



RECORD BREAKING MIDWINTER EAGLE COUNT

Mass Wildlife reports 107 individual bald eagles were sighted across the Commonwealth by wildlife biologists and volunteers in the annual midwinter count – from Pittsfield to Plymouth – on January 7th, breaking the 2009 record of 89 eagles sighted. Three days later, one of them showed up at Cold Brook Farm in Montague. Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 3, 2011

COUNTYWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE IN THE WORKS

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON

GREENFIELD - A more coordinated and regional approach to the delivery of town public health services has been proposed for Franklin County, after a year of study by health officials from some of the county's larger towns, including Montague.

Still in the conceptual phase, the proposal, originating with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), envisions shared, trained public health agents handling the more technical or legal matters that come before participating boards of health (for example, septic system, camp and restaurant inspections, infectious disease control, and housing court issues) while elected health board members would focus on the policy and human relations side of public health in their towns.

Phoebe Walker, FRCOG's director of community services, said grant funds from the federal Centers for Disease Control are available for further planning and development of the regional public health initiative. The money is administered by the see **HEALTH** pg 11

'BREAKING' NEWS: Barn Collapses in Montague Center



MICHAEL MULLER PHOTO

This early 19th century post and beam barn on Center St. collapsed under the weight of ice and snow on Wednesday

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CENTER - The massive post and beam barn at the historic Squire Ward house, built in the 1830s at 27 Center Street, survived a brush with fire seven years ago only to collapse under the weight of ice and snow Wednesday, at about 12:45 p.m.

Owner Dean Garvin said he had heard "popping noises all day" coming from the barn, and kept his children from playing near the structure. "We went in early this morning to get the ladders out," to bust up ice dams on

the roof of the main house, Garvin said, expressing relief that no one had been hurt in the collapse.

Michael Muller, who lives across the street, said the sound of the barn collapsing was like an avalanche of snow collapsing off a roof.

On April 19th, 2004, a hot and windy day, embers from an ash can caught a smaller shed near the historic barn on fire, and only the prompt arrival of the Montague Center Fire Department saved the larger

structure from destruction. But its new lease on life proved short lived.

Town historian Lillian Fiske described the main house at the time as "an attractive Greek Revival two-story house with Doric columns stretched across the front." The house was built by Deacon Luke Osgood Leach of Wendell, Fiske said, and was purchased by Squire Henry Ward in the early 1830s, and is said to have been presented to his son, John Sanderson Ward at the time

see **COLLAPSES** pg 8

MONTAGUE EYES BIG BOX STORE IMPACT; Seeks New Industrial Land

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

Members of the selectboard chose not to take any official stand on proposals in Greenfield to build a large discount store there. Chairperson Pat Allen broached the subject, but Fairbrother and Boutwell did not want to make a formal statement at this time.

Fairbrother asked whether the Montague Business Association had any comment on the topic, while Boutwell wondered about the stance of the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

The Montague planning board did take a stand last October, however, and sent a letter to the Greenfield planning board with concerns about a possible 40,000-foot grocery store being included as part of the discount store. Town planner Walter Ramsey explained that many Turners Falls residents, some of whom do not own cars, depend on Food City for groceries, and a large discount grocer may negatively impact Food City.

Additionally, Ramsey noted concerns about traffic on Turners Falls Road in Greenfield leading into and out of Turners Falls over see **IMPACT** pg 13



Supporting Incarcerated Mothers, One Stitch at a Time

CLAUDIA WELLS GRAPHIC

A Knit-a-thon to support the Prison Birth Project will be held on February 5th in Amherst

BY CRYSTAL MCNEILL

AMHERST - Typically, when a mother is expecting a baby, she interviews midwives and obstetricians, attends childbirth classes, weighs the pros and cons of using cloth or disposable diapers, pores through baby clothes in catalogs, learns about breastfeeding, prepares the baby's nursery, has a baby shower, and plans what sort of birth to have - home birth, birthing center, or hospital.

That changes when you are an incarcerated mother. Mothers in prison do not have the same options and perinatal care other pregnant women have.

Concerned about the plight of these women, the Prison Birth Project was founded in 2008 to focus on reproductive justice and to provide support, education, and advocacy for women at the intersection of incarceration and motherhood.

In the past 30 years, the number of incarcerated women in the U.S. has increased by 832%. Six percent of these women have entered local jails and state and federal prisons pregnant at the time of their incarceration.

When a man goes to jail, he may leave behind a woman to

see **INCARCERATED** pg 12



YARN - Tonight!

Alt Country at its best at Burrito Rojo - 8 p.m.

BY TAMI STILES

TURNERS FALLS - Tonight at Burrito Rojo, they'll be serving up not only some fine south of the border meals, but also the music of New York City band Yarn. Yarn will be hitting the floor at 8:00 p.m. to weave some authentic Americana and warm up the snowy scene with a little southern flair. Yarn has received quite a bit of buzz in the alt-country world as a result of the band's first two recordings, and on the strength of their incessant touring schedule of club and festival performances. They've already won a devoted local following with repeated stops at the Route 63 Roadhouse,

a venue they liked well enough to immortalize on a song of the same name on their second release - *Empty Pockets*.

Now they are back with a new CD - *Come On In* - and hitting the big town of Turners Falls for the very first time.

Yarn has been compared, with merit, to Gram Parsons, Steve Earle, and the Byrds. We spoke with Yarn's front man and songwriter Blake Christiana and asked him a few questions about his born-in-Schenectady roots and Brooklyn based country band. Here's what he had to say.

MR: Why the name Yarn?

Christiana: "When we first

started out we were a three-piece string band, and our mandolin player had a dream that he saw the word Yarn on a marquee. We thought that worked and went with it."

MR: How do you distinguish yourself among all the Americana bands out there?

Christiana: "There's really no set plan; we just play music that makes us feel good. The sound that come out, is what it is."

MR: What is your writing process?

Christiana: "It's all ideas thrown into the fire. I play a little bit, then words find their way into

see **YARN** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK Dixie Dog



Scamp

My name is Scamp and I'm a five-year-old male Airedale Terrier/Rough Collie mix. I am new here, but the staff thinks that I will be ok with kids 10 and up, dogs, and cats. I am a Dixie dog. Dixie dogs are transported to northern adoption centers from southern shelters that are overrun with friendly and healthy dogs. Toys are my favorite thing, but I need a little help learning to wait politely for them instead of leaping in excitement. My ideal home would provide plenty of exercise, play, training, and affection. The staff here thinks that I would be ok with kids, but I will need to meet the whole family to know for sure before being adopted. If you think that I might be the dog for you, please ask for the chance to meet me! To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Presentations on Birds, News Gathering

Ted Sargent will present *Birds in Leverett: Recollections and Reflections* on Sunday, February 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the library. The presentation is sponsored by the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

Rescheduled due to a snow storm, *Montague Reporter* edi-

tor David Detmold will give a talk on Monday, February 7th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. about small town news gathering, and how a better standard of news coverage can be achieved for Leverett in the years to come.

Questions and comments will be encouraged.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Pastel Workshop, COA Film *Charade*

The Pastel Art of Georgia O'Keeffe: How to Pastel Paint Flowers workshop with Gregory Maichack will take place at the Library on Saturday, February 5th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop is free and open to adults and older teens. Please register by calling the Library at (978) 544-3559. Space is limited. This program is funded by the Wendell Cultural Council. Additional information about the artist/presenter is available at gregorymaichack.com.

The Wendell COA Film Series presents *Charade* along with the short feature *Solartopia* by Wendell's own filmmaker Dan Keller on Sunday, February 13th starting at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

In the 1963 romantic thriller *Charade*, the first shot shows a pistol swinging ominously into close-up—and Audrey Hepburn

gets a squirt of water right in the eye. And so it goes: *Charade* is an elegant thriller that manages to spoof its genre while at the same time being uncommonly suspenseful. Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn are the ideal leads for keeping their cool under preposterous twists in a deadly chase through Parisian environs; the supporting heavies include James Coburn, George Kennedy and Walter Matthau. *Charade*, in its own way, is one of the most radical and experimental American films of the '60s, and is included in Time Magazine's list of All-Time 100 Best Movies. *Charade* (113 minutes) will be preceded by the short film *Solartopia*, by Dan Keller. Dan will be present to introduce his film and answer any questions.

Free! All Ages Welcome!



Left to right: Backa Niang, Sana Ndiaye, Abdou Sarr

Music from Senegal - and around the World - at Montague Elementary

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - Dancer Abdou Sarr was joined by drummer Backa Niang and akonting player Sana Ndiaye at the Montague Elementary School's Sheffield campus on Tuesday, January 25th, where they wowed families with song and dance from their native Senegal, and answered questions about their instruments and their arts.

It was all part of an evening of exuberant celebration of the many cultures that make up our school community, and it was great to see students, parents, teachers and administrators sitting on the gym floor enthralled by the performance - and even more fun to see them dancing on the gym floor together and singing "Funga Alafia" at the close of the event.

The traditional West African song of greeting and peaceful wishes was a fitting end to the annual pot luck dinner and cultural exchange hosted by the English Language Learners at the school.

The performers are members of the well known Gokh-Bi System - a group that tours internationally entertaining audiences with a fusion of hip hop and Senegalese music and dance.

These Senegalese performers have lived in the Valley for ten years and visited many schools in the region, performing and teaching about their culture.

When asked, "How did you learn to dance like that?" Sarr told the children at Montague Elementary his mother taught him the traditional Sabar and Serer dances of Senegal. There were looks of astonishment. Perhaps they found it hard to imagine their mothers' leaping so high or moving their feet in such lightning fast steps.

Sana Ndiaye played a three-stringed ekonting, a West African lute he made from a large gourd. Born in the Senegalese village of Djembering, Ndiaye learned the traditions of the Jola people and grew up playing the instrument at community celebrations. He is one of a few masters of the instrument - the ancient relative of the American banjo.

Percussionist Backa Niang played two drums - a djembe and a bougarabou. Both are traditional West African hand drums with animal-skins stretched over wood frames that resemble giant goblets of wine. Niang told the children the frames came from

see SENEGAL pg 8

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The Winter Sky from Northfield Mountain

Meet Orion the Hunter, Gemini the Twins, Taurus the Bull and Sirius, the brightest star in the sky at Northfield Mountain on Saturday, February 12th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This program is an introduction to the winter constellations and the stories behind them. Winter is a wonderful season for star gazing with clear, crisp nights and plenty of dark skies. Enjoy stories about the Great Bear, known to some as the Big

Dipper, the Seven Dancing Stars and the Queen of Ethiopia. This free program for ages eight and older will take place both indoors and outdoors so please dress warmly and bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Preregistration is required by calling (800) 859-2960. Please note that Sunday, February 13th is the cloud date. Northfield Mountain Visitor Center is located at 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - February 7th - 11th

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 more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. AARP tax preparation appointments are available now for February 28th and March 28th. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Monday, February 7th
9:00 a.m. Foot clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, February 8th
tax Preparation by appointment
10:30 a.m. Yoga

Wednesday, February 9th
9:00 a.m. Foot clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:45 a.m. Friends of the Mealsite meeting
12:00 noon Birthday Lunch (cake by Food City)
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 10th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, February 11th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., 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 at (413) 423-3308 to find

out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, February 7th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, February 8th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, February 9th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 10th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping in Leominster
Friday, February 11th
11:30 a.m. Out-to-Lunch: Tech School

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

Please join us at the Wendell Senior Center for morning coffee (or tea) on Friday, February 4th, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Good conversation and maybe a baked treat. All ages welcome.

TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT

Montague Residents

Turners Falls Water Department is asking all residents to assist in clearing snow around the hydrants near your locations. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Channel 22 News out of Springfield aired a story about the snow covered sidewalk on the **Gill-Montague Bridge**, on Monday, January 31st. The broadcast featured construction expert Joseph A. Parzych, of Gill, looking like a rock star in dark glasses and slouch cap, explaining that the state used to clear the snow and ice off the sidewalk, but no longer. With the onset of bridge construction, and the single traveling lane for vehicles, with trucks and heavy equipment, its too dangerous for people to walk in the road. "That leaves a lot of people marooned in Riverside," said Parzych. "Not everybody has a car."

"A group of residents have stepped up," the broadcast continued, to volunteer to clear the sidewalk, for the last three years. They are Claire Chang and John Ward, co-owners of the Solar Store in Greenfield, and 12-year-old Mitchell Waldron, all residents of Riverside. The three were out shoveling the quarter mile long sidewalk again this week, to allow safe passage for foot traffic between Turners Falls and Gill.

They should get a special award from Governor Patrick, who can't afford to keep the state bridge safe for pedestrians in winter.

The Turners Falls Water Department is asking all residents to assist in clearing snow from around the **fire hydrants** near your homes. Winter is the worst time of year for house fires.

Hardware stores are sold out of **roof rakes** in this snowy winter. But that is no excuse to take one from a neighbor's porch, as happened yesterday on H Street, in the Patch. If you know anything about the missing rake, please call: 413-522-0789.

On Monday, February 7th, the Thrive Project of Turners Falls will be the beneficiary of

Hope and Olive's monthly **Soup and Games night**. You can find the popular Greenfield eatery at the corner of, where else, Hope and Olive.

The Baystate Health Blood Donor Mobile will host a **community blood drive** on Tuesday, February 8th, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., in the back lot of the hospital's 48 Sanderson Street office building in Greenfield.

"Recent bad weather has caused blood drive cancellations in our area, decreasing our blood supply," said Cheryl McGrath, coordinator of the Baystate Health blood donor program. "One hundred percent of all blood collected on the blood mobile stays in our community for use in Baystate Health hospitals and facilities," she added. "Remember, there is no substitute for human blood." Any fan of Bram Stoker could tell you that.

All eligible blood donors will receive a \$10 gas card and car wash coupon good at any F. L. Roberts location. To make an appointment, contact: Ellen Missale at 413-773-2284, ellen.missale@baystatehealth.org

Join Jim Lagacy, State of Massachusetts Angler Education Program Coordinator, for a free **ice fishing clinic** on Friday, February 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The program will start in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls and then move to Barton Cove (one mile away) for hands-on experience. Participants will learn how to drill a hole, set a tip up and be safe on the ice. A fishing license is not required to participate. In the event of snow or unsafe ice, the program will be moved to March 5th. Space is limited so please call, 413-863-3221 to reserve a spot for this annual event.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

Faces and Places Gallery Closing



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

George Moonlight Davis (left) shows photographs by Dennis Vandal to guests at the Faces and Places Gallery. The gallery will close following a benefit concert on Sunday, February 13th.

MILLERS FALLS - On Sunday, February 13th, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Morning Star Chenven and Moonlight Davis will hold a **"Goodbye Bash"** at their Faces and Places gallery, 26 Bridge Street, in Millers Falls. Miro Sprague will appear on piano.

The concert is being held to help raise last month's rent and cover closing costs for the

gallery, which can no longer afford to keep the doors open.

After a number of art and photography shows and well attended concerts over the past year, the owners have regretfully decided to close the gallery as of February 15th. The gallery's baby grand piano is also for sale to the highest bidder.

"When all the numbers were

added and the best scenarios looked at, I could not make enough money selling art and doing shows to make ends meet in the gallery. I could no longer ask my family to contribute time and money to a gallery that could not support itself, and us," said Davis.

For more information, call: 413-423-3203.

Kulik Named to Key Post on House Budget Panel

First Franklin district State Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) has been named vice chair of the House Ways and Means committee for the 2011-12 legislative session. Kulik was appointed to the post by speaker Robert DeLeo on January 28th.

In his new position in the leadership of Ways and Means, Kulik will be closely involved in shaping the upcoming fiscal year 2012 state budget, as well as working on capital spending plans and hundreds of pieces of legislation that go through the Ways and Means Committee during the legislative process.

"I am honored to serve in this key position on one of the most important and influential committees in the legislature" said Kulik. "Our state faces a challenging year ahead, and I look forward to working on reforms and efficiencies that will allow us to provide quality public services, in a budget that will be constrained by the fiscal realities we face," he concluded.

Kulik is beginning his 10th term in the legislature, and represents Leverett, Montague, Wendell, and 13 other towns.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge in 1937-38..

- On May 24th, 1937, nine local men were added to the contractor's payroll. These, along with other county labor, secured their work via the state employment office located in Greenfield.
- The primary task for these men was to clear brush on the Turners and Gill sides of the river. Various additional preliminary site work was also required.
- With the necessary clearing work for the abutments now underway on both sides of the river, it was time for a major change in the landscape on the Turners Falls side. *More bridge facts next week!*

Hart's Brook Garland Women Seeks New Members

MONTAGUE CENTER - Hart's Brook Garland Women folk dance team is recruiting for new members and musicians through the end of February.

Practices will be held on alternate Thursdays, on February 3rd and February 17th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Montague Grange, and alternate Fridays, on February 11th and February 25th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Montague fire station.

Women age 13 and over are invited to dance. Musicians of any age or gender are also welcome. For more info, email: Laura_Wildman_Hanlon@hotmail.com.

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Grade 7

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Sydney Upham

Grade 8

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Wal-Mart Stoops to Conquer

There is an air of barely restrained impatience in the polite formality with which the representatives of Ceruzzi Properties, the Fairfield, CT developer seeking permission to build the largest Big Box store in Franklin County, awaits the decision of the Greenfield planning board.

After all, the voters of Greenfield, having narrowly rejected plans by Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, to build in town in 1993, reversed course and approved a commercial overlay zone on the French King Highway in 2004 by an overwhelming margin. The former mayor of Greenfield, Christine Forgey, then packed the planning board and conservation commission with allies who favored the Big Box proposal, and sacked those who stood in its way.

Ceruzzi, confident of victory and impatient of the outcome, exercised their option and plunked down \$3.7 million, five weeks ago, to purchase the Mackin property on the French King Highway, where they plan to build a 135,000-square-foot super store for an "unnamed tenant."

Last month, Ceruzzi's legal team urged the planning board to dispense with further public testimony, even though they had just that night released conceptual drawings of the big box store's design, and despite the fact that key aspects of the fiscal and traffic impacts of the development remain in hot dispute.

Let us draw aside the curtain, for a moment, and for argument's sake state that Ceruzzi's tenant is indeed Wal-Mart. The global retail giant, with over \$400 billion in sales last year, is tapping ever so politely at Greenfield's door in hopes to sell \$50 to \$60 million worth of goods each year in the a county already surrounded by WalMarts.

Will shoppers from New Hampshire, Vermont or Hampshire County be flocking to Greenfield to buy? Not likely.

These sales are going to come from right here in the heart of Franklin County, and they will come from our existing retailers.

What is more, the developer, having first informed the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act board in July of 2007,

"This project does not include a grocery component," now baldly states the plan includes 40,000 square feet of groceries in the Big Box store.

People do not travel very far to purchase groceries.

The millions in annual groceries sales Wal-Mart hopes to ring up on the French King Highway will come from the tills of existing groceries, including long established family owned markets like Fosters, Greenfield's downtown anchor food coop, Green Fields Market, and, most assuredly, from Turners Falls' lone super market, Food City.

Opponents argue that a store that would be bigger than the combined footprints of Stop and Shop and the Cherry Rum Plaza combined is out of scale for Greenfield. But regardless of the size of the store the planning board permits, we hope residents of our town continue to support the local Turners grocery. It would be a severe blow to Montague's consistent effort to revitalize our own downtown if Food City were to become collateral damage to Greenfield's Big Box sprawl.

It is essential for Turners Falls downtown residents - many of whom do not own cars (and why should they?) - to be able to shop locally. If Food City would return the favor by purchasing more fresh produce in season from local farms that would certainly help, and would win the store new health conscious customers in our evolving marketplace. Worsening traffic in Greenfield will only cause more people from towns on our side of the river to consider the ease of driving into Turners as an argument in favor of patronizing Food City.

There are other compelling arguments for spending our consumer dollars in local stores. Dollars spent in Fosters or Green Fields Market or Wilsons recirculate in the local economy. Profits vacuumed up by corporate chains like Wal-Mart leave the area, and good jobs leave with them.

It is the fulfillment of a destructive cycle decades in the making. As New England, and Franklin County, have hemorrhaged manufacturing jobs, we have not only lost secure, high

see **WAL-MART** pg 5



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

EGYPT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wary of Wal-Mart

Hearing that the developer for the presumed Wal-Mart store has kicked in \$1.1 million for the town's costs to mitigate vehicular traffic (including more than \$800,000 for a stop light and driveway to the superstore itself) makes me want to add my two cents to the discussions, in the hope these words will reach the Greenfield planning board.

I am not sure a Wal-Mart on the French King Highway will be an unmitigated blessing for low- and fixed-income folks in and around Greenfield. I especially do not like the idea of the world's largest grocers coming here to dominate the food market and adding a few dozen grocery jobs, but negatively affecting or eliminating Green Fields Market, Foster's and Food City.

What will I do to get groceries if Food City disappears? It's not just a walk down the road. To get to the new Wal-Mart, I would have to take one bus and then transfer. To get back home to Turners, I would have to juggle bags of groceries

on the same two routes, or perhaps try to buy so much that I pay \$9 more for a cab for my parcels and me. Certainly I will not be able to 'borrow' and push a shopping cart home as I do now.

Actually I wonder if I really want to be using the new Wal-Mart for non-food purchases. Over the past ten to fifteen years, I used to live for Wal-Mart, religiously keeping lists of what to buy, and faithfully traveling to their nearest store.

My disenchantment started in fall 2010 when I got a new pair of Velcro-strapped sneakers (my favorite) from the Northampton Wal-Mart, and found the straps were inferior. Every time I put them on one or two straps would keep flapping open. I guess it is capitalism, Chinese and American, to keep profits up by reducing production costs.

My disenchantment grew when I noticed the last batch of work socks I'd purchased at Wal-Mart were the same white-and-gray, low cost brand, but now the padded soles have dis-

appeared, and some of them turn gray with a wash or two, funny discolorations and stains appear at various spots and one heel ripped out in only two months.

Now I make zero purchases from Wal-Mart, instead using Family Dollar, Rite Aid, and checking Wilson's sales for things like cookware, handkerchiefs and underwear. The only place where Wal-Mart would be competitive for me is with over-the-counter medicines and supplements.

Wal-Mart in Greenfield is not the be-all and end-all of existence for low-income people in Turners Falls. There are several alternatives, and Greenfield planners should be wary of Wal-Mart. Yes, some tax revenues and some jobs will appear, but more jobs and local business will disappear, especially in the downtown. The worst-case scenario would be to approve the maximum strength 135,000-square-foot size and devastate local grocery stores.

- John Furbish
Turners Falls

Is It a Sign?

Is the Latin Cross a sign? The Roman Emperor Constantine thought so, a sign under which to conquer.

It was, in fact, the instrument of torture on which Jews, liber-

al democrats, and others were murdered.

Baptists are exemplary in practicing cooperation based in community. The North Leverett Baptists' free medical examinations and meals for the needy are excellent socialist models, not dictated by state power.

But, why do they worship the cross? Would Jews or gypsies worship the swastika? Russian or Chinese peasants the hammer and sickle? Why have they so aggressively pushed their cross into the traffic along North Leverett Road?

- Dan Bennett
Co-founder, Leverett Village Coop
Leverett

Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: reporter-poems@montaguema.net for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

A Community Wake

BY JOSH WARREN

WENDELL - This recollection is about the moments after Molly Kaynor died in Wendell on January 8th, following a long illness.

Still ringing in my head is something her son Luke imparted before she died. He said Molly had a mantra: "Ten percent of life is what happens. Ninety percent of life is how we react to it."

After witnessing the reaction to her death that day I cannot help but express what it was like to be in a community that accepted the death of one of its own. It was through Molly's death we began to understand our own mortality, first as individuals and ultimately as a collective whole.

When the Clydesdale horses pulled up, the crowd approached the buggy with the casket that Molly's husband, Jerry Eide, had built. It was a final home that seemed fitting given that Molly and Jerry had shared a love for building and restoring things. Bells pealed, and we walked.

As the steps became a march those shining, somber faces knew something the greater world never seems to get. The people following Molly knew death is inseparable from living, and the moment we begin to live is when we accept our end.

There was nothing about this event that resembled the 'normal' mortuary rites of our day and age. There was no hearse, no embalming; there was no funeral home with two strange orderlies in suits, paid to make everything seem pristine and painless. This was no funeral. This was ritual and purification. This was painful. This was a celebration.

This was nearly three hundred people coming together to honor someone who had affected us so greatly. This was when Wendell stopped looking for and suddenly

found 'community' as a living verb, not a cold abstraction.

The Morris Dancers had started their dance, as I arrived at the circle of unearthed earth. They danced as one of Molly's three brothers fiddled a melancholy tune, entraining the greater circle. The dancers moved in a circle, alternating direction, giving shape and weight to what is forward in the direction of life, and backwards, and above. The dancers danced Molly, and then faded from the circle.

That's when her son Luke picked up a microphone and repeated Molly's mantra about reacting to life. This community, which may appear to live solely for themselves, isolated, off the grid, organic, perhaps even selfish and New England-spoiled, emerged that day as a testament to 'what we are supposed to do.'

Community in Wendell is the snowy three-mile trek to an isolated grave, behind hoof and buggy. Community is the three hundredth hand that dips into the pile of unearthed earth and drops it on her resting box. Handful by handful the sand fell, then those same sandy hands took hold of shoulders and waists, connecting each human being to the other.

'Can we sing the first verse of Amazing Grace?' a woman nearby cried. Molly's son Huckie confessed the family was not religious, and had no plan other than to bury Molly, but those who wanted to sing could linger. As a few dispersed, another of Molly's brothers trumpeted taps.

A feast given to the community that afternoon at the Deja Brew extended on into the night, culminating at Molly and Jerry's home-stand. There was no more official mourning. Only celebration.

Molly's love, life and death happened, and we reacted to it.

Montague Water Pollution Control Facility Recognized for Excellence

BOSTON - The Montague Water Pollution Control Facility was recently selected by the Environmental Protection Agency for a regional wastewater treatment plant excellence award.

The entire staff of the Montague facility, led by superintendent Robert Trombley, was recognized by EPA's New England office for exceptional work in operating and maintaining the wastewater treatment plant and its collection system. The plant was among three facilities in New England acknowledged for exemplary performance during 2010.

In addition, the facility has been provided with outstanding support from the town of Montague by allowing the freedom and flexibility for the operators to operate and maintain the plant and collection system to the best of their abilities.

"The professionals operating these wastewater treatment plants, as well as the municipalities and the state environmental agencies that support them, are essential to keeping our communities and our environment healthy," said Curt Spaulding,

regional administrator of EPA's New England Office.

The EPA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Excellence Award was established to recognize and honor the employees of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants for their commitment to improving water quality with outstanding plant operations and maintenance and on-going operator training. More often than not, and particularly with the smaller facilities, conscientious operators and staff continue to perform exceptionally with limited resources.

CONQUER from 4

paying careers but also the ability to make the basic implementations we require to equip our homes and shops, build our buildings and clothe ourselves. Instead, we are forced through economic necessity and the lack of local alternatives to purchase cheaply made goods from foreign sweatshops sold by global giants like WalMart.

Now, the cry goes up, "Get out of our way and give us cheap underwear!" But the introduction of yet another superstore on the local landscape will do nothing to promote the economic wellbeing of our towns and their residents. It will bleed the last remaining local institutions that have survived the destruction of local manufacturing and the decline of local agriculture, and augment the hegemony of plastic products purveyed by corporate mammoths disdainful of the well being of their workers or the communities that host them.

But enough of public testimony. The Greenfield planning board is tired of hearing from the public, and the developer's patience is wearing thin.

Last month, planning board chair Roxanne Wedegartner (whose imperious demeanor so alienated voters last fall that she lost even her own home town in her failed race for state representative) gave Ceruzzi's lawyer two hours to tell the board why siting the largest super store in Franklin County on the High Street corridor would do nothing to harm the already awful traffic problems in our county's market town.

She then limited the ability of almost 90 private citizens who patiently waited to speak against the Big Box store to one hour total, and 300 seconds each.

After much pleading from the audience, she allowed one extra hour of public testimony, after chiding the public for being repetitive and assuring them their concerns had already been "taken to heart." That last hour of public testimony will be heard tonight, at the Greenfield Middle School, at 7 p.m., but only people who signed up last month will be allowed their 300 seconds of free speech.

But the planning board chair cannot limit the ability of people to show up and applaud the

last few speakers, when they speak up for the revitalization of downtown Greenfield, and the ability of people from nearby towns to shop in downtown Greenfield without running a gauntlet of snarled intersections, and the ability of people in Turners Falls to continue to walk to their own grocery store, rather than be bused in once a day to offer up their last few pennies at the altar of Mammon, or WalMart, or Store X.

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Fly Like an Eagle:

RON P. KELLEY OWNS AND OPERATES A DOWNTOWN LANDMARK TURNERS FALLS - The former Williams Garage on 2nd Street has become Eagle Automotive, a little shop at the iconic downtown garage next to Unity Park in September of 2008, Kelley first dubbed his business "Ron's Repairs." He changed the name of his business following "a natural vision," that struck him (or nearly struck him) on the Gill-Montague Bridge a few weeks later. Eagle Automotive has a reputation for honesty and good work. Being downtown, it gets many customers who are individuals or single-parent



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO
Ron P. Kelley is the owner of Eagle Auto on 2nd Street

families with one car. It's also the designated repair service for Hallmark Institute of Photography's vehicles. Kelley has hired two mechanics from the Turners Falls Technical School, and he is impressed with their graduates.

Kelley's path to owning and operating his own repair shop was a rocky road. His childhood was shadowed by the absence of his father. Born in Greenfield, Kelley has lived in Turners Falls since 6th grade. His mother had owned the Shady Glen Restaurant for a while, and his uncle John Carey owned it for three decades.

For much of Kelley's early life, his grandparents were his nurturing caregivers, and his grandfather, a carpenter and machinist, a role model. "Grampa Fix-it" never saw anything broken he could not mend, and he could make his own tools. Kelley was especially impressed with how he could rebuild pianos, and he learned a lot by working by his side.

A misspent youth was Ron's second bump in the road. For years he was part of an auto racing team, which seemed to be more interested in kegs than trophies. Not until his 30s, did Kelley straighten up and "fly right."

see EAGLE pg 12

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Green Burials Proposed for Gill

BY DAVID DETMOLD Residents who are dying to go Green are becoming commonplace. But Joan Pillsbury would like to find a place in Gill for residents to go Green when they die.

Pillsbury appeared before the selectboard on Monday, January 31st, as a member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts, to seek the board's endorsement of the concept of Green burials for Gill.

Pillsbury, a Gill resident, said she has already received the endorsement of the conservation commission for her proposal; but the cemetery commission asked her to seek the selectboard's input before the commissioners act.

Pillsbury defined Green burials as interments without the use of embalming techniques, or a vault. As of now, Gill bylaws, like the bylaws of other towns in the Commonwealth, prohibit such burials, which are gaining in popularity, among the living anyway, here and there about the country.

Green cemeteries now exist in Maine, New Hampshire and New York, but no one from the FCAWM has been able to dig one up in Massachusetts so far, though the state has no law against them.

The town of Warwick plans to begin allowing Green burials in the spring, Pillsbury said.

And Judith Lorei, a FCAWM member from Montague who accompanied Pillsbury, said, "Massachusetts is poised for the next step. We know there is a great interest in Green burial. People are looking to simplify," at any stage of their existence, Lorei said, adding, "It takes a lot of energy to fire up the retort."

By this, Lorei lodged a critique against the carbon waste of cremation.

"This is very timely," said selectboard member Ann Banash. "There is a shortage of burial space and a concern for the environment," in Gill.

But, Pillsbury explained, since Green burials do not use vaults, they do not necessarily take up less space within cemetery walls. Or hedges.

"You need to be able to space them out," and heap up mounds to allow for the eventual settling of earth.

However, the FCAWM members said, since remains are just being lowered in the ground in a wooden box or shroud, graves do not need to be dug so deep, and can be located in field or forest, and, "pretty soon you're pushing up trees."

Board of health and selectboard member Randy Crochier said he felt Green burials "make a lot of sense." He recalled attending a presentation about the concept some years ago at the Franklin Regional Council of

Governments, where modern cemeteries were described as, "the largest legal hazardous waste sites in town," with formaldehyde and other embalming fluids.

Embalming gained popularity as soldiers' remains were returned from Civil War battlegrounds, Pillsbury noted, eventually displacing the practice of simpler burials.

Pillsbury said as Gill considers acquiring or designating land for a new cemetery, green burials could be allowed in one section, and conventional vault burials in the rest.

"I think the more options the better," said Banash.

"Reuse and recycle," said Pillsbury, with typical Yankee thrift. "It's against my belief to put myself in the ground with a box and a vault."

In other news, the selectboard called for a change to a letter from the Safe and Green campaign that would be sent to Vermont authorities and other agencies concerned with the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee in March of 2012. Banash said she did not support a clause in the letter that called for "a generous severance package" for VY workers who may lose their jobs during the decommissioning process, which is expected to last a decade or more. On the other hand, Banash said she would like to see a

see GILL pg 8

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN HALL

Nomination Papers Now Available

Nomination papers for the annual town election, Monday, May 16th are now available at the town clerk's office, until Thursday, March 24th. Papers must be returned no later than Monday, March 28th, by 5:00 p.m. To run for townwide office, a candidate must obtain 30 signatures of registered voters from the town at large to be placed on the ballot.

To run for town meeting, candidates need to obtain ten signatures from registered voters of their home precinct to be placed on the ballot.

Offices are as follows:

Selectboard, assessor, board of health, and parks and recreation, each for a three year term.

Library trustees have three openings, each for a three-year term.

Soldier's memorial trustees have a veteran and a non-veteran opening, each for a three-year term.

Montague Housing Authority for a five-year term.

Town meeting members for all precincts.

Gill-Montague Regional School District Openings

Nomination papers for school committee are provided by the Gill-Montague superintendent of schools at 35 Crocker Avenue, and must be returned to superintendent's office no later than 4 p.m. on April 7th. Ten signatures are required.

Positions:

One 3-year seat in Gill; two 3-year seats in

Montague.

Street List

The town clerk reminds voters to fill out and return their annual street list census, mailed out last week, in order to remain on the active voter list.

Montague Dog Licenses

Montague dog licenses are now available at the town clerk's office. All dogs six months and older must be licensed and tagged each year. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5.00. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10.00. The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided. A late fee of \$20.00 will be charged after May 31st.

For more info: call 863-3200, ext 203.

Fire District Papers

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District election are now available to all district residents from the district office located at 226 Millers Falls Road, until Friday, March 4th. Papers must be returned no later than Tuesday, March 8th. The district office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All potential candidates need to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of Fire District.

Offices are as follows:

District Clerk, for a three year term

Moderator, for a three year term

Treasurer, for a three year term

Prudential Committee, for a three year term

Water commissioner, for a tree year term

The annual election will be held on Tuesday, April 26th. The polls will open noon to 7:00 p.m.

Tax Bills Mailed

Fiscal year 2010 real estate and district tax bills were mailed on January 31st. Payment is due on or before May 2nd, 2011. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment. Any new owner not in receipt of a tax bill should contact the tax collectors' office at 863-3200 ext. #202. Abatement applications must be filed on or before May 2nd.

Montague residents, are able to pay all real estate, district, and personal property bills on line. To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand, and then go to www.montague.net, click on departments, treasurer and collector, online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment.

A Long Wait for Dedicated Weight Room

BY MARK HUDYMA GILL-MONTAGUE - Turners Falls High School students will soon have access to a dedicated weight room. On Tuesday, January 25th, the Gill-Montague school committee voted six in favor of the weight room, with Jeffrey Singleton against and Kristin Boyle abstaining.

Superintendent Carl Ladd began the discussion with a speech describing the steps the district has already taken to establish an indoor room for student athletes to lift free weights. Until now, students wanting to lift weights used an open concrete block shed room in the playing fields.

Ladd said the new weight room will be located in an office adjacent to the fitness center inside the high school. The equipment will be moved indoors from its current location.

The weight room will provide students with a safe place to use the weights, where they will be supervised by a qualified instructor. Each student will be trained and qualified in the use of free

weights.

Ladd said the initial estimate of what it will cost to renovate the office into a weight room, including removing a wall and adding a door, would come to around \$15,000. But after the job was advertised, a bid for \$12,500 was offered. The funds will mostly come from \$10,000 in the high school capital fund account, and Ladd said he would seek the remaining \$2,500 from other line items in the school budget.

Several students and parents came forward in support of the weight room, stating that Turners Falls' lack of a regular weight room has been impairing athletes. Parents talked about a lack of communication with the school on the proposal to build a new weight room, and said this has been a recurring problem. Speakers said repeatedly that injuries during the athletic season may have resulted from athletes not having access to free weights. It was also mentioned that Turners is one of very few schools in the area that does not have a weight room for athletic

teams; a dedicated weight room will allow Turners to remain competitive.

School committee member Kristin Boyle said she was concerned about the issue of supervision and other recurring costs associated with the weight room, asking "What other costs will there be?" She was hesitant to proceed unless more information was provided about long term costs.

Jeffrey Singleton said the district needed to learn from past mistakes. "We spent \$28 million on a school building renovation, and for some reason a free weight room was not included in that plan."

With the evening growing late, the vote was called, allowing for the allocation of \$12,500 to pay for renovations for a new dedicated weight room in the high school. It will be open to students after February vacation. Details about training and supervision of students using free weights will come as the date gets closer.

Mark Hudyma is a junior at Turners Falls High.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Arrest for Illegal Motor Vehicle Operation

Tuesday, 1/25

9:45 a.m. Contacted Verizon regarding line down at Union and Pleasant Streets.

Wednesday, 1/26

8:40 p.m. Report of domestic assault and battery situation on Main Street in Northfield.

Friday, 1/28

11:45 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted], for operating to endanger, disorderly conduct, speeding, marked lanes violation and improper passing on Route 2.

4:50 p.m.

Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, operating without insurance and unlicensed operation, on Mountain Road.

10:00 p.m.

Arrested [redacted]

[redacted], for failure to use care in starting and operating a motor vehicle under the influence, on Route 2.

Saturday, 1/29

3:40 a.m. Report of a vehicle in a snow bank in the area of Erving Elementary School. Vehicle gone upon arrival.

5:45 p.m.

Report of fire-

works in the area of Route 63 railroad tracks. No sign of same upon arrival.

Sunday, 1/30

12:45 a.m. Report of group fight in progress on Pleasant Street. Subjects gone upon arrival.

Monday, 1/31

9:20 p.m. Report of open bulk head at Box Car Restaurant. Checked same, secure.

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An Eagle for Epiphany

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Breakfast Club at Cold Brook Farm started the new year with a prized visitor.

On Epiphany, the Twelfth day of Christmas, and the last day for giving and receiving gifts, a big handsome bald eagle chose the old oak on the north pond as his fishing perch. A heavy branch low over the water suited him well, and he faced my window nicely, his white head high, his dark body and white tail picturesque, faintly reflected in the water by the morning sun.

He chose a favorable spot, for

after some five minutes of show, he swooped down, grabbed a fish, and was off to the south.

Bald eagles fly over the farm, sometimes two or three young ones together, and this big beauty chose a time and place to start my bird year off well. His colorful visit eclipsed the shows of the black ducks and occasional mallards that have found something edible in the pond worth diving for, although they are generally just dippers. He has outshone the Canada geese that stop in but generally do not stay, the lovely blue heron that pad around in the shallows or fly high into the trees on the hill.

This was the year of the eagle.

At the feeder the usual chickadees and titmice have been in short supply. The

nuthatches and downy woodpeckers have not patronized a feeder in the same numbers. Only one American tree sparrow has been a regular, and occasionally a goldfinch comes by. It is the resident cardinals who dominate the scene.

This lady is less shy than the girls of former winters, and the black and white juncos are merely background for her lovely muted gold self and scarlet mate. The mourning doves stop by on occasion; the blue jay makes certain that his fellow birds appreciate that he is the property owner. The shelter of the rhododendron is most appreciated by all of the birds, and, I think, offers security from an occasional little hawk that finds the willow on the pond a good scouting place.

The bald eagle in my front yard is a great gift for 2011.

SENEGAL from pg 2

Senegal, but he strung the drum heads himself. He explained the two to three day process of wetting the skins, stringing them and tightening them as they dry - the tightness depending on the pitch you want.

Niang was born to a family of griots or storytellers and claims the drums were the cell phones and Facebooks of ancient times. They could be heard from far away, and when the drummers travelled the drums would call people to the villages to hear the news. The drums could be heard throughout the school last Tuesday, and they called visitors from as far away as the cafeteria to the gym.

Zoe Colby, an ESL teacher at the Montague Elementary School, loves coordinating the

annual potluck hosted by her students and their families. The English Language Learners and their families have a rare opportunity to share their favorite foods and expand their community contacts at these events.

This year's theme, "Music from the Heart," was an exploration of the universal language of music. Colby worked with several faculty members to round out the event, including art teacher Nancy Meagher who helped students learn about and draw musical instruments from different cultures. Student art work was on display throughout the building, and there were also listening centers set up around the cafeteria where visitors could listen to music from around the world.



GILL from pg 6

clause about notification of town officials prior to the transport of radioactive materials through their borders strengthened. "It should say 'shall be notified,' said Banash. "Depending on where it goes, it will be traveling through Gill."

Board chair John Ward said he supported a generous severance package and retraining for VY workers. But Banash said, "We can't dictate to a private company."

The board accepted \$1,700 from the Quintus Allen Fund, to be spent on programs at the Gill Elementary School for programs that benefit all students. Reflecting better days on Wall Street, that amount increased from \$1400 last year, and less than \$500 in 2008.

Franklin County Tech School senior Joe LaFleur resigned from the energy commission.



Judith Lorei (left) and Joan Pillsbury are advocates for Green burials.

The board, noting his "energy and enthusiasm" accepted his resignation with "deep regret," but noted, "He has, however, gotten a job." A volunteer to fill the position is now sought.

The personnel committee has recommended a 1.3% cost of living increase for town employees for the coming fiscal

year. The board took issue with a separate recommendation from the Franklin Regional Retirement System for a 3% COLA for retirees in the county system.

"I think 3% is excessive, but they'll do it," said Banash.



"My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite."

~ William Shakespeare

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At The Rendezvous 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 13



The Montague Reporter

COLLAPSED from pg 1

of his marriage. The land on which the house was built was originally part of the Joseph Gunn farm. The Bartletts were later owners (the property is sometimes called the Bartlett house; it is one of the most imposing structures in town).

Garvin, the administrative director of Montague Community Television, reached only minutes after the barn's collapse, was inclined to look on the bright side. "It might have lowered my taxes; I don't know."



Dean Garvin (top) and Donald Mays work on the barn in 2003

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Stephen Greenblatt at Amherst College, with Sandro Botticelli's Birth of Venus

BY DAVID DETMOLD

AMHERST - Walking in late, Friday afternoon, to professor Stephen Greenblatt's lecture at Amherst College on the influence of Lucretius on early Renaissance art, philosophy and science produced a strange illusion.

Greenblatt, who teaches English and American literature at Harvard University and is considered the father of the 'New Historicism' school of literary criticism, which emphasizes the study of works of literature within the context of their times, was speaking to an overflow crowd of Amherst students and faculty that hung upon his every word. His talk had inexplicably been moved from the larger auditorium advertised to a smaller lecture hall tucked away in a distant building, and the darkened hall was so crowded with bodies steaming in winter clothes - every seat taken, all aisles filled, students perched on railings and standing on tiptoes in back corners to glimpse the lecturer and his slides - that an interloper encountering the scene partway through the talk could be forgiven for imagining he was eavesdropping on a conversation that had begun not minutes but hours, or days, if not centuries earlier - an ongoing academic discourse on the meaning of life and mankind's role in the cosmos in which participants engage at peril of disrupting the

calm diurnal rhythm of the working world.

"Lucretius said the world was not created for or about humans," said Greenblatt, amplifying an earlier point now lost to us. Departing momentarily from the text of the first century BCE Roman poet's great work, 'On the Nature of Things' (*De Rerum Natura*), Greenblatt said that if an omniscient god had created the world for the benefit of human beings the prostate gland would never have been part of the plan.

Lucretius expounded a system of thought originated by Epicurus, the third century BCE Greek philosopher whose writings are, for the most part, no longer extant. Lucretius' sole surviving opus, in six volumes of Latin hexameter, is an epic of philosophical poetry and one of the great works of Classical literature. In it, the poet-philosopher maintained the universe consists entirely of atoms and void, all matter proceeds from matter and through endless autonomous experimentation assumes myriad form according to natural laws before eventually dissolving and reforming again.

The soul dies with the body, and is similarly dispersed, Lucretius maintained. There is no afterlife. The Earth is not the center of the universe; the universe is infinite. All religion is superstition; wars and the glorification of the state are vain, and the proper pursuit of humanity lies in the

modest cultivation of pleasure and the avoidance of pain.

Lucretius' work was saved from oblivion by monks in the eighth and ninth centuries, toiling with ink and quill, in monasteries in the Middle Ages, where they must have considered the work they were translating heresy. Yet it was the monks' effort to copy and preserve *De Rerum Natura* along with other classic texts that eventually allowed papal secretary Poggio Bracciolini, in the early 1400s, to discover Lucretius' epic in monastic libraries and reintroduce the Roman philosopher, in manuscript form, to his European contemporaries at the dawn of the Renaissance.

Greenblatt said Lucretius' thought would become foundational to the work of philosophers like Gassendi, artists like Botticelli, and eventually to physicists like Newton, and astronomers like Galileo, who suffered perpetual house arrest for his support of heliocentrism, and Giordano Bruno, who was burned at the stake in 1600 after the Roman Inquisition convicted him of heresy for his support of a cosmology based, at least in part, on the theories expounded a millennium and a half earlier by Lucretius, and the other atomists and Epicureans.

Bruno, who believed like Lucretius that the cosmos was illimitable and the sun but one among an infinite number of sim-

Speaking of Lucretius

ilar stars, was not condemned solely for his expansive belief in heliocentrism, but also for his belief that ours was but one in an infinite number of worlds, and for his teachings contrary to Roman Catholic doctrine on the nature of the Trinitarian god and the divinity of Christ.

Bruno is said to have told his inquisitors as they handed down their verdict in 1600, "Perhaps you, my judges, pronounce this sentence against me with more fear than I receive it." A remarkable statement from a man about to be burned alive in the public square.

Lucretius, like other adherents of Epicurus, held the belief that, "Death to us is nothing, nor concerns us in the least, since nature of mind is mortal evermore." The mind, like the body, dissolves at death, so without sensation there is nothing more to fear.

Furthermore, to Lucretius, "The gods, if they existed at all, could not possibly be interested in humans," as Greenblatt put it.

The Harvard don said Lucretius disdained the popular belief in antiquity that humanity had once enjoyed a Golden Age, an Eden of harmony. "Lucretius believed humanity began in a primitive battle for survival. They could not look to the common good; mankind's lot was 'nasty, brutal and short'.

"There is no afterlife, no punishment or reward. Life on Earth is all humans have, and all we have to worry about," Greenblatt continued. "All organized religions are superstitious delusions, Lucretius wrote. It is in this light that the fear of gods oppresses mortals without cause, and the fall they fear is any that chance may bring."

Lucretius held, "There are entirely natural explanations for lightning, earthquakes, (and extremely heavy snow)" Greenblatt said, elaborating only slightly from the two thousand year old text. "But men inevitably ascribe successive disasters to the wrath of gods."

Greenblatt said in Lucretius' worldview, "Prayer is futile."

He said Lucretius believed, "Religion's deep underlying

structure is anxiety and retribution," and though the Roman poet wrote in the decades before the Christian era, Lucretius also alluded to a commonality among religions or cultures founded on the killing of a child, like Abraham and Isaac, or even Agamemnon and Iphigenia.

Instead of superstition and sacrifice, Greenblatt said Lucretius felt, "The highest goal of life is the enhancement of pleasure and the reduction of pain."

In this, quintessentially, "Lucretius was an Epicurean," said Greenblatt, speaking of the philosophical tradition that held, "Simple pleasures are all that are necessary."

But to all pleasure, moderation, and an understanding of the futility of desire. A famous passage in the poem depicts carnal love, and the illusion that bodies can achieve the ecstatic union that appears to be its goal. Greenblatt cited Dryden's translation of Lucretius, which Yeats called the finest description of sexual intercourse ever written:

"When hands in hands they lock, and thighs in thighs they twine;

Just in the raging foam of full desire,

When both press on, both murmur, both expire,

They gripe, they squeeze, their humid tongues they dart,

As each would force their way to t'other's heart:

In vain; they only cruze about the coast,

For bodies cannot pierce, not be in bodies lost:

As sure they strive to be, when both engage,

In that tumultuous momentary rage ..."

The pleasures the Epicureans sought to cultivate were more pleasures of the mind than body, and the satisfactions of a life well lived.

As Epicurus states in his letter to Menoeceus: "Therefore wisdom is a more precious thing even than philosophy; from it spring all the other virtues, for it teaches that we cannot live pleasantly without living wisely, hon-

see **LUCRETIUS** pg 10

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LUCRETIUS from pg 9

orably, and justly; nor live wisely, honorably, and justly without living pleasantly. For the virtues have grown into one with a pleasant life, and a pleasant life is inseparable from them.”

“All this must have seemed absolutely scandalous to 15th century [European] societies focused on pain, suffering and redemption,” said Greenblatt. “Lucretius’ return after thousands of years must have seemed uncanny, unbelievable, incomprehensible.”

Greenblatt said for about a century after Bracciolini rediscovered Lucretius’ work, scholars simply passed the manuscript of *De Rerum Natura* around, as if incredulous of its content, or contained it in within massive textual commentary once printed versions began to become available, after 1473. In 1497, Niccolo Macchiavelli copied out *De Rerum Natura* by hand.

In 1516, the Synod of Florence banned the teaching of Lucretius in schools.

“It was like a nuclear explosion to classicism,” and the Aristotelian geocentrism canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in the Council of Trent (1545-1563), said Greenblatt.

Although proponents of the type of cosmology expressed by Lucretius were burned at the stake or imprisoned in the 1500s and 1600s, still, Greenblatt said, *De Rerum Natura* survived to become a foundational text of early modernity.

“No respectable citizen,” of the early Renaissance dared to say, as Lucretius did 1500 years earlier, “The world is made of atoms and void, the soul dies at death, God has no interest in our actions, and what should matter to us is the pursuit of pleasure,” said Greenblatt, but similar precepts began “to resonate powerfully within Renaissance art and literature.

“This is an unbelievably beautiful poem. Artists were able to express in their art what they could not express in philosophical treatises.” (Lucretius himself said the honeyed words of his poem made the bitter draught of his ideas go down more smoothly.)

Greenblatt said, “Art is central to survival. Just as nature experiments, and successful experiments reproduce and endure,” he continued, great art endures, and carries with it

truth to succeeding generations.

Lucretius’ epic work endures to tell us, “That the world is not made for us by a providential creator should not bring with it a cold emptiness,” Greenblatt said. “Knowing the way things are should awaken the deepest wonder. Why should the tellers of fables exact a monopoly on the expression of the world’s beauty and power? The constantly changing universe can be expressed,” in all its variety and wonder best by works of art. And, Greenblatt concluded, again referencing Lucretius, “While we are alive, we should be filled with the deepest pleasure, because we are part of the endless dance of matter.”

What is nothing short of miraculous, Greenblatt maintained, is that 1200 years ago, god fearing, anonymous, “German monks translated,” Lucretius’ writings, “and kept them from destruction. It was blasphemous, but compellingly beautiful.”

He said this as Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus*, a work he said epitomized the revolution in Renaissance thought and expression brought on by the discovery of the Classical worldview epitomized by Lucretius, splashed on the wall of the darkened lecture hall behind him.

Over the recent centuries, one of the most ridiculed aspects of Lucretius’ physics, Greenblatt said, was the con-

cept that atoms swerve unpredictably as they travel through space. Only with the advent of quantum physics has this concept of the Roman poet been to some degree exonerated.

To Lucretius, the unpredictable swerve, or *clinamen*, of atoms, was an allegory for free will. To Greenblatt, the preservation of Lucretius’ ancient, seminal text, channeled unpredictably through the darkness of the Middle Ages by the scholasticism of cloistered monks, swerving into the light of modernity above the bonfire of the Inquisition, was more than a triumph of free thought over dogma, but a miracle of enduring art. Even though Lucretius denied the existence of miracles.

According to Greenblatt, even in 55 BCE, Lucretius discerned in humanity’s development of ever more sophisticated weapons of war a sign that our species will not last. If this proves to be yet another example of the Roman’s prescience, then the ongoing conversation at the Amherst College lecture hall in part recorded here may one day be extinguished.

But perhaps great works of art and literature will still endure, even if there are no humans left to view or discuss them in that post apocalyptic age. Or perhaps the conversation will be reconfigured in millennia to come in some yet unimagined form.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Arrest for Break In, Hit and Run Accident

Tuesday, 1/25 1:00 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G Street. Report taken.	Thursday, 1/27 12:40 p.m. Illegal dumping on Third Street. Investigated.	Friday, 1/28 1:30 p.m. Larceny at Rau’s Sunoco on Turners Falls Road, Report taken.	Saturday, 1/29 5:33 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Served in hand.	Sunday, 1/30 12:19 p.m. Missing person on Third Street. Reported of options.	Monday, 1/31 1:30 p.m. Malicious destruction on Second Street. Advised of options.
Wednesday, 1/26 12:11 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for felony breaking and entering a building during the daytime, malicious destruction of property over \$250, misdemeanor breaking and entering, and resisting arrest, on G Street.	Friday, 1/28 4:52 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Services rendered.	Saturday, 1/29 9:29 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at Bank of America on Avenue A. Unfounded.	Sunday, 1/30 12:50 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Chestnut Street. Services rendered.	Monday, 1/31 12:51 p.m. Safety hazard on bike path bridge to Deerfield, near Greenfield Road. Referred to an officer.	Tuesday, 2/1 11:00 a.m. Hit and run accident on white bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield on Turners Falls Road. Referred to other police.
7:57 p.m. General disturbance at Jake’s Tavern on Avenue A. Report taken.	7:04 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for failure to wear seatbelt, lights violation, and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license as a habitual traffic offender.	9:09 p.m. Structure fire on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.	5:12 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Park Street. Investigated.	9:46 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and failure to notify registry of motor vehicles of name/address change.	4:04 p.m. Hit and run accident on Avenue A. Investigated.

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Prondecki Wins Pizza Contest - Hands Down



Mike Prondecki puts a prize winning pizza pie into the Brick Oven at the Franklin Grocery

BY DAVID DETMOLD ERVINGSIDE - Who makes the best pizza around?

According to four judges at the Greenfield Savings Bank's pizza tasting contest on Friday, there is no doubt about it.

Among the six pizza parlors who entered pizza pies in the contest there was one clear winner - Mike Prondecki of the Franklin Grocery in Ervingside.

"It's unanimous," said police chief Ray Zukowski, one of the judges.

"By a long shot," added Turn It Up owner Patrick Pezzati, who lived in Italy for 15 years and knows his pizza pies. "It tasted handmade!"

Well, it is. Prondecki said he

bakes his hand tossed pizza in the brick oven he installed at the Franklin Grocery and Package Store eight years ago.

"My sauce is quite elaborate," he added. But he wasn't giving away any trade secrets. "I use nine herbs and spices," along with a mix of whole milk mozzarella, parmesan and romano cheeses. "All the ingredients are up to snuff - the best!"

And the judges, including RiverCulture's Lisa Davol and Ed Riel of Reil's Cleaning Service, agreed.

Christina's, also in Ervingside, was a strong runner up.

Greenfield Savings Bank held the pizza contest Friday to kick off their month of giving

away a free Bialetti pizza baking stone kit - with serving rack, pizza cutter, and recipes - to anyone who opens up a new checking account.

Turners branch manager Linda Ackerman made sure the pizzas were all served with box covers removed so as not to influence the judges, and no toppings. She provided bottled water so the judges could cleanse their palates between tastings.

"I'd rather have a Berkshire Beer," said Zukowski, who was off duty at the time.

So stop by and open a checking account and pick up your free pizza stone, or save yourself the trouble of baking at home and head over to Ervingside for the best pizza around.

HEALTH from pg 1
Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Such an approach would at least modify the system presently in place, which features autonomy for local boards of health. Unique among all the states, Massachusetts permits its health boards extraordinary discretion in how they handle their town's public health affairs. But this system also means towns get little federal or state money for delivery of local health services. The system also lacks a ready mechanism for sharing services that may be inefficiently duplicated in adjacent towns.

A major purpose of the initiative would be to deliver improved public health services by better satisfying state health mandates, some of which currently are left unmet in many towns, according to Glen Ayers, the COG's health agent. It would also aim to qualify towns for accreditation.

"A national process is happening," said Walker. "It is voluntary, but it is the wave of tomorrow. Federal funds will go to health departments that are

accredited, or in process of being accredited. So if we can't get it done, we stand to be even farther behind than we are now."

Compared to other states, Walker said, "Our residents aren't getting the same level of public health protection, and our boards potentially are not able to do many of things that are nationally considered part of a board of health's job." Walker said the plan is "to go back and invite everybody in Franklin County to participate, and get funding to plan the project more fully."

Participants will decide how comprehensive a suite of services they wish to provide (just community sanitation is one option), as well as fee structures and contractual details.

"Then we'll be qualified to apply for implementation funding," Walker said.

She described that source of funds as "five years of slowly decreasing state subsidy."

The permanent funding would come from the towns, and ideally involve a more efficient allocation of present expenditures.

Walker noted there's "already lots of shared health agents going on."

"I'm definitely gung ho about this stage of the study," said Jay DiPucchio, member of the Montague board of health. DiPucchio said he is eager "to look at the nuts and bolts" and assess the initiative from there.

Randy Crochier, a member of the Gill board of health as well as the Gill selectboard, finds "a lot of duplication of services in Franklin County." The approach under consideration, he said, "would help get rid of that."

Crochier added, "There are a lot of boards trying to do a good job, and this would increase the help we have," available to assist them. Asked if it would impact a board's autonomy, Crochier said, "I don't think so. Each town will still have a board for policy."

Would shared agents create pressure for shared enforcement standards?

That's "still to be determined," Crochier said.

Ayers, the COG's health agent, said, "Boards of health are too preoccupied with Title V," septic

requirements. He said they should be "setting really broad public policy issues relevant to their community, and working on issues of governance, rather than dealing with day-to-day minutia of things like Title V."

He added he'd "really like to see more uniform procedures." Besides easing the enforcement work, he said this would benefit real estate agents, well drillers and others who now suffer from the patchwork of local regulations. Overall, Ayers sees regionalization as "important for maintaining the quality of life, especially for disadvantaged people."

Gina McNeeley, Montague's health agent, attended the meetings of the working group. She said her "hope and intention" with the initiative is to "be able to deliver services quicker to a larger number of people because we'd have more staff."

Asked how this would be paid for, McNeeley said, "The groundwork is being laid with grant dollars. But part of the plan is economy of scale. If you have four to six

towns pitching in together for services, you can get more services for your money."

McNeeley said much of her time is spent dealing with water dripping from ceilings, and lack of heat and other services in rental housing.

"Most of Montague's needs are being met," she added. "It's a matter of how long it takes."

She was particularly emphatic that the state has been "out of control" in promulgating unfunded mandates. "For example," she said, "I'm mandated by law to give a head count of every barn animal in the town. Count them, make sure they have shelter and water, and that they're healthy. Once a year I have to report that to the

state. But there's no money! Imagine if I had a countywide animal inspector."

"Now," she added, "local boards of health have to approve transfer stations. No board of health member anywhere knows anything about transfer stations. They took it out of DEP (the state Department of Environmental Protection) and put it on the locals."

McNeeley said the sharing approach "may or may not involve budget increases," but cited one hopeful example: a regional trash disposal arrangement where "Braintree, Quincy and Weymouth saved \$400,000 the first year."



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EAGLE from pg 6

The third bump was the two years and two months it took him to complete the purchase of the erstwhile Williams Garage, due a difficult negotiation with former owner Tim de Christopher. That deal was finally signed last fall, and included all the surrounding outbuildings at 141 -147 2nd Street. Kelley is working on finding tenants for a small rental house, two upstairs office or studio spaces, and 16 U-store garage units.

In the fall of 2008, the "king of the birds" was flying at an altitude of several hundred feet above Bartons Cove. He was scanning for fish, and had seen nothing. Down where the water loudly cascaded, he noticed a long narrow spot of dark brown or gray, nothing good, part of a tree, sterile.

Next, the eagle noticed a stationary spot of white, fat and succulent. He moved into a shallow glide and circled the belly of the floating dead fish. A final swoop to the water level, a quick swipe with his talons, and the eagle snatched the fish. He flapped his wings and strained his twelve pound body. It was difficult to pull up from the water with a tasty five pound meal snagged in his

talons.

The eagle frantically flapped the full six-foot length of his wings. It took quite an exertion to pull above the bridge, and barely above it is what he got. Then he saw a blur of red moving toward him. The eagle strained every muscle in his wings. The red blur bore down on his flight path. He pulled harder, a lot harder, got a little more altitude, and felt the red car whoosh beneath him.

In September, 2008, Kelley was driving across the Gill-Montague Bridge. Out of nowhere, a streak of blackish-brown with a core of white zoomed toward him. An eagle, with a fish in its talons. He didn't dare to brake because there was a car just behind him, nor to swerve at all on the narrow bridge. With a swish and a blur, the eagle passed just above the hood as Kelley drove beneath him.

"Phew, that was close," he thought. "Some higher power must have saved me, and perhaps this power wants me to continue in the path I am now taking. Maybe the eagle means something. I could change the name of my shop. After all, an eagle adorns the Great Seal, and it might make a good name for a repair shop."

YARN from pg 1

the music. Shane Spaulding co-writes some of the tunes. It's all just a matter of timing."

MR: What's your favorite track off the new album, *Come On In*?

Christiana: "Abilene would have to be the one of my favorites. My father would play the country standard (by Lester Brown) around the campfire more than once while we sat around and listened."

MR: Why do you think fans connect to your music?

Christiana: "We are living in hard times, and people want to have fun, escape the stress for a little while. We get that on a personal level. That's why we sing real music."

MR: Where do you want the band to be in five years?

Christiana: "Living in houses with smiles on our faces. It's a hard business, and my goal is

to live comfortably while still having fun with the music."

They can't knit you a sweater, but Yarn will warm your heart with some real country music from Brooklyn just the same. With Christiana and fellow acoustic guitarist Trevor MacCarther out front, and new addition to the line-up Rod Hohl on electric guitar and dobro, they've honed a southern-style twang and married it to an urban sensibility. They're a crack band, backed up by the brilliant mandolin playing of Andrew Hendryx and the reliable upright bass and trap set of Rick Bugel and Robert Bonhomme. So swing into your weekend in style tonight at 8:00 p.m., enjoy a pint or two at Burrito Rojo, and listen to a great alt-country band spin some Yarn.

Because eagles have excellent eyesight, Ron figured the name "Eagle" would symbolize that his mechanics would give people an accurate view of their vehicle's problems.

Finding an interesting image for the Eagle Automotive logo proved to be yet another bump in the road. Kelley found stock shots of bald eagles to be boring, and the best photographs are copyrighted. Finally, local birds-of-prey rehabilitation expert Tom Ricardi provided Kelley with a half dozen photos. Kelley

selected one, and a Hallmark student transformed it into a graphic image for his sign.

The neighborhood around Eagle Automotive is slated to improve when Unity Park expands into the now abandoned one block side street, Williams Way, with a new, concrete skateboard park. Kelley sees this development as a positive thing, and said he has repaired the cars of most of the adults who are backing the Sk8 Park.

Kelley said he likes young people, and his door will be

INCARCERATED from pg 1

killers and outside birth intervention such as forceps or the labor inducing drug pitocin, and help the mother feel more supported and cared for, with less chance of post-partum depression, and greater success with breastfeeding.

Pregnant incarcerated mothers have little choice in how they give birth to their babies. It is legal to shackle their ankles to the hospital bed while they are going through agonizing labor pains, rendering them unable to walk around and shift their body to relieve the discomfort and ease the birth. Only seven states make it illegal to shackle a woman in childbirth; Massachusetts is not one of them.

The Prison Birth Project's founders, Marianne Bullock and Lisa Andrews, wrote, "We believe that power structures in society can lead to failings that all too often leave poor people, people of color and women underserved and living in unjust conditions," that all too often lead to women being incarcerated due to issues of poverty and drug addiction.

The Prison Birth Project works with pregnant women at the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center (WCC) in Chicopee. Antony-Levine said the WCC does provide adequate health care for pregnant women, though women's health needs are often ignored by the criminal justice system. But more can be done to support incarcerated women through childbirth, and the volunteer organization is there to help.

The Prison Birth Project seeks to support mothers through pregnancy and childbirth by providing a doula to assist the mother and provide lactation support. The doula is paid a stipend because of the intensive demand of being on call 24 hours a day, for weeks on end. Studies show a doula's presence may make labor shorter, reduce complications during birth, reduce the need for pain

mothers in recovery from substance addiction.

One of the great successes of the Prison Birth Project has been to persuade the WCC to allow incarcerated mothers to breastfeed their newborn infants, providing the best possible nourishment for their child. The doula is also available for postpartum support of mother and child.

The organization has an expanding collective of volunteers, including a research committee that includes reference librarians who make information available on legal issues, medications, childbirth, fetal development, and nutrition.

The Prison Birth Project seeks to validate and support the incarcerated mother's values for her birth, and for her child.


To raise money for their work for reproductive justice, the Prison Birth Project will host a Knit-a-thon, starting at noon on Saturday, February 5th, at their office at the Peace Development Fund, 44 North Prospect Street, in Amherst. Knitters and crocheters are invited to have family and friends pledge support at a penny a stitch. Pledge sheets and yarn will be handed out that day.

Two weeks later, on February 19th, the knitters will gather again to combine their knitting into one big art installation, which will be placed in a public location to increase awareness of incarcerated mothers, and as a celebration of mothers everywhere.

For more information, see www.theprisonbirthproject.org or knitformothers.blogspot.com.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *What are allergy shots?*

Allergy shots — also known as immunotherapy — are a series of scheduled injections meant to desensitize you to specific allergens, which are substances that trigger an allergic response. The usual schedule is a shot once or twice a week for about three to six months. After that, you'll need a shot about once a month for three to five years.

Allergy shots are commonly used to treat allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and asthma. Allergy shots may also control allergic reac-

tions to stinging insects, such as bees, yellow jackets, hornets and wasps. But shots are not effective for food allergies.

Before starting allergy shots, your doctor may use a skin test to confirm that you have allergies and determine which specific allergens cause your signs and symptoms. During the test, a small amount of the suspected allergen is scratched into your skin and the area is then observed for about 20 minutes. Swelling and redness indicate an allergy to the substance.

The shots won't give you immediate relief. You'll probably see improvement in the first year of treatment. The most noticeable improvement often happens during the second year. By the third year, most people are desensitized to the allergens contained in the shots.

For some people, successful treatment leads to a life without allergy symptoms. For others, shots must continue on a long-term basis to keep allergy symptoms at bay.

Q. *Can a sinus infection cause a toothache?*

Yes, infection in the sinuses located in your cheekbones can cause your upper jaw and teeth to ache, and your cheeks to become tender to the touch. Sinusitis is a nasty malady that can do much more than give you a toothache.

The sinuses are four pairs of cavities: the frontal sinuses over the eyes, maxillary sinuses inside each cheekbone, ethmoid sinuses just behind the bridge of the nose, and sphenoid sinuses behind the ethmoids. Each sinus is connected to the nose.

Most cases of acute sinusitis start with a cold or allergy attack,

which inflames the mucous membranes of the sinuses. Swelling traps air and mucus in the sinuses and they cannot drain properly. The trapped mucus creates ideal conditions for bacteria to grow.

Most people with sinusitis have pain or tenderness. Other symptoms of sinusitis can include fever, weakness, fatigue, nasal congestion, cough and sore throat.

If you have acute sinusitis, your doctor may prescribe decongestants, antibiotics and pain relievers. Many cases of acute sinusitis will end without antibiotics.

Q. *Is there anything I can do to keep the hair I've got?*

There are a few steps you can take to preserve your hair:

Avoid tight hairstyles that pull on the hair. So, forget braids,

ponytails, comrows and tight hair rollers. The pulling causes some hair loss, especially along the sides of the scalp. This type of hair loss is called traction alopecia. If the pulling scars the scalp, it can cause permanent hair loss.

Brushing or combing too much can break hair, so keep them to a minimum. Use combs with wide teeth and brushes with smooth tips. Wet hair is more fragile than dry hair, so show care when you do your hair after a shower.

Shampooing too often is bad for your hair. Use a cream rinse or conditioner after shampooing to make it easier to comb. And don't dry your hair by rubbing it with a towel.

Don't use hot-oil hair treatments or chemicals in permanents. These may cause inflammation of the hair follicles, which can lead to hair loss.

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

IMPACT from pg 1

the White Bridge near the Southworth Mill, in the event a discount retailer is located off the French King Highway.

The Greenfield planning board is not required to consider traffic impacts to other towns. Pat Allen said she would contact the MBA and the EDIC for their comments, and planned to attend the continuation of the Greenfield hearing on Thursday, as simply a resident of Montague.

In other news, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio updated the selectboard on the town's longstanding hope to build a new industrial park on land across Millers Falls Road from the airport owned by Northeast Utilities, "a project that has been in the works for ten years." But a decision has now been taken by the utility that puts that land off limits for development by the town.

Abbondanzio said Northeast Utilities "has made a business decision that it is not in the company's best interest," to have their land at the Montague sand plains used as an industrial park site.

"It's not the answer we wanted," said Allen.

"It's an important site," said Abbondanzio. "It's one of the

few, if not the only site with industrial development potential in the region."

Abbondanzio said Northeast Utilities had completed a number of studies over the years, but that challenges with state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species designations in the area would make it difficult to develop a feasible plan for an industrial park at the Plains.

"The long term economic needs of the region were secondary," to Natural Heritage interests in preserving land for species protection, such as the box turtle, Abbondanzio said. Already, "Sixty percent of the town is in permanent or limited protection," he added.

Ramsey said a developing a Montague Plains industrial park had been a major part of the town's 2004 economic planning strategy. "We're now at a crossroads," he said, with space at the town's Airport Industrial Park nearly all taken.

Abbondanzio mentioned the site behind the transfer station off of Turnpike Road as another possibility for future development of an industrial park. He said some initial planning and conceptual designs from the Conway School of Design had been completed in 2000.

"A feasibility study is a next

step for the town," said Ramsey.

Jon Dobosz, parks and recreation director, proposed a smoking ban in all playground areas maintained by the department. The selectboard agreed, and approved the ban.

Dobosz described the ban as "self-directed enforcement," since there will be no policing of it beyond signs calling attention to the ban. He said the vast majority of communities in the nation "are doing the same thing," now including neighboring Greenfield.

The parks and recreation commission unanimously voted to approve the ban in their meeting last November, after a letter from resident Leslie Cogswell brought the issue to the commission's attention.

Upcoming parks and recreation events include: Broomball - Saturday, February 5th, at the pond near Montague Center School, 3:00 p.m.; Snow Sculpture Contest - Saturday, February 12th, (plenty of raw material) Peskeomskut Park, Avenue A, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Cardboard Sled Derby - Saturday, February 19th, Unity Park, 1:30 p.m. - check-in; derby begins at 2:00 p.m.

In a letter to the selectboard, precinct four town meeting member Garry Earles commended the

department of public works, led by Tom Bergeron, for its "superb job at keeping our streets safe for travel" this winter, in spite of repeated storms and budgetary constraints. Earles wrote, "kudos to Tom and his crew, as they exemplify the kind of spirit that continues to evidence itself in our little town that could."

Abbondanzio updated the selectboard on efforts still underway to determine if keeping the pedestrian bridge open to the Strathmore Mill is a possibility. A meeting is scheduled in February with First Light to discuss the matter.

State backing for long planned improvements to Greenfield Road are moving slowly in terms of securing funding and completing planning, but Abbondanzio said he plans to "get legislators to turn up the heat." There is a window of opportunity now, and Abbondanzio said the town should not miss the chance to secure regional Transportation Improvement Program funds for the multi-million dollar project.

The Commonwealth Award ceremony on February 9th in Boston will honor Turners Falls' own RiverCulture project for its success in the category of Creative Community. Additionally, the selectboard was just notified that RiverCulture

has been fully funded for a sixth straight year - with a \$36,000 Adams Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The selectboard then approved the use of the funds for Riverculture.

Please welcome Justin Fermann to the conservation commission. Ramsey said Fermann recently came to the commission for permits to work on his land and "became captivated with the process and got along well with the commission and applied for the position."

Fermann's term runs through June 30th, 2012. Fairbrother noted that there is still one more opening in the commission. Also, Ramsey is looking to start a Montague Agricultural Commission, and encourages any interested residents to contact him at 863-3200 x207.



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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 43: Green Team

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Three-year old Betty Robbins-Levine is sitting smugly in the driver's seat of her Pink Lady convertible, her dark curls bouncing from under an orange leopard print EcoSprouts scarf, cat's eye sunglasses reflecting the glittering waves of Big Sur. Her hands gripping the steering wheel, she careens around a corner, picks up speed — now she is going full throttle — whoa, baby! But she doesn't see that hairpin curve ahead — she's heading straight towards the cliff!

"Betty! Stop, Betty! Slow down!" Jane tried to shout, but

nothing came out of her mouth. She lunged towards the car. Then, with a crash, Jane fell off the bed and woke to the sensation of excruciating pain.

"What happened?" Nell asked, turning across the bed towards her partner.

"I had this awful terrible dream, Nell — and I think I've dislocated my shoulder," Jane moaned.

Later, over their breakfast oatmeal, Jane described her dream to Nell, who asked what Jane thought it meant.

"Climate change, what else? I'm terrified that we're headed towards disaster, and that Betty will be left unprepared in the driver's seat."



Inspired by her dream, soon

after Jane joined the Northampton Green Team, an organization of community volunteers working with school staff to help students become more environmentally conscious. A week later she was leading a presentation on sustainable solutions to climate change for the younger grades at Bridge Street Elementary School.

"Good morning, everyone," said the school principal, addressing her bright-eyed pupils. "Today I am pleased to introduce the newest member of our school's Green Team — Jane Robbins-Levine, a scientist who studies trees and someone who cares deeply about the environment."

"I'm going to show you a video of some young people

who have done amazing things," began Jane. "You'll be meeting nine-year-old Melissa Poe, who started an organization called 'Kids for a Clean Environment' to plant trees and create backyard wildlife habitats. You'll meet nineteen-year-old Ryan Eliason, who wanted schools to start buying recycled products, serve organic and vegetarian food in their cafeterias, and buy energy efficient lighting. So he started 'Youth for Environmental Sanity,' or YES, an organization for young people to make these changes. You'll also meet some kids your age who have decided to do something to make the world a greener and cleaner place."

The rapt faces of the rows of kindergarten, first and second grade students registered eagerness, while their legs, swinging back and forth on the benches betrayed fidgetiness.

"So you see, you don't have to be a grown up to make a difference," Jane advised, concluding her presentation. "Everyone has a talent — we can all use our talents to help other people learn about climate change and find ways to do something about it."

Jane left the school feeling pleased, but curiously uneasy. She'd wanted to help educate children because she'd thought it would be easier to reach children with a climate change message than to change adult minds. The film she had just showed profiled some very inspiring examples of young activists, but none of them had a focus on climate change — admittedly a difficult issue for kids to wrap their minds around. If only she could find an example of a young person who'd taken on the idea of reducing their carbon footprint!

Continued next issue...



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

NEWS FROM GILL ENERGY COMMISSION

Free Winsert Workshop in Gill

BY PAM LESTER - The Gill energy commission will hold a free Winsert (winter insulated window insert) workshop on Saturday, February 26th, from 1-4 p.m. at the Gill town hall, 325 Main Road, so mark your calendars now.

"Winserts" are reusable transparent panels that fit snugly inside window jambs to add two extra layers of plastic glazing to your windows. The workshop will be presented by Brian Nugent, of North Quabbin Energy, who has been teaching people how to make winserts for more than four years.

Nugent said a properly constructed Winsert will cut heat loss from a typical single or double-glazed window by up to 50%, more than paying for the cost of

the Winsert in less than one year.

The design was inspired by a long-forgotten FEMA website, and has been adapted by Nugent and other North Quabbin Energy members. The Winserts are reusable for many heating seasons, with a little maintenance from time to time.

Winserts require some basic woodworking equipment and skills to make, particularly in the construction of the frame. This will be discussed at the workshop.

Please make plans now to learn this low cost, energy efficient improvement for home or business. The Winserts made at this workshop will be designed to fit the windows in the downstairs offices of the Gill town hall. Pre registration is required, by calling Ivan Ussach at 413-773-3830 or email encom@gillmass.org.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The town of Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday February 16, 2010 at 7pm in the Wendell Town Offices located at 9 Morse Village Road on the following application.

The application of Samuel and Sherry Gifford for property located at 3 Mount Laurel Drive, identified by the applicant as Lot #23 on Plan #413. The application for a variance specifically requests the ZBA consider their request to construct a new non-conforming structure.

All interested parties should attend the hearing. A copy of the application is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell MA. Town Clerk hours are Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals
Lisa Winter, Chair

Montague to Revive Agricultural Commission

BY WALTER RAMSEY - The town of Montague has recently updated the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan. One of the central goals of the plan is to ensure the continued viability of commercial agriculture in Montague. Going forward, it is imperative that the agricultural community have a voice in Montague.

An agricultural commission will enhance: agricultural business development; networking with farmers, town boards, and service providers; advocacy for farmers; access to technical, financial and business assistance; farmland protection; and planning and advocacy on zoning and regulatory changes that benefit farmers.

If you are interested in learning more or have any comments, please contact me at planner@montague-ma.gov or (413) 863 3200 ext 112.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Weather Related Accident, Credit Card Fraud

Tuesday, 1/18
6:15 a.m. One car accident on Montague Road. Operator [redacted] lost control of his 1999 Ford Taurus on snow covered road and struck a guardrail. No injuries.

Thursday, 1/20
9:00 a.m. Two car accident on Cave Hill Road. [redacted] of North Leverett Road operating a 2008 Honda CRV was struck by [redacted] Cave Hill Road operating a 2001 Honda Acura MDX as [redacted] was attempting to enter the road from his driveway. No injuries. [redacted] vehicle towed from scene.

11:05 a.m. Sent to Number Six Road for a reported accident. Mail vehicle allegedly struck a parked car belonging to [redacted] of Amherst. Officer unable to determine if damage

Friday, 1/21
4:47 p.m. Officer arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant, traffic offense. [redacted] bailed for court.

Saturday, 1/22
2:30 p.m. Accident on Shutesbury Road. [redacted] lost control of his 2008 Mercedes Benz and struck guardrails. Vehicle towed, no injuries.

Monday, 1/24
8:45 p.m. Resident of Long Plain Road reported credit card fraud. Purchases made on her debit card from Spain. Report taken. Financial institution notified.

Tuesday, 1/25
7:37 a.m. Accident on Amherst Road. [redacted] lost control of his 2000 Toyota Echo on the ice and struck a utility pole. No injury, vehicle removed from scene by Rau's Towing.

9:16 a.m. Accident on Richardson Road. [redacted] operating a 2003 Mitsubishi collided with a 1998 Chevy pickup operated by [redacted]. No injuries. [redacted] cited for speed, too fast for road conditions.

10:30 a.m. Accident on North Leverett Road. 2008 Subaru operated by [redacted] lost control on the ice and struck a 2002 Freightliner trailer truck operated by [redacted]. [redacted]'s vehicle towed from the scene by Rau's Towing. No injuries. No damage to the truck.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

The Arts Block, Greenfield: February residency with Alan Evans, the drummer of the seminal funk, soul band Soulive. Every Thursday night at 9 p.m. Soul funk syndicate *Play on Brother*.

EVERY FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY

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

NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 27th

Burnett Gallery at Jones Library, Amherst, MA: *City on the Sea: Fragments of (Brief Returns to) Riga, Latvia*, photographic essay by Anita Licis-Ribak.

Now Through FEBRUARY 26th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fine Fishing Artwork by James Roszel* in the Great Hall. Open Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artists reception on Saturday, February 5th 1 to 3 p.m.

Now Through FEBRUARY 26th

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Amherst: *Gloria Kegeles, Mirages, with Lourdes Morales*, photos and mixed media. Wednesdays through Sundays, 1 to 7 p.m.



Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner, of *Maggie*, are internationally known for their musical work in the environmental movement. See them at the Echo Lake Coffee House in Leverett at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

Cafe Sun, Sunderland Elementary School: *Free Polka Lessons*, with Tom and Deb Zimnowski. Free babysitting available, cafesun.org, 7 to 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, Caller Tim Van Edmond, music by Calamity Physics. 7 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Yarn*, 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fourth Annual Science & Nature Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night!* Mary Clare Powell hosts. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Nabut & the Wild Valley Hamsters and Larry Berger*, 9:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th Through SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd

The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Care of Ward 81, photographs by Bill Diodato*. Artists reception 3-6 p.m. on Friday, February 4th.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5th
Connecticut River, Turners Falls: *Peskeomskut Noisecapades*. Free annual outdoor winter landscape sound / performance festival. Rapid-fire five-minute-or-less, acoustic or battery-powered (no generators allowed), sound or visual performances on shallow ice & rock in the Connecticut River under the midday winter sun. Park in town & walk on the path between the Discovery Center & the Gill Montague Bridge. Cross the bike path & take bridge over the canal. Veer left down the slope of the hill & follow path until you are at the shore. 12 p.m.

The Iron Horse, Northampton: The band *Black Rebels* will play at 10 p.m. celebrating the spirit/genius/ and contributions of Robert Nesta Marley.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Shut up and Dance*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kellianna*, Acoustic Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6th
Greenfield Center School: *K to 5th grade open house* with a free birds of prey presentation and bird-related activities for children ages 3-12, from 2 to 4 p.m. *Tom Ricardi*, raptor rehabilitator will give a presentation complete with several live birds of prey, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rik Rolski*, Acoustic Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Reggae Night*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Annual Valentine's Day Aphrodisiac Massacre to benefit NELCWIT. 7:30 p.m. by donation. Adult fun and games.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Bruce Scofield*, Acoustic & Electric Classic rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Mando Paradiso Mandolin Orchestra* at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *1940's Dance Party with DJ Bex and birthday broad, Anja*. 9:30 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc.* 9 to 11 p.m.

Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett: *Maggie, featuring Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino*, will perform music for social change, 7:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Montague Reporter Poetry Page presents, Love Poetry open mic*. Bring your own bad and good love poems or love poems from your favorite poet. 2 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Have a Heart for Haiti, Music by Annie Hassett and Gangly Heart*, Benefit Dance Party to help send *Coco Schachtl* and *Mary Collins* to assist medical relief workers in the devastated country of Haiti, 8 to 10 p.m.

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Village Sketchbook

WHEN WE WERE FRENCH

BY DAVID BRÛLÉ

TURNERS FALLS - More than 150 of us were there, waiting in the semi-dark of the Shea Theater. We, the immigrant descendants of the Québécois. We were the noisy ones, chatting and laughing and passing around quick stories over the heads of the non-French.

Hey, when we get together, we're noisy! Unlike the more reserved Yankees in our midst, maybe even spouses, maybe cousins. The French like to laugh, like to joke, and that's just what we did while we waited for the show. This was finally our day, after all!

We chatted noisily, boisterous in our little family groups, in little pockets of Canucks waiting to see what was going to happen on stage.

Mon Oncle Albert, his Turners nickname being Tootsie, told us of his days in the 30s when he was the curtain-boy at the Shea. He'd wait in a front seat on the side for the buzzer to sound, meaning he was supposed to get up and raise or lower the stage curtain.

"Banisher" Shea, founder and manager of the place, was running things in those days, while Al's father Joseph Brûlé was up in the projection booth showing the movie. He was up there among the monstrous movie projectors, the rewind machines, and the canisters containing the short subjects, the previews, the main feature.

Around us, other groups chatted about their days of the long-gone French School at St. Anne's, about genealogy searches, about having taped vanishing family members before they passed on.

So we had all descended upon the old Shea this Sunday afternoon, to hear Abby Paige present her multiple personalities on stage in her one woman show, *Piecework: When we were French*, to see if she could trigger our collective memories. We could be French again for the afternoon.

We came with our own memories and our own expectations. In us we carried fragments of a

heritage past, maybe lost?

Crowding for attention in each of us were images of French parents and grandparents, their favorite phrases like: *mon p'tit gars, pêche-toi*, (*toi* pronounced 'tway,' instead of the Parisian *toi*), *p'tit minou, viens icit, i'fait fait* (the letter 'r' rolling wonderfully long on the tip of the tongue, instead the glottal French 'r' of the *metropole*). We carried memories of *soirées* and *fêtes Noël*, mass on Christmas Eve, *p'tites galettes, tourtière*, constant laughter at parties.

There were memories of pilgrimages to *St. Anne de Beupré*, the part in our lives played by *St. Joseph, St. Jean-Baptiste, St. Anne*. Inside us we had big boisterous uncles, stories of snowshoes and horses, life in Lowell at the turn of the century, mysterious Indian grandmothers, the *sauvages* that make up branches of our family tree. How many of us descended from *les filles du roy*, from *les voyageurs, les coureurs de bois*, from the first families of Quebec, as from the Abenaki and the Huron?

We were there and expecting to have a celebration of the ancestors of our families, a tribal gathering of sorts, a whole room full of Canucks. The elders present remembering the prejudice, ("They can't even speak English!") the lives centered on family, church, the mill, and in some cases, the drink. We were there for all that, to have our memories awakened, to have our core identity re-affirmed, to be entertained in the French fashion. Could this petite woman with the Anglo name do all that for us?

After the music prelude, the lights fell, and Abby Paige walked onstage. Behind her, a quilt. (Later we learned her great-grandmother had created that quilt, patched together from old shirts, pyjamas, skirts and dresses.) A laptop served to launch the program with snatches of recorded fragments of people talking about their memories: "I remember when my father... They took me to the..."

Abby first assumed the personality of a housekeeper of the

rectory, chatting about church gossip, folksy and familiar. She found a button while sweeping up, and mused about the importance of such a detail as a lost button. "Who knows who this button belonged to?" Just a little detail, but it could have been there for a reason, maybe for just her to find, maybe just for her to remind us that there's a story behind these little fragments we find or that we carry around. Maybe, it's our history.

She admonished us: "Got to remember the details."

We were just then getting on a gentle roller coaster of changing characters, one after the other. As the presentation progressed, Abby transformed herself before our eyes: from housekeeper, to average Joe in a baseball cap, to a teacher in tweed, a hip although naïve gum-chewing teenager, a housewife in an apron, perhaps herself Abby Paige tucked away in there too, maybe in all these personages.

Each character provoked a trait many of us could recognize, often setting each of us off on different mental paths as we watched. The teenager shared, "We're really French, must be, because we're related to everybody in town! Got a cousin in Montreal. When she came to visit, she's the only one who could speak with *Mémé*, who doesn't speak French to anyone. Well she spoke to my cousin from Montreal, and her whole face changed. She was a different person! I had never seen her like that."

A loss of language, a loss of personality, a loss of identity. Shortly Mr. Average Joe talked about his problems in tracing his genealogy: "Couldn't find my father's family anywhere. Later, I learned the family decided to change our name to make it more English. Guess so it made us look like we almost came over on the Mayflower. Didn't want to be considered French."

With nothing but a cap, a handkerchief, an apron, Paige



BARBARA LESLIE PHOTO

Abby Paige and her great-grandmother's quilt

changed characters, hanging each bit of costume on a hook on the quilt frame, on a chair, or placing it on the table. Changing facial expression also, she seemed to age before our eyes, only to bounce back as the rejuvenated, wide-eyed adolescent.

Other personalities awaited us. The teacher said: "Curious how many students of mine have French surnames, but they don't know much about their being French. 'Course I understand the lost identity: they called us dumb and dirty. Speaking French was not a good thing. I myself just never got a chance to learn. It got taken away from us."

The housewife in a white apron gossiped on about the nuns, and the proper way of making *tourtière*, the fabled pork pie of everyone's grandmother. She dueled with her imaginary sister about the merits of organic pork pie as opposed to using good old lard, lots of spices, and shredding the pork oneself.

Then another transition blended into a

tender scene with a grandmother cradling her grandchild in her arms, singing a wistful,

achingly beautiful lullaby. A song rose: "*Rame, Rame, Rame donc, le tour du monde, le tour du monde, nous ferons....*" Not a dry eye in the house.

At the end of the show, the rectory housekeeper came back to close our experience. She asked us: "What do you do with these fragments? Maybe like this little button I found? What do these fragments add up to? Your history!"

The lights came on, to the clatter of industrial sewing machines, the mechanized soundtrack of the mills. A standing ovation for Abby Paige. She succeeded, her show giving different meanings to different people: it was her story, and our story. It gave each one of us a chance, permission, an occasion to participate again in our collective past. Each of us had a chance to remember our own story, some so similar to her story, yet each one different too.

Like Paige's patchwork quilt, it all adds up to complete something that is whole. These fragments of remembrance past do add up to... our history. Who we were and where we came from, tells us who we are. *Je me souviens*, I remember, when we were French.

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