



**How Sweet it Is!**  
**TURNERS 7-6 OVER**  
**GREENFIELD IN TURKEY**  
**DAY GAME.**

MATTHEW ROBINSON PHOTO

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 10

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 1, 2011

## Override May Be Needed to Provide Level Services at Leverett Elementary Next Year

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - After years of attempting to level fund - or nearly so - the Leverett Elementary School budget, school committee chair Farshid Hajir told the selectboard on Tuesday the coming year will be different.

Due in part to the hiring of three classroom aides over the summer and first weeks of the current school year to help meet the educational requirements of classes that include several new students with special education needs, Hajir said the school committee was projecting a likely 7% budget increase for FY '13 - about \$120,000 over the FY'12 figure of \$1,712,167.

Hajir pointed to unknowns in the cost of heating fuel, the possibility that students recently arrived from Russia would still need the services of an English Language Learning aide in the next school year, and declines in the number of school choice students entering the school, who bring with them \$5,000 each in state aid, among the numerous moving targets in preparing an accurate budget forecast this early in the cycle. But he said a decline in the basic revenue stream the state provides to support local schools - Chapter 70 aid - appears likely due to a decline in the overall student population at LES, which received about \$260,000 in

Chapter 70 funds this year. And he said the school has already been spending \$35,000 more from the school choice revolving fund to support programming than it took in from school choice students this year, and that fund, which the school committee relies on as a type of rainy day fund, has been drawn down below \$60,000 in consequence. Six school choice students will graduate from LES this year, and Hajir said there are not enough openings for school choice students in lower grades to replace them.

Factoring variables like these together is something Hajir, a math professor at UMass, does with relative ease. But no matter how he tried to adjust the equation on Tuesday, the result seemed likely to produce a negative number by next March, when town meeting would be asked to vote on the result: a probable budget increase of \$120,000, with an additional \$29,000 or so on the town side to pay for the health benefits of the newly hired classroom aides.

"Unless some miracle happens," said the selectboard's Julie Shively, "there's no way we can do that without an override."

Hajir said, "We need to look at the last four or five years. We've taken no increases at all," (or just a .9% increase in FY '12, with

see **LEVERETT** pg 12

## Tribes Work Together to Clear Airport Hill



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Members of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead, Aquinnah and the Narragansett Indian Tribe gathered at the Turners Falls Airport on November 25th to begin the process of clearing saplings from a hill they consider the site of ancient ceremony.

(L-R) Quash, Micah Washington, Doug Harris, Jaron Champlin, Bettina Washington, Jonathan Perry, Leah Hopkins, James Moreis Hakenson, Hakeem Madison, and Ondtasbau Hopkins.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

**GREAT FALLS** - The new moon brings new beginnings, and so it was on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, when Native Americans from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead, Aquinnah and Narragansett from Rhode Island journeyed to the place once known as Great Falls - now called Turners Falls - to work together with the blessing of the Turners Falls airport commission to clear saplings from a hill they

consider a site of ancient ceremony.

Putting recent years of difficult negotiations about protecting the airport hill behind them - the airport commission once planned to bulldoze the hill and use the material for fill for an extended runway - the tribes and the commission seemed ready to turn over a new leaf on a holiday weekend when most New Englanders, and most Americans, spent time celebrating a tradition

rooted in the saving grace of the Wampanoags, who in former time welcomed and succored the starving Puritans.

Turners Falls Airport manager Mickey Longo called the joint tribal work party on the ceremonial hill, "Good news. The trees are a safety concern on the side of the runway in that area; they have to be trimmed. The birch trees are a good 15 foot high already," since the airport commission

see **TRIBES** pg 13

## Carving a Turkey



MONTAGUE POLICE PHOTO

Dennis [REDACTED]

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

**TURNERS FALLS** - Dennis [REDACTED] of Northfield, lately of [REDACTED] 3rd Street in Turners, told police he had cut his wrist while carving a turkey.

[REDACTED] had carve a turkey at his father's house in Northfield on Thanksgiving. But he didn't wind up carving his own wrist until later that night, when he allegedly broke into the Beijing Station Chinese restaurant at 51 Avenue A, and slipped while cutting the cord to the cash register

prior to heisting it out the back door. He cut his wrist with his own pocket knife.

There are turkeys, and then there are turkeys.

Montague police had already arrested [REDACTED] on two occasions earlier in the month, once for assault and battery on Montague City Road, and once for a breaking and entering robbery at the Millers Pub on East Main Street on November 7th, when \$1500 was taken. According to sergeant Charles 'Chip' Dodge,

the Millers Pub surveillance cameras caught [REDACTED] in the act.

But he was back out on the street by Thanksgiving.

Early on Friday, November 25th, the police got a tip that [REDACTED] had come into the Exxon Station at 3rd and L trying to cash in a large amount of coin.

The call about the Beijing Station burglary came in a little after noon.

Finding blood on the floor of

see **TURKEY** page 3

## Not Your Average Compost Heap

Gill-Montague Schools Begin Districtwide Waste Reduction Program

**BY ANNE HARDING**

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Gill-Montague Regional School District has joined the ranks of area schools diverting compostable materials from the waste stream.

Each district elementary school has a new two cubic yard compost dumpster that will be filled with food and paper waste. The middle school and high school has a larger four cubic yard container. The dumpsters will be emptied weekly and hauled to Martin's Farm in Greenfield where the materials will be converted to nutrient-rich compost in about 12 weeks.

Amy Donovan, program director at the Franklin County Solid Waste District has been a regular visitor to the district schools in recent weeks, as the program rolled out. Since the advent of container recycling in January 2010, waste hauled to the landfill from Gill-Montague schools has been reduced from about 20 cubic yards per week to



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Amy Donovan introduces composting to Gill-Montague schools

12 cubic yards, from the upper school complex. The addition of composting will further reduce the volume of trash headed for landfills.

Donovan believes the district saves about \$74 a month with the current volume reduction. But as business manager Lynn Bassett said, "We didn't go into this proj-

ect thinking we were going to save a lot of money. We went into this project to be good to the Earth and to get our students involved in projects that can make a difference."

Donovan credits Bassett with taking a leadership role in imple-

see **COMPOST** page 11

**PET OF THE WEEK**  
Wanna Play Fetch?



**McKenzie**

My name is McKenzie and I'm an 11-year-old female medium hair cat in need of a good home. I lived with my last owner for 10 years, until complications regarding her health caused her to have to give me up. During those long years I enjoyed chasing and eating bugs. I even play fetch. I also enjoy the occasional head rub while relaxing after a long, hard day. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

**ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**  
Craft Day Sunday, Upcoming PJ Story Hour

Come join these programs: Sunday, December 4th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. is Craft Day. Make a winter craft sponsored by Friends of the Erving Library.

Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. PJ Story Hour features *Snow Stories*. Wear your PJ's, bring a pillow or teddy and come hear some stories and books. Enjoy a cozy evening with family and friends. Have a snack and fun activity too. All families are welcome, but it is most appropriate for children 3rd grade and younger. Questions? Contact CNC: 978-544-5157 or budine@erving.com. This pro-

gram is funded by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, offered in collaboration with the Community Network for Children program. (A CFCE grant program from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care) and the Erving Public Library.

Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street. For more info call: 413-423-3348 or email: ervinglibrary@net-scape.net.

The library's newsletter may be viewed online at: ervingpubliclibrary.wordpress.com.

**MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS**  
Join the Library Club!

**MILLERS FALLS-** Abigail Johnson of Millers Falls showed David Korpiewski of Orange, pictured below, how to draw stars at the Millers Falls Library Club on Tuesday, November

29th. The theme was bears getting ready for winter. The free drop-in after school program meets on Tuesdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 413-863-3214.



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – December 5th through 9th**

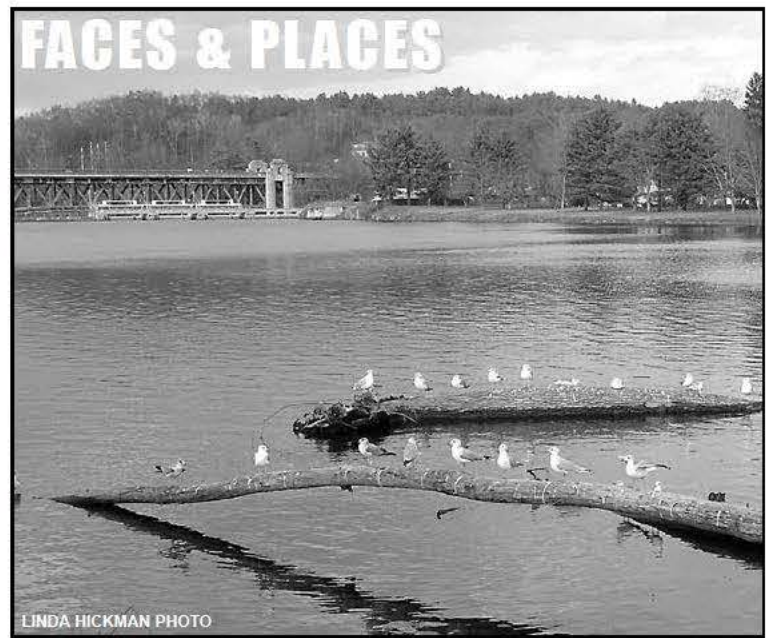
**GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging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

**Monday, December 5th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, December 6th**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
No Lunch Served Today  
11:15 a.m. Senior Center Closed  
**Wednesday, December 7th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, December 8th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, December 9th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

**Monday, December 5th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

**TURNERS FALLS** - With the buoys above the dam removed for the winter, the ever present gulls have found new roosting places.

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**

**Annual Paper Follies, Two Film Showings**

Luc Bodin's Annual Paper Follies: paper cutting & weaving for the holidays is coming up at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join expert paper artist, Luc Bodin for a morning of working with paper to make greeting cards, ornaments and decorations. Luc is a great instructor so all participants will leave with a sense of mastering new paper skills. The program is appropriate for adults and teens and older youth accompanied by adults. Please bring your own scissors. Luc will supply beautiful paper and instruction. The program is designed as a drop-in workshop so come and participate for as long or as short as you would like. Luc's program aims to inspire creativity and craftsmanship; to recycle paper; to encourage people to make holiday decoration instead of buying them; to have lots of fun in the process.

The Library's monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies features *Bride of Frankenstein* on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Transitions Town Potluck and Program *The Powers of the Universe* will be held at the

Library on Monday, December 5th, at 6:00 p.m. The film will be at 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

The Transition Wendell Initiating Group invites you to explore the shift we are experiencing away from the "old story" (infinite growth, destruction of the planet for profit, the American Dream of everything getting bigger, better, faster, and shinier in the future) to the "new story" that is emerging. What is that new story? We're just as excited as you are to find out. Perhaps we are seeing parts of it emerge in movements like local food, Home Rule, and OccupyWallStreet.

*The Powers of the Universe* is an entertaining DVD series about the union of science and spirituality by Brian Swimme. It explores the processes by which the Universe unfolds, and humanity's place within it. This week we will be watching *Homeostasis*.

For more information visit: www.ecopsychology.org/journal/ezine/swimme.html.

The next Transition Towns event is January 2nd., location to be announced.

Wendell Free Library is located at 7 Wendell Depot Road, 978 544-3559, www.wendellfreelibrary.org.

**RECYCLE PAPER!**  
Week of December 6th in Montague  
  
more info? call: 863-2054

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## Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - The Annual Holiday Concert featuring the Montague Community Band with special guest the Athol-Orange Community Singers will be held at the First Congregational Church of Turners Falls, 148 L Street on Saturday, December 3rd, starting at 7:30 p.m. Free admission, but donations are appreciated.

Come on down to the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners at 282 Avenue A on Friday, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and enter to win a \$500 shopping spree with no strings attached. Visit with **Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus** from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Baystate Health Blood Donor Mobile will host a **community blood drive** in Greenfield on Tuesday, December 6th, in Baystate Franklin Medical Center's 48 Sanderson Street parking lot, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All blood types are needed. Eligible donors will receive a \$10 iTunes gift card and will be entered in a drawing for an iPad 2.

"Blood donations always decrease during the holidays, and with the recent storms, our blood supply is already low," said Cheryl McGrath, coordinator of the Baystate Health blood donor program. "We need your help to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply." Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including interview, donation, and refreshments.

To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds; have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, sore throat; no antibiotics within 48 hours); and have not made a blood donation in the past eight weeks. Appointments and pre-registration are recommended; walk-ins are also welcome. Contact Ellen to make an appointment: 413-773-2284 or [ellen.missale@baystatehealth.org](mailto:ellen.missale@baystatehealth.org).

Gill/Montague Education Fund **gift cards** are now available. They can be used for future performances sponsored by the

GMEF including the upcoming April 29th annual Gala with the Edwards Twins. For more info: [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

The Pioneer Valley Symphony with the **Greenfield High School Chorus** will play excerpts from the Nutcracker at their annual holiday concert, with "The Polar Express," Suite from "Lord of The Rings," Christmas favorites and Schubert's "Magnificat." The concert will be held at the Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Avenue, on Saturday, December 17th, starting at 7:00 p.m. Call 413-773-3664 or visit [www.pvso.org](http://www.pvso.org) for tickets.

The **Greenfield Farmers Market** will offer a monthly winter market the first Saturday of each month starting December 3rd through March from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Expect to find locally grown and produced: root vegetables, onions and garlic, winter squash, cooking greens, jams and jellies, meat, cheese, eggs, honey, apples, potatoes, maple syrup, salad greens, apple cider and much more. The winter markets will be at the Second Congregational Church on Court Square, next to the Greenfield town hall.

Richard Witty, CPA, is offering a series of free workshops on **tax concerns and strategies** for working and low-income individuals at the Brick House, 24 Third Street, in Turners Falls on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. beginning Tuesday, December 6th. To register, please refer to [www.brickhousecommunity.org](http://www.brickhousecommunity.org) or call 413-863-9576.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

### Ripley Christmas Tree Farm

11 West Chestnut Hill Road Montague  
Saturday and Sunday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(413) 367-2031

## Elks Donate \$1000 to Food Bank



LOYAL KNIGHT, STEVE DACYCZYN PHOTO

L to R; DJ Robert "Bobby C" Campbell; Leading Knight Donald Traceski; Lodge Secretary Ernest Brown; Executive Director Western Mass Food Bank, Andrew Morehouse; Trustee, Judi Dacyczyn; Russ Brown.

**MONTAGUE** - On Tuesday, November 22nd, officers and members of the Montague Lodge of Elks, 2521, presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Andrew Morehouse, director of the Western Mass

Food Bank. The donation took place at the annual Food Bank fundraising event held at WHAI and Bear Country radio in Greenfield. Morehouse stated that each dollar donated to the Food Bank was equal to \$13 of

purchasing power by the Food Bank for the needy families of our communities. This is another example of how "Elks Give from the Heart," the motto of Grand Exalted Ruler, David Carr.

### TURKEY from page 1

the restaurant, the police turned to Badge, the Erving police department's bloodhound, and put him on the trail of the thief. The K-9 officer tracked the scent right back to the door of [redacted]'s apartment at [redacted] 3rd Street. Upstairs from Lisa's Handcrafted Soap.

Coincidentally, Lisa's Handcrafted Soap was broken into three times in the span of a week, between November 9th and 15th. A small private home four doors down had been broken into in October in broad daylight, when the residents were at work, and all their electronics were stolen.

Also, the K-9 track of whatever thief perpetrated the smash and grab at About Face Computers on 4th Street early on the morning of November 15th, breaking an expensive plate glass window to grab an inexpensive piece of computer equipment, led to the parking lot on 3rd Street, in the vicinity of [redacted]'s digs. The SPS New England office on 4th Street was also broken into on the night of November 10th, and computer equipment was taken.

Police will not say whether [redacted] is a suspect in any or all of these particular crimes. Dodge would only say that a search warrant executed on his

apartment turned up "items of interest that might be linked to other breaking and entering." And he added, "[redacted] might be involved with other B&Es; others might be involved as well."

After initial denials, [redacted] confessed to the robbery at Beijing Station, according to Dodge, and he told the police where he dumped the cash register—in a dumpster in back of his apartment building. He's in the Greenfield jail now, on a \$10,000 bail.

One armed robbery [redacted] is not suspected of is the knife-point burglary at the Subway on Avenue A on October 28th, a Friday, at 8:07 in the evening, when a unshaven man with dirty blond hair wearing a red hooded sweatshirt took \$157 in cash from the shaken employee.

"We have a positive ID on a suspect in that case," said Dodge, "and detective Lee Laster is working the case."

Dodge admitted that the recent rash of burglaries that has plagued downtown homes and businesses for the last month is unusual.

Residents have noticed a heavy police presence in downtown streets and alleys in recent weeks.

He urged residents, "Try to be aware of their surroundings. If they see somebody who

doesn't look like they should be there, we'd rather come down than not hear about it at all. Call if something doesn't look right."

Dodge noted, "All the stuff that was stolen is either money or items they can quickly sell on the street." He added there have been no reports of further burglaries since [redacted] was apprehended.

But that was less than a week ago. Let's hope the turkey's day is done.



**Wendell Holiday Fair**  
**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Wendell Town Hall  
Free Admission & Parking

**Come Holiday Shop with Local Crafters, Artists & Farmers!**

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## A Blizzard of Bad Climate News

BY JANET REDMAN

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA** - A tsunami of scientific studies is showing that global warming isn't only real, it's happening faster than we thought and our window of opportunity to act is shrinking.

Even die-hard climate change deniers had to take their heads out of the sand briefly this fall, when a study commissioned in part by the ultra-conservative Charles Koch Charitable Foundation found the average global temperature has risen by 0.9 degrees Celsius (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-1950s.

This may seem like chump change, but the UN's climate scientists have warned that if we add a mere 2 degrees Celsius to pre-industrial temperatures, we'll see ecological catastrophe across the planet.

And what's really alarming is that instead of reducing the pollution that changes the climate, we're increasing it. The volume of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere in 2010 leapt a record 6 percent from the year before. Planetary pollution is now worse than what scientists predicted as the worst-case scenario four years ago. That means global warming will be correspondingly worse than previous worst-case scenarios, too.

UN scientists released a report in November explaining that a jump in global emissions and temperatures means that sweltering heat waves like we saw last summer are going to become routine. According to the study, "a 1-in-20 year hottest day is

likely to become a 1-in-2 year event by the end of the...century."

Those researchers also said heavier rainfall, more floods, stronger cyclones, more landslides, and increasingly frequent droughts are also likely to accompany the warmer climate. Hotter air holds more moisture, meaning more water will be sucked out of the soil and oceans and then dumped back to earth in more intense storms.

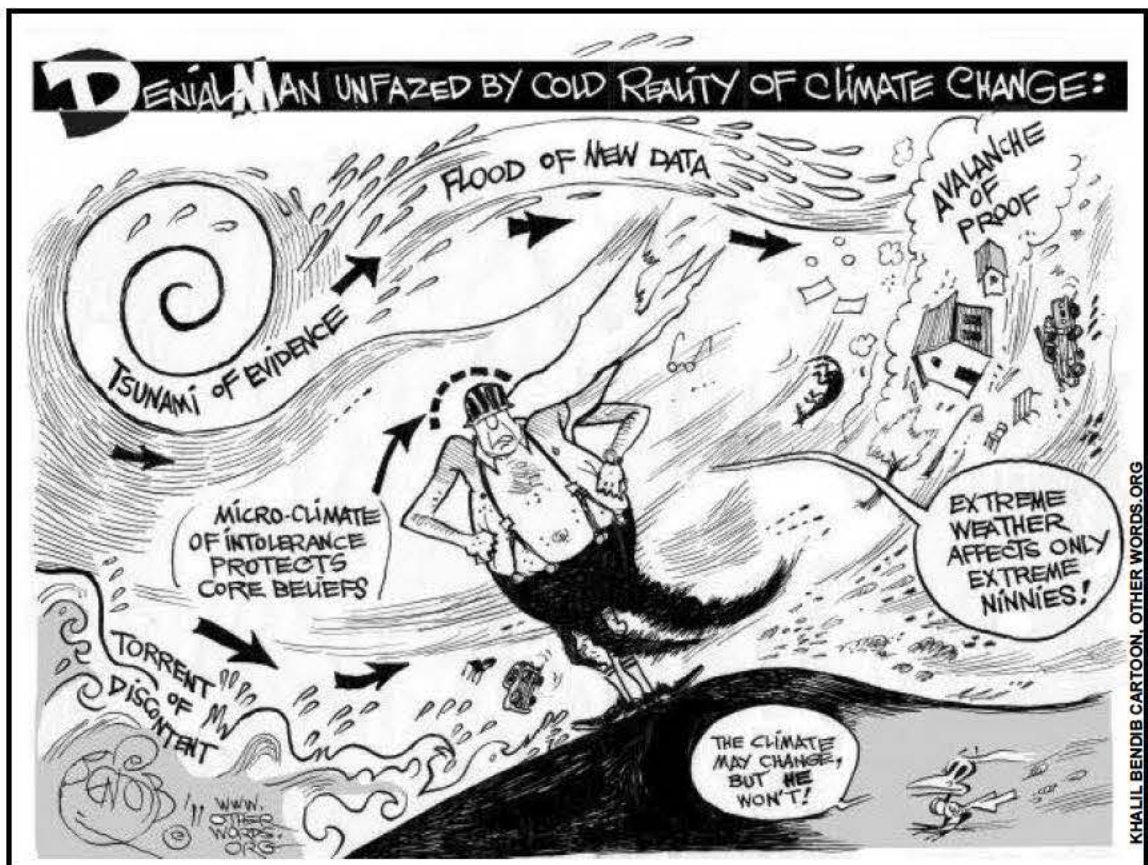
Sound familiar? By the middle of this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was already calling 2011 one of the most extreme-weather years in U.S. history.

If freaky weather doesn't convince you that it's time to get serious about curbing climate change, the price tag might. Americans took a hit of more than \$53 billion in damages from extreme weather-related disasters this year.

But we can do something about it.

We can tax polluters and scrap antiquated subsidies for Big Oil to discourage dinosaur technologies and raise \$197 billion for a clean energy revolution. We can stop the most destructive projects like the Keystone XL pipeline, which would haul dirty tar-sands oil across North America. Agencies like the EPA can step up the implementation of hard-fought safeguards like the Clean Air Act.

And at the UN climate summit going on now in Durban, South Africa, Washington can stop trying to derail global negotiations for a binding solu-



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Come to the Wendell Holiday Fair

The 7th Annual Wendell Holiday Fair takes place this weekend, on Saturday and Sunday, December 3rd and 4th, from starting at 10 a.m. both days and running until 5 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday, at the Wendell town hall. Once again it will be a fundraiser for the Swift River School music and art departments, with all proceeds from the fair donated to the school.

Only handmade local products will be featured, including: artwork, pottery, journals and note cards, natural body care products, food, jewelry, wooden

toys, quilts, blown glass, herbal teas and clothing. This year, the fair will also offer wonderful on-the-spot massage to relieve the stress of the season.

There will also be a raffle supported by prizes from many businesses from Wendell, New Salem, Orange, and Greenfield. You can buy a chance to win a gift certificate from Diemand Farm, Deja Brew, the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative, Whole Foods Market, Green Fields Market, and other services provided by local businesses. Join us for a gourmet lunch provided both days from 11:30 a.m. -

2:00 p.m. by the Diemand Farm in Wendell. Live music will be provided by local artists.

Over the last three years, the Wendell Holiday Fair has donated almost \$6000 to the Swift River School with the support of our community, vendors and local businesses. Please come join us and make this fair another great success. Have fun while you are doing your holiday shopping. Meet your neighbors, and support the music and art departments at Swift River School.

- Barbara Caruso  
Wendell

## Bazaar Thanks

Friends of the Gill-Montague meal site and senior center wish to thank the businesses, organizations and friends that gave the many gifts and donations to make our recent Christmas Bazaar a huge success. We also thank the people who bought raffle tickets and purchased food and gifts at the bazaar. Our success was the result of community support.

Last but not least we appreciate the time and work of our sen-

iors for all they did both at the bazaar and in the preparation for it. Money from this group effort helps to enhance services at our senior center and make this center a warm and welcoming place for all to enjoy.

-Bunny Caldwell and  
Beverly Demars Co-Chairs,  
Friends of the  
Gill/Montague meal site  
Christmas Bazaar

## The Ideal Gift

All five of my stepchildren were raised in Montague and have since moved on to far distant lives elsewhere. However, none of them ever lost their sentimental attachment to this area and their memories of growing up in one of our villages.


Receiving the *Montague Reporter* keeps them in touch with our news and helps to make

sure that Montague is on the destination list when they travel "back East." They love hearing about the local personalities, the politics, the progress of bridge repairs. One stepdaughter even sends the occasional letter to the editor or poem to the poetry page.

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- Leslie Brown  
for the Montague Reporter  
board of directors



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**U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/29/11**



<b>US FORCES</b>	
Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of this date	
<b>4,483</b>	
Alghanistan	<b>1,846</b>
Wounded in Iraq	<b>32,200</b>
Wounded in Afghanistan	<b>14,342</b>

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**GUEST EDITORIAL**

BY KARL MEYER

**TURNERS FALLS** - Some history is worth repeating. In Deerfield on November 9th I listened as independent filmmaker Anne Makepeace introduced, "We Still Live Here" in a church hall at a place once called Pocumtuck.

There in 1638, Springfield's William Pynchon bargained with the Pocumtuck for 500 dirt-cheap bushels of corn - selling it at inflated prices to Connecticut colonists who'd run out of food while warring against the Pequot. The Pequot massacre at Fort Mystic, as well as Pynchon's low-ball trading, established a posture toward Native Americans that soon overran the continent.

Makepeace's documentary displayed a clear sensitivity in depicting the 18-year odyssey of a Wampanoag woman, Jessie Little Doe. Through vision and genius, a seemingly-everyday working mom has begun reviving the spoken Wampanoag language, last heard over a century

ago. At Mashpee and Gay Head, Massachusetts, a bedrock tongue of indigenous North America is again being taught and spoken, where the starving Pilgrims first encountered it.

The next evening the Associated Press published a story: 'Rock Snot' Fear Means Salmon for Native Tribes. It told how the disaster of an invasive algae picked up by thousands of hatchery salmon at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's flooded White River National Fish Hatchery during Tropical Storm Irene was turning into a curious windfall for Native Americans. The USFWS and Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) had just unanimously voted to give free fish to the Indians.

The headline was unfortunate, sounding like the tribes were being used. CRASC's 44-year, half-billion-dollar Connecticut River salmon restoration program had had another dismal

showing returning just 106 fish to the Holyoke dam in 2011. The Irene flood was the second million-dollar disaster befalling the White River, VT hatchery in just four years. Giving away a tiny portion of the facility's half-million surviving fish might play better in the media than advertising a likely fate for most killing and burying the lot to avoid the possibility of releasing rock-snot-infested salmon and trout to New England rivers and Great Lakes habitats.

Filed from Montpelier, the story sketched that morning's CRASC meeting at Turners Falls, MA, once known as Peskeomskut, just seven miles from Pocumtuck. It missed some substance an attending reporter might've caught - that CRASC chair Bill Hyatt had become chairman that day; that it was his first meeting ever. Hyatt's quotes hit the media so quickly, hours after the meeting, it might appear someone had been spoon fed a

cheery "salmon-for-the-Indians" pre-Thanksgiving tale. But an editor made a good call on its content: rock-snot-means-gift-to-tribes.

On-the-ground reporting might also have uncovered that just beyond the federal Conte Lab where CRASC meets, sits two miles of beleaguered Connecticut River identified on colonial maps as Peskeomskut. It's a dicey place to fashion an 'Indian-fish-rescue' story from. Here on May 19th, 1676, Captain William Turner and his Hadley-based militia surprised hundreds of sleeping Wampanoags, Narragansetts, Pocumtucks and Nipmucks - largely women, children, and elders. They'd come to rest, plant, and dry-harvest massive blooms of migrating shad, herring, and a knot of spawning shortnose sturgeon. If time allowed, they'd tap a small, later-arriving salmon run.

Time did not. This was King Phillips War, the Native fight for

sovereign lands. Dawn brought the Turners Falls massacre. Just past the Conte Lab's windows warriors encamped at the ancient fishing-island today called Rock Dam counterattacked - routing and killing 37, including Captain Turner.

This day, 335 years later, it was noted that half the hatchery's 8,000, two-to-four year old salmon, the small ones, could likely be released to already didymo-infected rivers. Regulations would prevent any sale. Still, all remaining baby salmon, plus 500,000 didymo-infected lake trout still faced a quick landfill burial before the hatchery could be flushed with chlorine. They could not be released for anglers - and way back in 2004 the USFWS Region 5 actually issued a consumer advisory on eating hatchery salmon. Those remaining 4,000 larger salmon, some as large as 9½ pounds, might also have had to be killed and buried had they not found someone to take them.

CRASC, charged with pro-see **SALMON** pg 11

**& MORE LETTERS**

**No Animal Abuse at Baystate**

I am proud to have Baystate Medical Center in my community and grateful for the professionals who provide excellent care. I support their continued successes. However, I am disturbed by the hospital's decision to continue to use animals for teaching purposes.

Baystate uses live pigs in a teaching course for physicians to practice trauma surgery skills. At the course conclusion, the pigs are given a lethal dose of anesthesia and killed. Baystate Medical Center is the last remaining Massachusetts hospital (and one of only a few left in the United States) that continues to use and kill animals for teaching.

Over 98% of advanced trauma and life saving courses in the United States and Canada use non-animal methods. Current technology allows trauma surgery skills to be taught with human based medical simulation, such as the Simulab TraumaMan system. Baystate already owns TraumaMan but is refusing to use it. Baystate should join other major successful hospitals across

the country by switching to such humane, effective and advanced alternatives.

Using live pigs for teaching inflicts unnecessary pain and suffering. It is also poor business ethics.

Visit [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and please contact your congressman, DA and Baystate Medical Center at: 759 Chestnut St, Springfield, MA 01199. You can direct your comments to: Ronald Gross, Baystate Trauma Unit Head, Dept. of Surgery (413-794-4022 or [Ronald.gross@baystate-health.org](mailto:Ronald.gross@baystate-health.org)) or to Mark Tolosky, Baystate CEO (413-794-5890 or [mark.tolosky@bsh.org](mailto:mark.tolosky@bsh.org))

- Elizabeth Scheffey Leverett

**Progressive Dems Endorse Jim McGovern for Congress**

**WASHINGTON** - On November 22nd, Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) is pleased to announce the national endorsement of progressive Democrat Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Worcester), a staunch opponent of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and a member of PDA's advisory board.

Prior to the endorsement, representative McGovern expressed his appreciation for the work of PDA and spoke about the recent effort of the super committee. He commented on the failure of the committee to come together to create jobs, the most direct way to impact the nation's budget deficit, and the committee's

short sightedness in demanding huge budget cuts in the midst of a weak recovery.

Under the newly redrawn map of Congressional districts necessitated by the 2010 census, the number of US representatives from Massachusetts will shrink from ten to nine, and McGovern will be running for re-election next year in an expanded 2nd District that includes Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett, along with Greenfield, Amherst and Northampton. For more on the congressman's positions, visit [JimMcGovern.com](http://JimMcGovern.com).

Progressive Democrats of America was founded in 2004 to transform the Democratic Party and our country. We seek to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites - with policies that serve the broad public interest, not just private interests. PDA is a grassroots PAC operating inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice. Our inside/outside strategy is guided by the belief that a lasting majority will require a revitalized Democratic Party built on firm progressive principles.



Jim McGovern

For over two decades, the party declined as its leadership listened more to the voices of corporations than those of Americans. PDA strives to rebuild the Democratic Party from the bottom up - from every congressional district to statewide party structures to the corridors of power in Washington, where we work arm in arm with the Congressional Progressive Caucus. In just seven years, PDA and its allies have shaken up the political status quo - on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Medicare for all, voter rights, accountability, and economic and environmental justice.

**Country Fair Thanks**

Members and friends of the First Congregational Church in Turners Falls thank everyone who participated in and contributed to the success of our annual Country Fair.

We especially thank the following businesses for their generosity: Adams Donut Shop, Andy's Oak Shoppe, Bank of America, Booska's Flooring, Castine's Hair Creations, Crestview, Dunkin Donuts, Food City, Foster's

Supermarket, Kharma Salon, Travel Kuz, Peter Kretzenger, 2nd Street Bakery, Lions Club, Mo's Fudge Factor, Lisa's Soap, Turners Falls Pizza House, The Rendezvous, F.L. Roberts, Smith Paper, Inc., Stewart's Nursery, and Tognarelli Heating.

May you continue to support these great businesses!

- Helen L. Stotz Turners Falls

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

The Ayes Have It

BY JANEL NOCKELBY - Things are happening in Montague and there's a pile of paperwork in town hall with signatures to show for it.

Members of the selectboard signed the phase one Unity Park improvements contract with Berkshire Design Group, the Community Development Block Grant application for 2012 which includes phase two for the Unity Park improvements and housing rehabilitation, the Turnpike Road Energy Park master planning services contract with the Cecil Group, a memorandum of agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for a three year term for a regional dog officer, control and kennel program in Montague, and an administrative addendum for the electricity supply contract between the town and the Hampshire Council of Governments.

What does this mean in practical terms? Better parks, cheaper electricity for both the town and residents of the town, better housing with fewer code violations for some income eligible homeowners, and a chance to share our home town kennel off of Turnpike Road with other lost or homeless doggies in the county.

And by better parks we mean that if the phase two 2012 CDBG application is approved, Unity Park will see not only the currently planned playground, field house and parking lot renovations but also ball field turf improvements, player and spectator benches, new fencing, a resurfaced and painted basketball court, more parking at the east end of the park, a wooden guard rail to improve the safety of play and picnic areas, new picnic tables and benches, handicapped access throughout the park and exercise paths, a new community garden, and interpretive areas.

If the second phase application wins funding

approval, these improvements would be implemented late in 2012 or early 2013, with a grant allocation of \$451,000. The phase one improvements already in the pipeline should be completed by June 2012.

The CDBG application process frequently includes housing rehabilitation, and this time around \$85,215 will provide funding for three income eligible homes in the Turners Falls area to be brought up to code with zero interest loans. For the FY012 application, five housing units may be able to have lead risk assessments completed, for example, or see energy efficiency improvements, for a total of \$179,000, if approved.

And most importantly, a WMECO representative, William LaBlanc, was open to slight adjustments in proposed new power pole positions on West Chestnut Hill Road, which the selectboard approved. The poles are meant to improve power reliability in the heavily wooded neighborhood. The Pinardis, West Chestnut Hill residents, requested that the survey stakes for the proposed poles be moved a smidge in order to accommodate the path of children sledding down the hill there in winter - a nice gesture to prevent concussions. There were no comments regarding pole placements on Chestnut Hill Loop and East Chestnut Hill Road, where the selectboard also approved the power company's pole location requests.

In other news, Turners Falls Road resident Mark Bemier presented a series of concerns regarding ongoing construction projects and cars, boats, and trailers in various states of repair parked at the Dawson residence, near his house. Town inspector David Jensen and health inspector Gina McNeely could find no immediate legal grounds for addressing the problems, however. The town is

in the process of rewriting town bylaws regarding unregistered vehicles, but that will not be ready until next spring's town meeting warrant. The town will draft a letter, however, with a number of suggestions for the Dawson family, in order to help them prioritize completing their construction projects, re-parking boats, and completing repairs to the automobiles.

The Millers Pub is now solely owned by Tammy Berard and Ed Tolzdorf, after they bought out their partner. The liquor license now reflects that update, approved by the selectboard.

The selectboard heard back from a district manager of the US Postal Service, presumably via US Mail, that no decisions have been made yet regarding the fate of the Lake Pleasant post office and that no decisions would be made without further public hearings and comment periods. Notification will be sent to all affected residents when the hearings are scheduled, giving all affected further opportunity to comment on the importance of the post office to the village.

Outgoing police chief Ray Zukowski wrote a letter of commendation for officers Chris Williams, Lee Laster, and John Dempsey for their quick work in apprehending a fleeing felon, Thomas Rodriguez, who robbed Rite Aid early in November.

Patti Dion, treasurer and collector for the town, has announced that barrel stickers are now available for 2012 at a rate of \$78 for January 1st through June 30th.

The next selectboard meeting will be held on Monday, December 5th. Topics coming soon to a selectboard agenda near you: updates regarding the Railroad Salvage demolition and Strathmore Mill debris pile removal.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Power Shutoff at New Senior Center

BY KATIE NOLAN - The alarm system at the new Erving senior center was set off on Monday after the power was shut off for non-payment of the electric bill.

The selectboard Monday evening noted the building is still under the control of the building contractor, who is responsible for paying utility bills until the town takes possession of the building.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new senior center is planned for Sunday, December 11th at noon.

Town administrator Tom Sharp said the electric power was restored Tuesday and the building committee was informed that the contractor would pay the bill.

Looking on the bright side, Sharp said that the shutoff provided a test of emergency systems at the new \$2.4 million building, and a chance to learn how to restart the building's equipment.

The Usher Mill re-use committee gave the selectboard a status report on their work on redeveloping the former industrial property.

"Waiting, waiting, waiting..." said committee member Jeff Dubay.

According to Sharp, the town expects to take formal possession of the property in March. The current landlord, Patriots Environmental, a Worcester based salvage firm, has failed to pay property taxes or respond to orders to clean up and

secure the property following an arson fire that damaged several of the main buildings on July 30th, 2007.

Committee members and the selectboard agreed initial cleanup of debris could start next March or April. Demolition and other cleanup activities would be put out to bid in January or February.

In October, the committee had provided the board with a draft letter regarding donation of a parcel adjacent to the former Usher plant for comments. Dubay asked the selectboard to respond as soon as possible.

Committee member Jeannie Schermesser previewed part of the committee's slide presentation about the property for the board. Selectboard member James Hackett recommended giving the full presentation to the town in January and scheduling a vote on funding cleanup and re-development at the annual town meeting in May.

Donna Cote of Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Donna Liebl of Franklin County Home Care introduced the community development block grant application to be submitted to the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

If approved, the grant will provide \$1.1 million to the towns of Erving, Colrain, Deerfield, and Gill for the zero interest loan housing rehabilitation program for

eligible homeowners. The grant will also provide funding for the regional meals on wheels program run by Franklin County Home Care Corporation, which has experienced budget cuts for the program in recent years.

The application proposes that five income-eligible housing units in Erving could receive \$35,000 each for repairing housing code violations, and that ten elders could receive daily meals on wheels for a year.

According to Cote, her office has already received 24 applications from Erving for the housing rehabilitation program, and it might be possible to serve more than five Erving housing units if there is less demand for the program from the other three towns.

Ralph Semb requested a license to sell alcohol at a package store associated with the convenience store he is planning to build on a lot next to the French King Bowling Center. The site is the former location of the Countree Living Restaurant.

The selectboard will hold a hearing on the license application at 6:35 p.m. on December 12th at town hall. The selectboard will contact state senator Stan Rosenberg about special legislation to allow a third package store license in town.

A public review of Erving's response to the October nor'easter and power outage will be held December 19th at 7 p.m. at Erving Elementary School.

Erving to Consider Adult Entertainment Bylaws

BY KATIE NOLAN - Erving voters will be asked to approve new zoning bylaws regulating adult entertainment establishments at a special town meeting December 12th.

The proposed bylaws listed in Article 9 of the town meeting warrant specify that adult entertainment establishments (adult book-

stores, adult motion picture theaters, adult paraphernalia stores, adult video stores, or establishments featuring live nudity) will be allowed in the central village zoning district under special permit and after site plan review by the planning board.

Under the proposed bylaws, adult entertainment

facilities would be restricted from locating within specified distances from certain land uses, such as residentially zoned districts, churches, public parks, day care centers, senior centers, or other entertainment establishments. Adult entertain-

see ERVING page 11

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD Repairs Completed at Swift River



KATIE NOLAN PHOTO

The new roof and boiler replacement project at Swift River School is now complete

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** A new roof is in place and a new boiler is heating the Swift River School, thanks in large part to the state's Green Repair program, funded by the federal stimulus bill. New Salem resident John Ryan told the Wendell selectboard on November 23rd that the renovations at the elementary school shared by the two towns are now basically complete. The school's roof has been repaired or replaced, insulated and provided with some pitch for better runoff. A new efficient boiler is in place and working.

At this juncture, \$120,000 is still in the building account: \$60,000 from Wendell, \$60,000 from New Salem, and Ryan asked the Wendell board to give the Green Repair committee authority to use that money to remove hazardous material and to address handicap accessibility at Swift River. The selectboard members present, Dan Keller and Jeffrey Pooser, agreed to have Wendell's share of the building account go towards those ends.

Removal of hazardous materi-

al will take place in the summer.

The closing date on the former Herrick property on Wickett Pond Road is approaching, but a sticking point to the transfer of the town owned property to Alistair MacMartin and Judy Hall developed over the issue of the town claiming the right of first refusal should the couple ever decide to sell the property.

Keller said the town already owns too many properties. He said selectboard chair Christine Heard, who was not in attendance at the meeting on Thanksgiving eve, had suggested the town's right of first refusal be dropped.

Keller noted the town's main concerns when it sold the tax title property were to ensure that no more than one dwelling go up on the property, and that the original 18th century house be preserved if possible.

MacMartin and Hall's proposal for the Herrick property, accepted at town meeting, includes a conservation restriction that will allow no more than a single new home to be constructed, along with a plan for stabilizing the existing house.

Keller said insisting on a clause for the town to have the right of first refusal on the property would place an unnecessary burden on future selectboards, town meetings, and descendants of the couple.

Pooser and Keller agreed to drop the town's request for a right of first refusal, and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich called the couple to tell them one more obstacle that had been standing in the way of their closing on the property has now been removed.

Using some of last fall's MEMA grant money, Wendell bought 50 cots for residents to use in an emergency shelter at one of the town buildings in the event of an extended power outage or other emergency. Selectboard members thought the cots might be able to be stored in the library basement, but librarian Rosie Heidkamp expressed the concern that the library basement is damp, and not a good storage place for the cots.

Board members decided to see **WENDELL** pg 10

## NOTES FROM THE G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Gill-Montague School Climate Rated "Best in the Region"

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE** - Students at the Gill-Montague schools view their school climate more positively than do their peers in other Franklin County towns. This information was provided to the regional school committee on Tuesday, November 22nd, by Jeanette Voas, evaluation coordinator for the Community Coalition for Teens (CCT), a program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Voas introduced her findings from the annual CCT teen health survey of 8th, 10th and 12th graders in schools in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region by saying a positive school climate improves student performance, enhances personal relationships and job satisfaction for school personnel, and is tied to increased family involvement in schools.

In the 2011, 187 students in the Gill Montague Regional School

District were surveyed on their views about school climate, and their responses showed they consider their schools positive, safe places to learn, where students demonstrate respect for one another and for staff, and adults offer them respect in return. The students report good adult support within the schools, and say rules are fair, clear, and well enforced.

In comparison with the wider region of Franklin County and the North Quabbin where the same survey was conducted, Gill-Montague ranked consistently higher in positive responses in almost all categories.

Asked if adults treat students with respect, G-M students gave positive responses 89% of the time, compared to 84% in the region. Students felt they treated treating one another with respect 65% of the time at G-M compared to the region's 57%. Asked if students of racial or ethnic minorities are treated with respect, 93% of G-M students said yes, compared to the region's 85%. Questions about treatment of gay and lesbians and students with disabilities were also positive and above the regional

see **SCHOOL** pg 10



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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

# Turners Beats Greenfield 7-6 in an Instant Classic



**BY DENIS BORDEAUX**  
**TURNERS FALLS** – An Indian Summer day, with packed stands and more alums than you could shake hands with, without missing some serious game time. In what was easily the most easily matched game between rivals Turners Falls and Greenfield in many years, the home team turned that Indian Summer day into an Indian victory and an instant classic as Turners squeaked out a 7-6 win over the Green Wave. Squeaked, as in T.J. Meyer's extra point try, looking like it was going up in slo-mo, tinked off the cross bar and thankfully had no backspin on it, dropping on the other side of the goal post for a 7-6 lead and the eventual margin of victory.

The overall play of the game was exceptional, and both coaching staffs deserve much credit.



Both teams had 165 yards, and were basically even in every other category. Each team moved between the 30s but could only push over the one score a piece.

When Turners was on the offense, crisp blocking and in-your-face running between tackles account for 150-plus yards rushing. When the Green had the ball, Zach Bartak, probably the best all around athlete on the field, was a threat to take it all the way on his own, or throw a pin-point pass for a huge gain down the sideline.

But Turners swarmed the ball when he ran, and when he managed to complete nine passes, tackling by the Turners' secondary limited yards after the catch for Greenfield's big receivers. Disciplined football.

Ryan Wilder won the most valuable player and that's great, though I think he should have his offensive line sign it as well, since they dominated between

see **SPORTS** page 16

The Winning Kick by T.J. Meyer.

# Gill Sixth Grade Multiplies the Value of Pie

**BY ANNE HARDING** - Gill Elementary sixth graders were gaining math and business skills - along with pie making skills - last week as they baked 184 pies for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students, parents and teaching staff had a busy Monday over at the Turners

Falls High School kitchen putting together the pre-ordered pies. There were four choices available - pumpkin, blueberry, apple and pecan. Pies were picked up Wednesday at the Gill Elementary School and each contained a hand-written thank you note as an added bonus.

The students are raising money to fund their annual weeklong trip to Nature's Classroom at the Sargent Center in Hancock, NH. This is one of several fundraising ventures the class will undertake to raise the necessary \$5,318. The net pie earnings brought in \$1,010, and as the math scholars could tell you

the annual project to give students an opportunity to examine the costs of doing business, use of decimals, calculating percentages and other math functions.

For people who missed the pie sale, it's not too late to order homemade candy canes or gourmet apples from the class. These delicious apples are dipped in buttery caramel, smothered in milk chocolate, topped with pecans and drizzled with icing. The Gill 6th graders are working Equi's Candy Kitchen in Turners Falls for this second holiday fundraiser. Contact any student you know or call the school at 413-863-3255 to place an order. The deadline to order is December 12th.

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JOANNE FLAGG PHOTO  
 Sixth grade Gill students Abby Schlinger and Hannah Sol, parent Alan Sturmer, and student Sean Sturmer make holiday pies as a fundraiser for the students' field trip to the Sargeant Center in New Hampshire.

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ARIEL JONES PHOTO

This ad was sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Hillside Plastics, Republic Services (Formerly Allied Waste), Town of Montague  
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from WENDELL page 7

break up the cots and keep some stored at the office building, some at the town hall and some at the fire station and highway garage, which has an upstairs room that could serve as a temporary shelter.

Pooser prepared a letter requesting the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) to include Wendell's highway garage and fire station when it builds a main trunk line to connect to anchor institutions in town in the next year or two. The town's Emergency Operations Center is located in the garage and could benefit from a high speed internet connection, and the road crew, based in the garage could use current weather information available on the internet when planning when and where to plow and sand.

In the recent October snow storm, the road crew got their weather information from a desk top television with a rabbit ears antenna.

Aldrich said the MBI had informed her they had made their plan, and were not likely to change it, but she said she would forward the letter to them anyway.

The Franklin County Sheriff's office is offering a kennel and dog officer proposal meant not to replace but to be a backup for the town's own dog control officer, Maggie Houghton. The cost is \$700, more than Houghton's pay, and Keller questioned whether the program was worth the money. The board will consult Houghton and the finance committee before replying.

By answering questions on the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) tool kit, Pooser and Keller saved the town 1% on its annual insurance bill. They can save more by following through with some of MIIA's recommendations for the town.



SCHOOL from page 7

average.

On the subject of rules and their enforcement, students said the rules are clear for student behavior (95%), are enforced fairly and consistently (81%), and adults take quick action when they find out a student is bullying or being cruel to another student (77%).

Students agreed with the statement, "In my school, there is at least one adult who would be willing to help me with a personal problem." 93% of the time at G-M. They agreed there was at least one adult who knows who their friends are (91%) and at least one adult who really cares about how they're doing in school (87%), again higher than the regional as a whole.

Gill-Montague students say they mostly or always feel safe on the way to and from school by 91%. By wide margins, they also say they feel safe in the cafeteria (89%), bathrooms (88%) outside and around the school (88%) in the locker rooms (85%), and in the hallways (82%).

Do students feel connected to their school and community? In the G-M school district, 70% said they have a strong sense of belonging to their school, and 86% said adults encourage students to care for each other. Are families encouraged to be part of school activities? With somewhat lower numbers, 68% said yes, compared to 63% throughout the region. Students do say they have lots of chances to talk and work together with other students in their classes (79%).

In the only low number of positive responses, only 30% of G-M students said they get a chance to work on projects for and with the local community, compared to 33% of students who answered yes to this ques-

tion regionally.

At Gill-Montague, 95% of students agreed with the statement, "I think it's wrong to harass or pick on another student," and 84% said they would know how to help if they saw a student being picked on or harassed at school. On the subject of cyber bullying, about a third of G-M students reported incidences of receiving mean or threatening texts or emails, a bit higher than the regional average.

Voas provided her contact information at the Community Coalition for Teens for anyone wanting more information on the survey: 413-774-1194, ext. 119, or by email at: jvoas@fcog.org.

School committee members said they were pleased to hear the data confirm their own positive view of the climate in district schools.

Earlier in the meeting, interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom introduced seven of this year's John and Abigail Adams Scholars, of the total of 18 scholarship winners from the TFHS class of 2012. Ekstrom and school committee members congratulated all of the scholars. Students are eligible for the award based on high academic achievement on MCAS tests.

Ekstrom had personally



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

L to R, Among the winners of the John and Abigail Adams scholarship awards at Turners Falls High School on November 22nd were Haley Ozdarski, Haley Fiske, and Caroline Sena.

honored all of the students in a ceremony held earlier in the day. This year's John and Abigail Adams Scholars are: Jolina-Rose Blier, Zacharie Boisvert, Daniel Colton, Christian Connelly, Haley Fiske, Christopher Gordon, Mark Hudyma, Jesse Langknecht, Samuel Letcher, Corban Mailoux, Jeremy Mankowsky, Patrick Moretti, Quincy Ortiz, Haley Ozdarski, Emily Pollard, Todd Richardson, Caroline Sena and Tara Williams.

The scholarships, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Education, allow students to qualify for a tuition waiver for eight traditional semesters of undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts, the eight state colleges and the fifteen community colleges.

The next regularly school committee meeting will be held on December 13th, at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Illegal Driving, Vandalism, Assist Other Police

Tuesday, 11/15
3:05 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for speeding, attaching number plates, driving an un-insured vehicle, and with a revoked registration.
Wednesday, 11/16
12:05 a.m. Dog in Route 2 at Maple Avenue. Found same and returned to owner.
4:40 p.m. Car vs. deer crash on Route 2 at Old State Road.
9:25 p.m. Report of a loud alarm in the Farley area. Checked area. No alarm sounding.

Friday, 11/18
12:45 a.m. Assisted Montague police with disturbance at East Main Street.
6:45 p.m. Assisted Gill police with motor vehicle crash on Main Street and Route 2.
Saturday, 11/19
2:15 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and failure to wear seatbelt.
Monday, 11/21
7:15 a.m. Suspicious person in area of East Prospect Street. Area checked. Unable to locate.

2:00 p.m. Dispute at Old State Road residence. Verbal only. Subject left the residence. Report taken.
8:40 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2.
Thursday, 11/24
10:30 p.m. Dispatched to area of Route 2 for report of male subject walking in the direction of the French King Bridge. Checked area. Unfounded.
Saturday, 11/26
10:20 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and possession of a class E substance on Route 2.
Sunday, 11/27
12:25 a.m. Removed tree limb down at Wheelock Street.
5:15 a.m. Removed tree from Prospect Heights.
8:20 p.m. Report of distraught juvenile female on Strachen Street.

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**COMPOST** from page 1  
menting the composting program, but says the district as a whole has been very supportive – from the administrative and teaching teams to the food service and custodial staff.

Donovan aired the video *Compost It* for elementary school students and staff and talked to them about the changes in their daily trash routines. Students learned that composting saves money on waste disposal, helps slow greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and creates valuable soil out of waste. She then visited each school to train students and staff how to sort trash and encouraged students to hone their math skills by measuring waste and calculating the percentages diverted from the landfill.

Montague Elementary kindergarten student David Damkoehler said he puts the food he doesn't eat and leftover paper into the compost bucket in the

cafeteria and plastic straws into the trash barrel. Asked about plastic forks, Damkoehler said, "We use real forks, but kids who bring home lunches have to put

"We went into this project to be good to the Earth and to get our students involved in projects that can make a difference."

**-Lynn Bassett  
G-M Business Manager**

their juice pouches and plastic food containers into the trash too. A big truck comes and takes the compost to a farm. They put it into a big hole and make a big pile. Then it becomes soil and they feed it to cows."

This is not your average backyard compost program!

As Damkoehler noted, students learned that plastic items like straws, plastic utensils, cups and condiment packets cannot turn into soil and must go in the

trash bin, while milk cartons, napkins and all leftover food can be tossed into the compost containers. This type of off-site commercial composting differs from home composting by including non-vegetable waste such as dairy products, meat, and bones as well as the milk containers, napkins and other paper waste.

Sixth grade student Toby Foster said landfills are becoming full. That's one reason the Gill Elementary School is starting to compost food and paper. When Donovan spoke to the school, Foster learned the leftover food and paper that is taken to the farm turns into compost and soil that is

good for growing better crops. People can eat the crops or feed them to animals for better meat and better milk, he said.

Foster said there is now a new white compost bucket in his 6th grade classroom. The students use it mostly for paper towels, after washing up before lunch. All those paper towels used to go in the trash bin.

Foster says the kids are doing a pretty good job of sorting trash, though some mistakes are still being made. Last week the sixth graders helped weigh the lunch garbage and determined 72% was compost and only 28% was trash. Asked how the trash was

weighed, Foster replied, "Students first weighed themselves, then picked up the different bags and got back on the scale. They subtracted their weight to figure out the pounds of compost and trash and changed them to percents."

Not all students were able to help with the weighing, but those who did reported their findings back to their classmates.

The Sheffield campus began composting November 3rd followed by Gill Elementary on the 8th and the Hillcrest campus on the 14th. In last week's weigh-off, Gill students collected 23 see **COMPOST** page 13

**ERVING** from page 7

ment establishments would be required to provide a vegetated buffer to screen the establishment from other commercial uses and their buildings would have to appear similar to other buildings in the area. The bylaw also regulates the number of signs allowed at an adult entertainment establishment (one) and prohibits flashing lights, rotating signs, and reflective or fluorescent signs. The special permit granting authority (planning board) would be allowed to set additional conditions for the permit, including restrictions on the hours of opera-

tion.

Articles 1 through 5 and 7 ask the meeting to approve paying six bills from prior years, totaling \$1880.44. Article 6 would authorize starting a revolving fund for the Council on Aging, to receive payments from outside groups for use of the new senior center. Article 8 asks for the transfer of \$750 from the Water Enterprise Fund to provide a containment system for stored sodium hydroxide at the well pump house.

The meeting will be held at Erving town hall at 7 p.m.



**SALMON** from page 5

tecting all of the river's migratory fish species, unanimously voted to donate those big fish – killed, gutted and iced – to any federally recognized tribe that would take them. It might be a PR coup for the disastrous restoration, buffering perceptions away from the millions of dollars lost producing ten dozen salmon returns annually. As with the Pilgrims, Pynchon and William Turner, the Indians had not come calling: USFWS had. Region 5's William Archambault noted, "We reached out to the federal tribes." Ironically, that included the Wampanoag and Narragansett.

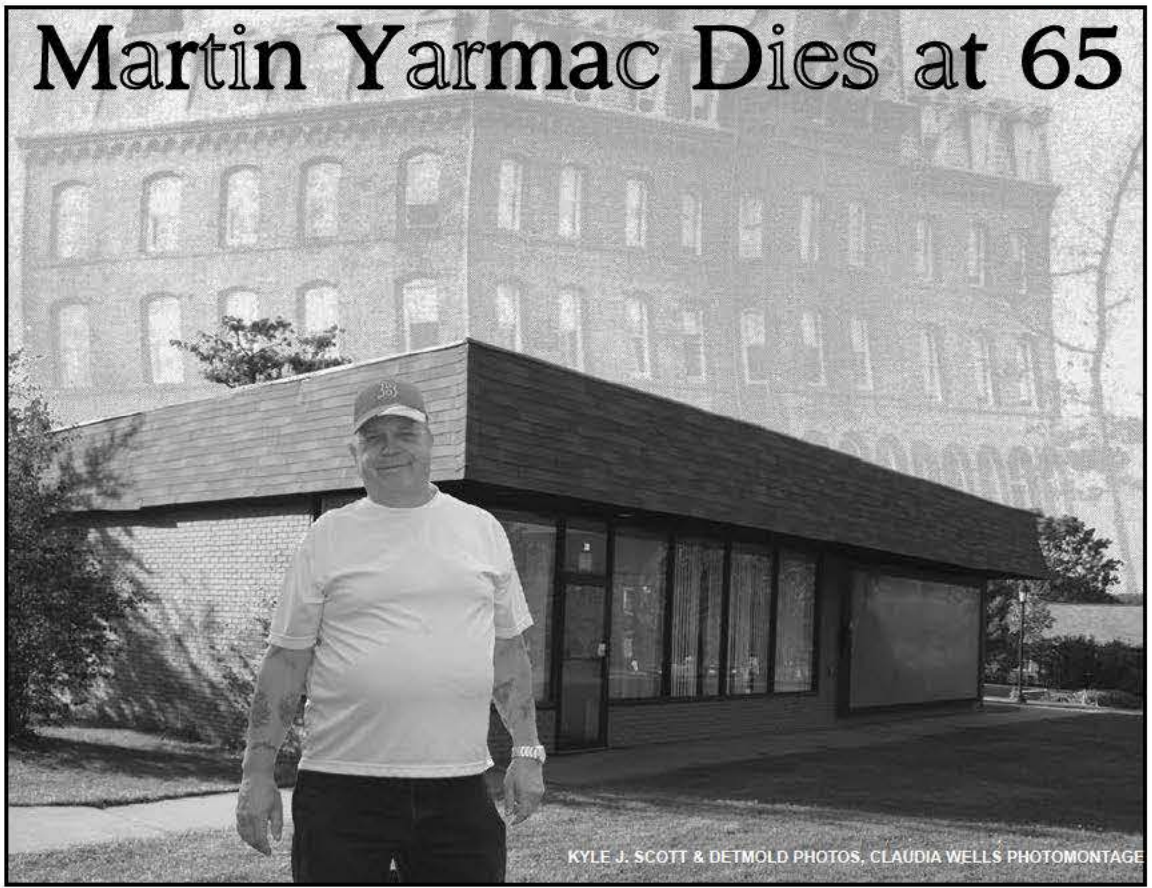
I hope all fully understood that

in accepting fish they did USFWS a huge favor. They should also know the embattled two-mile reach of river they knew as Peskeomskut remains today a desolate place, where the USFWS and CRASC have abandoned a small population of federally-endangered shortnose sturgeon and beleaguered American shad to the excesses of a for-profit power company.



*Environmental journalist Karl Meyer lives in Greenfield, MA, and writes often about the Connecticut River.*

You can find his blog at: [www.karlmeierwriting.com](http://www.karlmeierwriting.com).



Marty Yarmac, pictured here on the corner of Avenue A and 2nd in June, just before he headed to Mystic, CT for a fishing trip, grew up in the Grand Trunk Hotel, which used to stand on that same corner.

**GILL** - Martin "Marty" E. Yarmac, 65, of Main Road died Sunday (11-27-11) at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. He was born in Montague on October 16th, 1946, the son of Edward and Helen (Siwizki) Yarmac. He grew up in the Grand Trunk Hotel on Avenue A, and related his memories of that long gone landmark at historical gatherings in recent years. He attended local schools in Turners Falls and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School, Class of 1964.

Marty was a construction laborer for J. A. Jones

Construction of Turners Falls and North Carolina. He also worked for Aquadro Cerrutti Construction. He was a spot worker at Vermont Yankee during their periodic refuelings. He was employed at the former Candlelight Motor Inn in Greenfield as a desk clerk before retiring in 2004.

Marty was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

Marty was an avid kayaker and fisherman and enjoyed collecting knives. His collection of John Russell Cutlery knives was a local legend; he wrote a book

about it. He was a member of the NRA.

Besides his mother, Helen of Turners Falls, he leaves his wife of 21 years, the former Elsa Cana; a daughter, Maria Green and her husband Matthew of Roswell, Ga.; a granddaughter, Faith; a sister, Susan Yarmac of Turners Falls, and three nieces. A Memorial Mass will be on Friday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church with the Rev. Charles J. DiMascola, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the parish cemetery. There are no calling hours.

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**LEVERETT** from page 1  
 \$9,000 more in capital spending for computer upgrades). "We've eliminated the Spanish program. Fuel costs are unpredictable" (though the school is in the midst of an extensive lighting, insulation, and window replacement energy upgrade). "We need to look at the structure of the budget. Some structural increase may be needed."

The school committee brought in level funded budgets for the three years prior to FY '12.

The selectboard urged Hajir to take a hard line in contract negotiations with teachers and with U-28 superintendent Joan Wickman.

Both the Leverett and Shutesbury school committees voted against renewing Wickman's contract recently, but they were outvoted by the other three towns in U-28: Erving, New Salem and Wendell.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico recommended negotiating for a 5% cut in Wickman's \$124,790 salary, so classroom teaching could continue to be emphasized over what he termed "micro-managing" at LES.

"Something's got to give," d'Errico said.

Hajir urged the selectboard to build on the good will that may have been created during recent meetings with the boards of other U-28 towns by proactively seeking a yearly meeting of the selectboards and finance committees of those towns, to envision how they would like the union to evolve, and "to build a better collaboration for the future." Hajir suggested this as something of a parallel track in case present discussions about forming a new regional arrangement for Leverett's elementary school governance do not bear fruit.

Returning to the budget, Hajir said the elementary school is now receiving a small amount of Title

I funding, as a result of a recent increase in the number of students attending LES who qualify for free and reduced lunch – a number now topping 30% of the student body.

He said plans were being discussed to stage a large fundraising concert on school grounds next year with local musicians donating their services to raise funds to help defray some of the expected increase in the budget.

D'errico thought the impact of such an event would be "huge" not merely in monetary terms, but also in terms of raising awareness among the community about the school's needs.

He warned that an override pegged to the school budget may face strong cross currents in a year when the town may also be considering means of financing a local broadband initiative and perhaps also a means of resolving a longstanding problem with contaminated wells on Teawaddle Hill Road near the former town landfill.

**Tax Bills Delayed**

In other news, the board delayed a tax classification hearing, pending approval of local valuations from the state Department of Revenue.

Assistant assessor Stephen Schmidt said the town waited five weeks to hear that DOR had granted preliminary approval to triennial revaluations until finally a phone inquiry to a DOR field agent revealed that preliminary approval had already been granted. "We used to receive notification by mail, then by both mail and email," Schmidt told the board. "This time, we never received an official notification."

The selectboard was concerned the delay would lead to tax bills going out in the middle of the holidays. "People are going to freak," warned Shively.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis said Leverett also failed to get a routine notice from Boston about the deadline for renewing alcohol licenses this year, but since town hall only issues one of those – to the Village Food Coop – this delay did not create too much of a bottleneck. The board agreed to cut the fee for renewing the coop's license in half – to \$250 – in recognition of the service the coop provides the community by stocking local beers, organic wine and the like.

The board constituted itself as the Leverett Department of Telecommunications and Energy, pursuant to the measure passed by town meeting to establish a municipal lighting plant for purposes of facilitating the delivery of high speed broadband cable to residents. The board appointed Rob Brooks as its delegate to the Wired West Cooperative, working to deliver high speed internet access to dozens of underserved communities in Western and Central Massachusetts, and named Connie Peterson as an alternate.

Brooks said the town's broadband committee is now reviewing the four proposals received from consultants interested in working with the town to plan a last mile broadband system, prior to awarding the bid.

The board appointed Justin Wall, of Belchertown, a part time Leverett police officer at \$16.13 per hour. Wall currently works on the Shutesbury and

Sunderland police departments, and is familiar with Leverett, according to the recommendation of chief Gary Billings. The board examined Wall's resume and found him well qualified and an expert marksman.

Adding to the recent litany of woe that has marked the recent installation of two high efficiency furnaces at town hall, McGinnis said one of the brand new, made-in-the-USA Adams furnaces failed to operate when called for last week. Upon inspection, the direct-from-the-factory furnace was found to have suffered an electrical failure in its controls, resulting in the melting of wires in the internal controls.

"The building was not close to catching on fire," insisted McGinnis, who added the other brand new furnace also showed signs of overheating in the control wiring.

Among the other problems associated with the Siemens Building Technologies furnace installation project at town hall was the initial delivery of the wrong furnace, and a persistent pool of condensate water forming under the newly installed furnaces in the town hall basement – a problem still unresolved.

The board advised McGinnis to send letters to a number of parties including Siemens and the manufacturer, putting them on notice of the danger of liability from the new furnaces as installed, and seeking corrective measures and extended warranty. "We're paying for furnaces here that are supposed to operate," said board chair Rich Brazeau.

The board sent a letter to the planning board, weighing in on the issue of loosening restrictions on the bylaws governing the placement of cell phone towers. In the wake of the widespread loss of land lines and electrical power following the October 29th snowstorm, the board said the only way people in town found it possible to communicate, in many instances, was to travel to a nearby town to access their cell phones, since cell coverage is spotty in Leverett even under the best of circumstances.

"As you know," the selectboard advised the planning board in its letter, "Leverett's current zoning bylaws only allow cell towers in a few locations" (i.e. in commercial and business zones – along Route 63 or near the coop

in North Leverett), "which have not been locations where companies are interested in placing them." The letter concludes, "Cell phones are no longer just a luxury or convenience item, but an operational need and an important safety tool," for police and fire personnel and emergency planners.

Highway department superintendent Will Stratford advised the board he had run through his entire tree warden line item following the recent storm. The board is hopeful the state and federal government will authorize reimbursement funding for a good percentage of the \$15,000 spent on storm clean-up.

**Bull Hill Road**

The board agreed to spend \$10,000 previously allocated by town meeting for improving drainage issues around Bull Hill and Depot Road to contract with Holmberg and Howe, Inc. of Easthampton to survey the wetlands around the area affected by frequent flooding from Long Plain Brook. Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau has been working separately with Stratford and others to flag private wells in the area in preparation for the survey, and to contact the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and urge them to clean out a culvert they own beneath Route 63 near the affected area. Brazeau would also like Mass DOT to install a drainage pipe along the side of Route 63 downstream of Bull Hill Road to move water more quickly away from the affected area.

Brazeau said the Friends Meeting House and some neighbors are planning to work with Beaver Solutions to improve the beaver deceiver equipment currently installed at the beaver pond in back of the Meeting House, and to install another such device. When that is accomplished, Brazeau said the Friends youth group may help to lower the level of the dam, reducing the tendency of the beaver pond to saturate the watershed upstream of the area affected by flooding during heavy rains.

Once the survey is completed and DEP permits secured, Brazeau said he hopes the town can use Chapter 90 highway funds to install a new box culvert at Bull Hill Road in early spring.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**

**Break In, Accident, Unauthorized Charge**

**Monday, 9/26**  
 7:15 p.m. Depot Road resident reported her house broken into – 14-year-old male juvenile arrested after an investigation.  
**Tuesday, 9/27**  
 5:15 a.m. Motorcycle vs. deer accident on Lockes Village Road. No injuries.  
**Saturday, 10/1**  
 4:55 p.m. Kempfield Road resident reported prescription medicine stolen from residence some time in the last week.  
**Wednesday, 10/19**  
 10:04 p.m. Assault and battery reported between two parties on Locke Hill

Road. Advised to seek own complaints.  
**Wednesday, 10/26**  
 5:00 p.m. Lockes Village Road resident reported somebody used her debit card online.  
**Friday, 10/28**  
 7:00 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Lockes Village Road. Minor injuries to one individual transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center via Orange ambulance.  
**Sunday, 10/30**  
 12:30 a.m. Two storm related motor vehicle accidents on Depot Road. Power lines down. No injuries.

**Tuesday, 11/8**  
 5:04 p.m. Neighbors dispute over barking dogs.  
**Wednesday, 11/9**  
 6:30 a.m. Report of utility pole on fire on Montague Road. Notified National Grid and Fire Department.  
**Friday, 11/11**  
 4:25 a.m. House alarm on Jennison Road. All OK.  
**Sunday, 11/20**  
 1:00 p.m. Report of three dogs in resident's yard threatening him. Notified dog officer.  
**Tuesday, 11/22**  
 12:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. Minor injuries.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**  
**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *What exactly causes my old teeth to decay?*  
 Tooth decay — and gum disease — are caused by plaque, a layer of bacteria. This plaque can build up quickly on the teeth of older people. In addition, seniors have a greater tendency to get decay around older fillings. And we have more fillings than

younger people because we didn't all grow up with fluoride. Cavities in the roots of teeth are also more common among older adults, because the roots are exposed when our gums recede and we become "long in the tooth." The root surfaces are softer than tooth enamel and decay more easily.

Dry mouth, which is a lack of saliva, promotes tooth decay. Saliva is needed to neutralize the cavity-causing acids produced by plaque. Most dry mouth — a condition also known as xerostomia — is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging.

Despite all of the dental problems related to age, seniors are

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holding onto their teeth longer than they used to. One reputable survey showed that the rate that seniors lose their teeth has dropped by 60 percent since 1960. This improvement has been attributed to advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene.

*Q. What should I do if I or someone in my home is poisoned?*

If you have a poison emergency, here are some steps you can take. The order of the steps depends upon the severity of the problem. You can call 911, call your poison control center at 800-222-1222, search the poison's label for instructions and an emergency phone number.

The following are some general first-aid instructions.

- If you get a poison onto your skin or in your eyes, rinse the affected area in the shower for at least 15 minutes.

- If you inhale toxic fumes, get to fresh air immediately.

- If poison is swallowed, do not use an emetic medicine such as syrup of ipecac to induce vomiting. Doctors no longer recommend them because there's no evidence they prevent poisons from entering the bloodstream.

*Q. How common are headaches?*

More than 45 million Americans suffer from recurring headaches. About 70% of headache sufferers are women.

There are primary headaches that are unrelated to another condition, and secondary headaches, which are. Primary headaches include tension, migraine, mixed headache syndrome and cluster headaches. Secondary headaches include chronic progressive, sinus and hormone headaches.

About 90 percent of primary headaches are caused by tension. These muscle-contraction headaches cause mild-to-moderate pain and come and go. Tension headaches are called chronic if you have them more than 15 days per month. They are episodic if you get them less than 15 days per month.

Most tension headaches can be treated with over-the-counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen, aspirin and ibuprofen.

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

**COMPOST** from page 11

pounds of compostable materials and 9 pounds of trash during their Tuesday lunch period. On Monday, the Montague students from pre-K through 1st grade collected 50 pounds of compost (82 percent of their lunch trash) while 2nd through 5th graders collected 96 pounds of compost (79 percent of their lunch trash).

Foster stressed the Sheffield campus has more students so they should have more leftover food.

Additionally, elementary school classrooms will each have a compost collection bucket for food waste, snack milk containers and other compostable items.

Joanne Flagg, 6th grade teacher at Gill Elementary School is delighted with the new program. One corner of her room is already set up with containers for different types of waste — bins for recyclable paper, recyclable and redeemable containers, and a 13 gallon trash container — and now a three gallon compost collector.

Flagg said she hopes someday the 13 gallon container will collect compost and the trash bin will be reduced to three gallons.

Flagg's students already have been saving food scraps for their classroom worm composter and watching the decomposition process first hand. Foster said the worms work pretty quickly. The worms like moisture, so water is added to the bin every few days along with fruit and

vegetable scraps. It doesn't take long before the students can see the compost pile growing.

The middle school and high school began composting this week, delayed by the unseasonal October snowstorm. However, Donovan was on hand November 10th with Rouwenna Lamm of the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) and professional free skier Dylan Hood of Protect our Winters (POW) to introduce their programs and talk about climate change.

The "ACE Climate Assembly" multimedia presentation on climate science explained greenhouse gases, their sources and the climate effects of human-caused emissions.

Lamm talked about the ACE mission to educate high school students on the science behind climate change and inspire them to take action to curb global warming. Following the presentation, students were encouraged to pledge to "Do One Thing" (DOT) to help the environment and cool the climate, and invited to sign up for action teams to work with ACE on carbon-cutting projects. The action teams will work with Donovan and faculty advisors to implement the composting program as their first project.

ACE has presented the climate assembly to nearly 150,000 in New England. More than 36,000 students in 600 schools have joined action teams and some of their projects

may be seen by visiting [www.acespace.org](http://www.acespace.org). Recently they have partnered with Protect Our Winters — an organization founded in 2007 by professional athletes who witness firsthand the impact of climate change on mountain climates.

Massachusetts-born freestyle skier Hood talked about the efforts of the winter sports community to spread the word about life style changes that may be able to collectively mitigate climate change. More information can be found at [www.protectourwinters.org](http://www.protectourwinters.org).

Lamm was excited to report that 19 Gill-Montague high school students and 55 middle school students had already signed up for the action teams. The high school team will have a first meeting this Thursday with Donovan and advisors Robin Harrington and Kat LaFleur. Middle school advisors Brad Dana and Lynn Gillen will schedule the first middle school team meeting with Donovan shortly.

Meanwhile, Day One of lunchtime composting at the upper school went well. Donovan also noted there are container and paper recycling bins throughout the school. Student council members empty classroom recycling bins weekly.

The elementary schools are searching for parent volunteers to help ensure success. Contact Amy Donovan at FCSWD, 772-2438.

**TRIBES** from page 1

clear cut the site five years ago in preparation for leveling hill. "They grow quick."

Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett tribe, said the hill above the Great Falls at the Connecticut River features a stone formation that is the first Native ceremonial site east of the Mississippi to be listed as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. "In ancient time it would have been kept burnt off and clear," as "the center of a ceremonial calendar that views Mount Pocumtuck, over by Heath, 15½ miles away. You would be able to see the fires that would have been lit on Heath on Burnt Hill, just half a mile to three quarters of a mile further west. What you have at Mount Pocumtuck are two notches in the horizon line, and the sun sets at one particular time of year in one of those notches, when the Perseid meteor showers come by between the 11th and 13th of August."

Harris added, "The stone ceremonial site is part of the ancient ceremony that acknowledged the passage of the energy of people who are deceased into the spirit realm of Cawtantowitt. For Narragansetts, that is a passage to the west. It is one of many places of ceremony in Franklin County, a very powerful place of ceremony for Native people."

Harris said, "We have made a commitment to protect this place

of ceremony, and we are in a committed relationship with the airport commission and the selectboard of Montague and the people of the Montague area. A part of our commitment is to maintain that hill as a clear area for the purposes of the airport, so it will not be a visual hazard for the pilots — and for the purposes of ceremony."

As to relations with the airport commission, once characterized by acrimony, Harris said, "I think we have grown into a very collegial relationship. We are on two different sides of an issue, and we're trying to find an appropriate common ground. And I think the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] is trying to facilitate that common ground."

Longo agreed, and called the effort by the Wampanoags and Narragansetts to clear the airport hill of saplings a template for how work in a sensitive cultural and archeological site with 10,000 years of history could proceed harmoniously between the commission, the FAA, and the tribes. "All parties have a better understanding of how the process is going to move forward," said Longo. "I think projects are going to proceed well in the future."

After years when the airport runway replacement project seemed frozen in time in an intractable dispute over what a former commission chair once called a "pile of rocks," that would truly be something to be thankful for.

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# Ferry Meadow Farm - part XVII

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - Diana left earlier this week, but I have washed the sheets, folded them, and put them away. I find I have time for that kind of thing these days. I also have plenty of energy for taking them out again and making up the extra bed for Jason.

Jason has been doing something with his computer ever since we got back from the walk. It's about 5:00 a.m. when I walk into the kitchen, where Jason is sitting.

"Bed's ready whenever you are," I say.

"Thanks," he says, looking up from the screen of his laptop. "Sorry, I should have helped you."

"That's OK," I say, pleased that he at least thought of it. "You're a lot more tired than I

am."

This is clearly true. He looks exhausted under the kitchen lights.

I have not had my doppelganger long enough to have forgotten that feeling.

"It feels kinda weird to go to sleep when you aren't going to," Jason says.

"I'll be quiet," I say. "Just sitting at the computer all day working for the bank."

"I wasn't really thinking about noise."

"Yeah, I know. It's weird for me, too. That I won't be talking to you for the next eight hours or so."

"Well, before that we didn't talk for about eight years."

I do the math.

"Nine," I say, "actually."

"OK, Rese," he says getting

up. "Do you mind if I take a shower before I go to sleep?"

I notice that while I was making the bed, he washed the dishes we used earlier. "Thanks," I say, pointing to the sink.

"No problem," he grins at me. We stand there for an awkward moment, and then he hugs me. When I get over my surprise, I melt into his arms. He kisses my forehead then goes into the extra bedroom.

I have three hours before I switch bodies. I take stock.

This body has eaten, exercised, showered. I guess I can do what I like. So I go back to my book.

At first I only stare at the page I am on, running over the day's events in my mind. After a while, though, I settle into the couch and start reading. I'm 16 pages from the end when it's time to switch bodies, so I just finish the book.

The Body at Rest will have to scramble a little to eat and

get dressed before work, but I think she'll forgive me. I laugh about this to myself while I hurry to lie down and wake up the other body. This has gotten to be routine already.

I jump out of bed, feeling well-rested, grab some clothes and some breakfast, and still manage to log into work at 8:59.

"Not bad," I say aloud.

diana722: morning

theresam: hey

diana722: how'd you sleep?

theresam: like a log

I laugh at our joke. It's nice to have someone out there who knows what's going on in my life.

She would never ask what I did all night, not on email anyway. We won't even talk on the phone about it. It's weird hav-

ing such a big secret, and sometimes I wonder what will happen to Neil if the doppelganger company finds out. Or what will happen to me.

I feel weird not telling Diana about Jason, but this seems like an even bigger secret.

We chat while we both work. Diana sends me a link to the classifieds, and I check out apartments on desktop 1. Desktop 2 is my work, as always.

Now that I have a doppelganger I don't seem to need three screens. Usually I only use one.

- Continued next issue

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Burglary, Drunk Driving, Hit and Run Accident

Monday, 11/21

5:53 p.m. Missing person on Main Street. Investigated.

7:39 p.m. Structure fire on Turner Street. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 11/22

9:10 a.m. Illegal dumping on Fourth Street. Report taken.

12:03 p.m. Hit and run accident on Denton Street. Services rendered.

1:48 p.m. Structure fire on Main Street. Referred to other agency.

3:56 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Third Street. Unable to locate.

6:14 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Investigated.

8:17 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Investigated.

8:20 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street.

Investigated.

10:29 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street.

Investigated.

Wednesday, 11/23

7:35 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at SPS New England Office on Fourth Street. Report taken.

3:49 p.m. Missing person on Main Street. Services rendered.

5:32 p.m. Assault at Family Dollar on Avenue A. Services rendered.

8:13 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Central Street.

Advised of options.

Thursday, 11/24

1:20 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, for operating under the influence and failure to signal.

12:00 p.m. Harassment order

violation on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

6:26 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Chestnut Hill Road. Services rendered.

Friday, 11/25

11:11 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Advised to contact police if situation repeats.

12:27 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Beijing Station on Avenue A. Arrest of [redacted] for felony nighttime breaking and entering into a building, vandalism, damage, or defacement of property, and unarmed burglary.

10:25 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest on Park Villa

Drive.

10:29 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Chestnut Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 11/26

12:44 a.m. Fight on West Main Street. Unable to locate.

2:57 p.m. Hit and run accident on Montague City Road at Cumberland Farms. Advised of options.

7:49 p.m. Missing person on Third Street. Report taken.

Sunday, 11/27

10:32 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Second Street. Referred to an officer.

11:53 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Church Street. Report taken.

8:54 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Montague City Road at Cumberland Farms. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 11/29

4:25 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

### LEGAL NOTICE

The Erving Board of Selectmen, as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Ralph Semb's application for an all alcoholic beverages package store liquor license for a new build convenience store at 63 French King Highway in Erving.

The public hearing will be held at 6:35PM in Erving's Town Hall, 12 E. Main St. on Monday December 12, 2011.

Erving Board of Selectmen  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th**  
Montague Grange: *Crafting Gift Fair*, come sit & make various crafts & walk out with a bagful of completed gifts for your families & friends, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pamela Means*, 8 - 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd and 16th**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd & 17th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *It's a Wonderful Life*, A Tribute to a Simpler Time. 7 p.m. Matinee on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Full Moon Coffeehouse, Rhythm Inc.* 7:30 p.m.

Northfield: *The 5th Annual Special Day in Northfield Holiday Celebration*, 10 a.m. 6 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 p.m. Free.

*Heroes in Trouble*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer (with DJ Bex)*, 9:30 p.m.

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

Leverett Town Hall: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse, John Sheldon*, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**NOW until JANUARY 29th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artwork by Leonore Alaniz*. Artist Reception Saturday December 3rd 1 - 4 p.m.

**NOW until DECEMBER 18th**  
The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Ellen Denuto's photographs in The Artist as Art*. Fridays through Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m.

**All of DECEMBER**  
Leverett Library: Original collage illustrations by *Judith Inglese*, from the *See the Sun* children's book series.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Scenes of Turners Falls*, Ariel Jones & Nina Rossi.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th**  
Craigieburn Farms Alpacas, Shutesbury:

*Holiday Open Farm*. Hot cider, holiday shopping, & visits with the alpacas. 10 - 4 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites, Reggae Fantastico*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Maria's Metal Mania*, 9:30 p.m.

New England Youth Theater, Brattleboro: *Twilight Music* presents a twin bill *Kris Delmhorst* and the *Winterpills* 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Trailer Park*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

The Pushkin, Greenfield: *moira smiley & VOCO*, music concert tour, *A Winter Gust of Song*, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**  
Greenfield Center School: *Rumpus-a colossal arts and crafts event* 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Orange Town Hall Auditorium: *2nd Annual Zydeco Dance Party Benefit with Slipper Sneakers*, for Seeds of Solidarity Youth and Community Programs, 6 - 10 p.m.

Montague Grange: Southern square dance, with *The Dosey Doughrollers*, Calling by Ralph Sweet. 7 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Big Screen Simulcast of *Suzee's Third Street Laundromat Lost and Found Fashion Show*, and dance party with DJ Greg 2000. Free.

Montague Bookmill: *TinyRadar's Bookmill Residency Series* featuring *Animal Mother* (Asher from *Bella's Bartok*), *Acoustic(ish) Bunny's A Swine*, and *The True Jacqueline*, 7:30-11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 p.m.



*The Sweetback Sisters play at the Rendezvous on Thursday December 8th at 8 p.m. Tickets at shop-westernmass.com.*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sweetback Sisters*, 8 p.m. Tickets at shopwesternmass.com.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th and SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. And Sunday, December 11th at 2 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Captain-Salls Orchestra*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Brick Church, Deerfield: *Pioneer Consort presents Third Annual Noel Concert*, 7:30 p.m.

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

Turners Falls: *A Wonderful, Wonderful Night in Turners Falls*, caroling and shopping night. Caroling starts at 6 p.m. at The Rendezvous.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Shoes*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Ellingtones / Something Else*, Free.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wendell's own Corwin Ericson* has a *Swell* book release party, 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 8:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Third Annual Holiday Spectacular*, 7 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library: *Mark Vonnegut, Just Like Someone Without Mental Illness Only More So*, book reading. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, Original Guitar Music, 8-10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kurtyka Kills Christmas*. 9:30 p.m.

Element Brewery, Millers Falls: *Second Anniversary Party*, 6 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Show of Cards with Dan Blakeslee*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9-11 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th**  
Montague Grange: *Yule Concert with Kelliana and Friends*, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Greenfield High School: *Family Holiday Concert, Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus with Greenfield High School Chorus*. 7 - 9 p.m.

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Folks who lived without power for too long re-emerged also, with stories about neighbors who rescued them, about hauling out camping gear and cooking and reading as if on a long trip in the national parks, about moving to a shelter for the duration. New Englanders have survived worse than this, and will again.

In the garden, a kale plant that survived an early assault of deer continues to flourish, looking all the greener for the departed snow and cold. A few leeks remain to be pulled. Otherwise, the garden is settling in for the rest of the off season.

The garlic cloves are tucked into the still moist, soft soil. I've sprinkled the seed of spring greens: lettuce, spinach, kale and Swiss chard, and covered them firmly with a half inch or so of soil. The coming

cycles of freezing and thawing will crack the seeds so they can sprout as soon as the snow is gone and the soil starts to warm. These end of season plantings are often hardier and earlier than those planted in the early spring. We've read of seed found in ancient burial sites then planted and grown successfully.

Soon the temptation of colorful seed catalogues will arrive. Hopefully, you have made written or at least mental note of the varieties you have most enjoyed and discarded those which did not thrive for one reason or another. I have an artist friend whose rose garden is her outdoor palette. When she purchases a new rose, it is given tender care and feeding, but if it does not produce after a year or two, she is ruthless. The literal late bloomer is pulled from her bed and tossed into the woods. This garden painter has no patience or room for a plant that leaves a vacancy in her floral canvas.

We once had an extremely prolific cantaloupe crop in an earlier garden and yearned for a similar crop in our new home. Frankly, the amount of sun and richness of soil were not the same, yet we spent several garden seasons, money, and

patience trying over and over again. Now, past middle age, we feel less inclined and more attuned to my artist friend's philosophy.

In any case, there is certainly no merit to planting seeds that no longer germinate or produce effectively. Before you place your order for the next year, discard flower and green seed older than a year or two. Hard shelled seeds like bean, pea and cucumber last longer. A simple test will save you time and heartache.

Place a few seeds in a damp paper towel and keep them warm and moist. If there is no sign of sprouting in a week, let them go. Hard shell seeds may need a couple of weeks. You want a high germination rate for any seed you plan to plant.

When those luscious looking catalogues arrive, try hard not to over order seeds or varieties of your favorite plants. If your space and time are limited, try to be realistic about how much you can grow and tend. Seed companies invariably send out catalogues in the depths of winter darkness because their colorful pages drive any gardener to excess.

In the meantime, satisfy your gardening cravings by clearing up dead plants, weeds, and

unwanted growth in your yard and garden. Then sit back and enjoy the waxing moon, the migrating birds, and the return of the winter population. The regularity of all these cycles is steadying. We feel safely grounded despite the turbulent weather we've experienced since late spring: too much rain, not enough; too much wind, and too little sun. Not to mention snow in October.

There's much to be thankful for in this holiday season. Less is more, and we can be grateful simply for food, friends and shelter, celebrating by consuming less and sharing more. Find room at your table for someone without family, give away to those in greater need. Find a local charity you believe in and donate the money you would have spent on one too many gifts. Find the one right gift for someone you love: maybe the gift of time or help or labor. Give the gift of love.

Enjoy the coming season by choosing to make do with less and to give more. Make it a priority to have less stress in your life and to bring less stress into the lives of others. Remember the message of peace and hold it in your heart and in your life.

*Happy gardening!*

**BY LESLIE BROWN**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** – After the unexpected snow of October, November was balmy and mild. The sun returned, the air was alive with birds and the snow quickly receded. In the woods, Mother Nature pulled down the weak of root and limb, culling to leave more room for the strong. (Though in this storm, even the strong were pulled down.)

By late fall, we heard much complaint about the lack of color in the foliage this year; yet in the late afternoon sun the yellows, bronze and copper glowed more beautifully than any red or orange.

Now, in the yard, with the absence of leaves, the shapes of the trees are pronounced. The maples are round and even, the ash tall and adolescently gangly, the birch pure and delicate against the blue of the sky.

from **SPORTS** page 8

the tackles and kept the football away from the dangerous Bartak.

For Turners, knowing the bitter taste of Thanksgiving losses past only makes the pie sweeter and the turkey juicier this time. It's a totally sated feeling. The team will remember everything they did that day, every play, and everything they did to celebrate after with their mates. Winter will be upon us, like that, but it won't matter. After all, they've just won THE Game of their high school athletic career. Take it in, boys. Savor it slowly. It will be there all your lives, and whenever you need a warm memory or a pick-me-up, it'll be there.

And then there is the Kick, forever to be

known in Greenfield as the "dying quail," or the "lame duck." But in Turners it will be "the little football that could," and the "Eddie the Eagle" of kicks, gallantly, though weakly, getting the job done. The Turners lore will put T.J. Meyer in the same category as Louis 'the Toe' Collins and Dale Welcome, the first true extra point field goal kicker in school history. When your grandchildren are sitting on your knee at some future Thanksgiving, T.J., and the Kick has graduated into a 50-yard field goal to win it as time runs out, nobody's gonna say it ain't so.

Congratulations on a great team victory. And now, sing along with me: "Eighteen, Eighteen, Eighteen, Eighteen and I Like It!"



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 the Voo Poo Platter?  
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Dec. 8

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