



TFHS STUDENTS IN THE RUNNING

for U.S. Senate Scholarship Program

Page 9



WELCOME YULE

Returns to the Shea

Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 10

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 4, 2008

“Six Seconds to Go, on the Greenfield Ten Yardline...” Turners Falls to the Green Wave on Turkey Day



ROBINSON PHOTO

Evan Brusco bulls his way into Greenfield territory in the Turkey Day Classic

BY MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD - It was a wonderful, wonderful game. On Thanksgiving Day, 2008 Turners Falls High gave the Green Wave of Greenfield all they could handle. The Turners squad played their hearts out. They came out banging and bruising. They earned our respect and the respect of their opponents.

Muddied and bloodied, the Blue and White stayed in the game. Second efforts and gutsy play kept victory always within sight. But alas, the day ended the way it often does. Greenfield won the game, 13 - 6.

Turkey Day in Turners Falls is not always about the football game itself. It can't be. "Thee Game" is the place you see peo-

ple you haven't seen since last Thanksgiving. Folks you won't see till next year or may never see again. Friends you've known since Hillcrest or Sheffield. You know their brothers and sisters, their parents and aunts and uncles. And you knew their grandparents. In between plays, conversations about former schoolmates and mutual acquaintances jumbled with reminiscences about Thanksgivings past, and then quickly turned back to the field.

The Turners Falls faithful shouted encouragement. Little kids stood shoulder to shoulder with old men as they shouted to their beloved team. The fan chatter was frequently directed at the

see **GAME** pg 11

Commissioner Chester Sets a Budget for the GMRSD

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - MONTAGUE - After two failed budgets at town meetings in Gill and Montague, and two failed attempts to get their '09 budget passed by special district meetings of both member towns, the GMRSD's budget making process has moved East. All the way to the Boston burbs.

"Because the district did not adopt a budget by December 1st, the Commissioner will now set the budget for the remainder of the school year and assume fiscal control of the district as spelled out in the regional school district regulations," said Department of Elementary and Secondary Education spokesman Jonathan Consadine, reached at the DESE's Malden office.

Consadine added, "This is not at all a state takeover. We're not placing anyone in the district. But the state certainly has a role in all major spending decisions for the remainder of the fiscal year."

Consadine clarified that

remark by saying the Commissioner would remain in control of GMRSD's finances until June 30th, or until the districts and the towns agree on a budget for Fiscal '10, "whichever comes later."

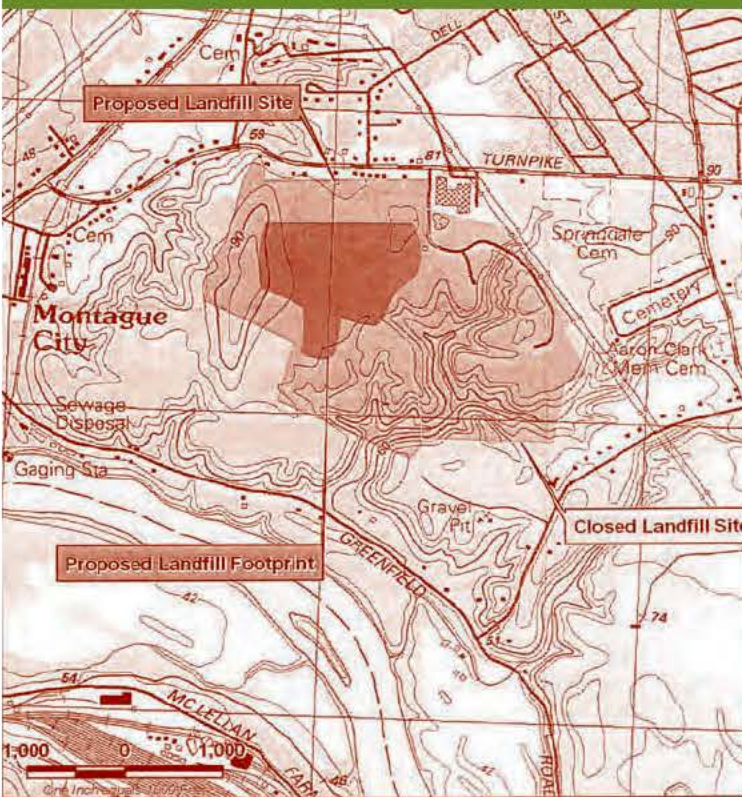
"The Commissioner" is Mitchell Chester; he took over at the top of the DESE at the beginning of 2008.

Consadine said this is only the second time the state education department has assumed financial control of a regional school district. The first time was last December, when the Southern Berkshire district failed to reach an agreement on a budget. This year, the DESE is still waiting to hear from the Ashburnham-Westminster district as to whether they have approved a budget by the December 1st deadline.

At 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, GMRSD superintendent Ken Rocke said he had just received a letter from Commissioner Chester, and had not had time to read it yet, or to notify local

see **BUDGET** pg 12

Landfill Committee Reforms



Site of Proposed Landfill Off Turnpike Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - The Montague landfill committee reorganized and met for the first time in several years on Tuesday night, December 2nd. Seven people were in attendance: Greg Garrison, Frank Abbondanzio, Les Cromack, Chris Boutwell, Tom Bergeron, Patricia Pruitt and Jan

Ameen.

The committee discussed the prospects of reviving the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to attract bids for developing the town owned 17-acre Department of Environmental Protection approved landfill site off Turnpike Road. Some members talked about the possibility of expanding the range of possible end uses for the land to include such things as an industrial park, or a site for alternative energy production.

Abbondanzio, who led the discussion in the absence of an appointed committee chair, said the kinds of waste vendors might be interested in disposing at the landfill had narrowed, in the current economy. In 2005, the committee had ruled out the possibility of disposing municipal solid waste at the Montague facility. But at the time, contaminated soils were considered as a possibility for disposal in town.

Now, "Ash is the option," said Abbondanzio. "If we're looking at anything, we're looking at incinerator ash."

Ameen, who directs the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and also assisted Montague with its previous landfill committee deliberations, said in 2005 there had been more

see **LANDFILL** pg 12

VELOCIRAPTORS SIGHTED ON 3RD AND CANAL



See them for yourself during the Arts & Bicycles Open Studio Walking Tour this weekend!

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Walk down 3rd Street toward the canal, and find yourself in the midst of a nineteenth century mill village, with brick tenements, boarding houses, and the towering smokestack of the factory looming at the river's edge. But now, as you walk further down the block, strange sights emerge at the corner where the Dubois Garage once stood. It looks like someone dropped part of a building from the sky; styrofoam balloons painted in gaudy colors rise stiffly from a set of antique folding doors, the features of a moun-

tain troll leer from a granite escarpment, flightless ratites made from bicycle parts tiptoe on the lawn, attempting to ignore the dismembered carcasses of velocipedes lying here and there in spray painted metal heaps.

The senior citizens who gaze out on this motley scene from the Canal Street apartments — where mill workers once housed — must wonder what the world is coming to. In the long shadow of industry, art is flourishing.

Come to the Arts and Icicles Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour this weekend - December 6th and 7th in Turners Falls. It's a one-of-a-kind holiday shopping experience, a cultural immersion project, and a trip down memory lane, all rolled into one. Step carefully around the 3-D sculpture park, and don't feed the velociraptors.

PET OF THE WEEK

An Amazing Friend



Kelly

My name is Kelly and I'm a 3-year-old female greyhound mix in need of a good home. I am a very gentle and kind dog. There is so much for me to learn now that I am off the tracks! I would like a patient person to teach me all about life in a house. I will make an amazing friend; I am a generous old soul in a gorgeous greyhound body. I am a good match for homes with kids 5+; other dogs and cats are just fine as well. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dphs.org.

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

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA
BOOKS
Buying and selling used books:
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter
Published weekly on Thursday, (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
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
Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Tea Time Booktalk

BY BARBARA FRIEDMAN the newest additions to the library.
ERVING - Join Director, Barbara Friedman on Wednesday, December 17th, 4:30 p.m., for tea and holiday cookies. There will be a short book talk describing some of Adults.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Craft Supplies Needed

LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Several types of craft supplies are desired at the Carnegie Library for upcoming children's programs. Clean, small jars with lids such as baby food jars needed for snow globe making on Saturday, January 24th. Yarn of various colors and textures is also needed for a variety of programs. Long card-

board tubes from Holiday wrapping paper would also be appreciated.

Donations may be dropped off when the Carnegie Library is open, Mondays - Wednesdays, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursdays 1 - 5 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 863-3214.

Yoga for Relaxation

On Tuesday Dec. 9 and 16 from 10:30 - 11:15 A.M. Jean Erlbaum will lead chair yoga at Montague Senior Center, 5th St., Turners Falls. Participants of all skill levels (including those in wheel chairs) are welcome from all

towns. There is a charge of \$2 per class. For more info., please call Bunny Caldwell at 413-863-4500. Jean Erlbaum teaches at Yoga for Relaxation 56 Orchard Street, Greenfield, MA 01301. (413) 773-9744.

Changes to Prescription Advantage Program

BY ANNA VIADERO
TURNERS FALLS - Prescription Advantage is the Commonwealth's program to help senior citizens pay for the cost of their prescription drugs.

On October 31st, 2008 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts released a notice, saying in part, "Due to the current nationwide fiscal situation and its impact on Massachusetts, it is necessary to impose significant budgetary restrictions on

the Prescription Advantage program. These restrictions will result in changes to the assistance Prescription Advantage members receive with their co-payments."

Particulars of these changes can be found in the article "Prescription Advantage Changes & Open Enrollment" at Franklin County Home Care's (FCHCC) website www.fchcc.org.

SHINE counselors can help



To help Warm the Children, the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is accepting donations of mittens, hats, and scarves.

Free Meals to Elderly

Free hot weekend meals delivered to elderly or homebound residents of the Greenfield - Turners area, prepared and delivered every month by volunteers of the Bread of Life Kitchen, which includes Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield. To receive a free hot meal delivered to your home and are not already on our list, please call: Donna or John Leary, at 498-5065

Clarification

The Great Falls Discovery Center will be open on Saturday, December 6th, in conjunction with the Arts & Icicles studio tour of Turners Falls. The Center will be closed Sunday.

Seth & Eva's Holiday Food Drive Benefit Franklin Area Survival Ctr
Donate Three Cans of Food and get 10% off one store item! (You may bring in food without making a store purchase, or donate \$5 to benefit the Survival Center to be eligible for 10% off on any one store item.)

Volunteers Needed

Are you a morning person? The Head Start at G Street in Turners Falls is looking for volunteers to help with phone coverage and clerical work. The hours are Monday through Friday, 7 to 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The staff will train you, support you and thank you.

Head Start in Franklin and Hampshire Counties is a program of Community Action. For more info, please call Carolyn Bellany, volunteer coordinator for Community Action at 413-376-1132.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Dec. 8th to 12th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

For trips: Call the Senior Center 413-863-9357 or 863-4500.

Monday, 8th
9 - 11 a.m. Foot screening for Gill and Montague residents. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Christmas party at the Tech School.
Tuesday, 9th
9 a.m. Walking Group.
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday, 10th
9 - 11 a.m. Foot screening for Gill and Montague residents.

Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 11th
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation followed by presentation by Michelle Miner from Harborside Healthcare at 10:30. "Foot Facts" Learn about the 30+ most frequently asked questions on foot health
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 12th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413-423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.
Monday, 8th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 9th

9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 10th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 11th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
Friday, 12th
9 a.m. Walking Club
12:30 p.m. Lunch:
12:30 p.m. Embroidery

WENDELL Senior Center,

Thursday, December 4th, between 7 and 8 p.m. at the new Senior Center.

This meeting will be a follow-up on our grand opening last month and on the recent newsletter survey. It will provide an opportunity to discuss future planning and uses for our special new space along with basic information on the Council on Aging more generally.

If you are not able to attend this meeting but would like to offer input or be informed about participating in any of the interest groups that develop out of the meeting, please call either Kathy Swaim (544-2020) or Nancy Spittle (544-6760) or email swaim@crocker.com.

Refreshments will be served!!

Feel Like a Brand New Person!

With a Haircut at Ed's Barber Shop
115 Avenue A • 863-2085
Ed, Denise & KarriAnn
"54 Years on the Ave"

THE SHADY GLEN
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Lunch Specials from 11:00 a.m.
Mon: American Chop Suey • Tues. Chicken Fricassie • Wed: Chicken Souvlaki, Rice • Thurs: Corn Beef & Cabbage • Fri: Fried Scallops
Sat: Yankee Pot Roast
Open Sundays 7-2
863-9636

Montague Public Works News and Notes Winter 2008

MONTAGUE HIGHWAY - Superintendent Tom Bergeron

The snow will soon be falling and our department will be out to keep the streets cleared. Our plan for plowing is as follows: As required, we begin with the main roads, which must be kept clear 24 hours a day. We continue on the major streets, and get to all side streets as soon as possible, and then the alleyways and parking lots.

Residents are reminded to clear their sidewalks, according to the town's sidewalk ordinance — Section 17 a, b, c and d — in the town's bylaws. Snow accumulations or any ice accumulations on walkways are considered a threat to public safety. The town of Montague requires all walkways to be cleared by property owners to a minimum width of 36 inches within 24 hours after a winter storm event has ended.

MONTAGUE CENTER FIRE - Chief John Greene

Developing and practicing a home fire escape plan that everyone understands can mean the difference between life and death. Fire can grow and spread through your home very quickly. It's important that you be prepared to react as soon as the smoke alarm sounds.

Practice the escape plan at least twice a year, making sure that everyone is involved — from kids to grandparents. Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill. If children or others do not readily waken to the sound of the smoke alarm, or if there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in a fire drill and in the event of an emergency.

TURNERS FALLS WATER - Superintendent Mike Brown

MONTAGUE CENTER WATER - Commissioner Gary Dion

Winter's cold and snow can cause problems in and outside the home. Pipes can freeze very easily this time of year. Be sure the windows in cellars and unused spaces are closed tight to prevent drafts. Insulate all water pipes from cold moving air and keep them dry and be sure the outside sill cock is closed. All homeowners should know where the main shut off valve is in their home, and that it is kept clear for easy access in case the need arises for a speedy shut off.

Hydrant Clearing — After each snowstorm, the water department is out clearing the snow from the fire hydrants in town. Your help would be greatly appreciated if you would clear the snow around the hydrant(s) in your location and if you would use caution when snow blowing not to cover the hydrant.

Montague Public Works News and Notes is a new quarterly feature of the Montague Reporter, compiled by Nancy Holmes.



"Improper use or maintenance of heating equipment has been the leading cause of residential fires in Franklin County for the past three years."

— Chief Ray Godin,
Turners Falls Fire Dept.

MONTAGUE WATER POLLUTION & CONTROL FACILITY -

Superintendent Robert Trombley

The winter season water meter reading, October 1st through April 30th, is the period from which water use is taken to develop the sewer use billing. This volume is used for both halves of the sewer billing fiscal year period. So it is best to minimize your bill by conserving water and keeping an eye on all plumbing fixtures to ensure there aren't any leaks. Toilet leaks, though hard to find, can lead to a substantially higher sewer bill.

Do not drain any oils or grease into any drain line. These materials show up as clogs and restriction in the sewer system and treatment facility and interfere with operations, maintenance and are costly to clear and clean up.

TURNERS FALLS FIRE - Chief Raymond Godin

'Tis the heating season and time to check and make sure everything is ready for the cold months ahead. Improper use or maintenance of heating equipment has been the leading cause of residential fires in Franklin County for the past three years. The fire departments are encouraging everyone to have their oil and gas fired heating devices serviced by a qualified technician and to be especially careful with wood and pellet stoves. Make sure the chimney is cleaned and the ashes safely disposed of. As always, be sure your smoke and CO detectors have fresh batteries and are in working order.

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 14th

At the Montague Elks Lodge

7:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage and Coffee
Can Auction To Benefit Turners Falls High School Class of 2011
Don't Forget Your Cameras!

Montague Accepts Advance Property and District Tax Payments

BY PATTY DION - The town of Montague will be accepting advanced payments on Fiscal '09 real estate and district taxes, for those who would like to make payments before the end of the year. When mailing in a payment, taxpayers will need to specify property location, map and lot. If an overpayment is made on the first half, no refund will be issued. The difference

will be applied to the second half payment. Anyone who would like a receipt should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tax collector's office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. For more info, call the tax collector's office at 863-3200, ext. #202 or the assessor's office at ext #204

Montague Grange Family Craft Fair SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

This family craft fair will give families the opportunity to make creative and unique holiday gifts with the expert assistance of Montague artisans. The fair will feature handmade glass ornaments to paint by glassblower Sally Prasch (come early for these gems). Silver jeweler Mark Lattanzi will guide children in making original earrings. Jeanne Weintraub and daughter Lucia will assist children in making enchanting gnomes. Other crafts included also.

The cost for most crafts is between \$2 - \$5. Warm food and baked goods will be available to fuel the gift making. All proceeds will benefit the Montague Grange and the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture's Senior

Farm Share Program, providing shares of locally grown produce to low income seniors. The Montague Grange is located next to the village common in Montague Center.

At the Grange fair, families will be encouraged to make an ornament to take to the Montague Business Association's tree-lighting celebration later that day.

TREE DECORATING IN PESKEOMSKUT PARK

Saturday, December 13th
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to bring any type of homemade tree ornaments and to help decorate an evergreen tree in the park's bandshell. Free refreshments, musical entertainment and a visit from Santa.

SPONSORED BY MONTAGUE BUSINESS ASSOC.

The Montague Congregational Church

Italian Dinner

Saturday, December 13th 5:30 pm

**Minestrone, Italian Salad,
Spaghetti with Homemade
Meatballs or Sausage,**

Bread and Dessert.

Served Family Style. Adults: \$9.00;

Children under 12: \$4.00

For Reservations Call: 413-774-7256

Calls for Take Out and Walk-ins Welcome

WE HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU TRACTORS FOR FARM, HOME & CONSTRUCTION

We Carry John Deere and Kubota Tractors, Stihl Chain Saws, Blowers, Tractor Mowers, Ariens Snow Blowers.

Also: • Wood Chippers • Log Splitters • Winches
• Fire Proof Safes • Materials Handling Equipment



SIRUM EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.

310 FEDERAL STREET RTE. 63 MONTAGUE
SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 46 YEARS

413-367-2481

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

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
01376

email: tracey@ahrist.com
web: www.ahrist.com

Tracey Kuklewicz **863-4373**
Vice President

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

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor David Detmold	Layout & Design Claudia Wells Boysen Hodgson Karen Hoyden Karen Wilkinson Suzette Snow Cobb	Photography Joe Parzych Shawn Woolsey
Assistant Editor Kathleen Litchfield	<i>"The Voice of the Villages"</i>	
Editorial Assistants Hugh Corr David Brule	Technical Administrators Michael Muller Michael Farrick	
Circulation Suzette Snow Cobb Don Clegg	Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002	

LETTER from the COMMISSIONER

By Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education,
Commonwealth of

Massachusetts - Superintendent Ken Rocke has notified my office that the Gill-Montague Regional School District does not have an approved district budget for fiscal year 2009. Pursuant to M.G.L. c.71, s.16B, and 603 CMR 41.07, I am assuming oversight of the district's finances, effective as of December 1st, 2008.

As specified in 603 CMR 41.07(1), until further notice the following actions taken by the regional school committee, the superintendent of schools, or any other official of the school district shall be effective only with the written approval of the Commissioner:

- Adoption or reconsideration of the district budget pursuant to 603 CMR 41.05(1) and (3).
- Transfer of budgetary authority between line items.
- Encumbrance or expenditure of funds not included in the general fund budget.
- Borrowing.
- Execution of new or amended collective bargaining agreements.
- Execution of new contracts or amendments to existing contracts with a value of \$25,000 or more.
- Establishment, increase, or decrease of user fees.

Associate Commissioner Jeff Wulfson is hereby designated to act in my behalf on all matters relating to the Commissioner's oversight of the district. Mr. Wulfson is available

to meet with the school committee at your convenience. Requests for approval of school committee actions should be submitted in writing to the attention of Christine Lynch in the Department's school finance office.

I am hereby establishing a final operating budget for the district for fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$ 16,625,875, which represents a 2.75% increase over the district's FY2008 budget. I am further authorizing the district to assess the member towns the amount of \$ 8,566,426 in support of the district budget. This represents a 1.7% increase in the total assessment over FY2008. The district treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to calculate, using the statutory method, and to certify to each town its individual assessment. In calculating the amounts due from each member for the balance of this fiscal year, members shall be credited for any payments previously made under the interim budget.

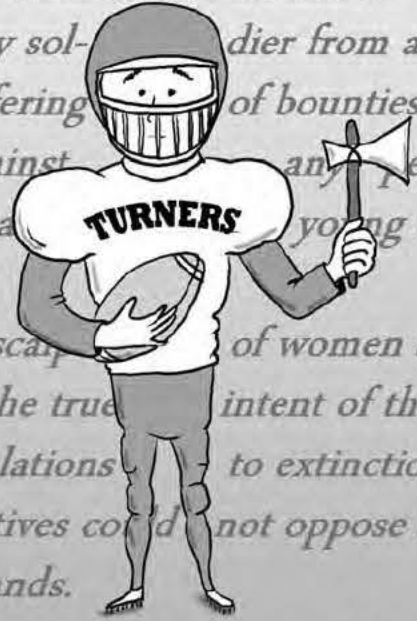
Please provide Mr. Wulfson with copies of the assessment notices.

I recognize that this budget will require the use of reserves by both the district and its members, a practice which is clearly not sustainable in the long term. But we are in the depths of the worst economic recession in more than half a century, so I believe the judicious use of reserves for this year, and likely again for next year, is appropriate. I also recognize the town of Gill's particularly dire fiscal circumstances, and under separate cover I will

BRING BACK THE TOMAHAWK CHOP!

By 1744, Massachusetts was offering a bounty of 40 pounds for a male Indian scalp, and 20 pounds for scalps of females or of children under 12 years old.

The terrible thing was that it was very difficult to tell a man's scalp from a woman's, or an adult's from a child's - or that of an enemy soldier from a peaceful non-combatant. The offering of bounties led to widespread violence against any person of Indian blood, male or female, young or old.



Paying money for scalps of women and even children reflected the true intent of the campaign - to reduce native populations to extinction or to smaller numbers so the natives could not oppose European seizure of Indian lands.

What's Wrong with Honoring Tradition?

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

be responding to their request for additional state assistance through the foundation reserve program.

Looking beyond the next year or two, I have serious concerns about the district's long-term fiscal viability. The district's small size and declining enrollment, and the limited tax base in the two member towns, will make it increasingly difficult to provide the quality of education that your children need and deserve. I am pleased that your committee and your member towns have begun discussions with neighboring towns and districts that face similar issues. We need to continue those discussions with some urgency, and I look forward to working with you on these issues in the months ahead.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to you, the members of your committee, Superintendent Rocke and his staff, and the officials representing the towns of Gill and Montague, for your collective efforts during this very difficult budget process. Even though you were not able to reach a local resolution, I very much appreciate the good faith efforts to provide the necessary support for the school district in a fiscally responsible manner.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ricky on the Road to Recovery

Many folks stop and ask us, "How's Ricky?" Often, we're too choked up to respond with details. But, like Paul Harvey, they want the rest of the story. So here it is along with our heartfelt thanks for asking.

As you may recall from my annual updates Ricky, our grandson, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) when he was four years old. Now, an eight year old, Ricky has battled the disease half of his life. He's endured many, many invasive and painful procedures and survived an excruciating bone marrow transplant last fall at Boston Children's Hospital.

Due to the need for extensive care, Ricky's mother left her job to become her son's caregiver and constant companion throughout the frightening years of treatment. Ricky's father soldiered on as the sole support for his small wounded family.

During Ricky's hospitalization, and after the transplant, his appendix ruptured. Due to his weakened and fragile condition an operation at the time was impossible. To control this unexpected complication an antibiotic was administered until he was stronger. Many weeks passed before a successful appendectomy was performed.

By the spring he was home, assigned to weekly check-ups at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

By summer, Ricky aided by his parents and appreciative of the charity and kindness of others, was at the Bluefish Festival (CT) selling his tie-dyed goods that he learned to make while recuperating at Boston Children's. He dedicated a portion of his profits to childhood cancer organizations.

Additionally, Ricky was then well enough to be taken off of immune suppressant medication but soon thereafter was diagnosed with severe hearing loss. The antibiotic administered during his ruptured appendix mentioned this possibility. Surprisingly, health care insurance covers but a fraction of the cost for specialized digital hearing aids.

With hearing aids in place, Ricky returned to school four years to the date of his diagnosis - October 6, 2008! School and homework are now Ricky's focus as he works to make up for lost time in the classroom.

As Ricky and his family begin to return to normal life, the bills accumulated from his four year battle - those not covered by insurance - continue to cripple the family's finances. Although today's economy has wreaked havoc on us all, you can make a difference by donating to: The Richard Koscinski Leukemia Fund, c/o Savings Bank of Walpole, 84 Marlboro Street, Keene, NH 03431.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/27/08

US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date	4207
Afghanistan	629
Wounded in Action	30,832

(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter
58 4th St Turners Falls, MA 01376
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Deer Readers, Help us Reach our Goal ... 800 Subscribers for 2008!

With your help, we can do it.

Subscriptions to the *Montague Reporter* make great holiday gifts for friends and relatives near and far. Take advantage of holiday rates.

Buy a Gift Subscription for \$5 off the regular price, now through January 1st, 2008

Give the gift of community!

\$15 for 26 issues. Send a gift subscription to the person listed below

Check here to include a gift card with your name:

YOUR NAME: _____

the Montague Reporter
58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

- Nancy Stone
Keene, NH

Republican Saxby Chambliss's re-election Tuesday in the Georgia runoff election for the U.S. Senate may confirm the thinking of those who view certain areas of the South and Central Plains as monolithic blocks of 'Red' voters. In fact, Georgia nearly tilted to the Blue column this year, with Senator John McCain besting Barack Obama by only 52% to 47% in the presidential race. Voters in the rural Black Belt of Georgia had a lot to do with the closeness of both contests, and rural voters bucked the tide in a number of other states that wound up going for McCain by even larger margins, according to this analysis by the Rural Schools and Community Trust.

Some Thoughts on the Rural Vote...

BY MARTY STRANGE

This article originally appeared in *Rural Policy Matters*, November 2008

Reprinted with permission

When President-elect Barack Obama charted a pathway to the White House, he said he would "stretch the map," meaning he would be competitive in many states that have often voted Republican. He proved to be just that, but he was by no means competitive in all 50 states.

In fact, where John McCain won, he won mostly by large margins - only in Georgia, where his margin was 5%, Montana, where his margin was 3%, and Missouri, where his margin was less than 1%, did McCain win a state by less than 7%.

McCain's margin was much larger nearly everywhere else he won, especially in ruby red states like Oklahoma (McCain won by 32% in preliminary counts), Alabama (21%), Arkansas (20%), Mississippi (14%), West Virginia (13%), Texas (11%), South Dakota (10%), and South Carolina (9%).

These are all states with significant rural populations and by almost any measure the rural vote went heavily for McCain. But smattered across these red states are unmistakable clusters of blue counties, nearly all of them places of high poverty and high percentages of people of color.

They are characteristic rural regions, like the Mississippi River Delta spanning the borders between the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. There, blue counties are huddled together back-to-back along both sides of the river, standing against the sea of red that surrounds them in their respective states. In the Delta, President-elect Obama piled up victory margins of 20, 30, and 40%. In

Jefferson County, Mississippi, with the highest percentage of African-America population of any county in the nation, Obama won 87% of the 3,745 votes.

Another of these regions is the shamefully poor Black Belt, cutting through the heart of the Old South's cotton country, through central Alabama, southern Georgia, and up through the Carolinas in the lowland counties not on, but just removed from the coast (which is generally more wealthy). In the Black Belt, Obama piled up big margins, often two-or three-to-one.

In the heavily Hispanic rural Rio Grande borderland counties in Texas, Obama gathered as much as 84% of the vote. In the highlands of Northern New Mexico, where Hispanic communities are older than the United States, and native communities are even older, Obama routinely got 70-80% of the vote. And on the Indian Reservations scattered across the Northern Plains, his margin of victory was rarely less than 30%. The Pine Ridge Reservation yielded 89% for him in South Dakota. Nearly every rural county he won in that close Montana race includes an Indian reservation.

There are other rural pockets of blue that are not heavily minority, some of them as poor and some not so poor, including much of Northern New England, the Iron Range of northern Minnesota, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and some of the poorest vestiges of coalfield poverty in places like McDowell County, West Virginia.

[Image available at www.ruraledu.org/atf/cf/%7BF4BE47E7-FA27-47A8-B662-8DE8A6FC0577%7D/Rural_800_weblarge.jpg]

Oops, my mistake. That's not a map of the rural counties that voted for Obama. That's a map

of the 800 rural school districts with the highest poverty rates. Well, never mind. It's pretty much the same map.

If you want to see the presidential vote by county, take a look at the last few maps in this engaging website www.personal.umich.edu/~7Enejn/election/2008/ from the University of Michigan. These maps are by Mark Newman, Department of Physics and Center for the Study of Complex Systems, University of Michigan.

What is most interesting about these maps is that when the colors "red" and "blue" are blended into various shades of purple that reflect the relative proportion of each county's vote that went to McCain or Obama, the brightest spots on the map - that is, both the reddest and the bluest - are in rural areas. This is especially true in those states where the bright red outmuscles the bright blue - that is, in the rural states that went heavily for McCain. These are almost invariably states where both poverty and high percentages of people of color are concentrated in the rural blue zones.

This year, in the close battleground states that get all the attention in our national elec-

tions, voters voted their hopes instead of their fears. That's also what they did, as they always do, in these poorest rural communities in red states that are not battleground states. In these places, racism and poverty are the enemies of hope, and people have long been victims of the politics of hate and division that Obama's victory is supposed to repudiate. They vote their hopes even though their votes are in vain in the Electoral College where a state's winner takes all (except in Maine and Nebraska).

But let's hope their votes are not in vain in the Obama presidency. He should remember those who voted for him in states that did not.

He should be sure, for example, that the infrastructure rebuilding that almost certainly will be part of his economic stimulus plan deliberately and specifically includes high poverty rural areas - new schools, new bridges, new roads. He should remember these high poverty rural places by changing the way Title I funds are distributed so that these places are no longer discriminated against, as they now are. He should be sure when he amasses an army of new teachers, as he says he will,

that the best among them will serve the neediest communities.

President Bill Clinton did not visit the state of Nebraska until the waning days of his second term. He apparently didn't want to leave the Oval office for good without having visited every state at least once. That Nebraska was last on his list is no surprise. In his first run for the White House, Clinton actually came in third in Nebraska, after Ross Perot.

President-elect Obama will not likely be so vain. We hope that in his stated quest to earn the support of those who voted against him, he visits a state like South Dakota, where he lost by a 3-1 margin. But when he does, maybe he could take the time to visit Shannon County, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where rural people gave him 89% of their votes.

Marty Strange is the policy director of the Rural Schools and Community Trust. For more information go to: www.ruraledu.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suspicious Activity Reports

Monday, 11/24

9:48 p.m. Suspicious activity at a Main Road residence.
10:10 p.m. Disturbance at a Walnut Street residence.

Tuesday, 11/25

4:03 p.m. Assisted with sick raccoon at a Walnut Street address.

Wednesday 11/26

1:55 p.m. Arrested [redacted] [redacted] Charged with restraining order violation.

Thursday, 11/27

5:03 p.m. Suspicious activity at a West Gill Road residence. Checked out, all

o.k.

Friday, 11/28

4:41 p.m. Report of possible disturbance near French King Bridge. Checked - unable to locate any problem.

9:01 p.m. Alarm at French King Highway business, all secure.

Saturday, 11/29

2:50 p.m. Larceny complaint at a Myrtle Street residence. Report taken.

9:05 p.m. Assisted Erving police department.

Monday, 12/01

6:05 p.m. Suspicious activity at a Main Road residence. Checked area, unable to locate.

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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



(413) 773-3622

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

DEMERS' LANDSCAPING

Landscaping & Excavating
Estimates Given - Fully Insured

136 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

COMPLETE TREE SERVICE • LOTS CLEARED • WOOD CHIPPING
WOOD CHIPS • MULCH • LOAM • LAWNS AND SOD INSTALLED
PLANTING • MASON AND STONEMAN
ALL TYPES OF FENCING • DOZER AND BACKHOE WORK
SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSTALLED

Edward A. Demers, Prop. Since 1970 Tel. 863-3652

Office Hours By Appointment

DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.

4 Dell St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9656

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

Check Engine Light on? We Can Help!

TELE: (413) 772-8862 -- CELL: (413) 512-0413

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Locally owned since 1941

Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market

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

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies

Fun Stuff for Pets... and Their People!

44 Deerfield St./Rte. 5 & 10, Greenfield 774-7346 Pet Grooming by Appointment

AJ's CYCLE

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- gloves
- boots
- accessories
- gift certificates

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

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Hall Matters

BY JOSH HEINEMANN One of the organizers of the Wendell Holiday fair, Barbara Caruso was unable to attend a selectboard meeting on the eve of Thanksgiving, but she asked through town coordinator Nancy Aldrich that the town hall rental for December 13th and 14th be reduced to \$25, because profits from the Holiday Fair will go to the Swift River School music

department.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis and member Dan Keller thought the fair and its foot traffic bring a lot of wear to the town hall, but they agreed with selectboard member Christine Heard and allowed the rent reduction.

The annual craft fair will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th, and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th, with food and music both days.

Melissa Grader met the selectboard and rented the town hall for December 6th to hold a birthday party for her son.

Following the most recent Full Moon Coffeehouse, Kathy Becker of the Coffeehouse Committee brought up some maintenance issues at the town hall. The last Coffeehouse took place on a windy night, and vermiculite insulation drifted down onto the performers like snow through the gaps in the ceiling boards overhead.

There was a tornado watch that evening and she was concerned the building has no evacuation plan, and that the cellar is much smaller than the upstairs, and if it were used as a tornado shelter it would hold only about 10 people standing up, not a full Coffeehouse crowd.

Keller asked, "Didn't we

appoint Lonnie (Ricketts) emergency coordinator?" and suggested the board should consult him about an evacuation plan for the town hall. The town hall is the designated building for evacuations in town. But for now, it appears evacuating the town hall itself means simply going out the front door. After that there is no plan.

Becker also said the men's room fan was not working, and the odor seemed to lack a clear evacuation plan as well.

Lewis asked, "Can't we postpone this?" after he looked at a proposed Right to Farm bylaw submitted to the selectboard for the December 17th special town meeting by the agricultural commission. He thought there should be hearings and meetings to refine any bylaw, and if a bylaw is modified too much at a town meeting the state Attorney General will strike it down.

Heard said it was not a hot issue and may be more appropriate for the annual town meeting, but Aldrich said the agricultural commission wants the bylaw brought up sooner.

Keller said he had gotten an email about possible plans for incorporating permaculture and forest garden ideas in the community garden. He said he had met the man proposing the design, and the design work would be free. Keller thought that members of the building landscape committee should work with the community garden committee to mesh the various

plans for use of the space around the town office building.

Too late to add it to the agenda, Aldrich received a notice from the Department of Conservation and Recreation stating that owners of low hazard dams must have them inspected by an engineer before August 2009. The dam that holds Fiske Pond is the town's responsibility.

Lewis said, "That's hardly a dam at all; it only holds back about two feet of water. It's a waste of money. The inspector will probably not even get out of his car. The state makes all these laws..."

When Dan Bacigalupo passed away he left open not only the position of road boss, but a place on the cemetery commission, and

the position of tree warden. Peter Zera of Locke Village Road expressed interest in being appointed tree warden, citing his experience cutting trees for other Wendell residents. The position will be filled in spring at the annual town election.

Highway commissioners plan to attend the next selectboard meeting to discuss the job description and hiring of a new highway superintendent. Heard asked if supervision of the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) should be included in the road boss's job description, or when and how the job was taken from the board of health and whether it was given to the road crew, or to the highway commission.

This holiday season, give the gift that is affordable, sane, good for the environment, enjoyable, healthy, & peaceful.

Massage

Patty Smythe, LMT
50 Chapman Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-774-0517

½ hr, 1 hr and 1 ½ hrs Gift Certificates available and mailed out promptly

Please support local businesses

Wendell Holiday Fair
December 13th & 14th
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wendell Town Hall
Free Admission & Parking

Come Holiday Shop with Local Crafters, Artists & Farmers!

Gourmet Lunch by Diemand Farm
Daily 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
All profits will be donated to the Swift River Music Department to benefit Students of New Salem & Wendell.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Unauthorized Leave and Credit Card Use

Monday, 11/10
9:15 p.m. Depot Road resident report of somebody inside house knocking on bedroom door. Gone upon arrival.
12:00 p.m. Report of runaway from Maple Valley School.

Tuesday, 11/11
8:00 a.m. Runaway from Maple Valley School located in Greenfield.
12:00 p.m. West Street resident reported theft of GPS and FM transmitter from unlocked vehicle sometime between 11/8/08 and 11/11/08.

Wednesday, 11/12
6:30 a.m. House fire on Depot Road. House was unoccupied.
12:00 p.m. Montague Road resident reported credit card numbers unauthorized use by unknown person in Los Angeles, CA.
12:00 p.m. Lockes Village Road resident report of accident, car vs. deer on Montague Road. No injuries to driver, deer ran off.

Wednesday, 11/19
5:20 a.m. Report of Maple Valley School student away without leave. Subject found in Orange at 7:30 a.m. and taken to juvenile court.

Monday, 11/24
10:15 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. Occupants of vehicle refused medical treatment.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Breaking and Entering Arrests

Wednesday, 11/26
2:43 p.m. Report of accident with property damage near Rubin's Auto Repair on Millers Falls Road.
5:52 p.m. Accident with property damage on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered.

Thursday, 11/27
1:16 a.m. Fight in the area of Colle Opera House on Avenue A. Subject taken into protective custody.
1:25 a.m. Suspicious person in the area the Third and Fourth Streets alley. Gathering dispersed.
11:19 a.m. Officer wanted at a Fairway Avenue address. Investigated.
5:51 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Investigated.
6:50 p.m. Report of accident with property damage on Avenue A.

Friday, 11/28
10:09 a.m. Report of larceny from a G Street address.
5:08 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]. Charged with possession of class D drug and class B drug, speeding and failure to inspect vehicle.

Saturday, 11/29
1:55 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant.
9:30 p.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering at Doyle's Car Wash, Montague City Road. Investigated.
9:46 p.m. Suspicious auto on East Mineral Road. Gathering dispersed.

Sunday, 11/30
12:22 a.m. Suspicious person in the area of Third and L Streets. Arrested a juvenile, age 14 for possession of class D drug, tagging property, vandalism, damage or defacement of property.

8:57 a.m. Report of vandalism in the area of Greenfield Road and Meadow Road. Referred to other agency.
11:43 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Third Street address. Services rendered.
9:53 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at Miskinis Television, Avenue A. Arrested juvenile, age 17. Charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime to commit a felony, two counts, malicious destruction of property, three counts, and possession of burglarious instruments.

Monday, 12/1
8:11 a.m. Officer wanted at Turners Falls High School. Arrested juvenile, age 13. Charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, shod foot, three counts, assault and battery, two counts and disturbance at a school.
9:26 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fifth Street address. Investigated.
10:01 a.m. Report of an accident with personal injury on Wendell Road.
11:39 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering at Alpha Stone, Eleventh Street. Arrested juvenile, age 17. Charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime for a felony, three counts, larceny over \$250 and malicious destruction of property, four counts. Arrested another juvenile, age 17. Charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime for a felony, larceny over \$250 and malicious destruction of property.
6:15 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and battery, domestic and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.
8:29 p.m. Report of accident with property damage on Church Street.

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

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer

CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS
PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS
COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS
ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATTING & MORE

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Celebrating our 98th Anniversary!

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!

Bill & Kathy White
413-773-7747

COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1988
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

Annual Heating System Cleaning
Plumbing Repairs
LICENSED TECHNICIANS

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912 #M10588 (MA)

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

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
"Now accepting calls for fall clean-up and 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

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
774-5451
Your Pace at Your Place

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Storm Damage Prevention & Restoration
Cabling & Bracing
Shade Tree Maintenance
Tree Removal

Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Owner
Climber
Insured

Wendell • 978-544-7452
www.mattedwardstree.com

BY DAVID DETMOLD - More than a dozen Montague bar owners and managers came to an informational meeting with the Montague selectboard on Monday, November 17th to discuss new regulations about closing hours, which the board had imposed on November 3rd. The owners and managers had criticisms of a number of the new regulations, which stipulated that 'last call' should be fifteen minutes before closing, closing for most drinking establishments should be at 1:00 a.m. (unless they close earlier) except on New Year's Eve, when closing hour can be extended to 2:00 a.m., all patrons need to be out of the bar fifteen minutes later, and employees need to complete their clean-up tasks and be out of the bar by one hour past closing time.

Bar owners particularly objected to this last requirement. Even though the selectboard made it clear that a courtesy phone call to the police department would be all that was needed in the event a bar employee needed to stay later, the owners felt that the requirement was unreasonable.

"I own my business, and if I can't sleep and want to go down there at three in the morning and do some paper work, I have every right to. I don't have to call anybody," said Bill Holbrook, of Jake's Tavern.

Lew Collins of Between the Uprights on 2nd Street said his workers routinely carried 36 cases of beer up from the cellar, cashed out, and performed numerous other closing tasks that would be likely to keep them at work at least an hour and a half past closing time.

He asked the selectboard to imagine they had just had 100 friends over for a cocktail party, and then had less than one hour after the last guest left to make their home look the same as it did before the first guest arrived.

Chris Janke, co-owner of the Rendezvous, said efforts were being made to make Montague a destination for people from other communities to travel to. He pointed out that Northampton, Springfield and North Adams allowed 2:00 a.m. closing hours, and so Montague establishments were already operating at a competitive disadvantage with clientele trying to decide where to go for an evening out. He objected to the 12:45 last call stipulation for this reason, and because he thought it gave the message to clientele to order another drink and drink it fast.

The board eventually agreed to stipulate merely that alcohol sales should end by 1:00 a.m., and that all patrons should be out of the bars by 1:30 a.m. No stipulation was made for an hour by which employees should leave the premises.

Parks and Rec Programs

Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation, gave the selectboard an update on his department's winter

program schedule, which includes popular programs like Open Swim at the Turners Falls High School and new entries like Tae Kwon Do for kids and parents. The parks and recreation department will team up with the Knights of Columbus for the annual basketball free throw contest at the Sheffield School gym, on Saturday, January 17th, at 1 p.m. For a complete program listing, pick up a copy of the parks and recreation department's brochure at any of the branch libraries, town hall, or the field house in Unity Park, or go to their website at www.montague.net and click on the parks and recreation department. For more information, call: 863-3216.

Dobosz said volunteer parent coaches were still needed for a number of activities.

He also announced that the parks and recreation department was resuming the popular Sawmill River 10-kilometer run on New Year's Day, 10 a.m., in Montague Center, which will now become a fundraiser for the department. Selectboard chair Allen Ross, who formerly organized the Sawmill River Run, congratulated Dobosz for picking up the reins on this annual event.

Ruth Nervig, the Americorps worker at the Brick House who has been coordinating the Turners Falls skate park during the course of the last year, asked whether there was some part of Unity Park where the popular skate park could be relocated, since the lease is up on the current lot. She said a recent survey at the Turners Falls High School elicited responses from 61 students who said they have been using the skate park regularly.

Dobosz said that his department was planning a redesign of Unity Park, with more parking areas, and perhaps the addition of volleyball courts. "There's really no space for the skate park," Dobosz told her.

Dobosz said the parks and recreation department may turn a 1200 square foot plot of land near the Masonic Lodge in Montague City into a play area, and move the play structure from the former Montague Center School to that location.

Fashion Show

Chris Janke, owner of Suzee's 3rd Street Laundry, asked for and received permission to hold the fourth annual leftover laundry fashion show, with a one day liquor license, on Saturday, December 6th, as part of the upcoming Arts and Icicles open studio walking tour of downtown Turners. Janke said the garments crafted for the show would be auctioned off on Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. at the Rendezvous, with a question and answer session with the designers. The proceeds from the auction will go toward the Brick House.

Pam Kostanski, president of the Montague Business Association, asked for and

received permission to hold a holiday tree lighting at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, December 13th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She said the event will include lighted luminaries on the walkways, cookies and hot chocolate, and performers.

The board granted permission for the Montague Center Fire Department Relief Association to put up the crèche scene on the common in Montague Center from December 7th to the 28th, as they do every year.

The board approved a request from the capital improvements committee to spend \$20,000 from the program income fund to pay for a feasibility study of the possible reuse of the Montague Center School building. This follows town meeting action of earlier this year allocating \$30,000 for heating and maintenance of the building through the winter.

The board held a dog hearing in a matter of a complaint against a pitbull owned by Maria Lonergan, of 63 5th Street. Lonergan's dog is alleged to have bitten a dog owned by Laura Callahan, a neighbor of Lonergan's. The board ordered Lonergan to secure her front door, and only to allow the dog to be walked by an adult, with a leash and muzzle.

The board signed an annual monitoring agreement with Tighe and Bond for \$11,900 to monitor leachate from the capped landfill on Turnpike Road. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the reported levels are low. "All we are seeing is iron and manganese and other chemicals in not too toxic quantities." Ross read from the most recent monitoring report, saying, "Little water quality impact to Randall Brook," was detected.

The board gave Abbondanzio the go-ahead, and considerable leeway, to write a grant application this week for a \$25,000 regional planning grant "to enlarge the Gill Montague Regional School District to include at least one other town." Or perhaps, one other city, since the Greenfield city council, under some pressure from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has also agreed to seek such a grant.

The board approved the outlines of a spending freeze prepared by Abbondanzio, limiting all departments to essential spending for the duration of the budget year, without selectboard approval.

A special town meeting to deal with remaining budget items, pending resolution of the Gill-Montague school budget impasse, for Thursday, December 4th. The location is to be determined, since the high school auditorium is not available that week.

Aldrich volunteered to find out what that decision was and when it was made.

The selectboard agreed to a request from the highway commission that the probationary employment period of one of the two road workers be extended ten days to give him time to pass the next hoister's test.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Sets Special Town Meeting on G-M Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Montague selectboard have set a special town meeting for Tuesday, December 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School...

On Wednesday afternoon, word came down from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester had set a final budget number for the GMRSD, for the current fiscal year, at \$16,625,875.

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assumed financial control of the GMRSD on December 1st, since the towns of Gill and Montague were unable to come to a budget agreement with the regional schools prior to that date.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard on Monday, "At this point, we're going on the assumption the budget will be the same one [the district meeting] voted down on November 18th," with a \$7,285,727 assessment for Montague.

On Monday, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town had already appropriated \$7,002,683 to fund the regional schools at the June town meeting. So, in order for Montague to meet its new assessment number of \$7,190,847, Abbondanzio said on Wednesday, the special town meeting will be asked to appropriate an additional \$188,164.

Other items on the eleven article town meeting warrant deal with local options for granting real estate exemptions for senior citizens and blind citizens, and adjusting the amount of income and assets

annually that seniors may claim to still qualify for exemptions.

Two of the articles on the warrant will deal with plots of land in Montague Center and on Dry Hill Road the town is considering selling to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.

One parcel, containing 174 acres on the south side of Dry Hill, not abutting Dry Hill Road but contiguous to other land owned by Fish and Game, has been owned by Richard Clapp, but has fallen to the town for back taxes.

"This land may be something that makes good sense for conservation purposes," commented town planner Dan Laroche, after the meeting. "Fish and Game has been pursuing conservation land in that area for some time."

The other parcel, also taken for back taxes, is near the Sawmill River, off Route 63, in the vicinity of the former home of Rodney Beauschesne. Both parcels would be sold to Fish and Game for their appraised value, Laroche said.

Both Abbondanzio and Laroche indicated that the conservation land sale to Mass Fish and Game is somehow tied to a three-way deal in the works between Northeast Generation, the utility company that owns land on the south side of Millers Falls Road the town would like to purchase for a future industrial park, and Massachusetts Natural Heritage. If all goes well, the deal would enable the town to develop the Millers Falls Road land — which is priority habitat for species of concern — as an industrial park, they said.

While Abbondanzio spoke of a "land swap" at the selectboard meeting, Laroche said, "Money from the sale [of land on Dry Hill Road and Montague Center] will be dedicated towards working on the Millers Falls industrial park, for some of the mitigation we're going to need to do to meet Natural Heritage concerns."

Abbondanzio told the board unless a way was found to mitigate habitat concerns, the town would have to set aside

two thirds of the 100 acre parcel on Millers Falls Road from development, assuming a purchase can be worked out with the utility company to buy the land. But setting aside that amount of land would make the industrial park plan unfeasible, he said.

In other selectboard news, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz gave a Volunteer Service Award plaque to Steve Sirum for many years of coaching assistance at a wide variety of parks and recreation sponsored programs, including soccer, t-ball, baseball and basketball. "He's a fantastic coach," said Dobosz. "Kids

really respect him."

Sirum responded, "I've been a member of this community for 37 years now. Programs like the parks and recreation department enrich the community. To be a part of that fills me with a lot of pride and satisfaction."

Dobosz received approval for a public gathering permit for January 1st, 10 a.m., to hold the Sawmill River Run in Montague Center. The popular 10K run will now become a major fundraiser for parks and recreation programs. To pre-register for the race, call 413-863-3216.

The selectboard approved a see MEETING pg 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Suspended and Revoked Drivers

Tuesday, 11/25 7:15 p.m. Report of accident, car vs. deer at the Northfield and Erving town line. Both car and deer gone upon arrival. 8:55 pm. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and failure to inspect motor vehicle. 9:36 p.m. Report of runaway from Forest Street area. Subject located and brought home.

Wednesday, 11/26 5:50 p.m. Report of erratic operation of motor vehicle on Route 2, westbound. Stopped same and issued citation. 6:50 p.m. Traffic stop for speeding on Route 2. Operator smoking class D substance. Same confiscated. Minor in vehicle, parents contacted. 11:15 p.m. Assisted Montague police with possible deer jacking on Dry Hill Road in Montague. Nothing found.

Thursday, 11/27 6:50 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle

with a revoked registration and for operation without insurance. Friday, 11/28 1:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license as a high ticket offender, subsequent offense. 7:28 p.m. Report of open door at the Erving Public Library. Checked same, building secure. 8:15 p.m. Disabled tractor trailer unit on Semb Drive. Subject was able to move from the street. Will arrange for own tow or repair.

Saturday, 11/29 9:13 a.m. Alarm sounding at French King Restaurant. Spoke with owner, all okay. 8:55 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension, attaching plates, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, license not in possession, registration not in possession and failure to inspect motor vehicle.

Advertisement for Joe Graveline, Quality Vinyl Replacement Windows Sunrise. Includes phone number (413) 498-4318 and a photo of Joe Graveline.

Advertisement for Montague Bookmill, Open Daily 10-6. Shop locally! Lots of gift books, both new and old. Includes phone number 413-367-9206 and website www.montaguebookmill.com.

Advertisement for CopyCat Print Shop, full color offset printing, digital copies, oversized copies, files accepted via email. 22 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!

Advertisement for McCarthy Funeral Home, Since 1895, On the Common Greenfield, Massachusetts. Turners Falls, Massachusetts. (413) 774-4808. John C. Davis, Director.

Advertisement for Sokolosky Realty, 56 4th Street • Turners Falls, Mass. 01376. Office (413) 863-4393, Home (413) 367-9970, Fax (413) 863-4949. Craig Dalrymple, Sales Associate.

Advertisement for Atlantic Groundsource LLC, Heat your home with geothermal! Call the experts! • 413-587-0021. Dave@AtlanticGroundSource.com. www.Atlanticgroundsource.com

Advertisement for Dolan & Dolan Attorneys at Law, 174 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. 413-863-3133. Personal Injury, Wills & Estates, Worker's Comp.

Advertisement for J&M Home Improvement, Vinyl Siding - Vinyl Windows. Jimmy (413) 592 0169, Cell: (413) 636 3071, LIC# 153335.

New Look at the Brick House

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House is a very busy place these days. A multi-faceted social service center located at 24 Third Street, there's always something going on. While the teen center on the ground floor at the rear of the building is crowded with young people working on computers, jamming on a variety of musical instruments, or hanging out, the front of the building is going through a major renovation, timed for completion for the weekend Arts and Icicles Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour this Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the kickoff of the Brick House Consignment Art Gallery 2008.

The art gallery will have an extended run, from Saturday, December 6th through Sunday December 14th, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

"We are so excited about the open studio walk to the Brick House where people can see the new façade and storefront," said Karen Stinchfield, who is serving in her fifth year as outreach coordinator at the community resource center. There are a dozen other sites on the open studio and downtown walking tour, including artist Jack Nelson, whose shop is right near the Brick House, and Spencer Peterman, whose wooden bowl factory is right

next door. Two doors up, the Winterfest Gift Shop, supporting the Montague Catholic Social Ministries' programs, is another must-see stop for holiday shoppers.

Stinchfield is delighted the Brick House's new storefront will soon be ready for unveiling. The items to be displayed there for the next week are creations by local artists, craftspeople, musicians, and food makers, all part of the Brick House Gallery.

According to Stinchfield, "The Brick House will keep 35% of all sales." The artists will get the rest. "It will give consumers an opportunity to buy quality, locally made items, with Christmas not too far around the corner, thus supporting local artists and craftspeople, along with the Brick House."

What was the reason for the renovation? Toby Briggs, the Gill contractor who handled the job of overhauling the building's façade gave a number of reasons why the work was needed.

"This building, as most know, used to be the Turners Falls fire house," Briggs said. "The old

folding doors were taken out and we put in new plate glass. Now we want to create a performance space. The floor sloped down to the middle," where the fire engines used to park. "It was cold in here; those front doors just didn't keep the cold out well."

Briggs has raised a new wooden floor above the old cement, on the level of the teen center to the rear. A ramp has been built into a section of the new floor to make it wheelchair accessible. In addition, the big wooden folding doors that used to be pulled open as the fire engines roared into action, have

been replaced by a metal and double paned glass storefront, making the front of the building much more weather tight. "And don't forget," Briggs added, "windows obviously bring a lot of light into the room."

Briggs is pleased with the progress of construction. "It's going fine," he observed. "We haven't hit any major snags yet."

Briggs paid tribute to the contribution of Caryn Brauce, an architect at UMass/Amherst who originally envisioned the storefront plan, donated her time, and went to the drawing board five different times for different versions of the

storefront.

Brick House director Prakash Laufer, completing his first year at the reins of the vibrant community center, said, "Looking back, we've made a lot of progress in the past twelve months. All of us have worked hard to make the Brick House a community-friendly place."

Director Laufer is very pleased that the center is planning a celebration on Tuesday, January 20th to coincide with the swearing-in ceremony in Washington of President-elect

Obama as the nation's 44th President. "We will put the ceremony on a large screen here at the center. And later, from 5 to 7 p.m., we'll have a reception to inaugurate our Brick House Community Arts and Performance Space Center," in the new first floor storefront. A live music concert will follow. "We will also have a film related to the civil rights movement, to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King," whose birthday falls on January 19th.

"By the way," added Laufer, "We're also starting a new year for the Brick House, our 19th. We have much to celebrate."



Teen Center participants Jackie MacConnell, coordinator Jared Libby, Morgan MacConnell, and Bobby Lynde check the new storefront facade at the Brick House

DETMOLD PHOTO

97% of us would want to be called if our teens were at a party where alcohol was served.

From the 2008 survey of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School parents.

With 206 parents responding!

Look How Much We Care!

Brought to you by the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership.

2ND STREET BAKING CO.

Arts & Icicles Weekend

Tom Dudley: Multi-Media Art
Dec. 6th & 7th

Mini Craft Fair Saturday
featuring
Hilary Candelaria: Beaded Jewelry
Lisa Adams: Handcrafted Soap
and Christa Snyder:
Handbags and Scarves
Fried Dough all weekend!

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
69 2nd St. Turners Falls
863-4455

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

Baker Office Supply

(413)774-2345 | 310 MAIN ST., GREENFIELD | WWW.BAKEROFFICESUPPLY.COM

Jack Nelson

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

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

GO GREEN : SAVE GREEN

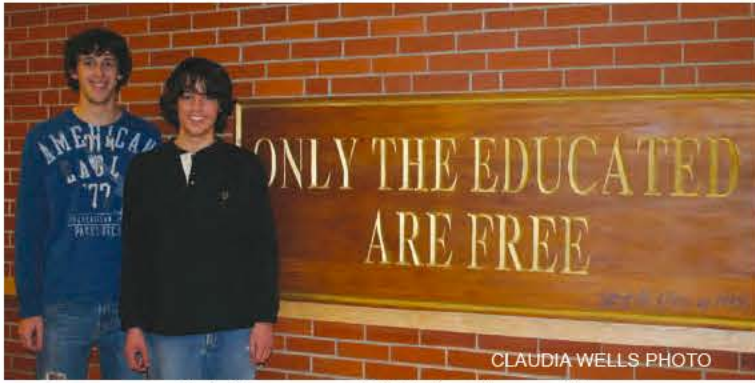
Announcing the Energy-Efficient Mortgage (EEM) allows you to borrow for energy improvements when buying a home such as: New Furnace, Windows, Insulation, Solar, Wind and more!

SAVE MONEY, CONSERVE ENERGY, LIVE COMFORTABLY

National City Mortgage

CALL NOW! **TIM PREVOST**
413-773-8984
TIM.PREVOST@NCMC.COM

TFHS Students Advance in Senate Youth Scholarship Program



Josh Gammon and Nicholas Skarzynski

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - Early in October, Deb Partridge and Hannah Neville, student council advisors at the Turners Falls High School, received an invitation from the U.S. Senate for students to apply to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program.

To be eligible to participate,

the students must be juniors or seniors who serve in elected or appointed positions on the student council or other service oriented organizations of importance to their school. They must have high scores in the study of history or government, and they must demonstrate leadership qualities and a diversity of interests and

activities.

Believing three of their students would be strong candidates, Partridge and Neville worked with Sam Colton, Josh Gammon and Nicholas Skarzynski to submit applications, which were due within only a day or two. Once the students were accepted, their advisors drove them to take the qualifying test at the Northampton High School, on October 23rd.

Not only did Colton, Gammon, and Skarzynski do well on the test, all three were notified their scores were high enough to become finalists.

Last month, Colton, Gammon and Skarzynski traveled to Boston for a second

rigorous test, as well as an interview. Neville praised her students for their general academic prowess and noted the three finalists had all studied with Vicki Valley in the advance placement U.S. History course. Neville credits the department for providing students with a strong course of study.

It should be noted that Turners Falls High School is the only school that has ever sent three finalists to the Boston test.

Established in 1962, the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program brings students from all over the country to participate in a weeklong trip to Washington D.C. There they will witness the government in action, from Senate policy addresses to the

State Department to the U.S. Supreme Court. During the selection process only two students from each state are chosen to participate in this unique educational experience. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation not only funds the students' trips, but awards a \$5,000 scholarship to each state finalist.



Sam Colton

Norse Gods Appear at the Shea Welcome Yule: December 12th -14th



A few of the cast Members of Welcome Yule

Thunder? Of Odin, the Wise? And the end of Frigga, Freya, Tyr, and all the rest of the Norse Gods?

The cast of Welcome Yule has come together at the Winter Solstice every year for 24 years to create a celebration of the return of the light. This year, they've created giant puppets

TURNERS FALLS - Welcome Yule celebrates the light-filled traditions of the darkest time of the year, and their roots in many ancient cultures, in a family show full of music, dance, songs and stories. Norse mythology is highlighted in this year's show, with stories of Ygdrasil, the World Tree, and its inhabitants: diverse gods and goddesses, unruly humans, quarrelsome frost giants, and Bifrost, the northern lights or rainbow bridge that connects them all.

The Frost Giants have spirited away the beautiful goddess Idun and her golden apples of immortality. Will Loki, the god of mischief, and the small godlings find the apples and Idun in time to save the gods of Asgard? Or will this be the end of Thor, the God of

and an eight-legged horse to help bring the Norse traditions to the stage. Of course, there will be a pun-filled mummies' play as well as Morris dancing, including the eerily haunting Abbots Bromley, to help drive the dark away.

Welcome Yule: a Midwinter Celebration will be performed at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Friday and Saturday, December 12th and 13th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 14th at 2 p.m. Reserve tickets at (413) 863-2281 or purchase in advance at the Jones Library in Amherst, Broadside Books in Northampton, and the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield. For information, call 413-772-2213 or check www.welcomeyule.org.

ARTS & ICICLES

TURNERS FALLS OPEN STUDIO & DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

<p>1 JACK NELSON @ CARRIAGE HOUSE DESIGNS 65 Canal Street 863-9499 carriagehouse@signedinstone.com</p> <p>2 PETERMAN'S BASKETS AND BOWLS Spencer Peterman zbows@masscraft.com 22 Third Street 863-2116</p> <p>3 THE BRICK HOUSE GALLERY THE BRICK HOUSE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER 24 Third Street 863-9576 www.thebrickhouseinc.org</p> <p>4 GREAT LIGHTING David Wiener 33 3rd Street 863-3193 www.greatlighting.com</p> <p>5 THE PEACEFUL PALM STUDIO Deidre Hall & Tamar Allis 37 Third Street 413-297-7041/522-6661 www.thepeacefulpalm.com</p> <p>6 WINTERFEST GIFT SHOP Montague Catholic Social Ministries 41 3rd St. & 78 Avenue A 863-2455 christine.mesm@verizon.net</p> <p>7 HALLMARK MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERIES 52 & 65 Corner of 2nd Street & Avenue A 863-0009 www.hmcp.org</p> <p>8 GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER 2 Avenue A 863-3221 www.greatfallsma.org</p> <p>9 2ND STREET BAKING CO. Laura Puchalski & Christa Snyder 69 2nd Street 863-4455</p>	<p>10 4TH ANNUAL LEFTOVER LAUNDRY FASHION GALA Suzee's Third Street Laundry 34 Third St. turnersfallsfashionshow@gmail.com</p> <p>11 THE RENDEZVOUS Jamie Berger, Emily Brewster, Chris Janke, & Mark Wisniewski 73 Third Street 863-2366 www.rendezvousfina.com</p> <p>12 HALLMARK MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 85 Corner of 3rd Street & Avenue A 863-0009 www.hmcp.org</p> <p>13 TURNERS FALLS PIZZA HOUSE Mifca and Abe Vansteenburgh 119 Avenue A 863-8000</p>
--	--

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
DEC. 6+7**

CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS:

<p>TURNERS FALLS A.H. Riit Insurance Agency, Inc. Australis Baramundi Couture Bros., Inc. Greenfield Savings Bank Jake's Tavern Jay K's Liquors, Lightlife Foods Patty Cake Patty Cake Ristorante Di'Paolo the Style Inn Hair Salon</p>	<p>GILL Songline Emu Farm the Wagon Wheel Restaurant</p> <p>MILLERS FALLS Doggie Dips & Clips</p> <p>DEERFIELD the Shintaido Farm</p>
--	--

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE PICK UP A BROCHURE IN ONE OF MANY CONVENIENT AREA LOCATIONS!

GREENFIELD CENTER SCHOOL

Knowing Children since 1931

- * K-8th Grades
- * Social Justice Focus
- * 2 Teachers per classroom
- * Individualized approach
- * Project-based

Greenfield, MA | 413-773-1700 www.centerschool.net

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

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

MONTAGUE THE BOOKMILL
413-367-0309

KEENE
89 1/2 MAIN ST
603-358-6833

TURN IT UP!
ALWAYS BUYING
CDs LPs & DVDs

BRAITLEBORO
2 ELLIOT ST
802-251-6015

MUSIC & MORE
NORTHAMPTON
5 PLEASANT ST
413-282-0072
EASTAMPTON
116 PLEASANT ST
413-582-1885
website: TURNITUP.COM

Patty Smythe
Licensed Massage Therapist

*Myofascial Release
Deep Tissue
Mind/Body Integration*

50 Chapman St. Suite 1
Greenfield MA 01301
413-774-0517
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

Psychotherapy

Ronald Sigmund Meck MA, CAGS, LMHC
30 years in practice

- Traditional Talk Therapy
- Expressive Arts • Body Psychology
- Adults, Teens, Children, Couples & Families

bigsigmund@aol.com

413-367-9763 413-695-9743

HOPE & OLIVE

HOURS: LUNCH TUES - FRI, 11:30 - 2:30 • DINNER TUES - SAT, 5 - 9 • SUNDAY BRUNCH 10 - 2, DINNER 5 - 8

We serve homegrown, farm-inspired food and drink. Presented simply, using the best ingredients from our neighborhood.

PHONE 413 774 3150
44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD

WWW.HOPEANDOLIVE.COM

Since at least 1923, the Turners Falls High School sports teams have been known as the Indians. A few months ago, in response to a complaint about the high school band playing a song known as the Tomahawk Chop during school sporting events, the high school administration, in consultation with the superintendent of schools and the chair of the school committee, instituted a moratorium on 'the Chop.' Local residents took up a petition in support of the Tomahawk Chop. Small group meetings between members of the Native American community, high school students and administrators allowed some feelings to be aired on the issue in respectful dialogue, and plans are in the works to hold a larger public forum on the topic, soon.

In the meantime, Josh Gammon, a TFHS senior and president of the student council, has surveyed a large number of students about their opinions on 'the Chop'. And though the resulting article comes down heavily on one side of the controversy, we are glad to offer equal space for any who would like to weigh in on the matter in the weeks to come. Even if they are in the minority.



Students Voice Anger, Confusion Over 'Chop' Suspension

BY JOSH GAMMON GILL - MONTAGUE - The recent decision by the superintendent and Turners Falls High School administration to suspend for now the traditional 'Chop' gesture — and its accompanying music — in all school functions has sparked controversy throughout the town as well as within the student body.

The school committee is expected to take up the issue at its next meeting, December 9th, a plan that has only added to the fervor of the response among students.

Some students, like senior

Amber Henry, voiced sorrow about 'the Chop' being absent from games and events.

"I miss the tradition of 'the Chop.' Our school has been doing it for a long time, but now it is gone my senior year," she said, adding "I feel like something is missing."

Sophomore Kelsey Waldron quickly added, "Turners isn't the same without 'the Chop.'"

Many students said that the "the Chop," has become a part of their identity.

Senior Samuel Colton insisted, "To lose 'the Chop' is to lose part of our culture, and our culture is what defines us.

"To lose our culture is to lose ourselves, resulting in the unwilling homogenization of our society," he added.

Freshman Jolina Blier felt the decision, "[Takes] away a long time tradition that the school is known for," while freshmen Zach Boisvert and Christopher Gordon said simply "The Chop' is Turners."

Students seemed as much dismayed about the moratorium as they were about the conclusions behind it. Students view the symbolic song and accompanying gesture as something that displays unity and pride for their school and

community. The idea that 'the Chop' is malicious or disrespectful bewilders many students, like Senior Thomas Field, a member of both the football and basketball teams.

"I think it's ridiculous that they are offended that we go out and play our hardest in their honor," he said, apparently referring to Native Americans.

"The Chop' has been a part of our school for over 15 years, and then they just take it away. Why all of a sudden are they changing it?" echoed Sophomore Emily Mailloux.

Students also object to the way the decision was reached, and fear that their opinions were neither heard nor considered.

"They just took it away without talking to us," said senior Kimberly Nelson. "They should have been more public so our opinions would be heard."

Senior Whitney Sanders agreed, saying "I don't think it should have been taken away like that, and I think we should have been told about the decision."

Added Senior Jeremiah Wawrzyniak, "I am deeply disturbed that our superintendent would get rid of a tradition that gives spirit and pride to this great school."

Even those who are on the fence with the issue expressed their discontent. "I'm not certain where I stand on it (the Chop)," said senior Nicholas Skarzynski,

"but I do not think it was handled in the best fashion."

Senior Lindsey Wilson seemed to be in a similar frame of mind. "I don't necessarily agree with 'the Chop,'" she said, "but the way it was handled was not appropriate for the situation."

Some students have even had a recent change of heart on the issue, due to what they feel was an inappropriate handling of the decision. "I used to be against it," senior Christian Drew commented while passing in between classes, "but I changed my mind when the school's administration was oppressing the students by forcing us not to do it."

Senior Jordan Boisvert commented directly on the issue of censorship, and duly gave his opinion. "I go either way on 'the Chop,'" Boisvert stated, "but the larger issue is censorship. I think allowing a minority group to make a decision for a majority is undemocratic, and therefore un-American."

Senior David Bennett called the decision "unconstitutional."

"Music does not have the ability to harm others. I feel it being taken away is a form of censorship".

Both sides of the issue will have the ability to be heard before the school committee. While a decision may not be reached as quickly as the students hope, most are determined and hopeful enough that they will again be able to observe and participate in their honored tradition.

Great Falls Middle School 1st Quarter Honors

GRADE 6	Hayley Black	Samuel Danford	Kaineeca Pabon	Carolyn Campbell
	Kathryn Burek	Courtney Eugin	Katerina Sankova	Summer Forcier
FIRST HONORS	Alex Carlisle	Chase Fuller		Shannon Hersey
	Felicia Craver	Jessica Fuller	GRADE 8	Sean Howard
Zachary Battistoni	Zachary Demars	Emma Johnson		Brittany York
Trenton Bourbeau	Jessica Gaines	Sophie Letcher	FIRST HONORS	
Amber Caouette	Matteson Heath	Heather McKenna		THIRD HONORS
Danielle Conant	Makayla Johnson	Katri Mazuli	Meredith Brown	Wyatt Bourbeau
Tyler Douglas	Jade Linscott	Morgan Ozdarski	Katelyn Dodge	Breanna Breault
Liam Ellis	Jacqueline		Shawn Englehardt	Ceara Dolhenty
Alexander	MacConnell	SECOND HONORS	Jasmine Farr-Marcum	Kayla Drumgool
Fitzpatrick	Alexandra Nicotra		Emilee Felton	Alexander
Justin Giguere	Jasmine Richotte	Kathryn Austin	Summer Forest-Bulley	Interlande
Teagan Glenn	Gabrielle Santucci	Elyssa Carner	Troy Langknecht	Jayna Kelly
Spencer Hubert	Matthew Spring	Lauren Grimard	Brendan LeDoyt	Rylen Kelly
Emily Kells	Cole Tognarelli	Meaghan Horan	Brandon Lenois	Lesle Kozma
Ken Leng		Kolbe Martineau	Timothy Meyer	Bethany Laramie
Ian MacPhail	THIRD HONORS	Rayanne Mercure	Abigail Rubin	Lindsay Luippold
Jovanna	Brandon Camara	Tyler Richardson	Christian Sawicki	Jonathan Marguet
McKelvey	Samantha Currier	Nicholas Wells	Dakota Smith-Porter	Daniel
Stephanie	Tristan Kostanski	Hayley Westfall	Kelsey Yolish	McCormack
Robertson	Jeremy Royer	THIRD HONORS		John Ollari
Mackenzie Salls		Danielle Bassett	SECOND HONORS	Andrew Peters
Rachel Savinski	GRADE 7	Benjamin		Hailey Peterson
Zachary Wright		Bocharnikov	Katie Brunell	Connor Roberge
Nicholas York	FIRST HONORS	Ashleigh Lovett	Cody Brunelle	Olivia Tardie
	Meghan Casey	Danielle Loynd		Nala Vaughn
				Tyler Whipple


Montague Elks Contribute to Food Bank

BY JOE ST. PETER - The Montague Elks Lodge presented a check in the amount of \$750 at the annual WHAI food drive for the benefit of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on November 25th. The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts annually distributes over six

million pounds of food to over 400 soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries throughout Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties. The need has never been greater in our communities. Call the Food Bank at 413-247-9738 for more information.

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

SALON 107
\$7.00 cuts
 To all Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizens!
 We are willing to travel to the homes of Elderly who can no longer get out much.
 (Now hiring Massage Therapists & Yoga / Aerobic Instructors)



114 Wells Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301
 772-0284

Debra Mathey - Owner

Pam Veith Real Estate



75 Main Street
 Northfield, MA 01360
 Office: 413-498-0207
 Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
 Home Phone: 413-863-9166
 Home Fax: 413-863-0218
 Email: bedson1@comcast.net

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

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

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

MontagueWebWorks.com



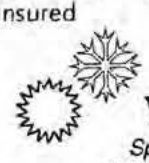
build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

Renaissance Builders

Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413/863-8316
 Fax 413/863-9712
www.rebuild.net

Patrick Smith
 HIC #134741
 Insured



EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
 Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

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

Montague, MA 01351

Sweet Talk on the Ave

Change is the One Constant in Business

BY BRIDGET SWEET

TURNERS FALLS - Economic woes are changing some of the faces, but the complexion of the downtown business scene remains healthy, say business and municipal leaders.

First the bad news:

Patty Cake Patty Cake Bakery at 104 4th Street closed November 7th.



Owner Patty McClelland said she closed "for a lot of reasons, mostly from the economy."

"I still have the kitchen down there and will take cake orders at 413-863-3044," McClelland added.

Meanwhile, Doggie Dips & Clips co-owner Karen Baker also cited the economy as the reason for her move from 62 Avenue A to 27 East Main Street in Millers Falls. Baker said she had been grooming "mostly cats and dogs, some bunny rabbits, guinea pigs and ferrets" for about 13 years.

"The owner of our building needed the space," she said. I tried getting [another] store in Turners. The rent was too high, it was hard."

Although she's seen a drop in her customers since the move, Baker added "Everyone's nice here [in Millers]. I like it."

"We're only three and a half miles away from the top of the Hill," she said, adding that she is looking into joining the Montague Business Association. Doggie Dips & Clips' can be

reached at 413-659-3444. In other downtown business changes, Avenue A Café at 111 Avenue A — under new management and formerly known as Cup O' Joe's — has posted different hours as of November 26th. The café is open Mondays to Fridays from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the kitchen closes at 1 p.m.

Montague Business Association president Pam Kostanski, commenting on Patty Cakes, said the closing of any member business is a matter of "concern." She added with 20 member businesses, the MBA is poised to become a unifying voice.

"We want to keep businesses here, give people places to shop, like a Green Fields Market," she said. "We are having a 'Coffee and Conversation' on January 14th, 2009 at the Hallmark Museum to discuss advertising."

Kostanski can be reached at 413-863-9900, or by cell at 413-522-7727.

Town clerk Debra Bourbeau

said she will "miss Patty Cakes," adding, "They had great lunches and pastries."

Bourbeau cited some good news:

Kharna Salon opened recently at 131 Avenue A.

Right across the street, at 112 Avenue A, Jody Kocsis and Aubrey Lynch are slated to open Absolutely Fabulous Hair.

Up the Hill, Scotty's Convenience Store, was recently bought and will be under new ownership.

Eagle Automotive at 147 2nd Street is taking new customers.

Building Inspector David Jensen had this to add:

J.D. Keating of 56 K Street plans to open a burrito restaurant, along the lines of Greenfield's Mesa Verde, at the old V.F.W. building, which Jensen is in the midst of renovating.

In the meantime, Turners Falls RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol said her downtown arts based economic revitalization program, at 1 Avenue A, remains busy.

"RiverCulture and its partners are going strong with multiple public art projects in the works, a full lineup at the Shea (Theater), Great Falls Discovery Center, Brick House and we're completing a creative economy marketing plan to position us in the county and region," she said. "We're trying to do our part to get new people in and create an attractive environment for new businesses and residents. We're getting ourselves on the map."

Davol said that this bodes well for downtown, despite the economy. "I got a call from a Vermont woman the other day who was charmed by Turners Falls after attending Arts & Leaves, and asked for a local realtor's phone number to look into buying property here," she said.

Check out the calendar at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org, with more than 20 cultural events listed in Turners Falls for the month of December alone. Davol can be reached at 413-230-9910 for further RiverCulture information.

GAME from page 1

officials, but more often at the players themselves. The fans cheered every gain, groaned at every loss and gasped with every big hit.

Turners began the game by beating Greenfield to the punch, running selective plays without a huddle. In one early series, Turners forced their way all the way to the Green nine yard line. However, without a kicker, they were unable to convert, and left the field scoreless. At the end of the second quarter, Turners instituted their two-minute offense and drove the ball 52 yards, ending with a Ben Banash touchdown. However, they were unable to convert the extra point and entered the locker room trailing 7-6.

In the second half, they played just as scrappy. But a combina-

tion of costly turnovers, painful penalties and bad luck left Turners trailing by 7 points late in the fourth quarter with Greenfield in possession of the rock. But the Blue and White dug

"A combination of costly turnovers, painful penalties and bad luck left Turners trailing..."

in. They fought and clawed and forced a punting situation. And with one minute plus left, Opportunity Knocked.

Matt Garber

blocked the punt. Turners was back in business. Their fate was in their own hands. If they scored a touchdown, they could win the game. But the clock kept ticking. At the end of each play, the refs seemed to be moving in slow motion as they set the ball for the next play. And time kept slipping away.

Not only was the clock their enemy but Greenfield was doing all they could to keep Turners out of the end zone. It would have been academic if Turners didn't

keep getting first downs to keep the drive alive. But they did. They kept on moving and worked the clock all the way to the final play of the game. With only six seconds left, Turners Falls was on the Green 10 yard line. And that's when the dream ended. Eric Bastarache's last second toss was picked off in the end zone. And Turners lost the game 13-6.

Although the football team

itself felt crushed, their fans didn't. They clapped and cheered just as hard. "Great game, coach. You did good!" one fan yelled. And as the two teams shook hands at midfield, the fans kept up their encouragement. Cheerleaders, band members and grandparents clapped as the dejected team made their way off the field.

You see, Turners has lost before and may even lose again.

But the score isn't that important. Not really. What's really important, what really matters... is the Gathering of Turners Falls. The folks you haven't seen in years and the ones you may never see again. The old men and little kids, band members, cheerleaders and the players themselves. And of course the families, all there to cheer their team on. What a wonderful, wonderful day.



Ben Banash Shoots the Gap

Rau's Auto
 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
 531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
 24 hour emergency towing
 Best service licensed Mechanics

Diemand Farm Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell

Happy Holidays!
Peace and Joy to All
 Farmstand Hours: 7am-6pm
 Mon-Sat 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Call: 978-544-3806

Gerri Johnson
 CRB, CRS, GRI
 Seniors Real Estate Support

 66 French King Highway
 Gill, MA 01376
 (413) 863-9736
 Fax (413) 863-9739




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

Good Dirt Pottery Studio
 Clay is Good Dirt
 38 Main Street, Montague
 413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com


PETER WATERS
 HOUSE PAINTING
 Interior Exterior **978-544-6534** Wendell MA

BUDGET from page 1

officials of the DESE's budget determination. Thirty minutes later, Roche was able to pause in his day long enough to comment, "It appears to me the Commissioner has been listening very closely to the district and the towns. He seems to have found a middle ground."

In his letter, Chester informed GMRSD school committee chair Mary Kociela that he had set a budget for the GMRSD \$40,000 lower than the \$16.666 million budget the school committee carried to the second district meeting on November 18th (rejected by a vote of 171 - 46), but \$210,000 higher than the budget recommended by a majority of the selectboards and finance committees of Gill and Montague at that meeting. The budget set by Commissioner Chester was \$16,625,875.

[For the full text of Chester's letter, see page 4.]

Although the town of Montague will be forced to raise an additional \$188,000 to cover the town's assessment and meet the Commissioner's budget, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said on Wednesday, "We're happy, after so many months of debate and conflict, to finally have a budget.

Everybody was working their best to support education without driving the towns into fiscal insolvency."


However, Abbondanzio added, "The budget is still not as low as it needs to be in order to be sustainable."

Tracy Rogers, administrative assistant for the town of Gill, said the Commissioner's budget would require Gill to fund an assessment of \$1,375,580, \$36,218 more than town meeting approved to fund the regional schools in May. The town is already facing a budget gap of about \$105,000 this year.

Rogers said she was hoping to hear soon about a promised 'Pothole' grant from the DESE to mitigate Gill's financial predicament.

Montague finance committee chair John Hanold said the Montague selectboard voted unanimously on Wednesday evening to recommend to town meeting an appropriation of \$2,870 from the education stabilization fund (leaving zero in that account) and \$185,294 from the town's regular stabilization fund (leaving about \$130,000 in that account) in order to meet the new assessment figure. The finance committee voted 3 - 1 against the proposal.

Hanold said Abbondanzio warned the town boards Wednesday evening that if the town meeting followed the finance committee and failed to fund the assessment required by the Commissioner's budget, the state would probably deduct from state aid the difference between what Montague has already appropriated for the GMRSD budget and the amount required by the Commissioner's budget. In the meantime, the town administrator said, the town would not be able to produce a balanced budget, set a tax rate, and send out tax bills, which could lead to more short term borrowing and a cash flow crunch.

For his part, Roche was looking ahead to the next budget cycle, due to start next month. "If there was some way we could have an early agreement with the towns for next year's budget — the state would have to weigh in also — but it would enable us to focus on education and also on regional education issues, which will require a great deal of energy and cooperation and time. I hope we can focus on these issues rather than resume our places in the budget negotiations where we ended them." 

MEETING from page 7

change order for \$50,804 for code compliance work at the wastewater treatment plant, to install gas detection system upgrades and audio/visual alarms in the electrical room.

Superintendent Bob Trombley said there will be more change orders coming, but the combined sewer overflow project and treatment plant upgrades should be completed by the end of winter. Trombley told the board the project should wind up with \$400,000 left over. Since that final money comes from a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, Trombley and the board have been in agreement it should be spent to add back some of the items taken out of the project for cost control two years ago, particularly to reduce operational costs in sludge handling.

Everyone at the meeting spoke hopefully about the prospects of receiving federal funds to augment the CSO and waste water treatment plant upgrades, once the Obama administration gets into office, and Congress has a chance to work on an economic stimulus plan for infrastructure projects nationwide.

Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the department of public works, advised that a parking ban on Montague streets was now in effect from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Bergeron received board approval to join his department outside of his scheduled work day, as need arises, to plow and sand, at the rate of \$25 an hour.

"We all know you are short staffed. You do an excellent job," said board member Pat Allen.

Bergeron said his department had returned to a five-day work week, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the duration of the winter storm season.

He said the sidewalk reconstruction project had come to a halt for the season, with no determination about the fate of a disputed tree on Center Street in Montague Center. "It's still standing," he said.

He said the contractors have done a good job on the sidewalks, and on the new traffic island in front of Scotty's on the Hill in Turners Falls. "No one's crashed into it yet."

Abbondanzio said proposals were due December 31st for a request for proposals for a feasibility study to look at options for reuse of the Montague Center School.

LANDFILL from page 1

players in the local waste incinerator market who might have been interested in bidding on a Montague landfill RFP. Now, since Covanta Energy purchased Energy Answers' Springfield incinerator, along with its other regional facilities in 2007, "There is only one company now," that would be likely to bid on Montague's RFP, Ameen said, assuming disposal of municipal solid waste was still prohibited.

In that case, Ameen suggested it might be possible to use a "sole source bid" to allow Covanta to make its best offer on the site, since the town retains the right to reject any bid considered inadequate.

State law concerning the privatization of landfills does not specify that Chapter 30-B bidding processes be followed, Abbondanzio said, although vendors who were surveyed followed Montague's last failed landfill RFP process indicated a strong preference for the competitive bidding process, since it offered some protections not otherwise available to the vendors who might be interested in the site.

Among the positives noted for

developing the Turnpike Road site for disposal of incinerator ash, Abbondanzio noted that the compact nature of the waste product would leave the site more readily available for eventual reuse for other development, when the landfill site's estimated capacity of two million cubic yard capacity was reached.

Ameen pointed out that landfills for municipal solid waste were far less stable sites for eventual reuse. "The Holyoke Mall is sinking because the trash (on the landfill beneath it) is settling," Ameen said. With incinerator ash landfills, "You have a buildable site; no landfill gasses."

But still, there is the matter of truck traffic to the site, an issue Cromack said he had heard about from a number of people who had talked to him about the potential of developing a new landfill in the center of town. Abbondanzio said estimates from vendors who had been interested in developing the site in years past had ranged upwards from 17 trucks traveling to and from the site a day for up to 20 years.

In the past, highway superintendent Bergeron had indicated the only feasible route

for truck traffic to and from the site was down Avenue A to Turnpike Road. Pruitt noted the Gill-Montague Bridge could be limited to one lane traffic for a number of years during reconstruction of the bridge deck.

Boutwell noted a new entrance point to the town's landfill site might now be available via the land Montague purchased near the new police station. "You'd just have to get it past the police and fire department," he said. "No one in the cemeteries would complain."

Bergeron said there was another possible access route off Greenfield Road, but large trucks could not make it underneath the railroad overpass in Cheapside, in Greenfield to make it to that point.

Abbondanzio spoke of a possible increase in the revenue potential of the DEP-approved landfill since the last round of negotiations with interested vendors. Four years ago, estimates for what the town might hope to gain in revenue from leasing the site centered around Covanta's proposal, at \$500,000 a year for 20 years, with the company also willing to relieve the town of the responsibility of disposing of the

sludge from the town's water treatment plant, an annual cost to Montague averaging about \$350,000, Abbondanzio said.

He said the inclusion of handling the town's sludge, and also the inclusion of capping the town's old burn dump to DEP standards probably turned off a number of vendors who might otherwise have bid on the RFP in 2005. He recommended not including those two aspects in a future landfill RFP.

The town is exploring other ways of reducing sludge handling costs, but it is still on the hook for capping the old burn dump, adjacent to the landfill site. A 2002 study by Tighe and Bond estimated it may cost Montague \$300,000 to \$1 million to cap the burn dump.

Following the meeting, Garrison posted a message on the www.montaguema.net website seeking suggestions from town residents of other possible end uses for the landfill site. It read, in part,

"The easy solution is to accept ash from municipal waste incinerators which could generate \$500 K a year in revenue for the capital fund. But it is neither clean nor green. Cash for Ash is too simplistic and

leaves a nasty footprint in the center of our community. So the challenge is to come up with alternative ideas for the site that are hopefully based on renewable technology or green technology, that will generate, or save, the town money.

"Some ideas that have been put out there have been a solar farm, wind farm or industrial park... I will be looking across the business spectrum to see what's hot, green and can provide a recurring revenue stream. It will be tough to match the \$500K that ash can provide but I truly believe there is a better solution for the site that Montague can be proud of," he wrote.

Pruitt and Cromack also spoke of the need to explore other possible uses for the site, with Cromack suggesting that a project with a lower annual revenue stream that had the potential to outlast a 20-year landfill proposal might be a better solution.

Abbondanzio said he would recommend any revenue from the development of the site be dedicated to a capital fund to provide for the town's deferred and unmet infrastructure needs.



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

The Gill Store & Tavern

Now Serving
Lunch and Dinner
Wed - Sat 11 - 11
Sunday Brunch
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Lunch and Dinner Specials Daily
Seafood - Vegetarian - Local Beef
Individual Grilled Pizzas
and More!
Full Bar with People's Pint Beer on Tap
Bottled Beers, Complete Wine List,
Daily Drink Specials

Main Road Gill Center
413-863-9006

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

Antique Clocks
Bought & Sold

BOB PACY
WILL TRAVEL

(781) 438-8489
(508) 633-2552

NAWCC No. 0101315
STONEHAM, MA 02180



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *This may sound bizarre to you, but I think there are prostitutes visiting a senior-citizen housing project near my home. Could I be imagining this?*

I don't find this bizarre at all. People without partners who still desire sex have been known to order home delivery. I suspect that you are having trouble believing your eyes because you don't think older men and women are having sex. And, if that's what you think, you are mistaken.

A recent survey of 3,005 U.S. adults between 57 and 85 published in the New England Journal of Medicine found there's a lot of love after the bloom. Here's a breakdown of those reporting they were sexually active:

- 73 percent between the ages of 57 and 64
- 53 percent between the ages of 65 and 74
- 26 percent between the ages of 75 and 85

But, the sex wasn't always easy. Half the survey respondents reported at least one problem.

The leading obstacle for women was low sexual desire (43%). The top problem for men was erectile dysfunction (37%).

But there's more. As a woman ages, her vagina becomes thinner, less flexible and drier, so intercourse can be painful. Older men

suffer from reduced libido, too. Both men and women can have trouble climaxing.

Then there are illnesses - and the medications to treat them - that can get in the way of a night, matinee, or morning of passion. These illnesses include heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, hormone abnormalities, and emotional difficulties.

Fortunately for seniors, today there is better sex through chemistry. Men can treat their erection problems with drugs such as Viagra, Levitra and Cialis. Women can make sex more comfortable with over-the-counter lubricants, vaginal inserts and hormone supplements. Other treatments for erectile dysfunction include vacuum devices, injections and penile implants.

"We need to take time to make love to our partners," explains

Robert Schwalbe, PhD, a New York psychoanalyst and author of, *Sixty, Sexy, and Successful*. "We need to cuddle and kiss. If you like oral sex, now is the time to do it more. Now is also the time to give long full body massages and to use lotions and lubricants. You may very well find out adapting your sex life in this way results in more satisfying sex rather than less satisfying sex."

Honest communication between partners is critically important to relationships as we get older and our bodies change. Couples can drift apart over misunderstandings about emotional and physical needs. Speak up.

Discussing senior sex in the media was simply not done until those crazy and liberating 1960s, when Masters and Johnson published their findings on sex. But, today, even though there has been

substantial research about sex among the elderly, there are still lingering misunderstandings about the subject.

The research has found the following among seniors:

- Sexual interest and the need for sexual contact continue throughout the life cycle
- For many, sexual satisfaction increases

Regular sexual activity is standard when a partner is available

Most elderly believe that sex contributes to both physical and psychological health.

Physical capacity for male and female orgasm continues almost indefinitely

Sexual practices are varied and include oral sex and masturbation in addition to intercourse

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezers.com

Granny Lore

The Dreaded Flu Season, Part II



ILLUSTRATION: WEBSTER'S ONLINE DICTIONARY

BY KAREN ADAMS

TURNERS FALLS - So you've done your best to reduce stress and make yourself stronger. But you're starting to feel as if you might be coming down with something. You're feeling tired, maybe a bit achy. Your nose is

getting stuffy, your throat scratchy. Have you got the flu?

Not necessarily. You might just have a bad cold. Flu symptoms are the same as cold symptoms, but more intense. The flu generally comes on faster, stays longer and hurts more. Beyond that, you can treat them the same way.

Both colds and flu are caused by viruses, although the viruses that cause colds are a different set than those that cause flu. In a sense, these viruses are opportunistic. They take advantage of a weakened system.

When we are excessively fatigued, worried, have not dressed for the weather, have overindulged or have any dishar-

mony that lowers our resistance, the virus moves in, usually in the area of the nose and throat. The body reacts by forming mucous to rinse away the invader and increases body temperature to catalyze the healing process, also known as fever.

The battle between your own Qi or life force and the Qi of the virus produces chills, aches and pains that move around in the muscles and joints, headaches, fatigue and sometimes cough. All these symptoms are signs that our bodies are doing what they are supposed to be doing: fighting off the disease.

Within reason, we are supposed to have a fever; that is the body's attempt to 'burn off' the virus. We are supposed to have a runny nose and a cough, because that gets rid of the invader. In Chinese medicine, it is under-

stood that if we unduly suppress the symptoms, we are choosing not to repel the pathogens.

We certainly don't want the virus to travel further into the body's interior (to the lungs, say, causing pneumonia). We want to do everything possible to move things out, as quickly as possible while we're strong enough. Unfortunately, this will not be pleasant.

So first step: *go to bed*. Do not go to work. Do not clean the house. Please, please try to stay home. The flu is highly contagious.

Second step: *stay in bed*. Colds will last a few days, the flu can last at least a week. One of the reasons you feel so lousy is because your body wants you to rest. If you go to bed, you are using all your resources to win the battle.

There are lots of remedies for managing the flu that predate the last century and the Era of Miracle Drugs that Actually Won't Cure the Flu or the Common Cold. My personal favorite is ginger tea. Ginger is very warming; it can help break a fever (which is the sign that you have won the battle!). Four to five slices of fresh ginger simmered in a quart of water for 20 minutes produces enough for two cups of tea. You can add honey and lemon to the tea. Honey will soothe the throat, and help fight the viruses; lemon reputedly makes the body more acidic, which the viruses don't like.

In any case, drink lots and lots — of water, broths and juices. This will help flush the system, thin the mucous so it will pass.

If you have a cough, try to see **GRANNY** pg. 14

RISTORANTE Di Paolo
FINE ITALIAN DINING
Denise DiPaolo, Owner
Hilton Dottin, Chef
TEL 413-863-4441
FAX 413-863-4421
166 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.ristorantedipaolo.com

GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles
Locally Owned for 27 Years
413-774-5517
335 High St., Greenfield
LALautosales.com

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"
We engrave memories that last forever
MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

RENAISSANCE PAINTING
"LICENSED, INSURED"
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES • POWER WASHING
BRIAN McCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896

Ann Forslund REALTOR®
Prudential
Prime Properties
3.5 East Main Street, Orange, MA 01364
Bus: 978-544-9000 Fax: 978-544-9099
Cell: 413-422-8542 www.prudentialorange.com
serving Franklin County & North Quabbin areas
Offering A Fresh Start for Home and Life

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated Insurance
25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

LOGOS & BRANDING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
WEB SITES
COPY WRITING
BUSINESS STRATEGY
INTERNET MARKETING
MISSION & VISION
H2O
BOYSEN HODGSON
413 303 9193
www.h2o-m.com

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
774-7775
Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access
VARIETY OF SIZES PLENTY AVAILABLE
OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Renaissance Excavating
COMPLETE SITE WORK
• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
MAIN ROAD, GILL
DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

JEP'S PLACE: Part C1

Burn Doctor



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - We got a new car a year or two after the barn burned. It all came about when Pa went out to drive the tan Essex to work. The engine ran but the wheels would not move. Pa went off to

work on foot. A fellow worker picked him up and dropped him off for a few days.

Meanwhile, I got badly burned when I was horsing around. Even though I was way too big to be acting like a little kid, I was under the kitchen stove with Louis. It was a fairly high legged stove and I was able to squeeze underneath it. I crawled out the front of the stove just as Gladys was getting a kettle of boiling water. She tended to react dramatically in situations like this, and dropped the kettle of boiling water on my back. I jumped up screaming, and reached around to put my hand on my back. My shirt stuck to my back, imprinting the image of my hand. Some of the skin came off along with the shirt.

When Pa came home, I begged him to take me to a doctor. He didn't reply.

The next day after he left for the mill, Ma said, "Pa will bring the doctor home with him when he comes home from work." In the meantime Ma slathered the burn with salted butter. The salt only made the blistered skin hurt worse. All day, I waited.

That night, when my father came in the house a man followed him. "Here's Pa with the doctor," Ma said.

Both of the men smelled of beer. The 'doctor' needed a shave and his clothes were soiled with grease. He held out a jar of Noxema.

"Here, kid, I brung you some medicine."

The man started smearing the cream on my back with his dirty hand, but Irene, who had not left home yet, took the jar from him

and said she'd do it. The 'doctor' left and Pa sat down to supper.

The next day, Pa went off on foot to Howe's garage in Riverside. He returned with Mr. Howe's son Kenny, who informed Pa that the Essex's cork-faced clutch had shredded into crumbs and now lay at the bottom of the clutch housing.

"The clutch could be replaced but would cost more than the car is worth," Kenny said.

"Better to junk it," Pa said, seeming to rejoice at the bad news.

I hated to see our friend go to the scrap yard. But Pa apparently saw it as an opportunity to buy a new car with a clear conscience.

Pa got in Kenny's car, and off they went. A used car salesman gave Pa a ride home. In the days that followed, salesmen began arriving to show Pa cars. Pa

picked a sleek Ford V-8. He became very animated as he told of his shrewd dealings with car salesmen as he tried out different cars. He rejected them all, until he spotted the black beauty that now stood in the yard. It had plenty of power, speed, and style, he said. And now, having outfoxed the used car weasels, the car was his — his and the bank's, anyway. But he quickly went on to talk about the nice heater and defroster. No more freezing to death as we did in the Essex, he said. The one thing he neglected to consider was that it had mechanical brakes, notorious for their poor braking ability. I wondered how much Pa's friend Charlie's boasting about his powerful Ford V-8 truck had influenced Pa. I suspected it had more than a little to do with it.

— *Continued Next Week*

Jep's Place will be on sale at the Christmas arts and crafts fair Dec. 6th - 14th at the Brick House (the old fire station on Third Street), and at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. It is also on sale at Baker Supply, the Visitor Center and World Eye Books in Greenfield, and at Mim's Market in Northfield. Here is a Christmas present that can be opened again and again.

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

FOR SALE - Native American Flute for Sale. A beautiful cedar flute with pure, deep tones. Hand-carved by local artisan and flutist Werner John - he calls this flute the Winnepesaukee. Bought new for \$450 (including case) and rarely used. Will sell for \$200 or B.O. Please call 413-625-2550.

FOR SALE - 1997 SAAB TURBO, Excellent condition. 98,000 miles, many extras. N.A.D.A. retail price: \$4,200. Four doors, hatchback. Green with tan leather interior. Please call 413-367-9149.

BUSINESS FOR SALE - Plow Frau & Bow

Wow is a VERY successful "clean-out, hauling, and snow plowing" business. Community oriented, environmentally friendly, FUN, interesting, and unique. Please call Sita for details: (413) 834-7569.

HOBBY SHOP - Inventory for sale: Bird Houses, Whirly Birds, Jelly Cabinets, Towel Holders, Quartz Clocks, Napkin Holders. 7 Meadow Drive, Riverside, Gill. Call: Charles Shebell, 413-863-2465

CARPENTRY - No Job Too Small - General Carpentry and home repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, (413) 863-9296.

CLASSIFIEDS: \$6 FOR 20 WORDS (15 cts./extra word) RUN SAME AD TWICE, THIRD WEEK FREE MONTAGUE REPORTER 58 FOURTH STREET TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

.15 for each additional word			

Check enclosed for _____ for _____ weeks.
Name _____ Phone _____

and running the shower can also help. You can also create steam by boiling water, and inhaling *after* you take the water off the stove. In this case, you can add ginger or eucalyptus to the water.

My favorite treatment for sore throats: add a pinch of cayenne pepper to an eight ounce glass of water. Gargle with this mixture, then gargle with pineapple juice. Continue to alternate until the water is gone. It feels like the

cayenne water strips all the yuck off your tonsils, while the pineapple juice is lovely and soothing to the throat.

Mustard plasters are another remedy favored by Grannies throughout the centuries. Turns out, mustard is loaded with antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, which makes it very useful in fighting the flu. Mix one tablespoon dry mustard with two to four

tablespoons flour, and either an egg white and water or just water until you have a paste that has the consistency of the mustard you put on your burger. Use two handkerchiefs; smear one with the paste and put the second on top, like making a sandwich. Rub a bit of olive oil on your chest and put the handkerchiefs on top of that. Check regularly because mustard can burn the skin. Remove after a few minutes and make sure there are no traces of mustard on the skin.

Call the doctor if: the fever — for anyone — is over 105° or doesn't respond to treatment. If the patient is a baby under six months, call if the fever gets over 101°. Call if the fever stays high for three days, or if you have a lingering cough or a cough that gets worse. If other symptoms include a stiff neck, irritability, confusion or difficulty breathing that doesn't ease with treatment, check in with your health care provider. You can expect to feel exhausted for up to a week after the worst flu symptoms have subsided. If you still feel exhausted after that time, check with your health care provider.

Karen Adams is a local acupuncturist and a grandmother. You can reach her with your remedies by email at kradams1@verizon.net, or at her clinic: 863-0088.

MCTV PROGRAM SCHEDULE 12/5 - 12/9

Friday, December 5th 8:00 AM Reconciliation Ceremony 8:30 AM Red Cross Prevent Home Fires 9:00 AM Songs For Wee People 10:00 AM Silly Wizard Fantasy Fish 11:01 AM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 11:30 AM Tapping Maple Ridge 12:02 PM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 12:30 PM the epics at the vous 1:30 PM The Spirit of Lake Pleasant 3:00 PM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 3:30 PM The Western MASS Democrat 4:00 PM Thomas Jefferson 4:30 PM TWD Sexual Abuse Healing 5:30 PM Women Girls & HIV: African American Women 6:00 PM White House Chronicles 7:00 PM GMRSD 11/25/08 11:00 PM GCC Talent Show Saturday, December 6th 8:00 AM Enjoy the Ride 9:00 AM Exploring New Worlds in New England 9:30 AM Fate of the Stallion 10:00 AM FCHC Estate Planning 11:30 AM Franklin County Matters Cogeneration 12:30 PM Independent Voices 44 1:00 PM Falls Table Mike Ryan 2:00 PM Mik TV with Joe Landry pt1 2:30 PM Naturalist Laurie Sanders 3:30 PM On the Ridge Keith McCormic 4:00 PM Peoples Harvest1 5:30 PM Physician focus Emergency Prep 6:00 PM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 6:30 PM Poetry Music Jam for Montague Reporter from the Vou 7:30 PM Preachin the Blues 8:30 PM The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion 10:10 PM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 10:30 PM Sculpture Fest "08" Firedance 11:18 PM Montague	Sunday, December 7th 8:00 AM Montague Update Arts & Icicles 8:30 AM Naturalist Laurie Sanders 9:30 AM Friends present Fall town string band 11:30 AM Carlos Anderson Cost of Freedom 12:30 PM Cal Ripken Baseball 2:00 PM Child and Family: Children's Mental Health 2:30 PM Chronicles Mass for Jason Ball. 3:30 PM Coffee House Joe Graveline 4:30 PM Common Man: Eric Goodchild 5:30 PM Flight 6:00 PM An Inside Look into Iran 9:00 PM Along the River 11:30 PM Franklin County Matters Center for Self Reliance Monday, December 8th 8:00 AM Silly Wizard 9:00 AM Mighty Minds 10:00 AM Skin N Bonz 11:30 AM Surviving the Vernon Reactor 12:30 PM The Flow of Time 1:30 PM The Western Mass Dem: Chris Forgey 2:30 PM Deer Hunting Tips 101 Part 2 3:00 PM On the Ridge Turkey Hunting 2008 3:30 PM Over The Falls Local Fiber Farms 4:00 PM Physician Focus 5:00 PM Positive Pro iies in Courage 6:00 PM Over The Falls The Eddie in Eddies Wheels 7:00 PM Select Board (Live) 10:30 PM Turkey Day Game 2008 Tuesday, December 9th 8:00 AM TWB Ergonomics 9:00 AM Underground Railway Concert 07 10:30 AM Valley Idol Semi Finals 2008 12:57 PM Valley Idol Finals 2008 3:30 PM The White House Chronicle #2 5:00 PM Wisdom Way Solar Village 6:00 PM GMRSD District Wide Budget Meeting 11/18/08 9:00 PM GMRSD 11/25/08
--	---

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

HK

HallKeen
Real Estate Management and Investment

Power Town Apartments
152 Avenue A
P.O. Box 48
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Tel: 413.863.9433
TTY: 800.439.0183
Email: hkptown@verizon.net

Dillon
CHEVROLET
54 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

BOB ANDERSON
Sales Representative

(413) 773-3678
FAX (413) 774-5746

SILVERADO

Tognarelli

HEATING & COOLING

123 Avenue A • Turners Falls MA 01376

Specializing in oil heating alternatives
Pellet Stoves • Gas Conversion Burners
Financing Available

YORK 413-863-2295 **SPACEPAK**
Central Air - Anywhere

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.)

GREENFIELD
EST. 1996

Veterinary Clinic

Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.

18 French King Highway
Greenfield

Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

Come sit by the fire!

Route 2 • Gill
413-863-8210

BERKSHIRE BREWING BEER NOW AVAILABLE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Writers' Night Out* featuring Bob Flaherty. His semi-autobiographical novel *Puff*, set in the aftermath of the Blizzard of '78, was published by HarperCollins in 2005 and has been optioned as a movie. Flaherty reads from his new work and talks about novelistic approaches to news stories and his one man show — "Bob Flaherty in Effigy" — and the tightrope dance of performing comedic monologues while maintaining impartiality as a reporter.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mass Production*. Simon White, Joe Cunningham & Christian Marano make this reggae night something special! 9:30-11:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance or Die*, indie-electro djs, \$3 cover.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th

At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Seasonal Nature Crafts with Rachel Roberts. For all ages! 1 to 2 p.m.

Juried Craft Fair at Greenfield Center School. Admissions Open House: tours, meet teachers, current parents and students, gift-making workshops for children ages 3 - 12. Silent Auction with over 40 works of art and fine craft from the region's best-known artists. 10 to 4 p.m. www.centerschool.net.

Montague Community Band Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m. Held at First Congregational Church, L St. Turners.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Town Hall: Full Moon Follies. A feast of music, spoken word, belly dance, and good company; all to benefit the Wendell Free Library. Guests include guitarist Francis Doughty, Richard Chase &

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

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



Chiara String Quartet plays Chamber Music in Any Chamber: *Rebecca Fischer, Julie Yoon violin; Jonah Sirota, viola; Gregory Beaver, cello. Chiara is continually finding new meaning within pieces from the well-established quartet canon. Their style is best described as a nonstop journey to the edge of expressive possibility. "Luminous," "Searing," (New York Times) "Soulful," "Biting," and possessing a "potent collective force" (Strings Magazine). Saturday, December 6th at 8 p.m. at the Montague Bookmill, Montague Center, \$12 admission.*

Co., north Quabbin's talented youth ensemble 'Ned Zebner', Hadama and Shalom Habibi, Paul Richmond. 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$15 at the door; kids 6-12 \$2; under 6 free. www.wendellfullmoon.org.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Chiara String Quartet*. The group presents exhilarating contemporary works for newcomers and committed chamber music fans alike. 8 p.m., \$12.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blame It On Tina, 9 to 11 p.m. They are back at the Deja Brew! That's right, Wendell's fav's; Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser and Tina Horn.

At Suzee's Laundromat *Lost and Found Fashion Show* Big Screen Simulcast and Dance after party at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls.

Rte. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Rock & roll with *Dan Lawson Band* from Boston, 9:30 p.m.

Amherst Symphony Orchestra performs at 8 p.m. in Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College. Tchaikovsky's colorful Nutcracker Suite and Prokofiev's captivating tale of Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Benson Lieber. \$8/\$4 for seniors and children 12 and under. Reservations: concerts@amherst.edu.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6th & 7th
Arts & Icicles Open Studio Walking Tour, Turners Falls (come early, stay late!)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
Big Band to begin holiday season in Montague: Nationally recognized drum-

mer Gregory Caputo and his acclaimed 18 piece big band ring in the holiday season with *Classic Christmas*. Turners Falls High School Theater, Turners Falls. Tickets \$15 in advance at: Scotty's Convenience Store, World Eye Bookshop, or call Sandy at TFHS 863-7218, or www.theg-mef.org At door: \$20.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lost and Found Fashion Show* Charity Auction, 3 p.m. Then at 6 p.m. **TRUCKERS ON LOVE**, a short film by Léa Donnan. Filmed at the Whately Diner, long haul truckers share their impressions of life, love and lovelessness. Followed by Comedy Open Mic w/ Shawn Smith & featured comic Bill Murphy, 8 p.m.

Northfield Mount Hermon School: *Christmas Vespers Service*. Readings, carols both traditional and eclectic, choral and instrumental music. in Memorial Chapel. Selections from Handel's Messiah, Renaissance motets by Palestrina and Vinci, as well as music by Liszt, Grainger and Brahms. Free, 3:30 & 7 p.m. www.nmhschool.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Evening Sing-a-Long, Montague Center Library, 6:30 p.m. Children's librarian Linda Hickman plays guitar and banjo and performs a variety of children's music. Info: call the Carnegie Library 863-3214 during the week, or the Montague Center Library, 367-2852, on Monday evenings.

Slope Editions is proud to host a free poetry reading featuring Kristin Bock, C.S. Carrier and Katy Lederer at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls at 7 p.m. www.rendezvousffma.com.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Joe Law* on Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th
Deja Brew, Wendell: rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce, *Free Rangel* 60's & 70's Oldie Cover Tunes.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wildwood Unplugged*, Indie Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls presents *Back in the Day Night Variety Show* hosted by Lenny Zarcone of the *The Wright Brothers* comedy troupe, 7 p.m. Performers include percussionist Drew Hutchison, singer Sam Boyden, juggler Rob Peck, and hula hoop artist extraordinaire Shenandoah Slutser. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with coffee & homemade baked goods. Museum Store open during intermission. Donation \$6 - \$12, children free.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Flashlight w/ DJs Studebaker Hawk and Andujar, \$3 cover, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12th & 13th
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Wuthering Heights*, 1939, b & w, directed by William Wyler, 7:30 p.m.; music before at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th
At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: seasonal nature crafts with Rachel Roberts. For all ages! 1 to 2 p.m.



Lenny Zarcone of the Wright Brothers comedy troupe hosts "Back in the Day Night Variety Show" at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Friday, December 12th, at 7pm. Bring the whole family for a fabulous evening of music & song, hula hooping, juggling, comedy, and more!

Also crafting on 12/20.

Tree Decorating, Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls from 4:30 - 6 p.m. sponsored by the Montague Business Association. We'll decorate an evergreen tree set up in the bandshell. Free refreshments. Seasonal musical entertainment and a visit from Santa. Bring any type of ornament to decorate; homemade ornaments encouraged.

Recover Project: 5th Annual Winter Dance, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson Street, Greenfield. \$5 suggested donation, 12 and under free. Family friendly, drug & alcohol free. Light refreshments for sale. Benefit for *Adopt-a-Family* program. Music by DJ Laurie B.

Make-It-Yourself family craft fair, Montague Center Grange. Affordable, guided craft activities for all ages! Cool jewelry, boxes, beeswax candles, painted glass ornaments, gnomes, paper crafts, picture frames, lavender sachets, and more. Warm food and baked goods available. 10 - 3 p.m. Montague Grange & CISA's Senior Farm Share benefit. 367-9608, lauriedavidson@verizon.net

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Voo and Ryan & Casey Bourbon Tasting with Bok Choy Jazz, 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic Folk/ Singer Songwriter,

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

Dora Baci
Cafe & Pub
Great Food
Fine Wine

Friday, 12/5, 9 - 11 p.m.
Reggae with *Mass Production*
Saturday, 12/6, 9 - 11 p.m.
Blame It On Tina
Wednesday, 12/10, 8-10 p.m.
Joe Law on Guitar
Thursday, 12/11, 8-10 p.m.
60's & 70's Covers: *Free Range*

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

9 to 11 p.m.
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th TO 14th
Welcome Yule: A Midwinter Celebration. Music, dance, songs and stories celebrating the return of the light. A show for all ages at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 12/12 & 12/13 at 7:30 p.m. and 12/14 at 2 p.m. \$10/\$7 for seniors & children, four & under free. Reserve tickets at (413) 863-2281. Info. (413) 772-2213 or check www.welcomeyule.org.

ONGOING
At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Winning entries of the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp competition on display through December 13th.

Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 by Paul Caponigro in Gallery 52 & 56, Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Gallery 85: Lois Greenfield - Celestial Bodies, Infernal Souls. Through Dec. 14th.

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for
Friday, Dec. 5th - Thursday, Dec. 11th

- BOLT**
DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG
MATINEE, FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3
- CHANGELING** R DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:00
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3
- MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2**
AFRICA DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3
- QUANTUM OF SOLACE** PG13
DAILY 6:40 9:20
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- TWILIGHT**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- FOUR CHRISTMASSES** PG13
DAILY 7:00 9:30 DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- TRANSPORTER 3**
DAILY 7:00 9:30 DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

The Rendezvous
WE HAVE GIFT CARDS!

GREAT FOOD,
12 HOURS A DAY, 13 ON WEEKENDS!

FRI: 12/5 | 9:30PM | \$3
DANCE OR DIE (indie-electro djs)

SAT: 12/6 | ALL NIGHT |
Suzee's Lost + Found Fashion Show
BIG SCREEN simulcast and
festivities + Dance Afterparty!!!

SUN: 12/7 |
3PM: Lost + Found Fashion Show
Charity Auction
6PM: Léa Donnan's "Truckers on
Love" Screening
8PM: Comedy Open Mic w/ Shawn
Smith + feat. comic Bill Murphy

LUNCH + BRUNCH!!
FREE WiFi - Always!

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS, MA
RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM
TEL: 413-863-2866

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

UPINNGIL
411 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354
413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8 - 7.
Fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter.
Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.
Pick-your-own fruit and farm stand vegetables seasonally.

HANDYMAN FOR HIRE
Home Repairs & Weatherization

TODD MULLER
978-544-7040
"One Call Does It All"

Serving the entire
Montague Reporter
readership area

HIC# 149347

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 • 888-763-3443
cruise.travel@verizon.net

The Bell Tolls for Earth



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

Reverend Barbara Delisle of the First Congregational Church in Montague Center

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

MONTAGUE - Beginning at approximately 11 a.m. this Sunday, December 7th, the bell at the First Congregational Church in Montague Center will ring 350 times, as part of a

Massachusetts initiative to inform citizens of the ever-increasing peril of global warming. Heading up the local effort to spread the news about the challenge to our planet's ecological well being is the church's

hand bells, plus unaffiliated cow bells and jingle bells. We welcome every type of bell our members and the community would like to bring along to help us spread our message."

The number of '350 bell

energetic new pastor, Barbara Turner Delisle.

Sunday's bell ringing will begin following the usual 10 a.m. services.

"We will have a procession to the outside of the church," said Reverend Delisle. "Then we will ring the bell in the tower of the church along with a choir of

rings' carries an enormous significance, according to Reverend Delisle.

"The number '350' refers to the normal amount of carbon dioxide in parts per million in our atmosphere. Today our CO2 is up to 385 parts per million, and the amount is rising every day." Experts in atmospheric science like NASA's James Hansen say we must reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or face catastrophic climate change.

The environmental bell ringing campaign is the brainchild of Rev. Jim Antal, president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the United Church of Christ, who challenged the more than 400 UCC churches in the state to raise awareness of the Earth's deteriorating atmospheric condition. The Reverend Antal's initiative invited at least 350 of the parishes to ring their bells for 350 times by December 15th, 2008, the 350th day of year.

The Reverend Delisle is greatly encouraged by the response in her church, but also feels the ripples of Reverend Antal's plan building momen-

tum outside Massachusetts.

Two Montague church members have sent word to confirm this. Diane Hansen was visiting a church in Scotland recently, where the Massachusetts bell ringing effort was already known. And Susan Dresser saw an email Reverend Delisle had sent to a Virginia church on the same subject.

Reverend Delise is proud of her church's commitment to raising environmental awareness. "We have a vibrant congregation dedicated to helping people in our community," she said. "Our members are passionately involved in serving others and following the mission of Christ, which is simply to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick."

In addition, Reverend Delise feels the '350 initiative' fits in well with the local church's goal of a good, just stewardship of our Earth. "To love God and your neighbor as yourself," the pastor said, "dictates that your attention be paid to the well-being of others. We need to care for our Earth and its inhabitants."

WENDELL HOLIDAY FAIR BENEFITS CHILDREN'S MUSIC

BY BARBARA CARUSO - Local artists, crafters, farmers and musicians will gather at the Wendell town hall on Wendell Common on Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th to celebrate the fourth annual Wendell Holiday Fair. Admission and parking are free. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All profits generated from the fair will be donated for the Swift River School music department, which serves the children of New Salem and Wendell. The entire community has joined together to create a joyful and fun event.

Come shop, support the local economy, and find exquisitely hand-crafted artwork, prints, paintings, pottery, jewelry, clothing, natural body care products, organic teas and herbs, special toys, wooden crafts, blown glass, and one-of-a-kind items priced for all budgets.

On both days, local musicians will perform holiday music between noon and 4 p.m. This year, performers at the Wendell Holiday Fair will be generously donating their stipends to the music department fundraiser.

Come hungry and enjoy a gourmet luncheon catered by Wendell's own Diemand Farm. Lunch will be provided between noon and 2 p.m. each day, first come, first served, and guaranteed to delight every taste bud. When you purchase lunch, a portion of the bill will be donated to the fundraiser.

Along with shopping, good food and great music, there will be a raffle made possible by generous area

business people. Support for the raffle is coming from many places this year. Local grocers, restaurants, hardware stores, auto dealers, food manufacturers and our artist vendor community have donated hundreds of dollars of gift certificates and art treasures to the raffle. For a small donation, you might win something fun for you and your family.

Come to support the children and the arts. Come to find a special gift. Come share a meal and good music with your neighbors. Come plant the seeds of art and music as we celebrate the holiday season.

On the Road to Montpelier

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - On Sunday, Fred Chase's Four Wheel Drive Service yard in Gill was abuzz with truck lovers. A convoy of restored antique trucks was assembled for a swing through Vermont and Massachusetts.

Fred Chase of Gill, president of the Western Massachusetts New England Antique Truck Club, is the prime mover and organizer of the Western Massachusetts annual Christmas convoy. Last year, the group brought a Christmas tree to Washington, D.C., stopping to deliver holiday cheer to veterans homes and hospitals along the way.

It had begun to spit snow in Gill, with reports that it had been snowing on Hogback Mountain for some time, so the drivers posed for a couple of photos, jumped into their trucks and were off with a roar of big bore diesel engines and ear shattering blasts of air horns. There were eight trucks in all, six being driven, with two trucks riding piggyback on trailers, one for backup and another for display. They left ahead of schedule, with miles to go and promises to keep.

In Bennington, where they were to pick up Christmas

trees, the truck owners planned to visit veterans in the first of several veterans hospitals, nursing homes and old soldier homes along the route, which included stops in White River Junction and Montpelier. After presenting a tree at the State

and the Old Soldier's Home in Holyoke. The trip was to wind up on Wednesday, providing someone did not have an accident or a breakdown.

It used to be illegal to truck anything from point to point in Vermont unless the truck was

porting trees in Vermont, reinforcing the old adage that "No good deed goes unpunished."

In all seriousness, it is heart-warming to know that this enthusiastic bunch of good natured antique truck lovers are bringing some Christmas cheer



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Fred Chase leads the convoy to Brattleboro and the Molly Stark Trail to Bennington, VT

House in Montpelier, the convoy planned to head back to Massachusetts to visit veterans at th V.A. Hospital in Leeds

registered in Vermont. If that law is still in force, some conscientious cop will probably hand them a ticket for trans-

to veterans who served their country, showing them that they are not forgotten, even in the face of winter weather.

MATTIE'S PLACE OF IRVING
GRINDERS, PIZZAS, & A WHOLE LOT MORE
 Full menu available | Dine In, Take Out, Free Delivery
 (413)423-3032 Full Bar Available
 French King Entertainment Center | 55 French King Highway
 Sun - Thurs: 10am - 10pm | Fri and Sat: 10am - midnight

Tranquil Realm 413-522-7505
 Therapeutic Massage & Healing Arts
 486 Main Street, 2nd floor, corner of High Street, in Greenfield
Holiday Gift Certificate Specials - from \$25 and Up
 1/2 hour free on your next massage for each gift certificate you purchase. All credit and debit cards accepted. Phone orders welcome, or via website: www.tranquilrealm.com
Reduce Your Holiday Stress · Give the Gift of Good Health
Free Chair Massage!
 Green Fields Market, 144 Main St., Greenfield on Sunday 12/7, 12/14, 12/21 2:00-4:30 PM