some legislators, and will resume work in this area soon. "It's important for students to be aware and involved in local politics... Voter education cannot start early enough." Levin is "super excited for all the meetings and briefings, and of course to meet the President." He hopes to "represent youth of Mass well in Washington, DC."

The Year of Diving Black Ducks

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER — The black ducks took the Breakfast Club's January prize this year. Regardless of the winter weather, they became underwater divers, scrambling for some goodie not near enough to the surface to reach by dip.

Earlier, they have enjoyed 'dipping food' near the shore, but

as ice formed in the quiet areas, they moved closer to the current, and put on a diving show, with odds as to where they might emerge.

These are black ducks, and their mallard cousins have occasionally gone underwater a bit, but never with the apparent joy these big boy blacks displayed, flapping their wings on high, and

maybe grinning with delight after a successful mission.

When the pond really froze and left only a channel, the ducks disappeared, and it may be that they flew down to the river for more open water.

The little birds at the feeder must have found the period of warm weather in early January kept the meadow feed available, and only a few stopped by.

The nippy weather brought the juncos and titmice, chickadees and downy woodpecker. They were careful to give the cardinals first choice. The jays brought color, but maybe because the offerings are not fancy feast, they do not appear too frequently.

As colder weather set in, the American tree sparrow showed up.

By late winter, five or six usu-

ally appear, and since they summer in the Arctic, they may wait for the real season to appear in New England. They are a rusty headed sparrow with a spot on an unstreaked breast. We sometimes call them winter chippies.

Last year's bald eagle, who sat for several minutes on an oak tree limb over the pond, has not returned this year. Maybe this is the year of diving blacks.

2012 ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

BY DEB BOURBEAU

MONTAGUE — Did you get your annual census and street list form? Montague's 2012 annual town census was mailed out Friday, January 20th.

The board of registrars is required by state statute to verify and update the name, address, age and occupation of all residents. Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights, veterans' bonuses, to assist the council on aging with service projections and to assist the school district with enrollment information and projections. Population figures

are also used by the state in calculating state and federal aid monies to the town.

Census data is also used to compile the annual street list. The street list is made available to the police, fire and emergency medical technicians to aid in the daily performance of their duties as well as other municipal departments. Census information about children under the age of 17 is not made available to the public. Birthdates of residents will not be published due to the threat of identity theft.

If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the cen-

sus, the board of registrars is required by law to move you to the 'inactive voter' list, and you will be at risk of being removed from the voter registration rolls. Please help us make the annual town census as complete and accurate as possible. If you did not receive a form call the town clerk's office at (413) 863-3200, ext 203. Please fill in all the information for all the residents of the household and mail the completed form to the town clerk's office at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Deb Bourbeau is the Montague town clerk.

BRING IN YOUR OLD INK CARTRIDGE,
Purchase A New Ink Cartridge for \$20 or more
& **Receive \$2.00 OFF**



or Purchase Same For Under \$20

& **Receive \$1.00 OFF**

BAKER

Office Supply

310 Main St., Greenfield 774-2345



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

Pete's
TIRE BARN, Inc.

Tires for Work. Tires for Play.

www.petestire.com

Northampton • 186 North King St. 413-586-8815

Brattleboro • 220 Old Ferry Rd. 802-254-3628

Orange • 275 E. Main St. 978-544-8811

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria

@ the Green Emporium

Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

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

www.greenemporium.com

Colrain Center
413-624-5122

CopyCat Print Shop

Loves You More



Check
our other
ad in this
newspaper



(413) 774-3500

greenfield@copycatprintshop.com



Mary Lou Emond

Certified Residential Specialist



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

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568

EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

Diemand Farm

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

Products Vary Weekly

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

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

**Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink**



44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

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

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

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



66 French King Hwy., Gill
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM



The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

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

Kulik Takes a Look at Governor Patrick's \$32.3 Billion Budget



State Representative Stephen Kulik

BY DAVID DETMOLD
BOSTON – “Overall, it’s not bad news.”

That’s how Steve Kulik (D-Worthington), the First Franklin District’s 10-term state representative characterized the \$32.3 billion budget released by Governor Deval Patrick yesterday. That figure represents a 2.98% increase in state spending over

the current budget year.

The governor proposes to level fund unrestricted local aid, and increase state Chapter 70 aid for public schools by \$145 million.

Due to continued job growth in the Bay State, where the creation of 40,700 new jobs in 2011 drove unemployment

down to a rate of 6.8% as of December, well below the national average of 8.5%, Massachusetts expects to receive an extra \$930 million in revenue this year.

Kulik said, “That sounds like a lot, but we have to subtract \$150 million right off the top,” to pay for health care for legal immigrants in the Bay State, as a result of the Massachusetts Supreme

Court’s *Finch vs. Commonwealth* decision of January 5th.

That ruling, which found the state to be unconstitutionally blocking the access of low-income, legal immigrants to the state’s guaranteed health care system, will have a “very significant” impact on the state budget, Kulik said.

“And then we have other debt service obligations, along with the added Chapter 70 spending, increasing health care costs, pension obligations, and so forth. We expect the entire \$930 million will be consumed by what are really non-discretionary obligations.”

Kulik, the vice-chair of the House Ways and Means committee, took issue with one aspect of the governor’s budget. “When the governor says unrestricted local aid will be level funded, that’s not actually the case. You may recall last year we said if there’s a surplus when the books are closed out, we would distribute the surplus back to the cities and towns. We did distribute an extra \$65 million at the end of the summer.

“But the governor’s budget today puts out the same amount

for local aid – about \$834 million – that was in the budget last year, without adding on the \$65 million. Once again he’s proposing that if there’s a surplus at the end of the fiscal year, we’ll distribute that back to the towns. But it’s a little bit misleading for him to say he’s proposing level funding for local aid, because the additional \$65 million the towns are getting in FY ‘12 is now conditional. If you’re going to say we’re not going to cut local aid, I think you have to build that \$65 million into the budget.”

The Gill-Montague Regional School District will receive the same amount of Chapter 70 aid – \$5,967,929 – as it did last year. Regional transportation aid and payment in lieu of taxes for state aid is also level funded in the governor’s proposed budget, which will now move to the legislature for final mark ups.

“We should be able to finish with the budget by the first of July,” said Kulik.

Kulik said the state’s budget picture was dimmed slightly by an automatic tax decrease triggered by the state’s improving tax receipts. That decrease results from a referendum approved by the voters in the year 2000, and amended by the legislature in 2002 to fall below 5.3% only if certain benchmarks are met. The automatic lowering of the state’s

income tax from 5.30 to 5.25% came into effect on January 1st of this year because the state met those benchmarks, with the growth of inflation-adjusted revenues at 7.2 percent in fiscal 2011, easily meeting the threshold of 2.5 percent growth under the law.

This adjustment will result in the loss of \$114 million otherwise available for next year’s budget, said Kulik. The lowering of the state income tax was triggered despite the fact that the state budget has been cut approximately \$7 billion since the recession began in 2008.

Nonetheless, “For the governor to come out and deliver a message of essentially level funding local aid and increasing Chapter 70 is good news,” Kulik said. “I think local officials are feeling pretty positive as they are entering into their budget planning.”

He added, “These estimates could look better in April, May, or June. If they do we may adjust accordingly, as we finalize our budget. Our economy is doing better than it was, our unemployment rate is significantly below the national average, people are paying more income tax and sales tax – it’s a general brightening of the economic condition leading to higher revenues in Massachusetts.”

State Grant Received for Teawaddle Hill Farm

BY DAVID DETMOLD
LEVERETT – In what may amount to almost an embarrassment of riches for the conservation of agricultural and forest land in Leverett, the state of Massachusetts advanced not one but two hugely significant land deals in this Franklin County town on the same day.

In the largest private land conservation deal in Massachusetts in almost a century, the Department of Fish and Game, with help from federal and foundation grants, acquired for \$8.8 million a 5.4 square mile conservation restriction on Brushy Mountain on December 23rd.

And on that same day, the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs also provided the town with a \$237,600 grant to purchase a conservation restriction (CR) on the 147-acre Mitchell Farm on Teawaddle

Hill – also known as the Teawaddle Hill Farm – which coincidentally provides one of the better unobstructed viewscapes of Brushy Mountain.

The state grant is contingent on the town’s Community Preservation Committee agreeing to grant \$170,000 toward the purchase of development rights on the property, and town meeting approval.

The Kestrel Trust and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, which are working together with the town’s conservation commission to coordinate the CR purchase, will undertake to fundraise privately for the additional \$25,000 needed to complete the \$375,000 deal. A fund appeal will be sent out to all Leverett residents by this weekend.

Five acres containing the farmhouse and barn will be excluded from the conserved land. The conservation restric-

tion will preserve the remaining acreage as a working farm, while allowing public access on a trail system that connects with a number of other permanently preserved parcels, like the 4-H Forest. The town will have the right of first refusal on the property if the Mitchell family ever decides to sell the farm. Leverett will also have the right to mow the fields at the town’s expense to preserve the viewcape if the land remains fallow for more than two years. A Christmas tree farm that might obstruct the view would be prohibited from the property, which contains 30 acres of prime farmland. Rare species found on or near the property include the wood turtle and the eastern box turtle.

The Kestrel Trust will hold the conservation restriction on the farm jointly with the town of Leverett. For more information, go to www.kestreltrust.org.

Kulik – Legislator of the Year

The Massachusetts Municipal Association has recognized State Rep. Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) as its distinguished “Legislator of the Year” based on his record during the 2011 legislative session. This is the third time he has received this recognition. Rep. Kulik, who serves as the Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, was presented with the award at the association’s annual business meeting on January 21st, before hundreds of local officials from across the state.

“His leadership on Municipal Health Insurance Reform was extraordinary,” said MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith. “This was the most important reform law to benefit cities and towns in the past 30 years. The new law will save cities and towns, taxpayers, and municipal employees millions of dollars a year, all while guaran-

teeing high quality health insurance for local workers and preserving countless jobs.”

During the ceremony, Natick Selectman Josh Ostroff, MMA President, stated that “Kulik’s leadership on municipal health insurance... is more than enough to merit his selection as Legislator of the Year, yet [his] record of accomplishment during the 2011 session contains many other acts of leadership to benefit the communities of Massachusetts, including: the House’s FY ‘12 state budget, which restored \$65 million in vital local aid to every town and city; the passage of a \$200 million Chapter 90 program to repair local roads and bridges, the highest in state history; and the enactment of strong pension reform legislation without mandates on local systems, which will reduce local pension costs by \$2 billion over the next 30 years.”

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

CELEBRATING WOMEN
125 years
AVON

VIRGINIA WHITTEN
Independent Sales Representative
Executive Unit Leader

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

mww **ROCKET FUSION**
Montague WebWorks . com

Now powered by RocketFusion

413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com

make the web work for your business

COLDWELL BANKER
UPTON-MASSAMONT REALTORS

Donald J Mailloux
GRI
Recognized Top Producer

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

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

Turners Falls Pizza House

119 Avenue A
863-8000
We Deliver!

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

It's Pizza Time!

Your LOCAL Solar Energy Experts

GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE

413-772-3122
Advice, Design & Installation

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

LOOT
found + made

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

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

BRIDGE from page 1

Taylor, district manager for Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife, has reviewed the design and indicated his willingness to support the bridge's reconstruction."

One previous design, a natural bridge provided by a fallen tree, also gave way within the last year or two.

Selectboard chairperson Mark Fairbrother recommended the plans be presented to the town's conservation commission, just in case, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio noted the memorandum of understanding needs to be approved by town meeting since it involves how maintenance will be funded.

However, no one at the selectboard on Monday night anticipated any problems with the project moving forward, especially since construction and maintenance costs would be funded through fundraising and no alterations to the riverbed

were expected.

Fairbrother recommended that Goldman contact past fund raisers for the previously stalled reconstruction project, since many have already chipped in, including himself.

The property was obtained 18 years ago, by a group called the Friends of the Sawmill River, and then transferred to the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife, explained Goldman. Approximately 55 acres, the conservation area has nature trails, meadows, woods, and of course, the mighty Sawmill. Several educational leaders, including Fairbrother himself, have led nature walks and talks in the area in the past, when the footbridge was still in place.

On Tuesday, the juncos and bluejays were doing most of the talking. One lone fisherman sported deep waders. Skiers, hikers, and bikers would love to join in the fray without getting their feet wet. Meanwhile, the

seasonally oblivious dogs just swim.

In related news, the selectboard provided town meeting information on Monday. Town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5th at Turners Falls High School.

Any warrant articles related to spending will need to be submitted to the town clerk or selectboard by Thursday, February 23rd at 4 p.m. Non-monetary-related warrants are due on the Ides of March, Thursday, March 15th at 4 p.m. Any special town meeting warrants are due on April 12th at 4 p.m.

In other news, Ericka Almeida has been appointed to the Montague zoning board of appeals, through June 30th 2014. And Lindsey Phillips' request for use of Peskeompskut Park on September 8th 2012 for her wedding was also approved. Best wishes to the bride-and-groom-to-be!

SCHOOL from page 7

decisions around student needs."

To make the AIP a priority, the school committee set the following initiatives: prioritize updates on the improvement plan; place objectives on the school committee agenda; encourage school committee attendance at events that celebrate academic achievement; and commit to supporting existing curriculum and programs through budget and policy.

To advance the goal of communication, the committee decided to: develop a system for increased staff, student, parent and community input; utilize surveys to encourage communication; along with the Ed-line feature on the GMRSD's website and similar forums to improve school committee communication with the community.

On the third goal, governance, the committee chose

these initiatives: review and develop policies regarding roles and responsibilities, norms and protocols; engage in professional development and team building; establish calendars for landmark school committee responsibilities, include target dates for completion of agenda items; review the structure of the school committee; and develop strategies for the school committee to present policies and receive feedback.

For the fourth and final goal, innovation, the committee's initiatives are: support new curriculum and instruction programs with policy and budget decisions; and involve the school committee in the district's technology plan.

The school committee agreed to continue their work on the long-term plan for their portion of the AIP at a meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, January 31st, in the Turners Falls High School conference room.

WENDELL from page 6

will be treated for households that generate some of their own electricity.

Elstein said HCOG has not yet developed a system for dealing with bi-directional metering, but it can be part of the final agreement.

Aldrich read a campaign finance declaration selectboard members need to sign declaring how much they raised and how much they spent the last time they were elected.

Since no board member had spent money getting elected, filling out the forms was relatively easy.

Aldrich reported no one returned a call at Mass Audubon concerning the three year campership Audubon offered to one Wendell teen a year for three years, in view of the fact the nonprofit organization owns many acres of land in town but pays no taxes on it. The 2011 winner, Aria Leelyn, had a wonderful time at the Audubon summer camp in 2011, and the selectboard decided to award the second place essay contest winner, Cole Emery, a campership for 2012.

Summer is still some time away, and selectboard chair

Christine Heard suggested perhaps Aldrich's message did not reach the people at Mass Audubon who are aware of the program. She urged Aldrich to try again.

Heard said council on aging chair Nancy Spittle and some others cleaned the basement of the senior center and found books left there when the library moved to its new building, including a set of Massachusetts General Laws from 1880 to 1890.

Librarian Rose Heidkamp does not want the books, and Keller suggested if the historic commission does not want them, they could go to the free store at the recycling station.

Finance committee co-chair Michael Idoine talked about a two hour meeting he and Aldrich attended with Wendell's current state representative, Steve Kulik.

Kulik said state aid to towns, including payment in lieu of taxes for state owned land, was likely to remain level for the coming fiscal year.

Finance committee members talked about how Wendell pays into the Mahar budget according to a formula that charges Wendell \$3,000 more per student than Orange pays,

but if a portion of the district's free cash (excess and deficiency) budget were returned to member towns, all towns could wind up paying an equal per-student amount.

Idoine suggested a meet and greet session with Denise Andrews, who will represent Wendell when the recent state redistricting plan goes into effect.

Aldrich suggested waiting until spring for that meet and greet, when a snow postponement would be less likely.

Pooser said that when the October 30th snowstorm interrupted electricity supply to

Wendell, some residents were unaware the town had opened an emergency operations center in the fire station and highway garage with heat, running potable water, and information.

The library, the town office building and the town hall also have generators that can keep lights on and the furnaces running, offering shelter or water for residents in emergencies, and the town also has cots that can be used if a 24-hour shelter is needed.

Pooser suggested in future that signs be placed in front of the EOC, at least. The library had a sign, and even offered

internet access, but the EOC had no sign. A sandwich board would be adequate, he said.

Aldrich said she had finished the FEMA paperwork for reimbursement for hurricane Irene, and was starting work on a similar application for the town's costs during the October snowstorm.

Keller said the town missed a recent deadline for grant applications for towns that want to study regionalizing of services like fire and police with neighboring towns. He said another round of grants will come around soon enough.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Car Crashes, Harassment, Larceny, Arrest, Fight

Monday, 1/16
6:45 a.m. Report of motor vehicle crash on Mountain Road. Nothing found. Located crash on Gulf Road in Northfield. Report taken.
11:05 a.m. Report of minor motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near Mountain Road. Vehicle left scene.
10:30 p.m. Report of a vehicle crashed into the French King Bridge blocking the roadway. Vehicle gone upon arrival.
Wednesday, 1/18
1 p.m. Report of harassment. Report taken.
2:45 p.m. report of car versus tractor trailer unit on East Main Street. Handled by state police.
Thursday, 1/19
6:45 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of registration and with no insurance on the Route 2 bypass.
5 a.m. Fire at French King Motel, on French King Highway. On scene to assist.
2:35 p.m. Larceny reported at Old State Road residence. Under investigation.
Friday, 1/20
9:15 a.m. Mutual aid to Orange police for breaking and entering in Brookside

Drive area.
Saturday, 1/21
1:40 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for stop sign violation, operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor, resisting arrest, assault and battery on a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle.
1:35 p.m. Found black lab in area of cemetery on Mountain Road. Returned same to owner.
Monday, 1/23
3:50 p.m. Assisted Gill police with fight at Gill-Montague bridge. Area checked. Nothing found. Reporting subject advised a truck took off heading east-bound. Nothing found.

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

Pam Veith

REALESTATE

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald

REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

Office: (413) 498-0207 x2

Cell: (413) 834-4444

Home: (413) 863-9166


Home Fax: (413) 863-0218

bedson1@comcast.net

75 Main Street, Suite 105,

Northfield, MA 01360

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com



Renaissance

Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net

863-8316



J

A

Jonathan Abbott

SSI / Disability Attorney

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

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA

In Home Appointments

jabbottesq@verizon.net

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA

Accountant

413-768-9095

For all your accounting needs

Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks

Now accepting new accounting clients



2ND STREET



BAKING CO.

69 2nd Street

Turners Falls

863-4455

Closed Mondays

Lunch Delivery for orders of \$50 or more

Hot Soup Daily

call ahead for Special Order Cakes

Tue - Sat 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Check out our Great Lunch Menu

Now Open Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cakes, Pastries, Coffee, Soup and Bread

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING

PERMS & COLORS

Men, Women & Children

C

A

S

T

I

N

E

S

HAIR CREATIONS

Gift Certificates Available

863 - 2022

Marie Castine

Richard DiGeorge (Thursdays)

74 PROSPECT ST.

TURNERS FALLS

the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby
design by Claudia Wells

Occupy

Miss Liberty, nips and tucks will not restore your looks.
Blame not the ravishes of time.
Wrinkles and furrows adorn an inner beauty.
No, you lost your way, grew deep down ugly consorting with grotesque souls wizened with greed, and armored to
protect monstrous wealth that never should have been.

Recall yourself, lady, bare breasted at the barricades among brave youth, radiant with love and shared dreams of a
higher destiny.
Prepare for your redemption.

Occupying heroes, arise with the rosy fingered dawn.
Free your besieged queen from her foul suitors.

—Jim Perkins
Leverett

January 2012

Without a sound the old year passes.
All things hold firm.
Goldfinches, changing into winter bronze,
keep their wingbars striped in black
as mourning bands for the lost songs of summer.
Ladies, shopping in the marketplace,
carry armsfull of marked down wrapping paper
as though certain of another Christmas.
Every day we happen to ourselves,
live out past lives and dream.

Without a sound the old year passes and
all things change.
Last night, for the first time, I dreamed of Stanley,
still in love with him as we all were in those days...
tall, elegant, his wit with the off-color phrase.
In the dream he seemed strangely vulnerable,
swaying a bit at the edge of a high precipice.
I worried, then realized he could float away at any time.
After all these years... why did he come?
for you? ragged and crumbling, saying over and over
“when can we go home?”

I learn to weep while you are still here.
I learn the old, old truth –
in life, as in a poem, sorrow and joy are One.

—Alice Scheffey
Leverett

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous
financial underwriting of The Poetry Page: -

**Klondike Sound,
Green Fields Market,
Carlin Barton, Michael Muller and
Dr. Robert Koolkin Montague Dental Arts**

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at
58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at
reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Sleepwalkers along the Connecticut

Far under the bridge span
a pair of beavers begin
their life's work to dam
this wide expanse of current.

Someone should stop and yell:
“you cannot find the river's
depth or breadth.” But they simply fell
birch, cherry, and popple

along the east shore where
the flood plain supports
such growth from spring's fair
season of sun and floods.

Above, I stand fifty feet or more
from where they in an unconscious
pattern start along the shore
to construct a home to store
for winter, for children fodder copious.

But who understands what beavers
know? who can truly speak
of life's spring rains and fevers?
who knows what they will seek?
who of us are the true perceivers?

—Nick Fleck
Northfield

Corporate corpses

autopsies performed in broad daylight
revealed the subjects to be
infested with bad ideas and a
certain degree of sociopathic
irresponsibility and traces of tea
of suspicious origin discovered
in its lack of stomach for
certain equities and evidence of
various substances associated with
hallucinations, illusions of grandeur
and a psychotic tendency to
loot and pillage every village
with keystrokes and bank notes
the coroner's report was released
to a waiting public on the commons
where the bodies were discovered and
then covered discreetly with
transparent tarp so the hard rain
would not wash away the sins of the
rulers of the fucking universe.

all their charters have been withdrawn
with a patriotic song and a salute
to those who slept out in the rain
and endured all that pain associated
with a revocation in this nation
leaving countless followers & fools
stranded at the station, the train
having left for parts unknown
that could hardly be any worse than
that exclusion zone called home.
no more.

—Don Ogden
Leverett

Cypress Swamp: Poem for Two Voices

everything is fallen

lately I like being

bent drooped

anyplace where aging

wrinkled mossed

is allowed to proceed

rotted stiff and silent.

without remedy

—Mary Clare Powell
Greenfield

Contributors' Notes: Mary Clare Powell and Nick Fleck will be reading at All Small Caps
at the Deja Brew in Wendell on Monday, January 30th at 7 p.m.

Don Ogden hosts a weekly radio show on environ-
mental issues on Valley Free Radio, Sundays at 10
a.m. 103.3fm or webcasting at
www.valleyfreeradio.org.

Nick Fleck is a retired teacher from Northfield who
has been writing poetry since college, and who is in
the process of collecting them all into small chap-
books.

Mary Clare Powell is a professor at Lesley University
in the Creative Arts in Learning Division where she
teaches poetry to teachers. In the last 25 years she
has published three books of poetry—*Things Owls*
Ate, *Academic Scat*, and *In the Living Room*.

Jim Perkins lives in Leverett.
Alice Scheffey lives in Leverett.

Simons & Simons

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

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

Rau's Auto

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

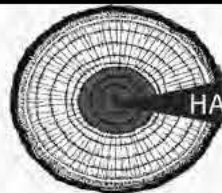
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



Irish Seisiun Music

Thursday 4 - 7
Friday 9 - 1

GREAT SEAFOOD & GOOD TIMES
163 Sunderland Rd. • Amherst
(413) 548-6900



HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE

Licensed and Insured

Christopher J. Morin, owner
7 Kimberly Lane
Turners Falls

413-522-6119

**EXCELLENCE IN
TREE CARE**

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF
SIZES
THE BEST
PRICES



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors
and Artists encouraged to inquire

DOLAN & DOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

BUDGET from pg 7

the FY'13 budget at \$533,419.

The committee discussed at length the decision by the Leverett selectboard to refuse to pay its share of employee and retiree benefits costs and the impact of this on the union's fiscal agent, which at the moment is the Swift River School.

Hajir said the Leverett selectboard "is not paying as a way to keep heat on this issue [shared employee and retiree benefits]." However, because Wendell and New Salem's Swift River School is the fiscal agent for U-28, Swift River is responsible for the resulting deficit.

U-28 business manager Michael Kociela told the committee that if Leverett doesn't pay its share of employee and retiree benefits, there would be a \$4172 deficit for FY '12, and the state Department of Revenue would require Swift River School to reduce its excess and deficiency account by that amount.

Providing benefits to U-28 employees and retirees has been contentious for U-28 towns, because the current benefits package for shared U-28 employees is set by the package for the "lead town" (the town with the most students enrolled). Erving, the current lead town, offers more generous benefits for town employees than do other

towns in U-28, paying 84% of health insurance premiums for employees and 77% for retirees, while other U-28 towns pay 75% of premium costs for employees and 50% for retirees.

Besides the percentage of health insurance premiums paid, other facets of the benefit package differ between the towns. Erving pays premiums for family plans or employee-plus-one plans that include spouses of retirees, and considers employees eligible for retirement insurance benefits after ten years of service. Leverett pays insurance benefits for retirees only, not families or spouses, and requires 15 years of service for retirement benefits eligibility.

Kociela explained the fiscal agent receives all invoices for the union, calculates the percentage owed by each town, and bills the towns for their share. In 2006, when Shutesbury asked to be relieved of the fiscal agent responsibilities, New Salem and Wendell's Swift River School agreed to take it on, because the U-28 central office treasurer and accountant also function as treasurer and accountant for Swift River. Kociela said that, in general, the system "has worked pretty smoothly."

DiDonato suggested "the simplest resolution would be for Leverett to pay the bill." However, he said, "If Leverett

became the fiscal agent, it could refuse to pay the bill and not affect anyone else."

Wickman said Swift River was audited in December, and the auditor recommended that Swift River decline to continue as fiscal agent.

Hajir agreed to discuss the payments with the Leverett selectboard and inform them of the Swift River audit results. He said, "It actually is the most efficient model for New Salem and Wendell to act as fiscal agent." The Wendell and New Salem school committees will vote at their February meeting about retaining the fiscal agent responsibility or passing it on to Erving.

Wickman told the committee that special legislation (Senate bill 2092) to allow towns to provide U-28 shared employees with benefits proportional to benefits paid to town employees is in progress, and predicted it would be in place "in 60 to 90 days."

Kociela said that currently, shared U-28 employees retire with the benefit package of the lead town at the time of their retirement. Senate bill 2092, which is supported by the U-28 towns, would allow towns to contribute to the employee and retiree benefits package at the town's employee package rate.

Hajir told the committee that once the legislation passes, "I

hope Leverett's bill will be paid, at the very least. I'll do what I can."

Bastarache said Erving town administrator Tom Sharp had been asked to reach out and start discussions with the town administrators and selectboards from the other U-28 towns to work on the benefits issue.

The Shutesbury Education Study Group reported that Shutesbury has voted to establish a regionalization study committee and has met with regionalization committees from Leverett, Pelham, and Amherst. The regionalization committee submitted an application for a state grant for \$110,000 for consulting help in reviewing the legal, financial, and educational implications of regionalization.

Erving Elementary principal Charlene Galenski, speaking as a Shutesbury taxpayer, asked that the regionalization committee consider the impact on taxpayers. She predicted that equalizing teacher salaries and benefits between Shutesbury and Amherst would be costly.

DeChiara said the four towns have discussed regionalization since the 1950s, and, if the grant is awarded, "This is the first time in 50 years to get real data" on the costs of regionalizing.

During the lead town/benefits/fiscal agent discussion, Wickman told the committee

how enrollment was calculated, with pre-schoolers counting as 0.5 of a fulltime equivalent student, kindergarten through 6th grade students counting as 1, and Erving 7th through 12th grade students counting as 0.1.

Questioned by DeChiara as to why an elementary school union was counting secondary students, Wickman replied that Erving is not a member of a secondary region or district, and U-28 handles paperwork for tuitioning Erving students to secondary schools. DeChiara asked that Wickman provide more information, including the history for this formula, at the next joint committee meeting.

The committee also discussed methods for disposing of surplus U-28 property, and reviewed the policies used by member towns. Kociela was asked to check into what could legally be done with any money raised from surplus property, and whether it should be returned to the member towns or to the schools.

The benefits and personnel subcommittee and the joint supervisory committee both met in executive session to negotiate the superintendent's contract.

The next joint supervisory committee meeting was set for April 24th at 7 p.m., at the Leverett Elementary School.

**ERVING** from page 6

Major items in the plan include \$489,000 for the former Usher Mill (for demolition of most of the structures and repairs to the former boiler building) and \$300,000 for the highway department (\$200,000 of it for purchase of a Freightliner truck). The money for the Usher Mill was appropriated from the town's stabilization account at last year's town meeting.

Boissonneault said the school committee was ready to meet

with the finance committee and the selectboard on January 30th to present the Erving Elementary School budget. He said all line item increases would be accompanied by written notes explaining the reasons for the proposed increases.

Paul Dunphy, aide to representative Steve Kulik, contacted Sharp to report that Kulik's office has spoken to the EPA director about the railroad idling complaints from Erving residents.

After a short public hearing, at which there were no comments from the public, the selectboard approved a full liquor license for Christina's restaurant. With the signatures of selectboard members, the license application will now be sent to the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Until the full liquor license is granted, the town approved a "bring your own bottle" license for the restaurant.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG****False Alarms, Graffiti**

Thursday, 12/22

5:15 p.m. New Salem Road resident reported \$40-\$50 in change, and small gun safe with 9mm pistol, missing from his home. House locked with no forced entry.

Thursday, 1/5

7:08 a.m. Report of two brown horses loose on Depot Road. Owner located. Horses captured.

Friday, 1/6

6:30 a.m. Medical emergency at Locke Hill Road residence. Possible

OD; 18 year old male sent to Athol Memorial Hospital via Orange ambulance.

Sunday, 1/8

1:55 p.m. A.W.A.R.E. (Abused Women's Active Response Emergency) alarm at Morse Village Road residence. Handled by state police. Malfunction.

Tuesday, 1/10

7:30 p.m. Report of graffiti on Library walk and Free box.

Saturday, 1/21

11:15 p.m. Family dispute at Depot Road residence. Resolved.

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

Simply Computing

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

Debbe Dugan
863-5030



mww
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller
owner
413.320.5336

28 Center Street
montague, ma 01351
info@montaguewebworks.com

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US
PZ

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

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

INSURANCE

French King Bowling Center

Company Parties,
Birthday Parties,
All kinds of Parties!
The Bowling Center —
where FUN happens.

55 French King Highway, Erving
413-423-3047 www.bowling4fun.com

THE COUNTRY JEWELER**Buying Silver & Gold**

Top Dollar Paid On The Spot

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

We'll Sort It For You!

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

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

Site Work

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

Residential and Commercial

L & D Builders
413-648-0110

**REAL PICKLES**

Naturally Fermented & Raw



Now available
at Food City!

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

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

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

- Gary and Nancy Melen
"The perfect remembrance"



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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ –

Q. What makes our teeth become yellow?

The most common causes of yellowing teeth are:

- Aging. As we age, we accumulate surface stains. Also, the insides of our teeth yellow and can be seen through the outer enamel as it gradually becomes thinner over time.
- Tobacco that is smoked or chewed.
- Beverages such as coffee, tea, red wine and dark-colored soda.
- Foods such as blueberries, tomato sauce, curry and soy sauce.

Yellowing Teeth, Gallstones, and Other Joys of Aging

You can also have stains within a tooth. These can be caused by too much fluoride or certain antibiotics during tooth development. These stains are harder to treat than surface stains.

Whitening processes are effective for treating stained teeth. Based on clinical studies, 96 percent of patients with common stains experience some lightening effect.

But, be forewarned that whitening has to be repeated periodically if you want to maintain a sparkling smile. Whiteness can start to fade in a month.

Q. Who is at risk for getting gallstones?

People over age 60 are more likely to develop gallstones than younger people. Women between 20 and 60 years of age are twice as likely to develop gallstones as men. Other factors include obesity, excess estrogen,

cholesterol-lowering drugs, diabetes, rapid weight loss, and fasting.

Native Americans have an inclination for this malady; they have the highest rate of gallstones in the United States.

The gallbladder is a blue-green organ, about three inches long on the underside of the liver. The liver produces bile in a dilute form, which is then stored and concentrated in the gallbladder. The bile is then secreted from the gallbladder into the small intestine where it aids digestion.

You can live without a gallbladder. After it is removed, bile flows out of the liver through ducts into the small intestine. However, because the bile isn't stored in the gallbladder, it flows into the small intestine more frequently.

Gallstones are usually treated by removing the gallbladder. This surgery is called a "cholecystectomy." In traditional surgery,

the gallbladder is removed through an abdominal incision up to eight inches long. However, the most common method today employs a laparoscope, a thin tube with a scope on the end of it.

Q. How common is it to have restless legs?

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) affects about one in ten adults in North America and Europe. RLS is found in both men and women but can begin in children. The percentage of people with RLS increases with age. And, seniors experience symptoms longer and more frequently.

Many researchers believe RLS is under-reported. Victims of RLS are often diagnosed as suffering from insomnia, depression or a disorder of the nerves, muscles or skeleton.

RLS is a neurologic movement disorder. It produces uncomfortable sensations that

cause an irresistible urge to move the legs. RLS symptoms can be relieved temporarily by movement. Symptoms occur during inactivity and strike most frequently during the evening. These attacks lead to sleep problems.

RLS may be inherited. About half of patients have a family history of the RLS.

Also, there is a lower incidence of RLS in Asia than there is in North America and Europe.

There are drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat RLS.

It is possible to combat the symptoms in other ways. Walking, massage, stretching, hot or cold baths, vibration, acupuncture, meditation and yoga can help.

Caffeine and alcohol can worsen RLS symptoms.

If you have questions, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

Ekstrom from page 7

superintendent, was something to be decided in negotiations rather than in the public meeting.

Oakes, who had made the same motion at the January 10th meeting after the school committee finished reviewing Ekstrom's evaluation, where she received an overall score of 3.5 out of a possible 5, asked whether the committee, which had agreed to table her motion (since it was not on the agenda) until the January 24th meeting, should give her motion priority over Singleton's.

Robin Hamlett, district administrative assistant, read from the minutes of the last meeting, confirming that the school committee had voted to put Oakes' motion on the agenda for this week.

That settled the matter and the committee moved forward with her motion.

A lively discussion followed. Sandra Brown, of Gill said, "I think there's a consensus if Nadine wants the job we'd like her to have it." She did raise the issue of the town selectboard members wanting to be included

in the decision.

Brown had brought letters to the meeting, sent by Pat Allen and Ann Banash, but Michael Langknecht, committee chair, said she was out of order when she tried to read them.

Regarding a letter from Ray Purington of the Gill selectboard, Langknecht said he'd only just received it and didn't have time to make it available to the school committee prior to the meeting.

Marjorie Levenson repeatedly objected to Langknecht withholding this letter throughout the meeting. Levenson also asked that the vote be put off to the next meeting because the hour was late and she was tired, but got no support from the committee for that suggestion.

Oakes said she was aware the towns had asked to be included in the process of hiring the superintendent, but that it was "not our place to allow them to impose their opinions on us."

Joyce Phillips of Montague, said it was the school committee's legal and ethical responsibility to hire the superintendent. She added, "Nadine has a

remarkable work ethic, always willing to put in the time and energy necessary to get the work done. She is a positive presence within the district and representing it."

Reminding members of her previous work as SPED Director, Phillips said Ekstrom had increased student enrollment, bringing students back to the district. "Within two years as director she brought the district from 51% to 100% in compliance [with state regulations] and saved the district \$800,000 in the budget. She has proven leadership as interim superintendent, works tirelessly to complete, implement and support the staff with the AIP requirements."


Emily Monosson said, "The fact is that she is dealing with all the change in the district and it seems to be coming together. It seems like she is doing a good job, and the idea that you would want someone else to step in – it's a set-back for the district. I think you're asking for a set-back."

Jennifer Waldron of Gill said, "It is our job to make a decision,"

adding that she didn't think the committee as a whole should consider the opinions of town officials even if as individual members they do.

With all the rancor leading up to the vote, in the end the support was unanimous. Then the school

committee went into executive session to discuss an employee complaint issue.

The next regular meeting of the school committee will be on Tuesday, February 13th at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Various Disturbances, Larceny, Arrests, Fight

Tuesday, 1/17

8:41 p.m. Domestic disturbance on H Street. Services rendered.

10:37 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.

Thursday, 1/19

4:02 p.m. Larceny on Seventh Street. Peace restored.

4:03 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for violation of a restraining order on Second Street.

Friday, 1/20

12:39 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.

3:54 p.m. Larceny at Food City on Avenue A. Advised of Options.

7:41 p.m. Threatening, harassment at F.L. Roberts on Third Street. Advised of options.

11:30 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED], for marked lanes violations, operating a motor vehicle

under the influence of alcohol, leaving the scene of property damage, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Saturday, 1/21

1:16 a.m. Fight between the Rendezvous and Burrito Rojo on Third Street. Unable to locate.

4:32 p.m. Restraining order violation on Davis Street. Advised of options.

Sunday, 1/22

8:33 a.m. Hit and run accident at Shea Parking lot, behind Subway. Services rendered.

3:30 p.m. Probable cause arrest for an outside agency of [REDACTED]

Monday, 1/23

10:53 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Carlisle Avenue. Services rendered.

3:01 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Second and L Streets. Services rendered.

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



Carol's Beauty Nook
29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers
Gift Certificates Available 413-863-2888

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

WHERE ECONOMY IS KING

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



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



EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

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

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

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties

413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

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



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



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

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.

159 Ave A Turners Falls
413.863.4373
www.ahrist.com

BUNDLE UP FOR SAVINGS!

Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXIV

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL –

“Kind of late for you to be up, isn’t it?” asks the agent on the couch. He is tall with light-brown hair. “You have work tomorrow?”

“Yes, I do,” I answer. “And I was asleep.”

“You have a lot of lights on,” he observes.

“Yeah,” I say, and don’t offer to explain.

“Maybe you can guess why we’re here,” the other one says.

“No, I can’t,” I say.

“Most people think the Doppelganger is not real,” he continues. He is balding and has clipped the rest of his hair short. He also has a goatee, I notice, observing him for the first time. “But you probably

know something about it, since your friend, Mr. Laska, worked on the project.”

“I think he was making copies of atoms,” I say, trying to sound innocent.

“Yes, he was,” the man on the couch answers, “and now, thanks to his team, there are 14 people who have copies of themselves, sleeping copies. Eight of those people paid for them,” he adds.

“Have you ever heard of SpareTime?” his partner asks.

“Uh, no,” I say.

“I believe you’re telling the truth about that. Most people haven’t. They’re intentionally keeping a low profile — for now — only making their product known to those who

can afford it. The product, you see, is more valuable at present if it is a secret. I think perhaps you can guess what the secret is, Ms. Marconi.”

I look away from him and toward his partner on the couch but say nothing.

“I didn’t expect you to answer that one,” the man with the goatee continues. “But let me explain something to you. SpareTime does not like having their technology stolen. Those Doppelgangers are worth a lot of money. Now Walsh here,” he indicates his partner, “and I, we’re in law enforcement, and our concern is a different one. If you have an illegal doppelganger, that’s like a person with no identity, no social security number, driver’s license, et cetera. You see

where I’m going with this?”

I nod. Then I shake my head. “I mean, no,” I say.

“The illegal doppelganger doesn’t pay taxes, doesn’t exist. That’s a person who could commit a crime and not get caught. Law enforcement agencies like to have a record of people.”

“So, listen,” Walsh says, “it will be easier if you come clean. We can get rid of the copy, assuming you can’t afford to pay for it. Or,” he pauses, “we might be able to arrange for you to keep the doppelganger, if you are willing to help us track down the rest of SpareTime’s stolen technology.”

I am surprised to hear myself say, “I’m afraid I can’t do that.” I take a deep breath and look down at my hands, which are folded in my lap. I find I can easily wake the body in the bedroom upstairs. I sit

up in bed and quietly raise the window screen. I try to listen to what the FBI agents are saying while I do it. It’s like struggling to remember a dream. A part of my brain that I don’t use much knows that one of them has asked to look around the house. I slip out onto the roof, slide the screen shut and lie on my stomach on the roof just outside the window.

Then I focus on the living room. “Ms. Marconi?” the tall man says, getting up from the couch.

I stand up, as well, quickly. “If you’re wondering whether we have a warrant, the answer is yes.”

“Yes, of course,” I say. “I’m sorry. I’m just not used to this kind of thing.”

“We’ll start with the bedrooms, if you don’t mind,” he says.

Continued Next Issue

CLARK from pg 1

quite differently than what I’d had in mind. I knew the story would involve an autistic child, and that part didn’t change, but the rest of story and the characters really came along as I was writing.

How was writing *Darthela’s Ashes* different?

I didn’t plan to do a series, but when *The Bolt Hole* was finished, the characters had become almost like friends, and I wanted to know what happened to them. I had to write another book to find out! Plus, people who read and loved *The Bolt Hole* asked me for more. I really wrote the new book for them.

The characters in the books are a pretty diverse bunch! There’s Annalee, a single woman who unexpectedly becomes a mother late in life; her high school classmate Mag, twice-divorced and fiercely independent; Dutch, who’s now grown from a precocious child to a young teen; Sammy, the boy with autism whose mysterious appearance in *Summer Village* launches the plot of *The Bolt Hole* ... how did you come up with this cast of characters?

Well, even though they are

very different people, I think it’s fair to say that there’s a little bit of me in all of them. Annalee and Mag are really both like me, but different sides of myself, intensified. Dutch, well, she’s certainly based on how I remember feeling when I was her age. Of course, Dutch has this incredible intelligence that’s unique — but the emotional struggles she goes through are pretty normal. One of my granddaughters has autism, and she’s clearly been an inspiration for Sammy, as has my daughter’s experience being the mother of a child with autism.

The books are mostly set here, in a fictional community on the Mohawk Trail called Summer Village. However, familiar names and places are sprinkled all the way through. How did you decide which real-life details to include?

Well the characters and the plot are totally made up, of course, but after *The Bolt Hole*, I had a few people say “Could you put me in the next one?” so I had some fun with that in *Darthela’s Ashes*. For instance, there’s one scene that I really put in just for my cousins Cliff and Betty. Summer Village is totally imaginary, but when the

characters leave home, I had them go to real places I know well like Greenfield, Massachusetts, and Camden, Maine. And some parts are based on true stories: for instance, the part about the cat who crawls up into the engine of a car and gets transported for miles — that actually happened to me!

Did you have themes in mind as you wrote *Darthela’s Ashes*?

Yes. I wanted to look at different types of bullying: not only children bullying children, but other types as well: a mother bullying her child, elderly people being bullied, and so on. That’s one thread. I also wanted to say something about the sadness that comes with realizing that you can’t save everyone. Annalee struggles

with that awareness in this book. And I had a few things to say about the business of aging, which come out in the story in various ways, including Mag’s mostly lighthearted ramblings.

Will you be writing another installment?

I don’t know yet. Maybe — if people read this one and tell me they want more, I probably will!

Both *Darthela’s Ashes* and Lyn Clark’s first novel, *The Bolt Hole*, are available at World Eye Bookshop, Amazon.com, Booklocker.com (where you can read a free excerpt), and at Himalayan Views, where Clark will be reading and signing books on Saturday, February 4th from 2 to 3:30 p.m.



The Brick House COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

is seeking a part-time Business
Manager

Join our small and dedicated team!

Duties include bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, payroll oversight, financial reporting. Good computer skills required, experience with PeachTree Accounting software preferred. This posi-

tion is 15 hours per week, with a flexible schedule and the ability to telecommute when practical. Pay is \$18-20/hr with prorated benefits. Visit www.brickhousecommunity.org for more information about the organization.

Please send a cover letter and resume by 2/18 to:

Business Manager Search Committee
The Brick House
P.O. Box 135
Turners Falls, MA 01376

OR

director@brickhousecommunity.org

The Country Players Present: *Play On!*

on Friday and Saturday,
January 27, 28 at 8 p.m.
Sunday matinee, January
29 at 2 p.m. at the Shea
Theater in Turners Falls.
\$12 general admission.
\$10 students and seniors.

413-863-2281, ext. 1
www.countryplayers.org

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

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

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

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

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

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

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

28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
863-2471

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

Nina's Nook

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

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

125a Avenue A,
Turners Falls
413.834.8800
www.ninasnook.com

art . craft . design

TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
We Know Entertainment

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

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

The Wagon Wheel Restaurant

Now Serving
Burgers & Beer
in front of the fire

**BREAKFAST,
LUNCH & DINNER**
7 days a week
Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

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

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Critton Hollow String Band, 7 to 10 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th
Northfield Mountain Recreation Center: *Mammal Tracking for Families*. Who are the predators at Northfield Mountain and who are the prey? Find out! Ages 8+, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Investigation Station: Why do squirrels squirrel away their acorns?* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New England Youth Theater, Brattleboro: Brattleboro Music Center's 5th Annual *Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival*, 12 to 9:30 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Heather Maloney* with special guest *Jim Henry* on guitar, *Chris Dorman* to open the show, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Velocity*, Classic Rock, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band*, 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender free Contra Dance*, 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Free movie, *Silent Running*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Larry Berger Band*, Original, local, folk, country-rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Grand and Grant Wicks*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th
Warfield House Restaurant, Charlemont: *Zydeco Connection at the Annual Chili Cook-off*, 4 to 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps A Night of Spoken Word*, featuring Mary Clare Powell and Nick Fleck, 7 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*, 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Matthew Latkiewicz's Sloshed School* lecture, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Siegel and friends*, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series, featuring Ellen LaFleche and Jennifer Militello*, 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Caught In The Act*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mend the Pocket*, soul-grove jazz, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th
Leverett Town Hall: *No Nukes Benefit Concert and Speak Out Event*. Speakers will include Frances Crowe and Hattie Nestel, from the Shut It Down affinity group, and Randy Kehler from the Safe and Green Campaign. Musicians will include Court Dorsey, Annie Hassett, Annie Patterson, Julia Burrough, Christian Hine, Ann Ferguson & Paul Newlin, and the bands Red Valley Fog, Outer Style, Who da Funk It?, and more. There is an act by Ever-Evolving Soul Circus, and specific activities for children, including art and face painting. Free food and refreshments. 2 to 9 p.m. To benefit the SAGE Alliance.

Himalayan Views, South Deerfield: Turners Falls author *Lyn Clark* will read from her latest book, *Darthela's Ashes*. Clark's novels take place in the mythical village of Summer Village on the Mohawk Trail in Massachusetts. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College: *Mysterious Stone Chambers of New England*. Pioneer Valley Institute presents, Ashfield stonemason Jim Vieira has been exploring local stone chambers for some 60 years. He will describe the stone ceremonial landscape of New England, carbon-dating evidence and historical texts. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Ellingtones*, Americana, blues, early rock and roll, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artist's reception: Meet painter *Camilla Roberts*, for her exhibit in the Great Hall, 1 to 3 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Artists' reception for *Sensual, Sexual, Smut: Erotic Art by Local Artists* (at Nina's Nook), 5 to 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Tiny Radar's Bookmill Residency Series, #3, featuring *Boy Without God* (NYC) and *Sorry, Nay* (Northampton) 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, calling by *Will Mentor* and lively music by the *New Apocalypsonians*, 7 to 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls:

Pamela Means, with special guests *Pat Hull* and *Michael Chinworth*, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th
Leverett Library: *Rattlesnake Gutter Trust: Trail of Time at Grand Canyon: Talking & Thinking about Geologic Time in Context with Michael Williams*, Dept. of Geosciences, UMass, 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 1st until MARCH 10th
Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sensual, Sexual, Smut: Erotic Art by Local Artists*.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 17th
Artspace Community Arts Center, Greenfield: The Annual Teen Art Exhibit, featuring work from Academy at Charlemont, Deerfield Academy, Eaglebrook School, Four Rivers Charter Public School, Frontier Regional High School, Greenfield High School, Mahar Regional High School, Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield Mount Hermon, Pioneer Valley Regional High School, Stoneleigh-Burnham School and Turners Falls High School.

NOW until February 29th
Wendell Free Library: Wendell resident

Christine Texiera, presents *Asana*, oil on paper drawings.



Artspace Community Center's Annual Teen Art Exhibit, in Greenfield, includes the sculpture of Sara Townsley, Mohawk Trail Regional High School, through February 17th.

NOW until APRIL 1st
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Imitating Art*, a student photographic exhibition featuring attempts to photographically reproduce an original work of art. Open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Side Street Band*, blues and rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, solo, 8 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Tardy on Friday*, 9 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Fourth Friday Children's Story Hour: *Have you even seen a moose?* After the story, make your own set of antlers, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Science & Nature Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night*. Forester Michael Mauri hosts the evening. 6:30 p.m.

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

Montague Grange: *Sam & Joe of*

THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer
Amazing Food*

Amazing, Awesome Employees!

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

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

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

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

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

Northfield Coffee and Books

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

50% OFF Any USED BOOK with this AD

Animal Crackers

Saturday Fish Special

Fun stuff for pets and their people.

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies
44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10)
Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346

• Aquarium Plants
• Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters
Open 7 Days

The Shedsmith

Sheds, Chicken Coops and More

Home Repairs and Maintenance

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

Arrowhead Bait & Tackle Shop

Hunting, Fishing & Archery
Ammo • Black Powder • Knives • Live Bait

1105 Mohawk Trail ~ Route 2 West
Shelburne Falls, Mass 01370

Garry and Cindy Pelletier (Owners) Arrowheadbaitshop.com
413-625-3090

Bryan G. Hobbs
Remodeling Contractor

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

Call Now for Free Energy Audit
413-775-9006

Bryan G. Hobbs
346 Conway St.
Greenfield

ENTERGY from page 1
Vermont Yankee, said on Thursday, "Entergy has not been a trustworthy partner with the state of Vermont. I continue to believe that it is in Vermont's best interest to retire the plant. I will await the attorney general's review of the decision to comment further on whether the state will appeal."

Vermont attorney general William Sorrell has 30 days from January 19th to decide whether to appeal Judge Murtha's ruling on Act 160 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd District in New York City.

From there, the last stop on the appellate route for Vermont would be the U.S. Supreme Court.

In striking down key aspects of Act 160, along with other laws Vermont has recently passed attempting to regulate the long term storage of high level radioactive waste at Vermont Yankee and to audit the reactor's operating systems for reliability, Murtha found numerous instances in the record where Vermont legislators had referred to safety concerns when debating and passing these laws, even though the bills as voted on omitted direct reference to radiological safety, focusing instead on issues such as reliability, environmental impacts, and the trustworthiness of Entergy as a corporate partner.

Nevertheless, Murtha found these legislative efforts were all in fact based on lawmakers' concerns about radiological safety and therefore pre-empted by the federal government, which has arrogated sole authority to regulate in this area.

A review of the record from February 25th, 2010, when the Vermont Senate cast its decisive vote to deny a Certificate of Public Good to the aging reactor, where tritium had just been found to be leaking into the groundwater from underground pipes top Entergy officials had previously told legislators did not exist at Vermont Yankee, showed that the company's trustworthiness to operate the reactor was front and center in the Senate debate.

"As a business person," said

senator Hinda Miller (D-Chittenden), "I wanted to support Vermont Yankee, but we did not have a believable partner. Entergy has not shown itself to be capable of operating an aging plant."

Susan Bartlett, (D-Lamoille) spoke of environmental concerns when she said, "The scariest testimony has come from the Natural Resources Committee. It seems pretty evident there is an illegal discharge in the groundwater and environment of Vermont, which all Vermonters hold in trust for future generations. But we have no jurisdiction about it. That makes me wild."

And Republican Randy Brock from the northwestern corner of the state said, "We have a business partner in Entergy, if its board of directors had been infiltrated by anti-nuclear activists, they could have done nothing more to destroy their case. Their dissembling, prevarication, and lack of candor have been striking."

Vermont Citizen Awareness Network spokesperson Chris Williams told a gathering of Vermont Yankee opponents in Montpelier on Friday, "Judge Murtha essentially embraced Entergy's argument that our legislators conspired to use code words in place of the words 'radiological health and safety,' and said so in his decision."

Williams noted many staunchly pro-nuke Republicans were among the unanimous backers in the Vermont House at the time of Act 160's passage.

Vermont's sole Congressman, Peter Welch, a Democrat, said, "It simply defies common sense that a state cannot have a say in its energy future. The issue was settled in Vermont until Entergy reneged on its agreement to give

Vermonters a voice in relicensing Vermont Yankee."

Entergy signed a memorandum of understanding with the state of Vermont stating that Entergy "expressly and irrevocably agrees" to abide by state law, including the jurisdiction of the PSB exempt from federal pre-emption to regulate in a license extension hearing, when it purchased Vermont Yankee in 2002.

Independent Senator Bernie Sanders, who in the 1980s, as the Socialist mayor of Vermont's biggest city, Burlington, vocally backed Vermont Yankee and its unionized workforce, said last week, "Allowing Entergy to evade laws they agreed to abide by sets a horrible precedent which should not be allowed to stand. The state of Vermont and other states have the right to determine their own energy future."

A petition from the environmental law clinic of the Vermont Law School is also pending before the state's Agency of Natural Resources on behalf of the Connecticut River Watershed Council to issue a new water discharge per-

mit that would require Entergy to use its cooling towers year-round, rather than use the Connecticut River in a direct loop to cool the reactor, with resulting 100-degree discharge temperatures to the river.

Environmental advocates like the CRWC say allowing the discharge of heated water to the Connecticut harms the spawning cycle of shad and other anadromous species.

New York has taken a similar approach, with a ruling by the New York Department of Conservation last year that Indian Point, another Entergy-owned Mark I reactor, 30 miles north of New York City, is in violation of the Clean Water Act, which could force Entergy to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to install cooling towers at those aging reactors rather than continuing to rely on the Hudson River to cool them.

Opponents estimate a requirement that Vermont Yankee use its cooling towers instead of the river for direct coolant would cost Entergy up to \$1 million a day in lost electricity sales.

Anti-nuclear activists in the

tri-state region are gearing up for a series of actions in March, including a march from Greenfield Community College to Vermont Yankee on March 3rd; a mock-evacuation of Vermont Yankee to Brattleboro on March 11th, the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster; a retirement party for Entergy at the state capital on March 21st; a mass rally in Brattleboro on April 1st; and a planned nonviolent civil disobedience campaign beginning on March 22nd or thereafter, all in an attempt to keep the pressure on Entergy to close up shop in Vernon.

More than 20 local affinity groups are now in the formative stage in Western Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire, with members agreeing to be trained in non-violence to participate in a regional campaign of direct action in support of the state of Vermont's efforts to retire Vermont Yankee, the details of which are being worked out by the newly formed SAGE (Safe and Green Energy) Alliance.

More information can be found at SAGEalliance.net.



PAUL BURNS PHOTO

The Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance held a vigil calling for Vermont Yankee to be retired on schedule in front of the capital in Montpelier, VT on Monday, January 23rd. The vigils will continue on Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

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


magpie
• Pizzas
• Entrees
• Salads
• Full Bar & Patio
magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gfd.
413-475-3570
woodfired pizzeria


Patty Smythe
Licensed Massage Therapist
Myofascial Release
Sports Massage
Thai Massage
50 Chapman Street • Suite 5
Greenfield
413-774-0517
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.
Phone & Fax
413-863-3690
Booska's Flooring
Tile
Lino
Carpet
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Member
The Flooring Network.


MUSIC
&
MOVIES
BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Your Local
STIHL Dealer
413-367-2481
Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CopyCat Print Shop
Loves You More

We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!
scan this to know more about us

Check our other ad in this newspaper
(413) 774-3500
greenfield@copycatprintshop.com